

## Welcome to the GPN Newsletter

*This Newsletter aims to further GPN goals, share ideas on spatial planning, signpost examples of good practice and provide contact points for those in need to find potential help. We hope this will widen and deepen the impact of the GPN.*

*Welcome to this first edition. You will find it is brief and to the point, concentrating on providing links to other material. It will not contain articles, research papers or conference reports. Such things can be found elsewhere. I hope to keep readers up to date with GPN activities around the globe.*

*GPN welcomes new members as signatories of the Vancouver Declaration and supporters of its principles, but you do not need to be a member of GPN to receive this Newsletter. If you know someone who may find this useful please forward it. If they are without Internet access, please print this and pass it on, in whole or part.*

*We hope to feature a 'focus section' on a specific topic in each issue; forced evictions and disaster-resistant cities have been suggested. If you have views on these – including strong views about the stance that planners should take – please let us have them.*

*I welcome your views, and you can contact me at [editor@globalplannersnetwork.org](mailto:editor@globalplannersnetwork.org).*

**Ron Tate (Editor)**

## Events & Opportunities

### **Climate Change + Communities: A Call to Action**

The annual congress of the Canadian Institute of Planners has a double international focus this year. It includes a Board meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the **biennial congress of the Global Planners Network**. It takes place in Montréal (Québec) with the CAP meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October ([read more](#)). The GPN 'thread' runs through the Congress from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October. [Read more](#)

The **Global Knowledge Initiative** brings together individuals and institutions in higher education and research, including 184 universities and colleges and 43 private sector businesses, foundations and non-governmental organisations. It was launched at 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 and is to be a 'clearing-house for resources and information to help build knowledge partnerships.' [Read more](#)

The annual Congress of the International Society of City & Regional Planners (ISoCaRP) **Sustainable City / Developing World** will be held from 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September in Nairobi (Kenya). [Read more](#). UN-HABITAT, AESOP and ISoCaRP are holding the **European Urban Summer School** for young professionals at Wrocław University of Technology (Poland) from 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](#) [See complete listing](#)

**External Assistance for Urban Development: A Scoping Study for Further Research** The effects of poverty, illiteracy and mortality in slums are 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. 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 and 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, a civil society organisation in Jaipur (India) dealing with issues of trade, regulation and governance has published a working paper entitled **Facilitating Sustainable Development in the Developing World: Ensuring that Economic Growth is Inclusive and Environmentally Sustainable**. It 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](#)

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](#)

## Special Focus - Disasters

**Avoiding Disaster After Disaster** is a blog from Paul Mitchell of the World Bank, highlighting the enduring issues: lack of money, the need for early response and the challenge of co-ordination. [Read more](#)

**Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready** is an information kit from the UN International Strategy for

Disaster Reduction (ISDR) intended for local government and other local agencies wishing to make cities safer from disasters. [Read more](#)  
It marks the launch by the UN of the Making Cities Resilient campaign 2010-2011. [Read more](#)

**GPN plans to feature this campaign in a future Newsletter; views and references are most welcome – contact the [Editor](#)**

**Building Back Better in the Quake Zone** reports on the Pakistan Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), set up in the aftermath of the earthquake which killed 73,000 people and made 3½ million homeless in 2005. [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. It focuses 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 UN Environment Programme and UN 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 promotes advocacy and action in response, including the risk reduction perspective. [Read more](#)

New information about relief and reconstruction in Haiti is regularly added to the [Haiti response page](#) of the RTPI website.

## World-wide Planning News

### AFRICA

**Kenya Hidden Voices: Urban Refugees** is a film highlighting 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. [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](#)

### 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 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 project with involvement of Canadian planners and engineers will 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](#)

### 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 the Editor, 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.