

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the 6th GPN Newsletter: proof, if it were needed, that this initiative is working. Each edition brings more requests to add to the circulation. So, thank you to those who pass it on.

We try to publish every couple of months but must rely on our contributors busy with their day-to-day tasks. This means we have to be flexible on when we are ready with each edition. We want the value of the content to justify any variation in publication dates.

Please keep your contributions coming, warn us of anything in the pipeline and we will do our best to keep things relevant.

Ron Tate (Editor)

NEWS FROM GPN PLANNERS

Making It Work: Planning in a Connected World

The annual conference of the Canadian Institute of Planners and Atlantic Planners' Institute will be on **10th-13th July** 2011 in St. John's (Newfoundland & Labrador). It will explore themes around work, the changing nature of the working world, how the changing nature of work is redefining place and influencing community design, and how the planning profession is responding. [Read more](#)

Global Urban Condition

The inaugural conference of the International Division of the Planning Institute of Australia will run on **26th and 27th July** 2011, and fittingly, it will be an online event. [Read more](#); submit abstract by [email](#).

Gateways: the 9th Biennial of European Towns and Town Planners

INU, the Italian National Planning Institute, and ECTP-CEU, the European Council of Spatial Planners (both GPN supporters) are organising 'The Biennial', founded in 1996 and now well established as an important European planning conference. It will be held in Genoa (Italy) on **14th-17th September**. [Email](#) for more information or see the [website](#).

The **Environment and Climate Partnership of the Americas** (ECPA), which the American Planning Association (APA) helped to found and continues to support, met in Curitiba

(Brazil) in early June for **Planning for Sustainable Economic Development Across the Americas**. There are very readable blog reports from [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).

NEWS FROM (YOUNG) PLANNERS

The winners of the inaugural essay competition for the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) Young Planners Network were:

Jeremiah Atho Ongo & George Wesonga Auma from the Kenya Institute of Planners for their essay on their work in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya;

Alex O'Reilly from the Planning Institute of Australia for his essay on how the Network could contribute to sustainable urbanisation; **Jaya Ramlall** from the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners for an essay on making planners more gender-aware. You can read their prize-winning articles in the latest [CAP Newsletter](#).

FOCUS ON ... HABITAT PROFESSIONALS FORUM

The Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) met in April in Nairobi at the UN-HABITAT Governing Council meeting, with Nicolas Buchoud representing GPN. HPF represents over 6 million planners, architects, surveyors, landscape architects and engineers who work with the UN to deliver the Habitat Agenda. [Read](#) the opening address by the President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners **Christine Platt**. [Read more](#) about the meeting on the UN-HABITAT website, and for details follow the links on the front page of the GPN website to the [GPN Presentation](#) given by Nicolas, the [HPF/GPN Statement](#), and the [HPF Charter](#) (all downloadable PDFs)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have practical experience of working in or with a small city? Then the organisers of **Managing Urban Growth: Challenges for Small Cities**, the 44th EAROPH Regional Planning Conference, would like to hear from you. They are looking for case studies for the conference in Brunei Darussalam from 9th-10th November 2011. The deadline for the call for papers to 15th July has been extended to encourage more offers of papers especially from **successful small and medium-sized towns and cities**. [Read more](#)

Recruitment into humanitarian projects

GOAL is a humanitarian charity founded in 1977 supporting the poorest of the poor via projects overseas. On 7th July they are holding a recruitment event in London where professionals can learn about overseas opportunities. [Read more](#). Right now they have an urgent vacancy to fill for a [Reconstruction Coordinator in Haiti](#).

New List-Serv for the Global Greenbelts Network The first Global Greenbelts Conference in Toronto (Canada) in March led to the foundation of the **Global Greenbelts Network** to share research, planning tools, technical expertise and lessons learned via an email bulletin (List-Serv). [Read more](#)

HELP WANTED

The planning department of the city of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) is preparing a Local Development Plan for its 14 renewal and development areas; the Chief Planner has asked for a reading list of current planning books which will guide the process. Recommendations on regionally relevant titles on the theory and practice of planning generally, and on community engagement processes in particular, would be welcome. Please [email](#) suggestions.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS ROUND-UP

The 2011 State of South African Cities report **Towards Resilient Cities** assesses progress made by democratic metropolitan government on its tenth anniversary. Socio-economic conditions have improved, but urbanisation has not been planned or managed effectively, resulting in an increase in the number and proportion of households living in informal dwellings without essential services and situated on the outskirts of cities far from jobs and other opportunities. [Download report](#)

Two new World Bank publications

Conflict Security & Development (the World Development Report 2011) notes that no low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and considers how the international community can support states to progress in the face of insecurity and unrest. [Download](#)

World Development Indicators 2011 monitor progress made toward meeting the MDGs, listing 800 indicators for more than 150 economies and 14 country groups in more than 90 tables. [Read more](#)

An Asian Development Bank publication **Access to Justice for the Urban Poor: Toward Inclusive Cities** identifies successful and promising community-based approaches to dispute resolution so that urban development projects address problems and grievances of the urban poor and improve urban governance. [Download](#)

Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World by Canadian writer Doug Saunders looks at the settlements on city margins created by new arrivals. The places they live are places of opportunity: for a start, rural people who tend to raise large families to work in the fields soon learn the virtues of having fewer children and getting them educated, so Arrival Cities could be places where the world's population stops growing. Read reviews by [Fred Pearce](#), [Paul Collier](#) and [Cliff Hague](#)

WORLD-WIDE PLANNING NEWS

AFRICA

The UK Director of Amnesty International reports continuing forced evictions in Africa without of resettlement let alone compensation. [Read more](#)

Ghana A British planner writes movingly about the lack of planning capacity, using the example of depredations of illegal mining in the historic area of Kyebi. [Read more](#)

Nigeria Port Harcourt waterfront communities are under threat from forced evictions under the state's urban renewal programme; a team from a UK aid organisation is working on a community-led project to support the right to housing. [Read more](#)

Sierra Leone William Alpha, Chief Administrator (CEO) of Bo City Council in Sierra Leone recently spent two weeks on a knowledge exchange visit to his partner authority, Warwickshire County Council in the UK, funded by the Good Practice Scheme of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, to discuss planning, waste management, financial management, environmental health and water issues. [Read more](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC

Armenia A report financed by the Asian Development Bank advocates a National Transport Strategy for this landlocked central Asian country suffering from the closure of two of its four international borders, bitter winter weather, lack of rail infrastructure and a poor road safety record. [Read more](#)

China Decades of encroachment on to the water and controversial redevelopment characterise the Wan Chai district of Hong

Kong: researchers advocate much more consultation with local residents and users in future. [Read more](#)

Vietnam A project to prevent typhoon damage to housing and public buildings. Evidence from five communities in central Vietnam is found to have effectively mitigated the impact of typhoons and their success means the principles are being widely adopted. [Download report](#)

AUSTRALASIA

Australia The master plan for the future development of southeast Queensland should be reviewed, and the central business district of the city of Ipswich rebuilt, an inquiry examining the recent flood disasters has been told. [Read more](#)

Australia The Major Cities Unit – part of the Australian government Department of Infrastructure & Transport - has published **Our Cities: Building a productive, sustainable and liveable future**, a consultation paper on urban design. [Read more](#). Dan Hill, an urban design and regeneration specialist with Arup Australia, publishes a thoughtful critique [here](#), prompted partly by the fact that the discussion paper came out just as a season of natural disasters beset Australian cities.

EUROPE

Forced evictions reported by Amnesty International include evictions of Roma communities in Belgrade (Serbia) to make way for development including some financed by EU institutions. [Read more](#)

Hungary 'The Heart of Budapest' programme aims to revitalise urban space by restricting traffic in its historic centre and reallocating the space primarily to pedestrians and cyclists. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil A study of São Paulo examines ways in which irregular and illegal growth have influenced the collective action of social movements of the urban poor. [Read more](#)
Forced evictions in Rio once again cloud progress towards major sporting events. [Read more](#)

WEST ASIA

Israel The new city master plan for Tel Aviv makes a concerted effort to regulate the controversial topic of tall building construction, defining for the first time where skyscrapers will be allowed, and where existing skylines will be protected. [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.

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.