

Call for Candidates

Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT)

Capacity Building and Test Planning Exercises for Gaza and the West Bank

07-14 June 2015

Background and general objectives

UNDP and UN-Habitat have asked ISOCARP for the assistance of an Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT) for Capacity Building and independent Test Planning Exercises for Gaza and the West Bank. The general objective of the UPAT team is to provide support a visioning process for the future strategic and spatial development of Gaza, the West Bank and the State of Palestine.

In the Capacity Building and the Test Planning Exercises UNDP, UN-Habitat and ISOCARP will work together with local, regional and national planning officials as well as with professors and students of the universities in Gaza and the West Bank. The International Peace Cooperation Center will provide technical support and assistance to the Capacity Building and the Test Planning Exercise for the West Bank part.

Amongst the challenges that needs to be addressed are enabling the future urban development in Gaza and the West Bank, enhancing public transport and Transit Oriented Development, corridor development, protecting vulnerable landscapes, natural resources, cultural and religious heritage and to enhance industries, trade, tourism and the economy in this region.

The Capacity Building and the Test Planning Exercises for Gaza and the West Bank will look ahead past the present situation with the barriers that separate territories of Israel and the future state of Palestine territories and take the borders of 1967¹ and borders that are fully open for travel, trade and traffic for granted.



Impressions of Gaza

¹ Also known as the Armistice Line for the year 1949 that resulted from the Armistice Agreements between Egypt and Jordan on one hand, and Israel, on the other hand, following the war of 1948, where the Armistice Line became to be the internationally recognized border between the occupied Palestinian territory (The Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem) and Israel.

Objective of this UPAT workshop

Gaza and the West Bank area are in need of new approaches to ensure the future liveability and prosperity for their communities, citizens and enterprises. First of all, this region must ensure the basic needs for food, housing, safety, utilities and amenities, education and culture, healthcare and mobility. Secondly, cities should make use of the human potentials, creativity and talent of their inhabitants. Thirdly, urban development must preserve and restore the natural and cultural assets to ensure liveability and modern continuity with the historical past.

The UPAT team is invited to suggest practical visions, designs, implementing tools and steps for both Gaza and the West Bank. A UPAT workshop has the potential to make a valid and crucial contribution to increase capacity, to enhance awareness, to develop strategies, to propose policies and to stimulate a set of integrated activities that would help the region and its communities to become more liveable, sustainable and prosperous and, at the same time, generate more tenable economic activity for the future prosperity of the region. The objective of this UPAT is to develop simple, practical and original solutions that improve the quality of life in the region and that can be implemented in the National Spatial Plan for Gaza and the West Bank.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Habitat will host the ISOCARP Urban Planning Advisory Team **07-13 June 2015**. To arrive well prepared for the UPAT workshop, UNDP and UN-Habitat will prepare an extensive planning brief and a reader for the UPAT team members well before the start of the UPAT workshop.

For this UPAT workshop ISOCARP, UNDP and UN-Habitat will select two teams, one for Gaza and one for the West Bank. Both teams will meet and work together during the first day of the UPAT workshop in Jerusalem. One team will visit and work in Gaza. The second team will visit and work on the West Bank. During the two concluding days of the UPAT workshop both teams will meet and work together in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

In consultation with the Vice President UPATs and workshop coordinator, UNDP and UN-Habitat may add international and local senior and young planning professionals to each of the teams.

The two teams for Gaza and the West Bank will visit many cities and locations, will meet with officials of local, regional and national planning organizations and will participate in planning charrettes. The two teams will be asked to compare Gaza and West Bank with best practices, make vision maps on various levels and to write interviews, impressions and articles for two reports and one "magazine" that describe and discuss about scenarios of a possible and desirable future for Gaza, the West Bank and the whole Palestine territory.

Team Organization and Selection

The UPAT team comprises a total of 11 ISOCARP members with for each team one Team Leader, one UPAT Rapporteur, one senior planner, two young planning professionals and with the Vice President UPATs as overall coordinator. UNDP and UN-Habitat are especially

encouraging members who are living and working outside the Middle-East to apply for this UPAT workshop.

The Call for Candidates for the two Team Leaders, two UPAT Rapporteurs, two senior and four young planners will be send out on 01 May 2015. The deadline for the reception of applications is 15 May 2015. Candidates with the following expertise and skills are encouraged to apply:

- Strategic regional planning and regional design;
- Research and analyses of regions, cities, global trends, case studies of best and worst practises, the theory and practise of the economy of regions and cities;
- Post-conflict planning and management;
- Research and analyses of development of agriculture, tourism, water management, transport and mobility;
- Research and review of spatial planning policy documents;
- Writing and drawing clear and comprehensive spatial vision and economic documents, translation vision documents into principles, scenarios, strategies and direct applicable practical solutions;
- The full command of the English language (reading, speaking, and writing) is required.
- The command of the Arabic language (reading, speaking, and writing) is not required, but could certainly be an advantage to the team.

The Vice President UPATs has consulted UNDP, UN-Habitat, the Office of National Spatial Planning and the International Peace Cooperation Center during two preparatory visits to Gaza and the West Bank 17-23 August 2014 and 24 March-02 April 2015. During these visits the scope of work, the assignment, the objectives, the tasks and the planning of this UPAT workshop were prepared.

The selection of the two Team Leader, the two UPAT Rapporteurs and the two senior and four young planners will be based on their expertise and skills, relevant experience in specific fields of practice within the objective of this UPAT. The Vice President UPATs will communicate openly and transparently to all applicants in respect of his considerations in choosing individual team members and selecting the UPAT team. The five team members that will be assigned to the Gaza UPAT team will be requested to apply for a “service visa” at the Embassy in their country in order to enter and to leave Gaza.



Impressions of the West Bank

Assignment and deliverables

This UPAT is an ISOCARP response to an initiative of the UNDP and UN-Habitat. The UNDP and UN-Habitat will provide all necessary and relevant information, data and maps covering Gaza and the West Bank.

The selected team members will be requested to arrive in Jerusalem on Friday 5 June or Saturday 6 June 2015 at the latest. The UPAT workshop starts on Sunday morning 7 June with plenary introduction and briefing in Ramallah. On Monday 8 June the UPAT team will split up and visit Gaza or the West Bank for five days, meet with representatives of UNDP, UN-Habitat, and with local, regional and national authorities. The UPAT team members might be asked to give public lectures at the universities in Gaza and the West Bank. The UPAT workshop ends with a two-day plenary meeting on 13 and 14 June in Ramallah. The selected team members are free to depart on Sunday evening 14 June 2015.

All Team members will write, illustrate and contribute to the two reports and one magazine in close cooperation with the Vice President UPATs and representatives of UNDP and UN-Habitat. The results of the Gaza and West Bank UPAT will also be presented in an event as part of the ISOCARP congress in Rotterdam, 19-23 October 2015.

The UPAT team will bear in mind that both ISOCARP and UN-Habitat endorse the two reports and the magazine. Hence the Society's standards of quality and excellence together with the final quality that UNDP and UN-Habitat would expect to see in such documents will be the determinants. The two reports and the magazine should comprise of all UPAT working documents and materials produced by team members and should be written in fully edited English language.

Contribution and Expenses

Participation in the Urban Planning Advisory Team is open to full ISOCARP Members only. Their contribution and participating in the Central West Bank UPAT workshop is in principle voluntary (there will be no professional or per diem fees). ISOCARP has negotiated a budget for writing, illustrating, editing and graphically designing the two reports and the magazine.

UNDP and UN-Habitat will arrange all hotels and meals during the UPAT workshop. UNDP and UN-Habitat will also provide local transportation, the working and meeting facilities, access to the internet, local information, maps and all of the necessary supplies required for the UPAT workshop and to produce vision maps, interviews, impressions and articles for the reports and the magazine.

UNDP and UN-Habitat will reimburse the travel expenses of individual team members via ISOCARP based on economy class and best financial offer according to UNDP and UN-Habitat standards and regulations. UNDP and UN-Habitat will also offer ISOCARP an adequate Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for all team members to cover the expenses of hotels and meals. Selected applicants will be strongly advised to make their travel arrangements as soon as possible to apply for a visa and to take advantage of the best available rates.

Risks

The Gaza and West Bank UPAT will be carried out under the responsibility and jurisdiction of UNDP and UN-Habitat. However, in principle, the UPAT team members will travel and stay at their own risk in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. UNDP, UN-Habitat and ISOCARP will do their very best to safeguard the safety, integrity and well-being of the UPAT team members. A security brief will be presented at the outset of the planning exercise to familiarize the participants with the geo-political and security aspects. Traveling in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank will take place in distinguishable (and in Gaza armoured) UN vehicles.

Logistics

- The UPAT team will stay and work in Jerusalem, Ramallah and travel in Gaza or the West Bank.
- Expected arrival date of the participants to Ramallah is Friday 5 June or Saturday 6 June at the latest.
- UNDP and UN-Habitat will provide transport to and from the international airports of (preferably) Tel Aviv or Amman.
- Hotels, meals, working and meeting facilities and local transportation for the UPAT team will be arranged by UNDP and UN-Habitat. ISOCARP will receive a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for all team members to pay for these expenses.
- Selected team members are requested to bring their laptops and digital cameras.
- UPAT team members are requested to take a personal travel insurance to cover their risks.
- Departure should be scheduled for Sunday evening 14 June 2015.
- A detailed program, an extensive planning brief and security briefings will be provided to the selected team members.
- The selected Team Leaders and the UPAT Rapporteurs will be required to present the results of the Gaza and West Bank UPAT at the 51st ISOCARP Congress in Rotterdam, 19-23 October 2015.

Calendar

Publication Call for Candidates	1 May 2015
Deadline - reception of applications	15 May 2015
Selection and Announcement of the team selection	20 May 2015
Arrival UPAT team to Jerusalem	5 or 6 June 2015
Gaza and West Bank UPAT workshop	7-14 June 2015
Departure UPAT team	14 June 2015
First Report (Gaza) ready	15 July 2015
Second Report (West Bank) ready	15 August 2015
Third Magazine (Gaza & West Bank) ready	15 September 2015
Presentation at the 51 st ISOCARP Congress in the Netherlands	19-23 October 2015

How to apply

The application should include a letter of intent and a two page Curriculum Vitae (resume) addressed to the Vice President in charge of the UPAT program and workshop coordinator, Martin Dubbeling, underlining the reasons why you would like to be part of the advisory team and highlighting your ideas and relevant experience that applies to the objectives of this UPAT workshop.

We kindly remind you that participation of UPAT workshops is only open to full members of ISOCARP. Members of the ISOCARP Executive Committee are not allowed to apply. The selected members will be informed by e-mail according to the calendar.

Applications and CV (resume) should be sent to Martin Dubbeling, Vice President UPATs: dubbeling@isocarp.org, with a copy to the secretariat: isocarp@isocarp.org. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please send an email to Martin Dubbeling, Vice President UPATs or contact him via Skype (martin.dubbeling).

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