President’s Message  
August 2017

Dear colleagues-

The Executive Committee is working on numerous projects and programs connected to our Congress theme “Smart Communities.” The annual Congress is only two months away, and we sincerely hope you will join us in Portland, Oregon for a unique blend of Cascadian and international planning perspectives. A preview video is online at https://youtu.be/EnxOd43WuVo

- **53rd International Planning Congress in Portland, Oregon**—ISOCARP and the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association are collaborating on a combined event. The ‘Smart Communities’ joint conference is October 24-27, 2017 at the Oregon Convention Center. Congresses and events are directed by Vice President Slawomir Ledwon (Poland). For more information, please visit https://isocarp.org/53rdannual-congress/

- **Bylaws and Professional Code of Conduct**—After two years of review and revision, the Draft Bylaws are currently under consideration by the Scientific Committee and EXCO. Thank you to ISOCARP Ambassador Nuin Tara-Key (USA) and the Scientific Committee for their continued work.

- **Elections**—This year we have elections for multiple Executive Committee positions who will serve for the 2018-2021 term, and a President-Elect to serve as President starting in 2019. For more information, please visit https://isocarp.org/members-area/elections-2017_candidates/ in the Members’ area. Please vote!

- **Institute**—The ISOCARP Institute: “Centre for Urban Excellence” is developing multiple curricula for ISOCARP Certificate Programs based on the New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat Issue Paper topics. The Institute is directed by Vice President Khalid El Adli (Egypt).

- **Intensive Training Programs**—ISOCARP is launching a new Urban Advisory Committee for the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council based on experience in conducting Intensive Training Programs under the guidance of Vice President Piotr Lorens (Poland).

- **ISOCARP Review 13**—The 2017 issue of the Review focuses on the Congress Smart Communities theme and will be presented at the Congress. The Review is directed by Vice President Shi Nan (China). For more information, please visit: http://isocarp.org/publications/

- **Scientific Committee**—In addition to the Bylaws, the Scientific Committee is preparing identity standards to develop the ISOCARP brand with the new logo. Benjamin Scheerbarth (Germany) is coordinating this Committee as Chair.

- **United Nations**—ISOCARP is collaborating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to host an ISOCARP-UNESCO Special Event prior to the Congress. ISOCARP Ambassador Janine Marin (France) is leading this program. Secretary-General Didier Vancutsem (Belgium/Germany) is the current Habitat Professionals Forum Chair and has scheduled an HPF meeting during the Congress. He is also active in numerous UN initiatives and programs such as the World Urban Forum and Urban Thinkers Campus. More on these in this month’s e-newsletter. Vice President Shipra Narang-Suri (India) is representing ISOCARP with numerous UN activities including the New Urban Agenda, General Assembly of Partners, urban resiliency projects and many more.

- **Urban Planning Advisory Teams**—The Bode (Norway) and Wuhan (China) UPATs are completed and the project “New Airport—Next City—Smart Bodo” and “Zhongshan Avenue District” will be presented at the Congress. The Congress will also showcase other UPATs and prepare for 2018. Vice President Martin Dubbeling (The Netherlands) is coordinating these projects.

- **Young Planning Professionals Workshops**—The Yekaterinburg, Russia YPP Workshop is scheduled for this September in partnership with the Russian Urban Planning Association. The McLoughlin Corridor YPP Workshop is being prepared for the 53rd World Planning Congress in Portland, Oregon coordinated by ISOCARP Ambassador Lorraine Gonzales (USA) and in partnership with Metro Regional Government, local cities and the University of Oregon. The YPP Program is under the direction of Vice President Piotr Lorens (Poland).

The autumn e-newsletter will expand on these and many other ISOCARP activities, initiatives and projects. On behalf of the ISOCARP Executive Committee, Scientific Committee and Staff, we look forward to working with you to make these successful,

Ric Stephens, President