



47th ISOCARP CONGRESS
WUHAN - CHINA
24 - 28 October 2011

Welcome by ISOCARP President Ismael Fernández Mejía



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Just as in our previous forty-six congresses ISOCARP has put forward a subject for analysis which, today, is at the very forefront of global, political and scientific discussions.

Following the analytic process that has been the conducting thread in the last few years, ISOCARP Congresses have been looking at the sustainability problem and how it was and is still affecting the planet from many different professional perspectives.

In Dalian, 2008, we looked at urban sprawl, in Porto 2009, we concentrated on Low Carbon Cities in respect of the developed world, in Nairobi 2010, the subject matter focused on sustainability in developing economies. In Wuhan 2011, the overall concept is to attempt to understand how the different alternatives and initiatives can now be blended together with careful attention being paid to all of the policies that have already been discussed in our previous Congresses. The over arching idea, with this event, is to bring to a close the sustainability cycle. ISOCARP has once again taken the lead and proposed to study the rapidly urbanising world. There is a clear need to meet the rapidly developing challenge in areas of the world where urban growth is continuing rapidly, often, perhaps, in uncontrolled ways.

The subject of Liveable Cities in an urbanising World, to be discussed and analysed during our 47th Congress, implies that there must be an awareness among policy makers and, of course, planners in both the growing and developed economies, to the fact that all new developments must surely comply with the fundamental principles of sustainability. This encouraging possibility is forcing us to look at

and evaluate the different options that have been applied globally in order to implement the defined policies for sustainability.

In Wuhan we will have interesting and dynamic discussions taking place under this challenging umbrella. Experts from all over the world will be present, planners and policy makers from the rapidly urbanising world will participate and share their experiences, and planners, experts, and policy makers from the emerging economies will also mutually share their problems and their proposed solutions.

Beyond its professional content, Wuhan 2011 will offer the usual unique and interesting human ambience which has come to be associated with all of our Congresses. The friendship, the social gatherings that encourage informal discussions and networking in an atmosphere full of experience and knowledge in the beautiful and magical surroundings of Wuhan, China, will be something very special indeed.

Finally, before extending a warm invitation to all of you to be part of this special event that only takes place once a year, let me express my admiration and gratitude to the hard working ISOCARP team who come from all over the world together with the Local Organising Committee for their immense efforts in putting together this Congress which really does promise to be a truly memorable one.

We will meet in Wuhan!

Ismael Fernández Mejía
President of ISOCARP

Invitation by President UPSC, Qiu Baoxing



Dear ISOCARP members and planning colleagues,

It is my great pleasure, representing the Urban Planning Society of China, to invite you to attend the 47th ISOCARP Congress to be held in Wuhan, China from 24th to 28th October, 2011.

China is going through a rapid urbanisation process and which will reach the symbolic 50% urbanisation rate in a few years. Since the open door policy was launched, cities in the coastal region like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen etc., have witnessed fast economic growth, while the cities in Central China, such as Wuhan, now have many opportunities for further development with the national strategic shift to central and western regions. Meanwhile, like many other countries in this globalized world, we are faced with many challenges during the urbanisation process, among which are included shortages of energy, water and land resources, deterioration of the environment, traffic congestion, etc., all of which place obvious constraints on sustainable urban development.

Building a liveable settlement for both urban and rural residents is the commitment of the Chinese government and the mission of Chinese urban planners. We would like to share our experiences in liveable city development with our counterparts from the world at this congress. Cities in China, by co-organizing this event, will also have great opportunities to study the successful practices of cities in the rest of the world.

Your participation will greatly contribute to a successful congress and will be warmly welcomed by the host city. You will also have a chance to feel the thousand-year history of this ancient country, its diversified cultures as well as the exquisite natural and cultural heritage.

Dr. QIU Baoxing
President
Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC)

Welcome by the Mayor of Wuhan, Tang Liangzhi



The 47th International City and Regional Planning Congress is to be held this Autumn in the beautiful riverside City of Wuhan and we feel greatly honoured by this occasion. Many experts and planners from different parts of the world will gather together to communicate and discuss the many problems associated with Regional Development and City Planning. I wish to extend our warm welcome to our friends and Congress participants on behalf of the 9.2 million Wuhan citizens.

Cities are the beautiful homeland of human beings. Urbanisation and industrialisation promote the development of cities. More and more people are coming to cities to live, work and enjoy city life. Every citizen and professional planner, therefore, has a responsibility to create cities which can be developed in a sustainable way and which can, at the same time, also safeguard their own homeland. As one of the regions with the most rapid development of urbanisation in the world, China has accumulated precious experience in regard to sustainable development. Wuhan, located in the centre of China, is in economic and geological terms, the core city of Central China. The Yangtze River, the longest river in China converges with the Han River, its biggest tributary, within the City Central Area and the two, together, divide the city into the three townships of Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang. Densely endowed with many lakes and the most charming riverside and lake shores in China, Wuhan, as a consequence, has been crowned with the nomenclature "A City with Numerous Lakes". Since the reform and new beginning, we have striven very hard to perfect our urban environment and urban living conditions and, at the same time, build energy-saving and environmental friendly cities. We have, indeed, achieved much and made remarkable progress. We also feel proud of the rapid and beneficial development of Wuhan City. This year, with the vigorous and strong support of the International Society of City and Regional Planners, the Urban Planning Society of China and the

People's Government of Wuhan City we are happy to support this Congress. We feel deeply honoured to have such an opportunity.

The 2011 Congress is themed on the topic “Liveable Cities: Urbanising World. Meeting the challenge”, which will necessarily draw attention once again to the issue of global sustainable development and focus on the urbanisation issue as another milestone along the way to making the world a better place in which to live.

I would sincerely like to extend this invitation to you all on behalf of all Wuhan citizens; your participation will be the honour of Wuhan; your penetrating judgment, researches and practical experiences will help promote better Local, Regional, National and Global understanding of developing major planning issues.

We will be expecting you.

Tang Liangzhi
Mayor of Wuhan City