



# 55<sup>TH</sup> ISOCARP

WORLD PLANNING CONGRESS 2019

BEYOND THE METROPOLIS

## Call for Contributions

Beyond the Metropolis | ISOCARP World Planning Congress 2019  
Jakarta-Bogor, Indonesia | September 9 - 13, 2019

17 March 2019 | Deadline for Abstract Submission

30 June 2019 | Deadline for Submission of Contributions

Submit your contribution [HERE](#) or on [isocarp2019.isocarp.org](http://isocarp2019.isocarp.org)!

## General Rapporteur Martina Juvara



Martina is the director of urban strategy company URBAN Silence in London. Typically, Martina works where there is large scale change, and need for fresh and innovative thinking at the crossroads of investment, infrastructure planning and social prosperity.

In her 25 years of professional experience at international level, she has had a strong focus on Mediterranean and Arab countries, working both at large / strategic scale and at site level, with the pragmatism required in professional practice but also great ambitions for the places where she works.

At present, she is the lead planner for four of the 11 Regional Strategies included in the Oman National Plan, which are focused on promoting prosperity for inland towns and villages. She was a member of the core team for the Master Plan of Damascus and Surroundings, which was near completion in 2011, developing an innovative methodology for planning to create communities and socially resilient neighbourhoods. She has also prepared the detailed plan and regeneration strategy for the divided city of Nicosia, in Cyprus. She is also an active member of the Smart City professional scene in London.



## Beyond the Metropolis

With urbanisation continuing at pace and a globalizing economy, metropolitan areas are morphing into megacities: a different model of urban development, which is no longer the unexpected by-product of fast growing countries – a beacon to be followed for some, and for others simply dehumanizing.

Our aim, with the **55th ISOCARP World Planning Congress**, is to investigate the future and explore the opportunities offered by these cities without limits: what makes them successful and why they are so appealing and to whom. We want to focus on their supposed inevitability but also on the possible alternatives for achieving global influence without the mega-scale. This is our target for this year: exploring ‘planning beyond limits’.

This does not mean that the work of last year at Bodø is being put behind our backs: sustainability, resilience and the role of cities in our changing planet is at the forefront of thinking this year too. Jakarta provides the perfect context: it is the second largest agglomeration in the world (over 30 million), one of the biggest plastic waste generators (up to 2,400 tons daily) and the fastest sinking city (up to 15cm a year, with almost half the city below sea level already). Almost 40% of Indonesian citizens are dissatisfied with the living quality of the cities in which they live, according to the recently released 2017 Indonesia Most Livable City Index by the Indonesian Association of Urban & Regional Planners.

### The Congress wants to explore two overarching themes:

On the one hand, the global role of megacities and how scale is becoming power: what are the dynamics that lead to the emergence of megacities? Are they necessary to achieve global influence or are there alternatives? Can cities without limits be planned, nurtured and grown as a way to promote a positive future for a country and for the planet?

On the other hand, we will also explore the strategies, considered or maybe tried out, to promote livability, well-being, exemplary sustainability, innovation and responsive governance. If megacities develop into powerful regions, they also play an unprecedented role in shaping the social, economic and environmental evolution of our planet: megacities have the chance to lead the world and change the fate of global challenges such as climate change, security, innovation, financing and digitalisation. They can provide the test-bed and the drive to experiment with new technologies and proactive governance that responds to all scales, from global to local, and to all people from international leaders to children and the migrant poor.

Very importantly the **55th ISOCARP World Planning Congress** also wants to explore the back, beside and beyond of metropolitan areas and limitless cities: their hinterland, often sapped of energy but perhaps also shining of reflected light, and other cities, regions and metropolitan areas which choose to lead along different paths.

‘Beyond the Metropolis’ calls for all who are interested in ‘planning beyond limits’ to join in an intense week of talks, debates, exchanges and learning about our shared future. We encourage people from research, professional practice, government or NGOs to come and share their ideas and beliefs – being open to be challenged and enriched by the discussions. We expect no less than future orientated thinking and limitless horizons.

The Congress is organised around seven thematic tracks, each with research papers, presentations, roundtable debates and even structured ‘side sessions’. Each track will also host dedicated sections centered on learning from Indonesia, and Jakarta in particular, and discussing their future. Keynote speakers of international standing will help us move the agenda forward.

– Martina Juvara, General Rapporteur

## 1 LIMITLESS CITIES AND URBAN FUTURES: PLANNING FOR SCALE

*Congress Team: Wenjing Luo and Peter Newman*

**TOPICS** Reasons why megacities and city regions are growing and leading planetary urbanisation  
 Global influence and competitiveness: the role of megacities  
 Megacities as leaders in low impact energy, food, and resources consumption  
 Linkages, relationships, disparities, synergies and connections: opportunities for the whole and its parts  
 Prospects, visions, futures, predictions, forecasts and scenarios for megacities in the future

Through holistic exploration, this track will provide an opportunity to discuss why megacities are emerging, how they are influencing the world (positively and otherwise) and how planners can think ahead about their future. Megacities and city-regions are challenging the notion of the traditional city and even the metropolis. Larger and more powerful than countries, they become global nodes of migration, trade, knowledge exchange and innovation that seem to be limitless. Are megacities unstoppable and the fastest way to a prosperous future? The track also explores the needs and

impacts of megacities, from infrastructure to food and waste, and the range of strategies needed, imagined or already being explored, to make them lead the way towards efficiencies of scale and innovative resource management. Are they part of a global interconnected network that can lead planetary change or a threat to life on Earth?

How best to plan ahead for an efficient, livable and regenerative megacity? What lessons can already be learned from the leaders in this journey?

## 2 BESIDE THE MEGACITY AND THE ROLE OF OTHER CITIES AND AREAS: PLANNING FOR BALANCE

*Congress Team: Tathagata Chatterji and Fedor Kudryavtsev*

**TOPICS** Role & future of cities that aim for balance rather than limitless scale in the global race towards agglomeration advantage  
 Alternatives to the megacity through regional networked urban clusters  
 The megacity backside: shrinking settlements, disappearing villages and other similar externalities  
 Planning for spatial balance: rural-agrarian productivity, wildlife and urbanisation equilibrium of metropolitan areas.  
 Neither urban nor rural: emerging life styles, urban forms and economics beyond megacities

This track explores alternatives themes beside and beyond the megacity: one explores the paths of cities that aspire to being influential, but also aim for balance and perhaps containment (to provide an alternative model where there is less pressure and life is more balanced).

The other looks at aspects of the regions around megacities: the hinterland and its rural towns, which play an essential role supporting and providing resources to the megacity, sometimes being left them behind by the economics and policies of large urbanisation, and sometimes reaping the benefits of nearby growth, prosperity and innovation.

Are megacities the only option? What would be the future role of secondary or non-global cities? Can they only be subservient or irrelevant? How to strengthen economic roles of smaller cities as counter magnets – to generate more job opportunities closer to home and reduce population pressure on megacities? How does megacity expansion transform the countryside and their own hinterlands? How can megacities and peri-urban areas develop a synergetic and maybe positive relationship? How is rural development providing spaces and resources for city dwellers? Does it make sense to invest and modernise agriculture around a megacity and reinvent the rural into a new model?

## 3 LIVEABLE PLACES AND HEALTHY CITIES: PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

*Congress Team: Mahak Agrawal and Jens Aerts*

**TOPICS** Health, safety, prosperity for the well-being of all (including children, elderly, and vulnerable people)  
 Environmental justice, spatial equity, hope and opportunities for all in a megacity  
 Digital connectivity as opportunity for better life and as a tool to measure and promote well-being  
 Livability and affordability of housing, transportation and services  
 Collective space and building the community (formal and informal)  
 Frameworks and tools to measure livability  
 Planning with people and communities: universal design, co-production and open data  
 Livability as a universal or cultural value

Migration, informality and housing shortages affect the livability of city dwellers across the world: cities expand more rapidly than can be sustained by infrastructure and services, and the cost of living is rising far more rapidly than wages. Lack of basic services like clean water and reliable electricity often affect a sizeable part of the population. In addition, the urban environment is often responsible for significant health issues, due to lack of physical activity, pollution and road traffic injuries. These add costs to the economy: in term of inefficiencies and through the consequences of ill-health. Despite a reduction of global conflicts, security in cities is increasingly disrupted as communities lose cohesion: social unrest, urban violence and terrorism, ethnic tensions and more.

Planning for people and their wellbeing is at the core of creating a viable future: improving the quality of life, planning safe spaces and clean infrastructure, promoting child-responsive and age-friendly environments. Improving livability, health, citizenship, community and happiness is increasingly important for cities, and planning is key, to create this urban environment but also to engage communities in the process of planning and adopting sustainable behaviors through place-making and community-led neighborhood planning.

Is livability a luxury or a human right? How can it be defined and measured? Is it universal or it is different depending on culture?

## 4 KNOWLEDGE ECONOMIES AND IDENTITY: PLANNING FOR CULTURE

*Congress Team: Nasim Iranmanesh and Piotr Lorens*

**TOPICS** The value of locality and identity to the globalizing world  
 Local identities and cultures as assets within the megacity  
 Unspoken pasts: the role and legacy of colonial heritage  
 Knowledge as the foundation of a high-value urban economy  
 Culture, heritage and identity as economic drivers  
 Tourism as consumption or tourism as a promoter of locality

Culture and heritage are both taking globalizing cities forward, and being put at risk by them. Relentless pressures of urbanisation and 'urban marketing' initiatives sometimes promote an image of the city that hides or even removes local diversity and 'unwanted pasts'. Yet culture and heritage are essential to retain cohesion and create local identity in a megacity, which would otherwise be faceless. Do locality, local identity and distinctiveness play even more crucial roles in megacities? How can this be reconciled with global marketing of the city and globalizing urbanisation models? Are the planning strategies for culture and identity different in a megacity? While cultural development and creative industries are generally recognised as worth pursuing, the immediate focus is often on the promotion of tourism, which

can be either a form of global consumption or a way to preserve identity. How can cities, and megacities in particular, promote their culture and local identity as a way to establish a dynamic knowledge economy, capable of shaping locally sensitive spatial solutions? Can culture drive high-value urban economic development at the metropolitan scale? How can knowledge be fostered in a megacity, and what is the influence of scale?

Finally, indigenous knowledge plays an important role in planning, contributing to the resilience of new communities and facilitating social integration. How can cities plan for the rapidly changing indigenous culture that is the result of rapid immigration?

## 5 SMART FUTURES AND SUSTAINABILITY: PLANNING FOR INNOVATION

*Congress Team: Dorota Kamrowska-Zaluska and Awais Piracha*

**TOPICS**

- Smart cities, automatisisation, financing and technological advances
- Shared and inclusive innovative economies and digital transformation
- Citizen-focused smart services
- Disruptive and sharing technologies and their impact
- Strategic and real-time data-based policy and data management
- New mobility and its influence on urban form
- New work, co-working and co-living

Smart cities are appearing everywhere and are sometimes little more than marketing devices for new towns. Yet there is no doubt that all cities are moving towards automatisisation and data driven provision of services. In addition, it is thought that smart technologies will drive cities' economic capacity and global position in future. Within this frenzy of change, we need a pause to explore critical theories and successful case studies on smart cities, smart regions and smart communities. We need to understand how virtual worlds (and our data alter egos) will interact and shape the real one; and how disruptive technologies

(block-chain, crypto-money, robotisation of production, drones, hyperloop, autonomous mobility...) will change the management and planning of cities and urban life. How will it change the urban form and public space? What will be the habits and behaviors of urban citizens?

What kind of policy is needed so that smart technologies answer citizens' needs and promote equitable solutions? How to encourage co-creation in post-digital era? How to protect people from disruptive virtual worlds?

## 6 CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND RISKS: PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE

*Congress Team: Olusola Olufemi and Markus Appenzeller*

**TOPICS**

- Climate change and sinking cities
- Vulnerability to disasters and how that can be mitigated
- Waste, urban footprint
- Re-naturing, biodiversity, and urban metabolism
- Building, evolving, securing quality of life
- Triggering leverage – planning for more than a single purpose

Continuing the conversation from last Congress in Bodø and the need to urgently address disaster prevention and adaptation to the consequences of climate change: Jakarta and other megacities are showing dangerous vulnerabilities to extreme pollution, sea level rise, salt-water intrusion and water-shortages. This is, however, matched by steadily decreasing poverty that runs in parallel to the increasing urbanisation. If cities with their consumerist nature are part of the solution to poverty, what models can they use to minimize their impact on the environment and become leaders in the fight to respond to climate change? What is already being done and what are the outcomes?

Food, water, transport and energy systems need resilience to climate change to avert catastrophic events and to cope with a further increase of global and urban populations. Pollution and waste demand urgent understanding of the urban metabolism to achieve better social justice and to safeguard the balance of the planet. What are cities doing to transition their urban economies to achieve improved well-being and environmental justice and to transform dependence on non-renewable materials to resource-efficient and renewable flows and better management of ecosystems? What role should planning/planners play in developing resilient plans, designs, buildings and infrastructures?

## 7 URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING PROFESSION: PLANNING FOR FUTURE

*Congress Team: Jennilee Kohima and Eric Huybrechts*

**TOPICS**

- Planning, policy and politics surrounding the megacity
- City production by the people: participation and informality
- Governance: from models to pragmatic paths, from top-down to bottom up approaches
- Addressing the mega-scale and the neighborhood
- Organisation and technical support for managing the megacity
- Taking the lead through diplomacy, branding and international networks
- Non-state actors in urban governance

Large cities and megacities are a main feature of human settlement in the 21st century. The level of complexity of large cities requires new governance systems that are different from traditional urban and municipal administration. Soft power is necessary to mobilize actors from different levels of government, sectors and territories. Multiform management, across sectors and issues (water, economy, environment, mobility, housing etc.), needs to share visions, strategies and policies with the support of technical bodies, political platforms and a variety of actors. Building the structures of a functioning megacity is an iterative process, which ranges from the very local to the regional and metropolitan scales. New methodologies are emerging and this will be an opportunity to share the experiences of

building large scale governance and consider the consequences on planning. How do the planning models of the megacity differ from those of city regions and established metropolitan conurbations? How can governance be strengthened, moving from theoretical models to pragmatic paths? What technical bodies should be put in place to support the process?

People participation is different in a megacity, with more complex relations between local communities, local governments and metropolitan governance. Informal dynamics also represent a bottom up approach to the expansion drive of the city. How robust and fair are these underlying forces? Can they be captured for enhanced and better future?

## SUBMISSION TYPES

### Research Paper:

- Research or academic contribution consisting of a paper and a presentation.
- The paper will be included in the Congress Proceedings with an ISBN number (only for registered authors attending the conference).

### Presentation:

- Professional contribution consisting of a presentation on a specific case study or topic of wider interest, such as a project, strategy, plan, or design.
- The emphasis will strictly be on lessons learned and knowledge sharing.
- Submitting a paper is optional, but highly recommended
- Abstract (and paper if submitted) will be included in the Congress Proceedings.

### Session:

- A stand-alone or 'side event' linked to one of the Tracks and entirely focused on a specific topic or objective, such as a training session, a hackathon, a workshop, etc.
- An abstract of the session proposal is mandatory and will be included in the Congress Proceedings.
- Formats other than the traditional presentations are encouraged, including: point/counterpoint, single speaker, moderated debate, interactive workshops, round tables etc.
- Discussion or interaction with the audience is highly encouraged.

- Session proposers have to identify and coordinate all the session speakers – a list of confirmed participants has to be included in the proposal.
- All speakers need to register for the congress.
- Sessions will be 90 minutes long.

### Panel Discussion:

- This is a short 30-minute round-table or moderated panel discussion within a Track.
- The proposer needs to identify the topic, prepare in advance questions and themes for discussion and be ready to moderate the panel at Congress.
- Panel members can be drawn from the delegates already attending the Congress, and support will be offered by the Congress Team to create contacts, but the proposer will have to contact all members in advance and liaise with them in preparation.
- Discussion or interaction with the audience is highly encouraged.
- An abstract of the session proposal, including an outline of speakers, is mandatory and will be included in the Congress Proceedings.
- The Congress Team will select the best 2-3 proposal per Track. Proposals from people who also submitted other contributions are welcome.

**All authors, presenters and session participants need to register and pay the fee before submission of the full contribution (30 June) in order to be included in the programme.**

## ABOUT ISOCARP

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced professional planners. It was founded in 1965 in a bid to bring together recognized and highly qualified planners in an international network. The ISOCARP network consists of both individual and institutional members from over 80 countries. ISOCARP is a non-governmental organization recognised by the UN, UNCHS and the Council of Europe and has a formal representative status with UNESCO. The objectives of ISOCARP include the improvement of planning practice through the creation of a global and active network of planners. ISOCARP encourages the exchange between planners, promotes the profession in all aspects, stimulates research, improves education and training, increases information and awareness on major planning issues.

## 55TH ISOCARP WORLD PLANNING CONGRESS

The Society's main event is the annual International Planning Congress, which focuses on an international planning theme. The congress takes place in a different country every year. In 2019, it will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, where more than 600 urban professionals and decision-makers from all over the world will gather to discuss the Congress theme "Beyond Metropolis".

The agenda of the 55th Congress is ambitious. While the future of the world's population is undoubtedly urban (68% by 2050), what will this urbanity and its consequences look like? Large megacities develop into powerful city regions, which are playing unprecedentedly critical roles, shaping the social, economic and environmental evolution of our planet. The fate of global challenges such as climate change, security, financialization and digitalisation will be majorly influenced at this metropolitan scale and beyond. On the other hand, secondary cities grow in importance as megacities mature, the compact city model is increasingly questioned as the only way forward and hinterlands urbanize at rapid pace to support the functioning of larger cities. Questions of scale become questions of power. The challenges at hand demand constant readjustments to the planning profession. What do planners need to know to reinvent the urban future rather than only react to it? How can we go beyond the metropolis as we know it? How can they ensure that secondary cities and rural areas are not left behind?

Jakarta is the second largest agglomeration in the world (over 30 million), it is one of the biggest plastic waste generators (up to 2,400 tons daily) and the fastest sinking city (up to 15cm a year, with almost half the city below sea level already). This congress will discuss not only the globally applicable solutions to these and many other contemporary challenges, but specifically address those present on the ground in Jakarta, the host city. Therefore within each track local issues will be discussed in a special session.

To submit, you first have to create an account on [isocarp2019.isocarp.org](https://isocarp2019.isocarp.org) before you can submit your contribution. You can change your details and abstract afterwards, however, please avoid submitting the abstract in the minutes before the **Deadline – 17 March 2019** – in case of technical difficulties. If you have any problems creating an account or submitting your abstract, please send a mail to [congress@isocarp.org](mailto:congress@isocarp.org).

**Submit now**

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