

### FROM THE EDITOR

We celebrate that the China Land Society is now a supporter of GPN and welcome Luo Ming to the Steering Committee.

As yet more events highlight the need for long-term spatial planning solutions, we express our support for those faced with the aftermath of earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, flooding in Australia and the effects of the tsunami in Japan and the emerging changes to governance in North Africa and the Middle East.

I welcome your views on all topics covered here, and we are glad to feature your news particularly on the next 'special focus' topic, planning education. Contact me at [editor@globalplannersnetwork.org](mailto:editor@globalplannersnetwork.org).

**Ron Tate (Editor)**

### NEWS FROM PLANNERS

The **Nunavut Climate Change Partnership** is a joint effort of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Governments of Canada and Nunavut to promote climate change adaptation planning in Arctic communities. A workbook on adaptation planning in Nunavut will interest planners working in other northern regions. [Read more](#)

GPN Partners CIP and APA both contribute to the **Canada-Guyana Partnership for Community Planning**. Its first policy meeting to advance a Caribbean urban agenda takes place from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in Guyana. [Read more](#)

**Making it Work: Planning in a Connected World** is the CIP Annual Conference from 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador. The international session of the conference will explore the relationship between planning and sustainable economic development in developing countries, particularly in the Caribbean. [Read more](#)

The Young Planners Network of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP YPN) now has a virtual presence through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and a [blog](#).

As part of the World Urban Campaign, the American Planning Association is contributing to research on **global sustainability indicators** by the US government Housing & Urban Development department, and particularly its Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation (IPI). [Download key presentation](#)

The International Federation for Housing and Planning (like GPN, an active member of the Habitat Professionals Forum) has moved office

within the Dutch capital The Hague. The new address is **Binckhorstlaan 36, 2516 BE Den Haag**, phone & fax numbers unchanged (tel +31 70 324 4557; fax +31 70 328 2085).

### PLANNING BOOSTED BY TWO NEW UN REPORTS: one from UN-HABITAT ...

The message of the latest UN-HABITAT **Global Report on Human Settlements** focusing on **Cities and Climate Change** is that while cities are responsible for the majority of our greenhouse gases, they are also places where the greatest efficiencies can be made.

Speaking At the launch in London at the end of March, Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, said "*City authorities have an important level of influence over both greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change*" and "*This makes it imperative that we understand the form and content of our urbanisation so that we can reduce our footprint and plan more sustainable and more resilient cities in the future. If we ignore this now, hundreds of millions of people will be at risk from the effects of climate change in the future.*"

Well-planned cities with efficient urban transport provision and solid adaptation and mitigation strategies can actually have less impact on climate change and provide clear economic and social opportunities for their inhabitants. To see the Global Report, [click here](#), and for BBC coverage [click here](#)

### ... and one from UNEP

The UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) finds that land-use planning can help the world create a low-carbon economy and could grow faster than predicted under current 'business as usual' options. "*Planning is essential in realising sustainable development*" it says. The most sustainable approaches are the "compact city" accommodating increases in population through densification of city centres and the "corridor city" based on public transport. "*It is no coincidence that cities with a long tradition of applying land-use planning, public transport strategies and a focus on public green space are among the healthiest in the world,*" says the report. [Read more](#)

### FOCUS ON ... FOOD SECURITY

**Planning and Food Security within the Commonwealth** A new discussion paper from the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP)

and written by Professor Wayne Caldwell, Anneliza Collett, Therese Ludlow, Ian Sinclair and Jenny Whitehead addresses one of the most serious challenges facing Commonwealth countries. Access to food is a basic human need but unfortunately that human need is not being met in many areas. Planning has a significant role to play in addressing threats to food security. [Download PDF](#)

**The annual World Watch Institute 'State of the World' report *Innovations that Nourish the Planet*** suggests that a move from industrial farming towards local food projects is our healthiest, most sustainable choice. [Read more](#)

The Foresight project, sponsored by two UK Government Departments (Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and International Development), has published its report **Global Food & Farming Futures**, asking how a future global population of 9 billion people can all be fed healthily and sustainably. It highlights decisions that policymakers need to take today and in years ahead to ensure that all can be fed sustainably and equitably. [Read more.](#)

#### **RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS ROUND-UP**

Launched on World Habitat Day 2010, the web portal **Women & Human Settlements** is an online community created to share knowledge on empowerment, gender equality, urbanisation and community development. The portal allows you to register a personal profile, useful for networking, to join discussions and find or offer information. [Read more.](#)

CoLab is a centre for planning and development at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning of Massachusetts Institute of Technology working with low-income communities to strengthen civic life. In a video on the CoLab website, meet a MIT graduate student who helped draft a housing reconstruction framework for the Presidential Commission for Reconstruction in Haiti. [View](#)

Recent publications from Commonwealth Institutions:

**Urban Challenges: Scoping the State of the Commonwealth's Cities** ([download](#));

**Gender in Planning and Urban Development**, Commonwealth Sec. Discussion Paper 7 ([download](#)).

**The State of the Cities**, Commonwealth Sec. Discussion Paper 8 ([download](#))

The World Bank, the Cities Alliance and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy have co-published **Making Room for a Planet of Cities**, which can be downloaded from any of the organisations' websites e.g. [CA website](#). Launching it in January 2011, Abha Joshi-Ghani of the World Bank, said: "*Urbanization is the defining phenomenon of this century. The impact of rapid urbanization will be felt most acutely in developing countries where*

*the built up area is expected to increase threefold while the urban population doubles by 2030. What is required is not a strategy of containment and restriction but one of generous metropolitan limits, selective protection of open spaces, and good transport and road planning. For this rapid and inevitable urban expansion to lead to equitable, inclusive, and green growth, we need to respond in innovative ways, embracing new paradigms. That is what this book is all about."*

[Read more](#)

**Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities** Essential reading on resource management and the recovery of waste for further productive use. Using the framework of Integrated Sustainable Waste Management, the report presents research from 22 cities on six continents describing waste management systems used round the world drawing out practical lessons for policymakers. [Download](#)

*Citiwire* reviews the **Global Metro Summit** held in Chicago in December and looks at recovery strategies employed at various times by Munich, Cleveland, Barcelona, Seattle, Turin, Philadelphia, Seoul, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago. [Read more.](#) [Download](#) the Summit Report on 150 metropolitan areas.

The Building & Social Housing Foundation has published **Living a Good Life: Bringing relationships, community and purpose to the lives of marginalised people**. To answer the question 'What makes a good life?' it collects case studies of innovative policy and practice in Australia, Belgium, Canada, the USA, Chile, the UK, India, Poland, and South Africa. [Download.](#)

**Cities and climate change: An urgent agenda** from the World Bank outlines the advantages cities have in confronting climate change and explains how organisations can provide support to cities. [Read more](#)

**Dialogues in Urban & Regional Planning Volume 4** is a selection of papers from around the world. The internationally-recognised authors of award-winning papers take up a range of issues: planning and governance in Zimbabwe, rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina, safety issues in urban spaces, and an analysis of French transportation policies. These *Dialogues* are published in association with the Global Planning Education Association Network representing 360 planning schools in nearly 50 countries who select papers based on regional competitions. [Read more](#)

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery**

Earthquake in **Christchurch**: the New Zealand New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) has a news feed of information on the effects of the earthquake (Magnitude 6.3) on 22nd February and is gearing up to offer hands-on planning expertise after the search-and-rescue operation. [Read more](#)

**Queensland** floods: The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) provides a useful round-up of flood-recovery resources on its [Policy](#) pages.

Landslides in **Brazil** resulted from heavy localised downpours on badly constructed homes built precariously on steep hillsides. The Wivenhoe Dam (1974) was to save **Brisbane** from severe flooding, but the city and its surroundings have changed dramatically. Rapid urban development, population growth and building on flood plains all raised the risk in areas once considered flood-free. And bad planning can increase the risk of flooding by taking away natural defences that let rainwater seep away safely .... [Read more](#).

Meanwhile *The Australian* considers the role of private disaster insurance in **Australia**. [Read more](#) and *The Sunday Times* of **Sri Lanka** describes the new National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) as a first step towards preparing for impending disaster. [Read more](#)

Flood preparedness in **Zambia** is poor, says a spokesperson for Lusaka City Council: the Council is not ready for floods. *'The capital needs better infrastructure, more drains and a programme to strengthen existing facilities, but the council does not have funds to address the problem,'* she said. [Read more](#)

A report from UN-HABITAT identifies success factors in housing provision as part of post-tsunami reconstruction in Indonesia and asks what can be learned about the role of government and civil society in housing recovery. It identifies occasions when rapid influx of international organisations with access to more funding than can easily be spent as was the case notably after the Haiti earthquake in 2010. [Read more](#)

## WORLD-WIDE PLANNING NEWS

### AFRICA

**Egypt** A paradoxical effect of street protests – cleaner air in Cairo. [Read more](#) And a columnist reflects on the opportunities which regime change could bring to cities in the only large country that is *less* urban than it was a generation ago. [Read more](#)

**Sudan** A study of urbanisation in Sudan commissioned by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) analyses social, environmental and economic consequences of urbanisation, particularly urban livelihoods, infrastructure and provision of basic services. The findings suggest that current international humanitarian and development approaches are not yet geared to respond to the challenges of urbanisation. [Read more](#)

### ASIA-PACIFIC

**Indonesia** Three possible strategies for managing relocation of government away from

the capital Jakarta, vulnerable to pollution and now on the limit of urbanisation [Read more](#)

**Nauru** Development aid from Taiwan under 'Project 630' aims to help the island - already damaged by rising sea levels salinating the soil - grow six kinds of fruits and vegetables, achieve this in three years and cut imports and carbon emissions to zero. [Read more](#)

### EUROPE

**Cyprus** An article in the *Cyprus Mail* assesses the island's vulnerability to climate change and suggests a strategy to manage it. [Read more](#)

**Italy** Perugia shows how a small city can reap benefits from investment in pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. 'All it took was a succession of progressive-minded city officials, urban planners, and resident-dreamers who saw how Perugia's geographic and historical preservation challenges could be used to its advantage. [Read more](#)

**Netherlands** Imaginative re-use of the 'Water Line': 16<sup>th</sup> century defences which were an early form of regional planning. [Read more](#)

### LATIN AMERICA

**Brazil** Urban planning is not on Brazil's political agenda, and the forward planning process is hindered by the electoral cycle, so when heavy rains come, cities are not able to cope. [Read more](#)

### SOUTH ASIA

**Bangladesh** Two researchers challenged to explain how better solid waste management could benefit city dwellers set up an NGO and were triumphantly proved right. [Read more](#)

**India** A report from McKinsey considers how urbanisation might evolve in India, explores problems facing fast-growing cities and wonders what policy makers can do to mitigate the strains of urban life and maximise opportunities offered by cities. [Read more](#) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) has produced a draft National Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy focusing on the aim of slum-free cities. [Read more](#)

### Global Planners Network

*To find out more about GPN, please visit our website [www.globalplannersnetwork.org](http://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](mailto:editor@globalplannersnetwork.org).*

*There are practical difficulties in trying to do too much, not least an inability to meet resource implications. A newsletter cannot provide individual advice or a brokerage or introduction agency, nor can it vouch for or attest to the quality of every project, study, guidance note or research paper identified. Readers must make up their own minds on such issues.*