

## SUMMARY REPORT TRACK 1: MIGRATION AS THE NEW FACE OF CHANGE

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### Introduction

Massive migration to cities is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's defining trend and it presents significant challenges and opportunities to urban planners, managers, residents and migrants. Addressing the emergent resource constraints and resultant social issues is especially a crucial question for planners. About 20 papers from many countries explored and discussed different aspects of these issues over 5 continents. They demonstrated why migration is today an extremely important and global aspect of "Frontiers of Planning", and what can we learn from each other, to prepare better plans. Contributors to the discourse on *Migration as the New Face of Change* have addressed the issues in line with the following main themes:

1. **Inclusion and Integration** - How do cities address the needs of increasingly diverse populations and manage the resulting societal dynamics?
2. **Managing Massive Change** - Which strategies can be employed by cities and regions increasingly faced with large scale transitional challenges that require significant investment due to large demographic shifts as opposed to gradual population increases?
3. **Land Use and Resource Management Strategies** - How do cities employ spatial appropriation tools to accommodate migration in the face of demographic pressures? How do cities remain competitive and work towards improved quality of life while preserving the basis of their advantages?

### Conclusions

Conclusions drawn from the papers of this track were summarized by addressing 3 questions: What are the challenges? What did we learn? And what's needed in the future?

### Challenges

- Migration is one of the recent major challenges of the 21st century. This is crystal clear and in a wide context
- The impact is both on the shrinking regions which were left behind, and on the growing cities, where the migrants try to start a new life. The challenges, thus different in nature, are on the same time in both locations.
- Especially challenging are issues related to:
  - Quality of life and sustainability.
  - Integration between diverse populations.
  - Employment and economical transitions.
  - Affordable housing.
  - Urban sprawl and infrastructures.
  - Psychological impact on the migrants (and those left behind).

## What We Learned

- Migration is a global trend:
  - From rural areas and towns, to cities, mainly “mega cities”. This trend is especially strong in fast growing developing countries, mainly those with large rural populations. These include China, India and many African countries.
  - From poor areas and countries, to rich cities and prosperous countries. This trend crosses regions and countries, mainly from developing countries to developed countries, or within large countries like China.
  - From disaster hit areas, to areas of hope. Migrants from troubled areas mostly in Africa and Asia try to make their way mainly to developed countries. This trend is mainly driven by wars and natural disasters (floods, droughts, earthquake, etc.).
- It affects all of us, wherever we are on the globe.
- Many planning methods and aspects were implemented or suggested worldwide, regarding :
  - New towns, temporary housing & student towns.
  - New urban centres & use of the new working power and ambition.
  - Housing policy interventions.
  - Participatory planning methods. This is especially important, because the migrants usually suffer from a culture shock, and or psychological impact of the dramatic changes. Their needs and desires are in many cases different from the people who already live in the area of their new home. In order to make better cities we need to understand them better and plan accordingly.

## What's Needed

- Migration sets huge challenges and opportunities to planners, managers, residents, and migrants. They all have to face the challenges in order to create better and sustainable cities.
- A totally interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach is essential. All aspects to be addressed: social, economic, physical, environmental, etc. Only a real balance between all aspects can be the basis for livable cities and better life in them for all.
- Urban strategies needs to be people oriented and place oriented. They cannot be just based on theories.
- In order to reduce and manage migration, it's motivation and it's impacts on the shrinking regions, some important actions have to be taken there:
  - Strengthening attractiveness and local advantages. Successful areas, including rural ones, which offer secure, healthy, sustainable, and economic viable life, will not be left by their residents.
  - Developing employment opportunities and infrastructures. Employment opportunities are one of the key factors for migration. Analysis of Chinese men migration to the big cities on a temporary basis, prove the importance of this issue.
  - Making these places a better place to live. Quality of life, in all aspects, reduce the motivation of people to migrate from them and can reduce dramatically the problems created by migration both in the shrinking areas and in the big cities, where slums or rundown neighborhoods are effected by migration.