

## **Introductory Report Track 4**

### **International Planning Exchange**

#### **Co-Chairs:**

**Agatino Rizzo**, New Zealand

**Stanley Yip**, Hong Kong

While large and medium cities struggle to cope with increasing rates of urban population and issues derived by this trend, there is the need to discuss and learn from the multitude of innovative planning practices being carried out across the world.

A number of themes have been examined by the participants to the International Planning Exchange track, which we have organised in four strategic questions:

- How can we successfully manage urban transformation in an age of rapid metropolitan urbanisation?
- In what ways the many Sustainability Agendas being implemented in several countries can help develop new, innovative urban planning tools?
- How do local politics, governance and public participation affect management and implementation of city planning in developing countries and beyond?
- What are the new trends in spatial planning in relation to issues such as polycentric development, IT, urban hazards, rural development and so on?

While, traditionally, planning knowledge has flowed from developed to developing countries, in the Call for Papers for the 49<sup>th</sup> ISOCARP Congress in Brisbane there are ample evidences that planners of the Global South can be crucial to renew planning paradigms and tools.

Track 4 presents papers dealing with the above-mentioned strategic questions. There will be four sessions focusing on “Cities at the crossroad of transformation”, “Sustainability as a driver for innovations and new planning tools”, “The issue of governance in urban planning: politics, participation, poverty”, and “Spatial strategies, innovations, technologies”.

#### **Session 4.1: Cities at the Crossroad of Transformation**

Cities across the world today are facing different challenges of growth, and are taking different pathways of responses. This session include papers on recent studies of the experience of various cities and regions in managing growth and transformation.

The session starts with two papers from Turkey and Portugal that analyse urbanisation trends and planning cultures in their respective metropolitan capital regions - Istanbul and Lisbon. A third paper discusses the interesting topic of “food sovereignty” in the city-state of Singapore, setting a

technical/scientific approach to determine the demand of food urban farming, urban fisheries, and productive landscapes in the island nation.

The session continues with three papers from Brazil/Malaysia, Germany/US, and Australia. The first paper discusses the transformation of Rio de Janeiro's port to host upcoming mega-events such as the 2016 Olympics and the 2014 FIFA World Cup. In this paper the authors focus on grassroots contributions for the regeneration of the harbour area. The last two papers carried out a comparative case study analysis of sustainable transport policies in Germany and the US and urbanisation patterns and urban growth strategies of two "Sunshine States": Queensland, Australia and Florida, US.

The session ends with two papers investigating the relations between industrial-related growth and urban planning in two countries of the BRIC economic block: China and India. The paper from China analyses the historical relationship between rail and cities in China, from the age of "Insertion" (beginning of XX c.) to "Isolation", "Marginalisation" and the recent "Incorporation" having as case study the city of Hangzhou and its new town around the new, high-speed station. The last paper from India develop and suggests the creation of a new policy framework to generate incentives to industries settling in undeveloped areas of India such as Vidarbha region, thus drastically reducing migration to the already overcrowded Indian megapolises such as Mumbai.

#### **Session 4.2: Sustainability as a Driver for Innovations and New Planning Tools**

The sustainability agenda has long been the key theme guiding the practices of urban planning in most cities. The movement towards preparing plans and policies that support sustainable use of our resources has driven the development of new planning methodologies, approaches and tools. This collection of papers shares this common theme and provide examples of the latest thinking and innovations.

The session begins with three theoretical papers from Trinidad and Tobago, Slovakia, and Germany. The first paper calls for a Green Economy approach to implement resource efficient cities in the small Caribbean nations, these latter threatened by rapid urban growth and the impacts of climate change. The second paper from Slovakia discusses and revises the concept of urban metabolism to help drive cities towards a more sustainable path. Last paper undertakes a comparative analysis of Sustainable Land Management policies and practices to call for a better understanding of this new research area.

The next three papers, instead, develop new, innovative tools to help planners assess and manage natural hazards, lack of urban data, and energy demands. The first paper from Queensland, Australia deploys complex geographical methods to develop an integrated technique to assess flood risk and climate adaptation in Queensland. A paper from South Africa suggests the use of GIS and earth observation data to compensate for either outdated or expensive data, and thus assist local planners to manage urban growth in developing countries, The last paper from China employs simulation tools to investigate how urban morphology can affect the energy demand of buildings, having as a case study the urban design scheme of Yuehai Eco-City in Yinchuan.

The session ends with two papers from China and Singapore that analyse the benefits of established and new urban infrastructures for land use management. The first paper discusses the contribution of Greenway Planning and Construction for Dongguan city, China. Last paper proposes a new urban infrastructure called Environmental Deck to provide space for land-constrained Singapore.

**Session 4.3: The Issue of Governance in Urban Planning: Politics, Participation, Poverty**

Urban planning decision making ultimately is directed by the choice of governance systems. The social and economic expression of the governance systems are best reflected in local politics, public participation activities and the issue of social equity. This collection of papers looks at these issues from various perspectives and serves as reports on these important emerging planning issues.

This session starts with three papers all attempting to set macro perspectives on governance. The first paper sets an overview on the issues of power, politics and planning in shaping inequalities in cities while the second paper focuses on the institutional deficiencies in a multi-stakeholder context based on case studies in Columbia. The third paper tries to conceptualize, the cases of intergovernmental collaboration at a regional context in Indonesia.

The fourth paper turns to analyzing a public participation project in Abu Dhabi. In this paper, community input received are presented along with insights regarding substantive and procedural aspects of participation. The fifth paper raises the issue of poverty in planning research, and examines the issues of poverty in Lagos' informal settlements. It explores the interplay among location, tenure, settlements, policies and livelihoods. The last paper looks at the backyard rental sector in South Africa's Western Cape Province and examines why the sector remains largely unregulated and unaddressed.

**Session 4.4: Spatial Strategies, Innovations, Technologies**

The spatial dimensions of cities are the common focus of the planning profession. Urban spatial phenomena can be interpreted and studied from a wide variety of perspectives: scales, rural/urban relationships, information flow, social networks, etc. This collection of papers explore these diverging angles but all come under the strong theme of searching for better planning solutions on a spatial dimension.

The first two papers examine the morphological aspect of the spatial dimensions and their impacts: the first paper studies the causal relationship between urban form vs. commuting activities, while the second paper looks at how the size and shape of urban development in the Saigon Basin area affect the hydrological processes.

The next two papers look at the spatial issues at regional scales: one on the Flanders Region in Belgium and the other on the Peri-Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei cross-boundary mega-region in China. The former paper



highlights the use of strategic projects to effect regional spatial transformation while the latter paper points out the importance of institutional issue in regional collaboration across space.

Taking the need of innovations in planning implementation, the fifth paper illustrates the key to low-middle income housing projects rests on innovative regulation and public-private partnership in the City of Beijing. The next paper then examines the attempt to effect local urbanization through the concept of village communities, and hence illustrating the need of innovative urbanization strategy.

Apparently spatial dimensions in cities today go beyond simple tangible physical form. Intangible but important internet and mobile connectivity is changing the concept of 'space' in cities. The next paper studies the interrelationship between social network and urban spatial network in Shanghai, China. The last paper similarly points out the emergence of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and the ways this is changing our urban environment.