ACC50 COMMITTEE:
Martin Dubbeling (vice-chair), Pietro Elisei, Khalid El Adli, Gabriël Pascariu, Shi Nan, Ric Stephens
Jef Van den Broeck: Chair
Program 50th anniversary: ambitious and rich

Initiated by Max van den Berg prof. ir.
Former President ISOCARP
(paper on the website ‘Evolution of planning 1965-2003’)

- 50 Years of CARP
- National symposia
- Update International Manual of Planning Practice: IMPP
- 10 years of Urban Planning Advisory Teams: UPATs
- 5 Decades of knowledge creation and sharing
- Sam Van Embden Awards

A conclusion: Planning matters!
Absorbing 50 years of CARP

Concept by Ulla Hoyer:
Significant practices in countries or regions 1965-2015 in 8 slides on the ISOCARP website.

Up to now 12 countries/regions: Canada/Ontario, China, Flanders/Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain, South-Africa, Switzerland, USA

A work in progress: Invitation to everybody to add interesting practices in countries and regions and to give comments on the website
National/Regional Symposia

Organized in many countries and regions within the scope of the 50th Anniversary for instance in:

Seoul, Bucharest, Kunming-Yunnan/China, Lisbon, Bor/Serbia, Ruhr/Germany, Nova Gorcia/Slovenia, Vilnius/Lithuania, ....
Update International Manual of Planning Practice

Because of the huge success of the first edition: a rich compendium of planning systems and practices in 135 countries (Africa 28, The America’s 25, Asia 34, Europe 48)

New edition by:
Judith Ryser and Teresa Franchini

Available in a printed copy and on the website
10 Years of Urban Planning Advisory Teams

UPATs: one of the main inspiring ISOCARP activities of the last decade.

UPATs: ISOCARP expert teams provide an eye opener for authorities & planners in many cities

A publication by Bernd Scholl, Martin Dubbeling and Ana Peric with a reflection on past, present and future UPATs explaining the results, the approach and the methodology
Five Decades of Knowledge Creation and Sharing

A critical and reflective overview of the planning history in relation to the changing social-cultural-economic and political context.

By Judith Ryser using the issues and content of ISOCARP congresses, the speeches of the Presidents and ample sources

Available in a printed copy
Special ACC50
Sam Van Embden Award

A famous dutch planner, inspirator, one of the founders and first president of ISOCARP

Tomorrow during a ceremony at 2PM ISOCARP will give the Awards to:
- a person for a lifetime achievement
- an organization
- a City/region for an inspiring project

Very valuable nominations for:
- Cat. 1: Dhiru Thadani (US), dr. Farid Sobeh Al-Queeq (Palestine), Puvendra Akkiah (South Africa)
- Cat. 2: UN-Habitat, METREX (Network of European Metropolitan Regions), Department of Spatial Planning, University of Thessaly/Greece
- Cat. 3: City of Antwerp (Parc Spoor-Noord) and Municipality of Amaroussion/Greece for its spatial environmental policy
ISOCARP and Planning matters

Highlights of the Society:
ISOCARP matters
by Milica Bajic-Brkovic
THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SOCIETY: ISOCARP MATTERS

Milica Bajić-Brković, President
ISOCARP has grown to become a global network of city and spatial planners, creating and sharing knowledge for better cities, promoting education and planning practice, and supporting city and regional planners in all places and all fields of activity-professional practice, administration, policy making, teaching and research.
ISOCARP CONGRESSES: KNOWLEDGE FOR BETTER CITIES
PUBLICATIONS
the flagship of ISOCARP
ISOCARP NETWORKING
Advice - Academic development – Memoranda of Understanding – World Town Planning Day - Training courses - Technical assistance – Joint projects

Urban Planning Society of China
taking a journey through the fifty years of ISOCARP's existence provides a unique experience of exploring urban and spatial development globally and the evolution of the planning profession over the half a century.
Planning matters!

We reflect about the object and the scope of our discipline and our ‘job’ with:

- Bernd Scholl, prof.dr. ETH-Zürich also involved in concrete projects and planning processes
- Lorraine A. Gonzales, project team manager&member and advisor for various comprehensive, concept and transportation plans and current planning tasks
- Amos Brandeis, architect, owner Urban and Regional Planning firm, author of many urban projects
- Milica Bajic-Brkovic, prof.dr. University of Belgrado, President ISOCARP
A boring discipline with limited influence?

A young planner:
‘... I enjoyed the planning education and especially the lectures in social studies but find the work boring and uninteresting because what I have to do has nothing to do with my creative skills nor with social-spatial processes...’

A developer:
‘... planners are bureaucrats blocking my ambitions using bureaucratic arguments, tools and instruments,...’

An experienced planner:
‘... power systems and relations, and market forces are much stronger than spatial values...' 

A rather negative image about planning/urbanism! Is it?
The object of planning?

Planning/urbanism =

- ‘Architecture on an extended scale’?
- Von Hayek: ‘Care for the general welfare’: too general!
- 50 year of congresses dealt with many complex concrete spatial issues
- Issues always related with a changing socio-economic-financial, cultural, environmental, ecological and political context influencing the development and quality of space and places. It has to do with people, values, interests, power relations, with time and with creativity.
How to deal with it?

- Be aware of the context/circumstances influencing our capacity to (re-)act
- Be aware of the always missing relevant knowledge at the ‘right’ moment, the uncertainty
- Be aware of the (clashing) value/power systems and interests and the huge complexity
- Static blueprints and ‘ideal’ concepts: not the answer
- Need for new (strategic) approaches, visions, action-oriented tools and instruments: let us re-invent planning!
Dear colleagues:

Which are the most important issues in the next two decades?

Are there ‘shared issues’ all over the world or are they very diverse and localized?

Should we focus on specific scales?

Do we need new approaches, tools and instruments to effectively realize change and innovation?
What is the character of the planner’s activity?
Can it be defined?
Is it a confusing ambiguous activity?
What is its ‘image’?
What is the core of our discipline?
Planner = a fisherman/women?
Dreaming ? -
Hoping without much confidence?
Waiting for opportunities?
A Don Quixote?

Fighting against windmills?
A visionary?
A plumber solving problems?
Or/and a designer of complex systems?
A (peaceful) activist?
A radical activist?
A process/project manager?
A facilitator bringing things and people together?
A negotiator?

A trader?
An expert? In what?
The core of our discipline

ISOCARP’s definition in 1992 (first manual):

- A continuous spatial-political process preparing a foreseeable future, managing change while dealing with uncertainty and complexity

- Focussing on the long and the short term

- Balancing private and public interests and conflicting demands

- Broad spectrum of tools and instruments to transform plans in reality keeping options open
Planning = ?

Dear colleagues

- What in your mind is the nature, the character, the core of our discipline?
- Is (strategic) planning capable to stimulate spatial change and innovation?
- Is it a social-political-spatial process aiming at spatial quality and sustainability because space and place are valuable and common goods?
- Is it also a collective creative activity and ‘art’ involving and empowering people looking for possible futures and solutions?
- Do we have to adapt the definition? In what sense?
Which knowledge’s and skills we need?

HESP (Bernd Scholl 2012):
Higher Education Spatial Planning

Reflections by
academics/practitioners: which
knowledge’s and skills
planners/urbanists need? :

- Need for different knowledge’s
- Dealing with the imperfection
  of knowledge and
  argumentation
- Design skills: essential
- Cooperation, communication, charisma
A planner: cooperative, communicative, charismatic

- Not a kind of facilitator
- An actor with an own identity, values, knowledge’s and creative skills
- Open for other visions/opinions/knowledge’s
- Empathic professionalism, social responsibility,
- Capacity to listen and to deal with emotions
- Accept that impact often is humble on the short term but important on the long term
‘Planners/urbanists cannot stop the flow of a river but they can influence its course and even its volume by throwing (many) stones in it at the right places’

It is lifetimes job but at the end you will feel good!

Thank you Milica, Lorraine, Fernando and Bernd
Thank you all and we wish you an exciting congress