

### FROM THE EDITOR

The world has looked on helplessly as flood disasters devastate vast areas of China and Pakistan. Our thoughts are with all those affected. Once the waters subside, recovery will begin. GPN offers its support to the planners engaged in the enormous challenge to replace lost settlements with more resistant and sustainable places. *Tell us how we can help.*

This issue includes an invitation to become more closely involved in the Global Planners Network – see the item on the Steering Committee below.

*I welcome your views on all topics covered here. Contact me at [editor@globalplannersnetwork.org](mailto:editor@globalplannersnetwork.org).*

**Ron Tate (Editor)**

### GPN STEERING COMMITTEE

The key principles of the Global Planners Network are set out in [Vancouver Declaration](#). It commits GPN to building the capacity for creating safe, healthy and sustainable settlements by mobilising, sharing and developing the knowledge and skills of planners. We also recognise that meeting the challenge from rapid urbanisation means tackling poverty, climate change and natural hazards/disasters. If you feel that your planning organisation could contribute to an enlarged Steering Committee that guides this work, you are invited to nominate a representative to serve on the Committee.

Please tell us:

- *why your organisation is interested in being represented on the Steering Committee;*
- *your own ideas and aspirations for the GPN;*
- *what activities and projects under way in your organisation align with GPN work*

Please submit names to [international@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:international@rtpi.org.uk) by 15 September 2010 for consideration at the GPN Congress, part of the [CIP conference](#) in Montreal from 2-5 October 2010. For information on GPN and the current Steering Committee membership, please visit the [GPN website](#).

### EVENTS ORGANISED BY GPN MEMBERS

APA's annual policy conference Washington DC on 26-28 September. [More info](#)

Planning Africa Conference in Durban 13-15 September. [More info](#)

Call for papers for **Healthy People - Healthy Places - Healthy Planet: Integrating Food Systems into the Planning Process**, online conference for World Town Planning Day 2010, 8-9 November. [Find out more](#)

### FORCED EVICTIONS

Forced or market-driven evictions are increasing worldwide. Many people-led initiatives have been successful in addressing this issue, reducing the number of evictions, developing new policies and proving that alternatives to forced eviction can be found.

Research coordinated by the Development Planning Unit of University College London with the support of the Building & Social Housing Foundation, carried out with a range of grassroots organisations, networks and activists in different parts of the world, documents their experiences and sets out examples of good practice. [Download](#) the report.

An RTPi member hearing about this work recalled instances of resettlement where inhabitants accepted the changes – perhaps grudgingly or with resignation, but also sometimes more positively. (We've asked for examples!)

What do *you* think? Should planners take a stand on forced evictions? Do you know of ways of managing resettlement so that life improves? Email your ideas, comments or examples to the [Editor](#).

### RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS ROUND-UP

The former President of the Planning Institute of Australia, Jane Stanley, has launched her well-received **textbook** 'Gnarly Planning' as an internet publication. [More info](#) [For non-surfers, 'gnarly' means radical or extreme, a challenge that is all the more rewarding when you get it right.]

Contrary to received wisdom, low-lying Pacific islands may adapt to **rising sea levels**. Geoscientists in New Zealand and Fiji used historical aerial photos and high-resolution satellite images to study changes in the land surface of 27 Pacific islands over the last 60 years. They found that just four islands have diminished in size since the 1950s. The area of the others has either increased or stayed the same. [Read more](#)

**Reinventing America's Cities: Discovering Opportunities by Challenging Biases** is an article by Dr. Aseem Inam who takes writers on urbanism and architecture to task for spreading stereotypes about 'third world cities', particularly when they generalise about urban form. [Read more](#)

Sudhir Chella Rajan of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras and Coordinator of the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability, has published an **overview of sustainable accessibility**, placing it in an Indian context but drawing out global implications. [Read more](#)

Nine communities from Kansas to the Maldives aspire to be **carbon-neutral** and feature in a slide show. [View](#)

Mercer **Quality of Living** rankings rate cities in terms of ease or hardship of living. They rate Vienna as offering the highest quality and Baghdad the lowest. This year the rankings include an 'Eco-City' category, headed by Calgary, Honolulu and Ottawa. [Read more](#)

*Africa Unbound* reports that the World Bank has made its **Africa Development Indicators** freely accessible for the first time. They cover economic, social, and governance development in 53 countries in Africa. [Read more](#) (click on the Africa Development Indicators banner).

**Risk Management of Natural Hazards in Switzerland** presents basic principles for managing natural hazards, acknowledging recent efforts by federal government, cantons and local authorities to move from conventional hazard protection to integrated risk management. The approach is based on balancing preparedness, response and recovery measures. [Read more](#)

## WORLD-WIDE PLANNING NEWS

### AFRICA

**Egypt** Two articles on ambitious work to improve the centre of Cairo for pedestrians, from [Treehugger](#) and [Egypt Today](#).

**South Africa** Africa's first high-speed train started running in time for the World Cup. [Read more](#)

### ASIA-PACIFIC

**Australia** A report from a coalition of business groups including GPN member PIA urges the federal government to take a bigger role in urban policy, noting that cities are the engine rooms of future productivity. It also recommends that a cabinet minister be directly responsible for urban affairs. [Read more](#)

**Australia** The curator of *Now and When*, an exhibition of proposals selected for the Australian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale (29 August-21 November 2010) notes: "The proposals all essentially agree on three points: massive increase in population, massive expansion in cities and climate change". [Read more](#)

**Japan** A dispute over redevelopment of a park in Tokyo has its roots in differing interpretations of the civic role of a park: should it be open to everyone, or offer state-of-the-art facilities to those who can pay? [Read more](#)

**Mongolia** Planning implemented by the Russians in Ulaanbaatar once ensured good living conditions and plenty of community space. Over the past 20 years much has gone as buildings, streets and infrastructure deteriorate and green and public spaces are lost to development. [Read more](#)

### EUROPE

**France** Responding to the Mayor, planners in Paris are looking for premises in the fifth *arrondissement* that would make suitable bookshops or small publishing houses and cultural venues. [Read more](#)

**Kazakhstan** The temperature in Astana can drop to 40°C, but Kazakh residents could soon sun themselves on a beach, go for a gondola ride or use a waterslide thanks to plans for an indoor city capable of housing 20,000 people. [Read more](#)

**UK** The low-carbon Zero Energy Development Pavilion is part of the UK contribution to the Shanghai Expo 'Better City, Better Life' running from May to October 2010. [Read more](#)

### LATIN AMERICA

**Brazil** 'Choosing a sustainable city redevelopment model' - slide presentation on São Paulo from Carlos Leite. [Download](#)

### NORTH AMERICA

**USA** APA President-Elect Mitchell Silver, planning director of Raleigh, North Carolina, talks about the skills a planner should have, the importance of finding the personality or spirit of a place – and the importance of clear, jargon-free communication. [Interview](#)

**Make No Little Plans** is a documentary produced by the Archimedia Workshop to coincide with the centenary of the 1909 Plan of Chicago drawn up by Daniel Hudson Burnham and Edward Bennett. [Read more](#)

### SOUTH ASIA

**India** Mumbai is losing mangrove swamps, natural defences against rising water levels. Environmentalists file legal challenges, but construction projects have devoured an estimated two-thirds of the city's mangroves. [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.