

International Urban
Development Association

Association Internationale
du Développement Urbain

INTA

New Metropolitan Synergies Roundtable Kaohsiung

19-20 August 2010

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The administrative environment in Taiwan is going through major transformations with the merging of cities and counties to give birth to metropolitan jurisdictions. These new territories are confronted with new development challenges: how to take advantage of the new structure and of the potential synergies of the larger urban region. Public policy-makers and private sector leaders are rethinking their strategies to find new forms of collaboration for more sustainable urban development.

The vibrant southern Taiwanese City of Kaohsiung, in collaboration with the National Chiao Tung University, invited INTA and its strategic partners, the Architectural Association of London, to organize a Roundtable discussion on New Metropolitan Synergies and the next generation of tools for metropolitan sustainability.

An international and interdisciplinary group of practitioners came together from government, academia, associations, planning, architecture, engineering, and technology and service providers to jointly frame and identify challenges and solutions, helpful for middle-sized metropolises around the world.

Global practices with local knowledge

The Prospective Roundtable format, a new INTA service for its membership, brings together INTA's Communities of Competences, clusters within INTA's network who develop new understandings on critical urban issues. The Roundtable provides an international platform to share latest global understandings with the aim to improve the local fabric. The combination of local knowledge and international practice creates an interactive space for learning. Presentations from international speakers are followed by reactions from local

stakeholders, generating an inspiring and constructive, forward-looking dialogue.

The Kaohsiung Roundtable produced refreshing and heartening ideas, concepts and visualizations on what the upcoming changes might bring for the southern regions of Taiwan.

The urban region as machinery of learning

"The periphery is a word of the past. It is a dangerous word, as it tends to suggest the dominance of one part against the bit that is outside, the periphery. We should talk about a different image of the city, a city like an organization, which is becoming a flat network of even power, of working together and then competing." John Worthington

Defining an agenda for a new metropolitan region requires an understanding of the trends in the service-led economy and emerging industries. It implies a modified insight into the social, economic and spatial characteristics of large territories and the new relationships between the centre and periphery.

Next generation of tools for sustainable metropolitan development

These new relationships invite us to look at the particular qualities of the city centre, the shifts in the demand for transport infrastructure and the opportunities for the peripheral environment. What is needed is organizational innovation, the capacity to recognize complexity and identify simple solutions to govern together what used to be the periphery and will now be part of a polycentric region. These tasks cannot be performed by government alone, but needs the identification of a relationship between actors, innovative technologies and the ability to deliver and implement urban responses. Metropolitan governments can guide and shape this process but cannot identify its necessary complexity. The complexity needs to be identified through practice and the involvement of a learning community.

One conclusion of the roundtable is that there is a variety of ways to begin to lead this learning process. From service-led innovation that is organized on spaces for the implementation of new technologies to the identification of network of core industries and core players that will help find the pathway forward. As a result of its forward-looking leadership, Kaohsiung benefits from a high quality life-style driven development with well-served laboratories that count on highly-skilled people. The roundtable suggested that there is still a gap between these two aspects and that there is a need to find ways to develop neighbourhoods where lifestyle comes together with innovation in an urban strategy, the development of workspace neighbourhoods.

Other major challenges were identified: how to take the opportunity of a political shift to accommodate the idea of a Learning City, continuously learning and improving, and how do we move away from the idea that a city is only shaped by planners and business to the involvement of the Third Sector, the citizens, the volunteers, the associations and the people who are driving the change.

Speakers:

John Worthington, DEGW / Gordon Falconer, Cisco / Paul Gerretsen, Deltametropool / Wei-Ping Lu, Kaohsiung / Arthur Aw, Ascendas / Lawrence Barth, Architectural Association / Dominique Laousse, RATP / Pedro Ortiz, INTA / Dominic Papa, S333 / Chin-teng Lin, Eco-City Centre NCTU / Chris McCarthy, Battle McCarthy / Charles Lin, NCTU

Discussants:

Mei-yueh Ho, Kaohsiung City / Can-bao Zeng, Kaohsiung City / Ricky Liu, Architect / Ho-chen Tan Eco-technology Engineering Development Foundation / Shien-fa Kung, NCTU / Kwang-Tyng Wu Tamkang University / Zheng-Yi Shon, Tainan University of Technology / Sheng-Fong Lin, Shih Chien University / Her-Ching Wang, COSMOS Inc / Chien-Hung Tung, NCTU / J.S. Lin, Taiwan Architect Magazine / Chi-Yi Chang, NCTU / Li-Ren Wang, Kaohsiung County / Zhao-Chong Huang, Pingtung County / Chia-Horng Hung, CPA Ministry of Interior / Rueyming Wang, University Kaohsiung

Podcasts available on the INTA website!

More information on INTA Roundtables:
www.inta-aivn.org



The Roundtable was the result of a collaboration between the Urban Development Department of the City of Kaohsiung, the NCTU Eco-City Centre for Smart Living Technology, the Housing and Urbanism Programme at the Graduate School of the Architectural Association, and INTA, the International Urban Development Association.