

GPN Newsletter 3

October 2010



GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK
Sharing new ideas about communities across the world

FROM THE EDITOR

One purpose of GPN Newsletters is outreach. I am very pleased to report that the signs of success are beginning to show. Since the last edition I have heard from Lagos, Afghanistan and Papua New Guinea, where congratulations are due on the formation of a professional association and the approval of the National Urbanisation Policy – more about this below.

*I welcome your views on all topics covered here. Contact me at editor@globalplannersnetwork.org.
Ron Tate (Editor)*

GPN MEETING IN MONTRÉAL

At the GPN Congress in Montréal, held at the invitation of the Canadian Institute of Planners and within the CIP national conference on Climate Change+Communities, GPN partners pledged their support to planning for mitigation and adaptation of the effects of climate change. [GPN Communiqué](#)

CAP YOUNG PLANNERS

The Commonwealth Association of Planners Young Planners Network was launched at the CAP meeting, also held in Montréal. In the [Latest News](#) section of the CAP website you can read about the YP Network and the four young planners whose prize-winning essays helped to launch it.

GLOBAL PLANNERS NETWORK WEBSITE

The GPN website has a new section: the Global Planners Network Exchange (GPNX), based on APA's Planning and University Research Registry (PURR). Thanks to APA sponsorship, GPN supporters can upload and search for information about current practices, needs and research affecting urban and regional planning throughout the world.

[GPNX](#) will be a vital resource for the global planning community enabling committed citizens, private and public sector practitioners, academic researchers and NGOs to share information through a *self-managed, web-based portal*. It is open to everyone without regard to membership of APA (or any other association). To upload a project, [create a free login](#) and post the information, then return at any time to update, edit, or archive projects as information changes. Visitors will also be able to search the database by keyword, name of contributor or name of institution. [Email](#) with queries or requests for help.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY GPN MEMBERS

Registration is open for the online conference for World Town Planning Day 2010 on 8th and 9th November 2010. The title is **Healthy People - Healthy Places - Healthy Planet: Integrating Food Systems into the Planning Process**. [Find out more](#)

NEWS FROM PLANNERS - NIGERIA

Urban Spaces Innovation - Providing Housing to the Poor in Nigeria

Mrs. C. K. George FRTPI, chair of the USI Board of Directors writes from Lagos:

Urban Spaces Innovation (USI) established in 2008, under the auspices of Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC), to expand equitable access to land and the development and improvement of housing and living conditions in urban poor communities in Nigeria has a two-pronged strategy: the development of a pilot project for social housing in Maroko community and the institutionalization of social housing policy to enhance accessibility to housing for more than 18 million homeless Nigerians. Lagos has about 31% of the total Nigerian housing deficit. USI interventions include youth training in construction, starting women and housing cooperative societies, and a social housing summit to provide affordable homes for the poor. [More information](#)

NEWS FROM PLANNERS – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

There are about 60 physical planners in Papua New Guinea, and they have recently formed a professional association, the Association of Physical Planners of Papua New Guinea (APPOPNG). The interim President, Elias Masta, tells GPN that its role will be to promote planners' role in development of PNG, tackling mammoth planning tasks in the country. He also reports government approval of the first PNG National Urbanization Policy in June 2010, and writes *'The cross-cutting themes of the policy make it holistic in coverage but challenging in its implementation. Two of the main challenges are how to get all the stakeholders to work together and the securing of the funds required to implement the policy'*. For more information on APPOPNG, contact [Elias Masta](#)

SUPPORT FOR PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN LATIN AMERICA

The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) is an initiative from GPN member APA: a multi-national co-ordinated programme to encourage broader use of renewable energy, manage forests sustainably, improve land use, and account for climate change adaptation throughout the Americas and Caribbean. [Read more](#)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

The first Delhi Urban Workshop opens on 3rd January 2011, bringing together planners, urban designers, architects, administrators, engineers, students and academics for three weeks to explore challenges facing Delhi through lectures, discussions, field trips, meetings and guided small group projects. It will be led by senior staff of Delhi's universities and

experienced professionals. The cost is USD 3,475 per person excluding international air travel. [More information](#)

No Economic Recovery Without Cities, developed in connection with the UN-HABITAT [World Urban Campaign](#), encourages debate on what cities contribute to social and territorial cohesion, civic empowerment and economic recovery. Its creator, José Carlos Mota of the University of Aveiro in Portugal would like its [Facebook](#) page to be a place to share good practice.

FORCED EVICTIONS

On World Habitat Day – the first Monday in October – the International Alliance of Inhabitants, a world-wide network for housing rights, launched the [World Zero Evictions Days 2010](#). IAI core demands are for a world-wide moratorium on evictions and a 'New Green Deal' for a billion people, financed by a Popular Fund for land and housing.

Another excellent source of factual information on precarious housing is the [website](#) of the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (CoHRE) in Geneva. Recognising the seriousness of the threat of precarious housing, the UN has extended the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik. [Read more](#)

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS ROUND-UP

The World Bank has published **Eco² Cities – Ecological Cities as Economic Cities** as part of an initiative to provide practical, scalable, analytical and operational support to cities to harness the benefits of ecological and economic sustainability. [Read more](#)

Urban Challenges: Scoping the State of the Commonwealth's Cities based on the work of Cliff Hague and Will French for CAP can now be downloaded from the Commonwealth Foundation website. [Read more](#)

Building Back Better: Delivering People-centred Housing Reconstruction at Scale has been developed by Practical Action, London South Bank University and the International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies. Edited by Michal Lyons and Theo Schilderman, it contributes to debate on potential for post-disaster reconstruction, contains case studies and demonstrates the central importance of consultation and participation. [Read more](#)

UN-HABITAT has published **Land and Natural Disasters: Guidance for Practitioners** addressing land issues from the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster through recovery and reconstruction, including disaster risk reduction. Download free: [Read more](#).

WORLD-WIDE PLANNING NEWS

UN-HABITAT Joan Clos, the new Executive Director, succeeding Anna Tibaijuka, took office on 18th October. Read his [profile](#).

AFRICA

Ghana Research on policy and practice in urban areas assesses progress on Millennium Development Goal 7 ['Ensure environmental sustainability']. While urban

poverty is still dwarfed by rural poverty in Ghana, the quality of life of the urban poor is damaged by poor services. [Read more](#)

Tanzania The government has approved plans to build a highway from Arusha to Musoma across Serengeti National Park, the country's oldest national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It would cut across the routes of the great Serengeti wildlife migration - the last of its kind in the world. [Read more](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC

China In a two-part interview in *China Dialogue*, Prof. Zhang Song of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University in Shanghai challenges Chinese society and political leadership to transform urban sprawl into urban sustainability: Read '[China's Urban Disease](#)' and '[A New Awakening](#)'.

Japan Model eco-cities promoting a government-supported shift toward a low-carbon society are featured in a new website. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

As **Brazil** prepares to host the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympics, its cities work to improve their public transport. [Read more](#)

NORTH AMERICA

A Canadian review of "The Trouble with City Planning: What New Orleans Can Teach Us" by Kristina Ford finds that the best thing about planning is its ability to deal with contradictions. [Read more](#)

SOUTH ASIA

India A report from McKinsey on urbanisation suggests that India could need to build 25 'townships' to house an additional 590 million people by 2030, but the idea of planning sustainable settlements is slow to catch on in the private sector. [Read more](#)

WEST ASIA

Iraq Articles in [Der Spiegel](#) and [The Guardian](#) feature the restoration of the Mesopotamian marshes drained by Saddam Hussein.

Turkey Eugenie Birch, a member of the Steering Committee of the [World Urban Campaign](#), sees Istanbul as a model for the 21st century megacity. By 2050, the city may house 20% of the world's urban population; mobility, shelter and environmental clean-up are the overwhelming priorities [Read more](#)

Global Planners Network

To find out more about GPN, please visit our website www.globalplannersnetwork.org. If you know someone who would find this useful, please pass it on. If you have comments on it, or contributions for a future edition, please contact Ron Tate at editor@globalplannersnetwork.org.

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