

Urban Transformations - Cities and Water



**Recap of Yesterday
24.9.14**

**Amos Brandeis
General Rapporteur**



50th ISOCARP
International Planning Congress
Urban Transformations - Cities and Water



Recap 24.9.14

Waterfront Planning Marathon

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| 09:00 - 11:00 | Waterfront Planning Marathon Presentation of 9 projects from 8 countries | |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee | |
| 11:30 - 13:30 | Presentations in 6 Parallel Sessions | Session by urban API Project |
| 13:30 - 14:30 | Lunch | |
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| 16:30 - 17:00 | Posters and Coffee | |
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| 19:00 - | Tour of Gdansk (booking necessary) | |



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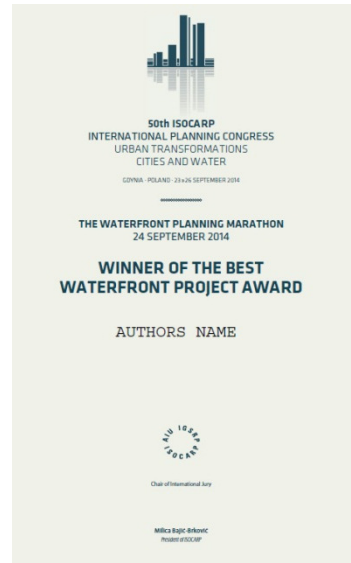
7 Participants and 5 Jury members

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Highlights from the Waterfront Planning Marathon:

- How important the waterfront is to the city
- The potential of the waterfront asset can be used in very different ways
- A major area for urban planning creativity
- It doesn't matter if it is a sea, lake, or river - the potential is there and people are always fascinated by water.
- Developing a waterfront is an endless process, with room for continuous improvements

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Co-chairs work hard...

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A few highlights from parallel sessions:

- Part of the presentations are excellent
- Discussions were very interesting and fruitful
- Very diverse - areas, countries, scales, interests, methods, etc.
- From measuring, acquiring data, analyzing, to mature theories, projects and visionary planning.
- Theories versus practice.
- Necessary shift from engineering approach to comprehensive approach - water as an asset.

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A few highlights from parallel sessions:

- Public participation was not the rule in every project. In some, the planners knew what was good for the people...
- Governmental administrations are not always in favor of strategic planning.
- We can learn much from our history (including ancient water systems) which provide a direct linkage between the city, the (historic and natural) landscape and the people.
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- Waterfront developments have transformed from strictly industrial use to serve multiple uses.
- How a plan functions can be affected by polluted waterways. How do we address this problem so the plan is successful?
- Many projects of waterfronts are being planned today. Many of them will never be realized, while some have exciting results...
- Complexities of water regarding: geography, climate conditions, social aspects, economies, cultural identity, natural and built environment and politics.

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A few highlights from the OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) and Microsoft session:

- We live in a digital world.
- Everything is interconnected.
- New tools will help us more and more to solve the problems of the cities, such as energy consumption, transport systems, environmental issues, etc.

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Martin Dubbeling organized the traditional Happy Hour - drink, eat and talk...

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Sultan Al Harthi from the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council talked about planning in the United Emirates.

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- The young planners gave a presentation on the Shenzhen YPP and the Wroclaw YPP workshops held this year.
- Martin Dubbeling gave an overview of the 2013-5 UPAT's.
- Didier Vancutsem talked about the ISOCARP ICLEI Urban Resilience Task Force initiative (2014-16).
- Slawek Ledwon talked about the Mentor and Student Research Lab.

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A few conclusions about some of the most important activities of ISOCARP:

- **UPAT's can have a significant impact on the hosting city, with an unbelievable richness of ideas in a very short time. Are an exciting experience for our members.**
- **YPP's have the most creative ideas, which can be used by the hosts for further development. Investment in our young planners is crucial.**
- **Training programs take advantage of the most important ISOCARP asset - the human resource**

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The good news: Everything still under control...

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