

# RTPI INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY SUMMARY

International Committee 2012

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## Source of RTPI International Strategy

The RTPI International Strategy originated in discussions by the Board of Trustees in late 2011 and early 2012 to establish a broad approach. The International Committee then commented on a draft strategy paper in February 2012. The paper went forward with some revisions as the “Next Steps for the RTPI International Strategy” to the Board of Trustees on 16 May and to the General Assembly on 23 May. The International Committee considered the paper and various comments on 12 June to provide an input to this strategy summary.

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## The Institute’s Aims

The aim of the RTPI is to *‘further the art and science of town planning in the public interest’*. The Institute is a charity, a learned society and a membership organisation. Its approach to its international work reflects these three functions.

The International Strategy aims to *‘enable planners to play an effective part in achieving a more sustainable world through spatial planning’* in pursuit of the Institute’s aims as a charity and as a membership organisation. It also aims to *‘promote the RTPI as a world leading advocate of the value of planning and planners’* in pursuit of the Institute’s aims as a learned society and as a membership organisation.

## Overall Aims of the International Strategy

The overall aims of the RTPI International Strategy are to ...

1. Play our part in achieving a more sustainable world through spatial planning.
  2. Promote the RTPI as a world leading advocate of the value of planning and planners.
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## Role of International Work

The key roles of the RTPI’s International Work are to ...

- Focus on the unique contribution that planners make to sustainable development
  - Strengthen the outstanding reputation of all the RTPI’s activities around the world
  - Integrate the RTPI’s education and membership work at the international scale
  - Develop the RTPI’s policy and practice work through research, sharing and lobbying
  - Work across these functions with governments and international planning associations
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## Corporate Strategy Objectives

The strategic objectives of the Corporate Strategy are ...

- (a) Shaping and informing policy and practice;
- (b) Developing knowledge and raising standards in the profession;
- (c) Supporting and developing members and membership numbers;
- (d) Empowering communities;
- (e) Achieving and maintaining effective governance and management.

## Relevance of Corporate Strategy Objectives to International Strategy

- (a) Shaping and informing policy and practice

- *International research, policy lobbying and dissemination of good practice*
- (b) Developing knowledge and raising standards in the profession
- *International planning education and accreditation of planning school courses*
- (c) Supporting and developing members and membership numbers
- *International RTPI membership promotion and membership support services*
- (d) Empowering communities
- *International planning capacity building and on-line support for planners*
- (e) Achieving and maintaining effective governance and management.
- *Working across international associations and RTPI Committees and Directorates*
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### **International Strategic Priorities**

The International Strategic Objectives are to ...

1. Act as an advocate for planning and planners around the world;
  2. Support planning education and continuing professional development;
  3. Assist RTPI members studying and working in planning abroad;
  4. Promote, contribute to and disseminate research, policy and best practice;
  5. Assist in planning capacity building particularly in the developing world;
  6. Work with international associations and across RTPI Committees and Directorates.
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### **Key Elements of the International Strategy**

*(summarised from the "Next Steps" paper and GA presentation)*

- 1 Act as an advocate for planning and planners around the world
  - The RTPI has an outstanding reputation around the world but it does not fully punch its weight. It has significant links with UN Habitat, GPN, ECTP-CEU, CAP, IFHP and national planning associations
  - The RTPI President and Chief Executive promote planning internationally and can lobby governments on policy and practice. There are opportunities, for example, to influence decisions about planning within the European Union
- 2 Support planning education and continuing professional development
  - Many practising planners around the world have qualified through RTPI accredited planning courses. International students attend RTPI accredited planning courses in the UK and also abroad
  - The RTPI Education and Lifelong Learning Committee accredits planning courses to meet different needs. The Membership and Ethics Committee promotes RTPI membership amongst international students
- 3 Assist RTPI members studying and working in planning abroad
  - Over 1,100 of the RTPI's 23,000 members live abroad to study and work in planning around the world. Other UK based planners work as consultants abroad and so contribute to UK exports
  - The RTPI International Affairs Officer currently responds to queries and generously assists overseas visitors. We need to find opportunities to provide these services more effectively and consistently with all other RTPI services
- 4 Promote, contribute to and disseminate research, policy and best practice
  - The RTPI gathers and disseminates information through its Networks, GPN and the Journal of Planning Theory & Practice. The International Committee directs the work

- of the International Development Network
  - The RTPI Planning Policy & Practice Committee works with partners to promote planning research projects. The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee has links with universities abroad and with ESPON
- 5 Assist in planning capacity building particularly in the developing world
- There is an urgent need to help build planning capacity particularly in developing countries. But the RTPI could only engage in international development projects if the UK Government or others were prepared to fund them
  - GPN could link with IDN and the new RTPI website to provide on-line support for international planning capacity building. The opportunities to link this with the GPN Newsletter and IDN Newsletter should be explored
- 6 Work with international associations and across RTPI Committees and Directorates
- The International Committee works with other planning associations on international development activities. The RTPI channels most of its non-staffing budget through these international planning associations
  - The RTPI International Committee has traditionally worked mainly in isolation on international development issues. But the RTPI's other Committees and Directorates also have international dimensions to their work.
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## **Conclusion**

The International Committee stands ready to develop these overall aims and strategic priorities for the RTPI International Strategy when they have been reconciled with other parallel strategy summaries in the refresh of the RTPI Corporate Strategy. It is prepared to play its part in reviewing what mechanisms and action plans will be needed to develop these overall aims and strategic priorities into practical implementation as part of the Business Plan and Budget exercises that will follow.