**About ISOCARP**

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced professional planners. It was founded in 1965 in a bid to bring together recognised and highly-qualified planners in an international network. The ISOCARP network brings together individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide.

As a non-governmental organisation ISOCARP is recognised by the UN, UNHCS and the Council of Europe. The Society also has a formal consultative status with UNESCO.

The objectives of ISOCARP include the improvement of planning practice through the creation of a global and active network of practitioners. ISOCARP encourages the exchange of professional knowledge between planners, promotes the planning profession in all its forms, stimulates and improves planning research, training and education and enhances public awareness and understanding of major planning issues at a global level.

**About Durban**

Durban in South Africa is a modern multifaceted city and is home to the busiest port in Africa. The City captures the best of the whole of Africa, boasting beautiful beaches, friendly people, world-class amenities, rich history and cultural diversity.

Over the years, the city has created hugely attractive tourism products which have increased its appeal as a top tourist destination. This resulted in a 7th spot in the 2015 New York Times’ travel list of the world’s top 52 places to visit.

Durban has invested billions of rand in infrastructure development, thereby creating investment opportunities and a conducive environment for business. As a port city, it has adopted a pro-developmental approach and proactively attracts industries in key sectors.

The city’s port is the Gateway to Africa, supporting Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province and Johannesburg, the country’s economic hub.

**Highlights of the Congress**

- High profile planners from over 50 countries worldwide
- Establish new collaborations and friendships
- Present your paper to a huge variety of professionals from the private, public and academic sectors
- Discuss, learn and be updated about the most recent and challenging planning issues faced these days.

- Plenary sessions, concurrent sessions of more than 200 papers, inclusive debates, workshops to acknowledge the interdisciplinary nature of planning
- Social and cultural events - South Africa, a perfect setting in which to debate the future of our rapidly changing urban environments.

- Key track themes will include:
  1) Transforming human settlements
  2) Active citizenship
  3) Planning theory and practice for the next decades
  4) Planning and policy during times of uncertainty
  5) Intelligent cities for people
  6) Planning for an interlinked and integrated rural-urban development

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**ISOCARP Events**

- Opening Plenary
- Plenary
- Break – Exhibitions
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- Young Planners Reports
- Tech. Workshop Reports
- iSOCARP Projects
- Closing Plenary
- Six parallel tracks
- Six parallel tracks
- Six parallel tracks
- Six parallel tracks
- Plenary General ISOCARP Events
- ISOCARP Awards and Partners
- Launch of the 25th YPP Ann. Celebrations
- Welcome Reception Passive Entertainment (Heritage)
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- Dinner, Awards Ceremony & Congress Party
- Post-congress Tours
The Local Organising Committee for the 52nd ISOCARP Congress would like to invite and at the same time welcome all international as well as national delegates to our beautiful country South Africa.

The Congress theme for this year is “The Cities we have vs the Cities we need”. The theme invites us to reflect on our cities as we know them and explore their futures as we want them. It is an open theme that seeks to start a global dialogue on creative ways in which we can build a better urban future.

With much urban growth happening in the developing world and especially in Africa, this theme opens opportunities for questioning the ideologies, discourse, theories and practices of planning. It asks of us to open a conversation with urban planning designers, theorists and practitioners from around the world in order to forge new partnerships to advance urban change.

In the usual admirable ISOCARP tradition, the congress brings together hundreds of planners to connect, collaborate, and deliberate on urban change of the 21st century. The conference will host academics, politicians and practitioners who are both experienced and young within an ambience of South African hospitality.

With the theme: “The Cities we have vs the Cities we need,” South Africa as a growing democracy, Inspiring New Ways, provides an ideal opportunity to discuss, reflect and share with colleagues across the globe, ways and means on how we live and work in urban environments within the beautiful city of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The LOC invite all of you with open arms to visit Durban, South Africa.

It will discuss the theme of “Cities we Have vs Cities we Need”. Local Organising Committee and General Rapporteur asks of us to open a conversation with urban planning designers, theorists and practitioners from around the world in order to forge new partnerships to advance urban change.

Clearly a theme that touches every city, but each in its own way and on its own terms. Implicit in this year’s theme is a need, perhaps even an urgent need, for change. It is a theme that acknowledges an evolving world order and an unprecedented scale and rate of urbanization – urbanization that has already tested the limits of our natural habit and our own well-being. While there is no “silver bullet solution,” the congress is intended to foster multidisciplinary discussions that afford the best opportunities to realize better and more resilient environments.

Urban and Regional Planners, public and private sector decision-makers, sociologists, economists, environmentalists, urban designers, landscape architects and architects, along with researchers and other professionals who shape or are impacted by our built environments. Speakers will present case studies, projects in planning, evaluations, theories and methodologies. Collectively, cross topical discussions will demonstrate how comprehensive, complex, fascinating and essential planning is as a framework for shaping lives for all citizens.

This annual event is a showcase of the vision and concerns of the world’s leading planning minds – of all generations. A unique celebration of the importance and potential of our profession for the human condition. Don’t miss this unique opportunity: join us through your paper submission, join us as a participant. Share your wisdom, grow your potential, increase your impact, our world will be the better for it.

Welcome by Vice-President Congresses and Events

After the 2015 Congress hosted in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and having celebrated our 50th Anniversary, this year ISOCARP congress will visit Durban, South Africa.

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