SUMMARY

The 55th World Planning Congress attracted a record number of 700+ international and local attendees, held in Jakarta-Bogor, Indonesia, between 9-13 September!

The Congress explored the theme of sustainable metropolitan urbanisation in 3 plenaries, 7 tracks, 19 special sessions, and 3 technical tours, co-organised with the Indonesian Association of Urban and Regional Planners (IAP).

We’d like to thank all organisers, volunteers and the Congress Team: Martina Juvara, Stephen Goldie, Luo Wenjing, Peter Newman, Tathagata Chatterji, Fedor Kudryavtsev, Jens Aerts, Mahak Agrawal, Nasim Iramanesh, Piotr Lorens, Dorota Kamrowska-Zaluska, Awais Piracha, Adriano Bisello, Juaneo Cilliers, Markus Appenzeller, Eric Huybrechts, and Jennilee Kohima.

RELOCATING THE CAPITAL

The National Development Planning Agency discussed the economic impact of relocating the capital at a special session on Tuesday 10th.

Rudy Prawiradinata, Deputy Minister for Regional Development of the Ministry National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (PPN/Bappenas), said that the relocation of the capital would encourage equitable development across Indonesia. According to Prawiradinata, the relocation would drive investment in the new capital and the surrounding provinces, and encourage trade between provinces outside of Java. The relocation, he said, would increase national economic growth by around 0.1-0.2 percent. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, 54.48 percent of Indonesia’s economic activity in 2018 was centered in Java.

The government is planning to execute the country’s capital development in stages and start the relocation in 2024. The construction is estimated to cost around Rp. 466 trillion, for which the largest funding will come from joint ventures between the government and business entities. This would amount to Rp253.4 trillion or around 54.4 percent, according to Bappenas. The second funding will come from the private sector amounting to 26.4 percent reaching Rp123.2 trillion and third funding from the State Budget would be around 19.2 percent or Rp89.4 trillion (Antara News).

CONGRESS 2020

Next year, the 56th World Planning Congress goes to Doha, Qatar!

The Qatari delegation led by Fahad Al Qahtani, Assistant Undersecretary for Urban Planning Affairs at the Qatari Ministry of Municipality and Environment, takes over the ISOCARP Trophy from the Indonesian Local Organising Committee for the next year.

To get a taste of next year’s destination, watch Qatar’s video ‘Curated for you’.
INDONESIA'S URBAN STRATEGY

Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning, shared the President's and his cabinet’s vision for metropolitan development during the opening plenary on Monday, 9th.

The concentration of urbanisation and metropolitan areas around Jakarta is an “excessive burden”, said Bambang Brodjonegoro at the Congress. The Minister argued that the country has an “urban primacy” problem because Jakarta’s population is three times the size of the second largest city, Surabaya’s. According to the government, Java will become an “urban island” with the coverage of the built environment close to 90% by 2045.

While this poses a challenge to national food security, the government also sees an opportunity to develop metropolitan areas outside of Java to drive economic growth and balance national development, echoed in the President’s plan to relocate the capital city to Kalimantan. “Cities and urban areas are an asset for us”, said the Minister, who stressed the need for improving their economic productivity that are currently falling behind East Asia’s average.

In the next term, the government’s National Urban Policy will focus on five missions including the promotion of balanced and equitable development of urban systems across regions, and of liveability and inclusiveness in cities among others. This will require the continuous reform of the Indonesian planning system for better integrated planning, stronger law enforcement, more institutional and sectorial cooperation, and better metropolitan governance.

The Minister welcomed the Congress for putting these issues into an international perspective and for building the capacity of local planners, government agencies and the private sector needed for sustainable urbanisation in Indonesia.

TAKEAWAYS: WHERE TO BEGIN?

General Rapporteur, Martina Juvara, took the stage at the closing plenary on Thursday, 12th, and shared some of the most important themes that emerged across the seven Congress tracks.

One talking point was the theme of participation and inclusive planning, problematised and explored in the context of metropolitan governance. Child-responsive planning offered a refreshing entry point to this debate. “If we build a successful city for children, we build a successful city for everyone”, Martina quoted the Mayor of Bogota to argue that looking at conditions for liveability of the youngest can act as a good indicator of inclusive planning. Rarely did the conversation on participation escape debates on people's agency to create and shape their environment and the transformational capacity of planning to empower dwellers. Another theme was the disconnection between what is being built and the identities and daily experiences of people in cities today. In Martina’s words “billboard planning, the fascination for what appears in big renderings, big pictures, big flashy master plans, that don’t have a relationship with the people that live in the cities”. Sustainable urbanisation needs the private sector, especially architects and investors, to contribute to cities in more equitable way, and more rooted in the realities of places. During the Congress, informality was also a recurring theme and attendees debated interventions grounded in these realities and places. Recognising that bureaucratic planning cannot cope with rapid urbanisation, the General Rapporteur raised the question of what formal planning can learn, mimic and use, in terms of flexibility and speed, from informal development.
Award for Excellence, **Grand Award Winner**: *Strategy of urban transformation of Turkistan city* by Urban Sustain Architects and Frame Art.

Award for Excellence, **Merit Award Winner**: *Public space improvement in Jianghan District of Wuhan* by Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre.

Gerd Albers Award, **Best Book Winner**: *Modern Rome - from Napoleon to the twenty-first century* by Marco Zumaglini, Roberto Einaudi, Lucia Bozzola.

Gerd Albers Award, **Best Article Winner**: *Assessing transformative capacity for sustainable urban regeneration - a comparative study of three South Korean cities* by Marc Wolfram.

Gerd Albers Award, **Special Mention**: *Peri-urban China - land use, growth, and integrated urban–rural development* by Li Tian and Yan Guo.

**Student Awards**: Sally Torres (Winner), Meenakshi Meera Nair (Winner), Sayali Virulkar (Special mention), Manasa Garikaparthy (Special mention).