



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

**ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE**  
**International Development Network**  
**Bulletin 62, May 2010**

**Next IDN meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**‘Joined-up’ city-centre enhancement in Australia & New Zealand**

**Speaker:** Rod Duncan, Department of Planning and Community Development, State Government of Victoria (Australia)

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010** from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, at the Bartlett School of Planning, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wates House, London WC1H 0BQ

Rod Duncan managed an innovative programme ‘strengthening the heart’ of the regional city of Bendigo which achieved Australia’s highest award for urban achievement. He has a particular interest in ‘middle-sized’ cities and offers this chance to present exemplary projects in Australia and New Zealand during his visit to Europe.

**This IDN meeting is free of charge but please register in advance by [email](#).**

**Help wanted**

A postgraduate student researching the role of the international planning and development consultant wishes to carry out informal consultations with practising planners who operate internationally to try to understand the kind of work they do and the global networks that exist e.g. between NGOs, government, politicians, quaNGOs and consultants. If you would be willing to be interviewed over the phone or face-to-face for about 15 minutes, please [email IDN](#) for further details.

The Institute of Transport and Tourism at the University of Central Lancashire (UK) is running an on-line survey of people affected by air travel problems as a consequence of the volcanic ash cloud with a view to advising governments and airlines on ways of handling such an event better in future. Click [here](#) to go to the survey - or forward this note to others.

**News of IDN members**

IDN member Tim Catchpole observes “*Our firm [Halcrow] has just planned a new city in India which will accommodate 2 million people (out of the 350 million that are expected to draft from rural to urban areas over the next few decades). We have made provision for a belt of informal housing, referred to as low income group (LIG) housing, located between the industrial zone and commercial centre and more upmarket residential areas of the city. This will enable the LIG residents to walk or cycle to work. Interestingly, with the collapse of real estate worldwide, the only invitations we have been getting recently are from clients asking for master-plans of industrial zones and cities - which can help to get the economy moving again. Last year our firm planned two industrial zones in Abu Dhabi and an industrial city in China as well as the industrial city in India.*” Tim has reviewed the Global Report on Human Settlements from UN-HABITAT for the Spring 2010 edition of Urban Design. [Read more](#)

We are always glad to hear – and share - news of IDN members’ work and interests.

**Events & Opportunities**

ESPO is a five-year programme for applied research into all aspects of European territorial development. UK researchers in the academic and private sectors have until 28 June to submit proposals for a new round of funding. Click [here](#) for specifications and application forms. Most applications need to be made by transnational groups of at least 3 partners. If you are looking for project partners, the [UK Contact Point](#) (operated by RTPI) offers support.

The **Global Knowledge Initiative** seeks to serve individuals and institutions in higher education and research, including 184 universities and colleges and 43 private sector businesses, foundations and non-governmental organisations. The launch event – a Higher

Education Summit for Global Development - convened by the US Secretary of State, the US Secretary of Education, and the head of the US Agency for International Development identified the need for a 'clearing-house for resources and information to help build knowledge partnerships.' [Read more](#)

Call for papers for a conference on **Public Space and the Challenges of Urban Transformation in Europe: Politics and Culture** in Vienna in November 2010, hosted by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SkuOR). How do public authorities address the challenges of provision and maintenance of public space both as a catalyst for change and as a common good? There will be three sub-themes: strategies, plans and policies; multiple roles of public space; and everyday life in the city. [More info](#)

UN-HABITAT, AESOP and ISoCaRP **European Urban Summer School** for young professionals at Wroclaw University of Technology (Poland) 10<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> September 2010 [More info](#)

### **Research & Publications Round-up**

A recent issue of the UN-HABITAT quarterly magazine **Urban World** looks at successful innovative cities, examines the 'gender divide', and reports on a new way to collect taxes that has boosted development in Hargeisa (Somaliland). [Read more](#) [Complete listing](#)

New information on funding for international development, covering UK, EU and international funds, is available on the UK Local Government Alliance website. [Read more](#)

### **External Assistance for Urban Development: A Scoping Study for Further Research**

The pervasive effects of poverty, illiteracy and mortality in urban slums have long been recognised and put into sharper focus by rapid urbanisation. UN Millennium Development Goal 7 calls for "Cities Without Slums," setting a target of achieving "a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers" by 2020. The latest evidence suggests there are 100 million more slum dwellers than in 1990 as rapid urbanisation offsets modest progress in improving the lives of those already in cities. [Read more.](#)

**Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities: Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities 2010** published by UN-HABITAT covers research from 22 cities on six continents. It uncovers the rich diversity of waste management systems in use the world and draws out practical lessons for policymakers. [Read more](#)

CUTS International is a civil society organisation with headquarter in Jaipur (India) dealing with issues of trade, regulation and governance. A recent CUTS working paper from its Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment - **Facilitating Sustainable Development in the Developing World: Ensuring that Economic Growth is Inclusive and Environmentally Sustainable** – considers a holistic concept of sustainable development incorporating economic, environmental and social aspects of human behaviour and quality of life. It examines recent development experience of India and China to develop an operational definition and indicators of sustainable development. [Read more](#)

**The Placemaker's Guide to Building Community** by Nabeel Hamdi draws on four decades of experience to offer insight into the complexities faced by practitioners when working to improve communities, lives and livelihoods of people the world over. The book shows that these complexities are a context for, rather than a barrier to, creative work. [Read more](#)

**Europe's Urban Atlas** brings together thousands of images from European satellites and provides detailed and cost-effective mapping of larger urban zones, yielding accurate land cover and usage data. [Read more.](#)

The most recent edition of the RTPI journal **Planning Theory & Practice** includes an Interface section which explores the nature of the links between spatial planning and health by eliciting views from a number of practical perspectives. [Read more](#)

### **Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery**

***Avoiding Disaster After Disaster*** is a thoughtful blog from Paul Mitchell of the World Bank, based on 25 years of working in emergency response, highlighting enduring issues: lack of money, the need for early response and the challenge of co-ordinating efforts. [Read more](#)

***Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready*** is an information kit from the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) listing characteristics of a disaster-resilient city and identifies urban risks. It is intended for local government and other local agencies wishing to make cities safer from disasters. [Read more](#) The publication marks the launch by the UN of the Making Cities Resilient campaign 2010-2011. [Read more](#)

***Building Back Better in the Quake Zone reports*** on the work of the Pakistan Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), set up in the aftermath of the 2005 'quake which killed 73,000 people and made 3½ million homeless. [Read more](#)

***Post-Disaster Reconstruction: Lessons from Aceh*** edited by Matthew Clarke, Ismet Fanany and Sue Kenny is the first major book on perspectives and experiences of reconstruction after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, focusing on reconstruction in Aceh where the effects of the disaster were exacerbated by decades of armed conflict. [Read more](#)

***Environmental emergencies: learning from multilateral response to disasters*** from the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs highlights success stories and lessons learned, raises awareness of the devastation that an environmental emergency can cause, and to promote advocacy and action in response, including the risk reduction perspective. [Read more](#)

New information about relief and reconstruction in Haiti is added to the [Haiti response page](#) of the RTPi website as it comes in. The latest commentaries focus on the interface between planning and development economics.

## **World-wide Planning News**

### **AFRICA**

**Kenya** *Hidden Voices: Urban Refugees* is a short film highlighting the daily struggles facing thousands of urban refugees living in Nairobi. In their own words, the refugees tell of how they face poverty, harassment and violence as they make their way in the urban environment. [Read more](#)

### **ASIA-PACIFIC**

**Mekong River** A special report on 'water wars' highlights concerns about the Mekong, one of eight major rivers rising on the Tibetan plateau and running through Yunnan province (China), Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Lately its flow rate has slackened; sandbanks have appeared, navigation has slowed, fishermen complain of derisory catches, and the 60 million people whose livelihoods directly or indirectly depend on the river are worried. The worst drought in southern China for 50 years is partly, perhaps mainly, to blame, but downstream users also blame the Chinese government, and in particular the three dams it has built and its blasting of rapids to ease navigation. [Read more](#)

**Taiwan** Mountains cover two thirds of Taiwan, but the heart of the island's economy is in the remaining third, mostly flat land near sea-level, the location for a string of populous cities, industry zones, three nuclear power plants and a petrochemical complex. These cannot be relocated, and they are starkly exposed to the elements. [Read more](#)

### **EUROPE**

A further 500 European towns and cities have pledged to join the [Covenant of Mayors](#), bringing the total to well over 1700. Signatories undertake to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions beyond EU targets, in a programme funded by the European Economic Recovery Plan. Nearly half the newly signed-up cities are in Italy, over 100 are in Spain. [Read more](#).

27 UK local authorities are already among the signatories. The [Energy Savings Trust](#) is the new UK organisation supporting the Covenant of Mayors initiative by giving technical support to local authorities to develop carbon reduction plans for private and public sector homes.

## LATIN AMERICA

**Brazil** A critical assessment of Brasilia, 50 years after it was dedicated as the new capital of Brazil in April 1960, offers an opportunity to compare its intended development with more recent new cities. [Read more](#)

**Colombia** Architectural renaissance in Medellín, the country's second city. Still a poor place, it is nevertheless safer than it was in the heyday of the drug lords, and much of this is attributed to "social urbanism". [Read more](#)

## NORTH AMERICA

**USA** *Peril, Promise, and a Watery Future For the World's Coastal Cities* An article on Citiwire by Anthony Flint of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy reports on the Delta Symposium session at the National Conference of the American Planning Association in April 2010. [Read more](#)

## SOUTH ASIA

**India** Navi Mumbai is a 1960s planned city, to the east of Mumbai proper. The Maharashtra government tried to reduce congestion and environmental degradation in Mumbai by transferring industry and commerce as well as building new residences there and now there are plans to improve public transport. [Read more](#)

## WEST ASIA

**Saudi Arabia** A massive project with involvement of Canadian planners and engineers aims to modernize public transport in the holy city of Mecca, to help move the pilgrims who come to the city for the *hajj* – 2.5 million at present, perhaps eight million a year by 2030. [Read more](#)

## Network operation

- International Development Network members can view items in the Members' Area of the [IDN website](#).
- If you are reading a forwarded copy of the IDN Bulletin, please join the Network so that future issues come direct to you in-box and so you can view items in the Members' Area.
- How to join IDN via the [website](#).
- Details of other RTPI networks can be found [here](#).
- Through our various classes of membership, RTPI provides the right level of support for all those involved in planning. Find out how to become a member [here](#).
- If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, and would like to be removed from the network, please [email IDN](#)
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