URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD
Developing sustainable and resilient cities: new urban policy, new business agenda

INTERNATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
Association Internationale du Développement Urbain

www.inta-aivn.org
The INTA 37th World Urban Development Congress took place in Hanoi, Vietnam gathering 250 delegates from 15 nationalities. More than 30 speakers debated on how public and private urban stakeholders adapt their own practice to economic and urban changes. Ministers, public officials and representatives, and more than 100 private practitioners enliven 3 inspiring and fruitful days. The 37th Congress was also the occasion to elect a new INTA Governing Board. At the closing Mr. Budiarsa Sastrawinata, Indonesia, President for 2007-2013, handed over the Presidency of the Association to Mr. Maurice Charrier, France, for a 3-year mandate 2013-2016.

This report will bring you in the atmosphere of the Congress: quotes and pictures will tell you the story of this recent INTA event in Hanoi.
INTA37 DELEGATES

250 DELEGATES

include:

36 SPEAKERS

21 OFFICIALS

from 15 countries
Twitter followers during #INTA37 Congress

The Hashtag #INTA37 was used 114 times during the Congress
Experiencing Hanoi...

Thousands of motorbikes in the streets of Hanoi

Dozens of spring rolls eaten

...uncountable electricity cables above our heads!
Cities around the world are facing growing levels of social unrest over rising inequality, austerity, unemployment, political inefficiency and institutional failure.

These social movements reflect the shift of power away from traditional institutions first towards communities and individuals, but also to businesses whose leaders understand and act on the big trends shaping our future.

The challenge that social and political leaders face is to operate in two time frames simultaneously:

- responding to rising short-term pressures,
- while preparing their organizations for the more fundamental changes required for long-term success. To reconcile the "gap" between these two mindsets, these leaders need to elaborate a vision of the future.

Cities are at the forefront of massive cultural, technological, and social transformation. The way of good practice, i.e. transposition of models, is behind us; now Cities have to develop their own ability to respond to unpredicted change. New paradigms imply among others changing attitude towards sustainable urban development. Cities are entering exciting times as long as they have the instruments to master their future. The end of global illusions forces urban actors to rethink the principles on which responsible urban development is - and should be – based.

To improve liveability, to create comfortable and accessible living conditions for their inhabitants, cities have to (re)construct a sustainable relationship with their internal and surrounding environment, and seek out more efficient ways to analyze issues, anticipate problems, coordinate functions, and organize resources.

From our last INTA37 Congress rich and fruitful debates we retained 9 points, brief statements underlying the global drivers shaping cities, the relationship between these drivers, and the margin for maneuver that they leave to urban managers.

How global drivers shape cities and what are the margins for action left to urban managers?

1. Rethinking what a sustainable city is

The economic crisis, with its social impacts, underlines the operational limits of the notion of sustainability, at least in terms of priority given to the ecology at the expenses of economic development and job creation. As a consequence, local leaders are shifting municipal priorities and drop environmental projects to focus on the economy.

As the world’s population moves towards 9 billion by 2050, resources are under pressure, exacerbated by climate change. By 2030, the...
There is an urgent need to formulate an update of the set of goals for urban sustainability

There is a shift from a conservative to a progressive approach in formulating these goals. The area when model were transposed and adapted is ended, and there is no safe refuge in all-inclusive concepts (Eco-Intelligent-Creative-Smart, ... City). Working with multi scalar spaces, multilayered stakeholders, multidimensional issues, introduces more complexity that cannot be handled by a unique development model. Today, the creation of productive public-private spaces is the result more of interactions and dealings than the product of a unified planning process.

2. Economy and quality of life

Criteria of attractiveness are changing; residential and economic dynamics are becoming central: better quality of life in terms of urban planning, landscaping, affordable housing, public safety, better mobility, and socio-cultural offer. Economic development is not opposed to quality of life and to the claim to live together. The first asset of the modern City is its capacity to offer jobs and to attract activities – more jobs, better cities.

The right to the city: give back the city to its inhabitants - France

“We should take into account the environmental misdeed (whittling away agricultural and natural areas, nuisance and car pollution...), human costs (tiredness and health...) and financial costs (infrastructure achievements) of peri-urbanization.

But what seems to me the major concern is related to social and cultural effects, and political behaviors (isolation and loss of meaning, fear of what is different...). Such a situation and the resulting challenges, call our urban planning policy for a change. How to preserve agricultural and natural areas and promote the reconstruction of the city on itself? By its regeneration, densification, intensification and quality in the urban and architecture forms; by designing a multipolar development to bring services closer to people and create identities shared out in all part of the territory; But above all by creating the conditions to reduce segregation, social and urban exclusions and guaranteeing the right to the city and to its services.
All this requires a return of the public action, not only to reduce inequalities between territories, but also for equity and solidarity. There is a clear need to improve, in a responsible way, the vital dialogue between public policy and private initiatives in order to revisit the public-private partnerships and redefine the right to the land, for example.

Such a situation and the resulting issues, push to redefine the administrative map of our country (France), not only to promote the competitiveness of territories, but to organize their sustainable development and solidarity in order to build equity.

Such a situation and the resulting issues, demands “to give back the city to its inhabitants” by enriching the participatory-based democracy, by the creation of new relationships between public and private services and residents, and finally encouraging all forms of social solidarity economy by promoting responsible citizen engagement.

In fact, more fundamentally, we need to bring back the politics to its role to redefine the project of society to “restructure” the city of tomorrow.”

Maurice Charrier, speaker in the Working Parallel Session “Balanced and Intense City”

3. Creating economic opportunities

Creating economic opportunities for a territory implies a rethinking of the labour market. One major challenge is to bring together stakeholders as diverse as private firms, large public institutions, economic development agencies, research bodies, chambers of commerce, universities, schools, training establishments, social services, etc.

4. Affordable & quality residential offer

"Talking about social and affordable housing policies, we discover the methodologies adopted by the large private developers whose target is comfortably off. The different needs of different social strata have been analyzed and adapted to the project supplied. That is very clear for large private developers. What happens in the affordable housing policies is exactly the opposite. There’s a total concern on the financial aspect in order to build thousands of low costs dwellings and put people in. By contrast we must discuss with people their needs (how they live their homes, the street, the city ...) and from there, plan the development of the city of tomorrow. Cities can keep a competitive edge by focusing on quality over quantity in service provision and by coordinating with neighboring cities to avoid wasteful investments in duplicating facilities”

Fernando Nunes da Silva, animator in the Working Parallel Session “The Affordable and Frugal City"
Improving and diversifying the residential offer and especially increasing the affordable housing stock, may lead to intensification of urban development through flexible conversion and regeneration of overlooked land and assets by giving priority to temporary use over permanent projects, promoting growth through specialized services for different populations as opposed to general services, and by focusing on quality over quantity in service provision.

5. Improved mobility through increased interconnection of networks

“TOD is synonymous with accessibility, which historically means that better accessibility makes possible higher density that can result in increased land value (connectivity equals value proposition). The TOD not only increases ridership but also means additional income like real estate development.”  

The TOD’s must be inclusive of locals, be diverse, provide choices and be more a ‘chain of rhythms’. TOD must be integrative, coherent, continuous, clear and participative. “Space follows Mobility”. The “power of mobility” means taking a clear regional development position, a holistic spatial design approach, strong infrastructure commitment and ‘smart’ TOD’s. The creation of creative corridors as engines for change of “mindsets” and towards a more balance territory reexamines the concept of “proximity cities” and “spaces of leisure”.  

With a large majority of the French population living in large urban and peri-urban settlements means a rethink of how to create economic, social & political “urban solidarity” between centre and the small & medium settlements in the periphery. The construction of a “democratic participation” must be accompanied with more innovative public and private sector actors to ensure that limited local resources are better employed to provide urban services, social cohesion and a strong regional identity. This means investment in integrated mobility system between the different areas composing a metropolitan region.

**Polycentric “TOD-Complex” model in Tokyo**

“There must be strong government will, based on real ability and a capable human-resource base and a community of multi-stakeholders. It must have clear land rights and assembly capacity. Tokyo, where almost one third of carbon emission is produced by transportation, needs to apply the polycentric “TOD-Complex” model where density is increased in higher-priced land because of a higher intensity of economic activities. A planning committee oversees infrastructure planning & design of the integrated public and private domain to ensure a balance between railway, infrastructure and real estate improvement.”

Takeshi Nakawake, speaker in the parallel session “Balanced and Intense City”

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1 Eli Konvitz, speaker in the parallel session “Balanced and Intense City”
2 Charles Lin, speaker in the parallel session “Balanced and Intense City”
3 Maurice Charrier, speaker in the parallel session “Balanced and Intense City”
6. Realigning existing resources to meet real needs

Many cities do not have access to all the relevant policy levers that could potentially make a difference. When cities have more margin for maneuver then there is a rationale to think more strategically, to target precisely those fields that they can influence and to “prioritize” what they do and how they do it in order to achieve maximum impact.

“We must play integration rather than segregation. The city must be the place of transmission of memories, of what might happen; the place of wisdom. Urban planners have to write this story, meaning that urban planners are called to design public spaces, the key questions for the future of our cities”. 4

7. Technology is an asset

“Smart” development

“In my view, a city is a living system that develops over time. Like all living organisms, it therefore follows two trends, which are the essence of complexity: firstly, it must meet its needs to grow. Every city has a function to satisfy the basic needs of its people and their quest for well-being. On the other hand, it is submitted to a number of uncertainties that makes it fragile like storms, outages, fires, terrorism, epidemics etc. The city must therefore be up to the needs and requirements of its inhabitants and it must also be resilient, that is to say, be able to overcome these hazards.

Understand the fragility of the city, thinking the city as a highly sensitive place of life, be able to understand its fragility, make it lighter, more accessible, make it become resilient to hazards are key issues for the coming years.

The current digital revolution is characterized mainly, I think, by the diffuse presence of digital at the heart of all human activities, this phenomenon mesh limitless and leads us to say that digital is everywhere. 5

To go beyond this revolution and the profound changes it entails, it is however needed to reinvent the digital, looking at it differently, not from the technological objects, but from the uses and new services that it makes possible. Today we must change the paradigm to give full effect to the concept of design services. [...] Energy challenges and the emergence of low-carbon city force to place the sustainable development at the heart of the city life. The city of the future, that we build every day, is also guided by the imperative to share and optimize the resources.” 6

Creative Taipei

“In Taipei, one of the 13 most creative cities in the world - Fast Company Magazine (2009) the synergy and combination between Talent –Space and Capital help creative talents to develop their career. A favorable milieu creates the conditions to nurture opportunities and increase relationship.”

Lin Yu Hsiu, speaker in parallel session “Soft Urbanism”

We should look at the city as a system. In fact, network shared data and information but in the end smart cities or regions are all about a focus on communities.” 6

4 Rémi Feredj, animator of plenary session on New Urban Challenges and Opportunities - Smart solutions from public and private sectors
5 Carlos Moreno, speaker in parallel session “Soft Urbanism”
6 Marc Glaudemans, speaker in parallel session “Soft Urbanism”
8. Improved resilience

Innovative urban planning and technology are important tools in risk prevention and resilience. “The plans and related planning principles will be written not only for the water engineer but implicitly or indirectly also for the urban planner […] Traditionally urban planning would mainly be done by urban planners and the water board would be confronted with the final result as a “fact accompli”. […] Necessary adjustments would mainly consist of fulfilling minimal requirements and the opportunities a properly designed water system would seldom be grasped. Overall time lost, poor communications and opportunities mist resulting in costly plans and often even more costly maintenance.”

9. Social Innovation

Innovative urban planning and technology for risk prevention and resilience provides optimised services to the population opening the debate on “smart” development: for whom, for what, how much?

Social innovation is as important as technological one; it might include rethinking the relationship between consumers and suppliers, and between the public, private and social economy sectors, promoting new formulas for collaboration between these sectors. Rather than caricaturing the public, private or social economy sectors as either good or bad, it tries to promote new formulas for collaboration at the intersection between each of them and the household economy.

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7 Tiffany Tsui, speaker in parallel session “Resilient City”
Session Summary
Please click on the session name to download speakers’ presentations

Plenary Session 1: New Urban Challenges and Opportunities - an Agenda for Change
Pingki ELKA PANGESTU, Indonesia
Yung-Yi CHANG, Taiwan
Isidore GNONLONFOUN, Benin
Taichi GOTO, Japan
Rémi FEREDJ, France
Tran Ngoc CHINH, Vietnam
Carlos MORENO, Colombia

PS1: Balanced and Intense City
Maurice CHARRIER, France
Fernando NUNES DA SILVA, Portugal
Pingki elka PANGESTU, Indonesia
Charles LIN, Taiwan
Eli KONVITZ, Hong Kong
Dan RINGELSTEIN, United Kingdom
Takeshi NAKAWAKE, Japan
Truc Anh NGUYEN, Vietnam
Robert OROU-YOROUBA, Benin

PS2: Soft Urbanism
Michel SUDARSKIS, France
Marc GLAUDEMANS, The Netherlands
Christophe LAMONTRE, France
Yu Hsiu LIN, Taiwan
Yoshikatsu ISHIDA, Japan
Carlos MORENO, Colombia
Tu Lan DO, Vietnam

Master Class: Design Thinking and the City
Marc GLAUDEMANS, The Netherlands

Plenary Session 2: New Urban Challenges and Opportunities - Smart solutions from public and private sectors
Eric WUILAI, France
Edgar SAVISAAR, Estonia
Rémi FEREDJ, France
Sylvain PETITET, France
Shyh-fang LIU, Taiwan
Tran Van KHOI, Vietnam

PS3: Affordable and Frugal City
Maurice CHARRIER, France
Joseph TOSSAVI, Benin
Fernando NUNES DA SILVA, Portugal
Sylvain PETITET, France
Trong Ninh NGUYEN, Vietnam

PS4: Resilient City
Séverin NSIA, Benin
Adiadi DIMASTANTO, Indonesia
Tiffany TSUI, Netherlands
Dani MUTTAQIN, Indonesia
Robert OROU-YOROUBA, Benin
Vinh Hung HOANG, Vietnam
Shots from the sessions

Gong!! The Congress begins...

The first Plenary on New Urban Challenges and Opportunities - an Agenda for Change closed the morning session
The Congress is over ... we thank our past President (2007-2013) Budiarsa Sastrawinata and welcome our new President (2013-2016) Maurice Charrier!
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