The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) are partnering in 2017 for a Joint International Conference/53rd ISOCARP Congress in Portland, Oregon, USA, from 24-27, October 2017.

This will be an outstanding opportunity for leading professionals from the private, public and academic sectors from all over the world to discuss some of the most recent and pressing planning and decision-making issues. This year’s topic —Smart Communities— is relevant for rural towns and major international centers. Together, we will explore how technology is changing our communities, how we can harness the benefits but also address the challenges of rapid change. This partnership between ISOCARP and OAPA occurs at a pivotal time as technology, health, transportation and politics are rapidly shifting how we think at the local and international level.

Technology changes everything. From new innovations in communications and driverless technologies to small communities connected to the world through fiber optic, technology shapes what we do, whether we live and work in a small town or megacity. But how does that affect our responses as community and regional planners to issues such as population growth and demographic shifts, housing, energy, transportation and food production? More importantly, what role do both small communities and large cities play in connecting the dots when it comes to growing rural and urban areas in a thoughtful and community driven vision?

### Conference Tracks

The joint conference will be organized around six concurrent tracks and sub-themes:

1. Technology, infrastructure and buildings
2. Governance and inclusive communities
3. Culture, community experience and the sharing economy
4. Resilience, adaptation and disaster mitigation
5. Technology and small communities
6. Post-smart communities and the new frontiers

Conference proposals can address any topic relevant to the planning profession, additional consideration will be given to proposals that relate to the role of technology in changing communities, both urban and rural. We encourage you to think creatively about how technology changes community access, broadens economic development, but also challenges traditional methods of planning and public policy.
There are three submission options. For all three you have to submit an abstract first. **Please also identify which track your abstract applies to.** The Conference Committee will review each of the submissions to ensure that the conference includes a wide variety of session topics, formats and speakers.

1. **You can submit a session proposal:**

   - Formats other than the traditional presentations are encouraged, including: point/counterpoint, panel discussions, single speaker, moderated debate, interactive workshops, etc.;
   - Sessions will be 75-90 minutes;
   - The registration fee is waived for the day of the speakers’ session only. There will be a nominal fee if the speaker wants to attend lunch that day;
   - An abstract of the session proposal will be included in the conference proceedings – a preconference publication with all contributions.

2. **You can submit a paper:**

   - Academic contribution consisting of paper and presentation ([guidelines for papers](#) are available. The Conference Committee will identify the conference track for each presentation.)
   - The paper will be included in the conference proceedings with ISBN number (only for authors attending the conference).

3. **You can submit a case study, project, practical experience, or research:**

   - Contribution to the planning practice consisting of presentation. The Conference Committee will identify the conference track for each presentation.
   - Submitting a paper is optional, but highly recommended.
   - Abstract (and paper if submitted) will be included in the conference proceedings.

This conference intends to offer as many AICP CM credits as possible, so session organizers should aim to structure their session(s) to be consistent with the learning objectives of CM training. For those seeking CM credits for your session, review criteria are posted online; session organizers will be responsible for submitting a completed CM registration form, which will be due back to the conference organizers shortly after your session is accepted.

The deadline for abstract submission is **24 April 2017**. Abstracts can be submitted online.

Audio visual equipment (including laptops and LCD projectors) and a technician will be provided for each session. **All individual contributions of attending authors will be published in the ISOCARP proceedings with ISBN number (only for registered and paid authors).**
Conference Highlights

- Listen to world leading keynote speakers, discuss “Smart Communities”. Choose from over 100 presentations in parallel sessions.
- Meet planners, academics, and practicing professionals from over 50 countries, establish new collaborations and friendships.
- Present your contribution to a huge variety of professionals from the private, public and academic sectors.
- Discuss and learn about the most recent and challenging planning issues facing our communities.
- Receive American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance (CM) credits.
- Have your say. All participants are asked to give their view in the main debates on the future of planning and the planning profession.
- Enjoy a rich cultural and entertainment program, including receptions, gala dinner, and a partner program.
- Enjoy the wonderful Portland hospitality.

About ISOCARP

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced professional planners. The network consists of 720 individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide. As an NGO ISOCARP is recognised by the UN, UNCHS and the Council of Europe. The Society also has a formal consultative status with UNESCO. The wealth and diversity of professional expertise, knowledge, and experience in the ISOCARP membership is unmatched in the Planning Field. ISOCARP members come from academia, government, organisations and agencies as well as from consultancies and the private sector.

From 1965 onwards ISOCARP Congresses have taken place in all parts of the world on cutting edge topics and always promoting knowledge creation and sharing in the planning profession.

About OAPA

OAPA is the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). OAPA is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. The Oregon Chapter of APA supports and educates the communities about the value of planning, while advocating for effective planning programs and practices statewide. These activities shall help to assure Oregon’s planners are professionally knowledgeable and empowered to create and implement balanced, informed and visionary plans for their communities.

Key Dates

- 24 April 2017: Deadline for abstract submission (papers, case studies and sessions)
- 30 May 2017: Authors receive selection result
- 24 July 2017: Deadline for final contribution