

INTRODUCTORY REPORT WORKSHOP 4: Metropolitan Management as Part of an urban Development and Governance Framework, from the national to the local Scale

Rapporteur: Tang Zilai

Department of Urban Planning, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Chair: Ng Waikeen

Scott Tallon Walker Architects, Dublin, Ireland

Urban management has been defined as 'efforts to co-ordinate and integrate public as well as private actions to tackle the major problems the inhabitants of cities are facing and to make a more competitive, equitable and sustainable city' (van Dijk *et al.*, 2002). With increasing pace of globalization and decentralization, metropolitan management and governance is experiencing unprecedented transformation in social, economic, environmental and political terms. Especially the sustainability of metropolitan development has become one of the strategic issues of urban growth management and much attention has been paid on debates on urban sprawl.

Papers to be presented at Workshop 4 on Metropolitan Management and Governance can be roughly classified into four categories, namely regional governance and planning, policy initiatives and urban programs, international comparisons, and metropolitan management in transitional economies.

1. Regional Governance and Planning

Metropolitan regions usually cover a quite large area and consist of several independent municipalities. It is truly a challenge for governance of metropolitan regions to co-ordinate and to integrate a variety of stakeholders. In this section, three papers are devoted to the discussion on regional development policies in Portugal. Mendes and Morgado conduct a research on centrality of Lisbon Metropolitan Area, using density, connectivity and diversity as the leading indicators, and they found that the deficiency of multi-level planning induced discontinuities between local and regional planning, resulting in a lack of effectiveness of the proposed strategies. Danko and Lourenço analyze the contribution of strategic planning to the balanced development of Douro sub-region, focusing on the impact of infrastructure networks, namely transportation, water and wastewater systems. Brandão-Alves *et al.* show that the innovation of regional plan for the Azores Archipelago has promoted a balance between urban renewal and urban expansion through various policy initiatives like regeneration, diversification and densification.

The effectiveness of metropolitan governance requires not only public-private partnerships but also cooperation of public agencies at different levels and participation of citizens from various sections of civil society. Weith discusses cooperation between federal states in land

use management in Germany. He identifies two types of cooperation between federal planning authorities, including the formalized form of cooperation in Berlin-Brandenburg and a more flexible arrangement of administrative working groups in the metropolitan region of Hamburg. In contrast, Hoffman-Aguirre tells an interesting story of the Metropolitan Area of Mexico City. While Mexico City (Federal District) tries to counteract urban sprawl through policy initiatives of re-densification, the municipalities in the State of Mexico works in an opposite direction to allow the sprawl in other parts of the MAMC. The paper by Chávez de Ortega is also devoted to Mexico City (Federal District) with focus on citizen's participation as a means to control accelerated urban sprawl. From another fast growing developing country, Simatupang conducts a research on conurbations in Java. She confirms that sprawl as the predominant form of urbanization in Indonesia is caused by the deficiency of administrative-spatial configuration of urban areas, and suggests that urban management should take a conurbation as one system.

2. Policy Initiatives and Urban Programs

The challenge of urban sprawl is faced by almost all countries. In recent years, cities in different countries have implemented a variety of policy initiatives and programs to deal with urban sprawl in diversified contexts.

Meijer examines the effectiveness of the Dutch policy for urbanization with valuable agricultural landscapes, which became known as 'red for green' policy in 1990s when Neo-liberalism and New Public Management were the prevailing movements in social and political sphere. This policy was designed to allow landowners in rural areas to build a large house (red) if they simultaneously developed 5 or 10 hectares of their land for nature and recreation purposes (green).

Thierstein and Reiss-Schmidt present the urban development strategy, called Perspective Munich. This strategy is based on tripod of 'urban, compact, green' and designed to promote urban development through internal expansion of reuse of redundant urban land. They also conduct an evaluation exercise of the above-mentioned urban policy and discuss a number of preconditions for its successes. A research on cautious urban redevelopment in another German city, Berlin, is provided by Li. The paper is based on the case study of Spandauer Vorstadt and Li finds that in addition to the avoidance of urban sprawl, cautious urban redevelopment has brought about a variety of positive effects including preserving cultural value, supporting regional economy, promoting private ownership of housing and stopping decay process of historic quarters and buildings.

One of the planning strategies to deal with urban sprawl is called dispersed concentration at regional or national levels. The development of new settlements as a planning strategy to deal with urban sprawl is discussed by three papers. Fritz conducts a case study of Trincity which was designated as a new development in order to alleviate the strong pressure of urban sprawl faced by Port of Spain, the largest city in Trinidad and Tobago. Ordoñez *et al.* elaborate "a green, water and pedestrian city' as the planning concept of Xaman-Ha city which is a new settlement designated to attract a high percentage of floating population in the state of Quintana Roo, one of the most important tourist development

regions in Mexico. The paper by Barbieri focuses on the manifestation of new urbanism in a high-profile development in Erechim, a medium-sized city in southern Brazil.

3. International Comparisons

Metropolitan management and governance is based on the characteristics of regional and national contexts, international comparative research can provide a valuable platform for discussions on challenges and opportunities faced by cities in different countries.

Tang and Xu conduct a comparative study of the governance of capital metropolitan regions between Berlin-Brandenburg and Beijing, with focus on mechanisms of regional communication and cooperation. Elgandy *et al.* provide a comparison of regeneration of vacant or underused land as a countermeasure to urban sprawl through a cross-border study of Baden-Württemberg in Germany and Basel-Landschaft in Switzerland. The paper by Fiedorowicz and Fiedorowicz presents a comparison of the spatial structure of Poland with four groups of European countries. The paper by Lourenço and Danko is also devoted to a comparative study of European countries, namely Portugal and Italy, regarding the methodology for selection of minor deprived urban communities based on definitions and characteristics. Sustainable development policies for minor deprived urban communities are designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union.

4. Metropolitan Management in Transitional Economies

While the challenge of urban sprawl is faced by almost all metropolitan regions, cities in transitional economies can certainly be identified to share some characteristics. According to the paper by Lorens, while urban sprawl is faced by post-socialistic cities in central and eastern European countries, there also are opportunities for public policies to promote the regeneration of inner cities because the pressure for urban sprawl can be contained due to limited population growth and immigration. Kudryavtsev examines the negative impacts of mega-projects of private housing development in Moscow metropolitan region, and asks for better coordination with local urban development. Elisei discusses the weaknesses of the current planning system in Romania and suggests that tangible steps are taken to reform the planning system to deal with challenges and opportunities brought about by market-based economy.

The paper by Nghi depicts the situation of urban sprawl in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh cities of Viet Nam and discusses planning interventions to deal with urban sprawl.

Reference

van Dijk, M.P., Noordhoek, M. and Wegelin, E. (eds.) (2002) *Governing Cities: New Institutional Forms in Developing Countries and Transitional Economies*, ITDG Publishing, London.