

**Contents:**

1.	Future EAROPH International Congresses & Council Meetings, EAROPH Regional Seminars & ExCo Meetings including EAROPH-Australia 2016 AGM and Forum	01
2.	EAROPH and the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III Conference at Quito, Ecuador in October 2016	02
2.1	Submission of Policy Recommendations	02
2.2	Bendigo and the New Urban Agenda	03
	(a) The Workshop	04
	(b) The EAROPH-Australia AGM	04
2.3	EAROPH Member Handbooks for the New Urban Agenda	
	(a) Infrastructure Systemic Asset Management (iSAM) by KC Leong	05
	(b) Building Local Economies (BLE) by Dr Jane Stanley	06
3.	Habitat III Urban Thinkers Campus, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 16 February 2016	07

## 1. EAROPH International Events

### **Future EAROPH Congresses & Council Meetings, EAROPH Regional Seminars & ExCo Meetings including EAROPH-Australia's 2016 AGM and Forum**

#### **1-1. EAROPH 2016 Congress & Council Meeting, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia**

- Tentative Theme : "Future Places"
- Tentative Date : 7th – 10th August 2016
- Tentative Venue : Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa
- Tentative Programme:
 

5th–6th August –	Mount Kinabalu Climb
7th August –	EAROPH Exco & Council Meeting
8th August –	Day 1 Conference
9th August –	Day 2 Conference
10th August –	Technical Tours

#### **1-2. EAROPH 2017 Regional Seminar & ExCo Meeting**

- EAROPH-Philippines has expressed interest in holding the event.

#### **1-3. EAROPH 2018 Congress & Council Meeting**

- EAROPH International would prefer the Congress to be held in China.
- Should this not be possible, New Zealand would be the 2nd option.

#### **1-4. EAROPH-Aust AGM & Think-Tank Forum to be held in Bendigo on 4-5 March 2016**

- EAROPH Executive Secretary Vincent Patrick will attend; he is already in Melbourne.
- EAROPH Sec. General will be in Hong Kong, Hon. President KC Leong will deliver her address.

## 2. **EAROPH and the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III Conference at Quito, Ecuador in October 2016**



### 2.1 **Submission of Policy Recommendations**

The New Urban Agenda is being prepared as a collaborative process between the non-government and the government sectors, co-ordinated by UN Habitat. It will be launched at Habitat III, October 17-20 in Quito, Ecuador. EAROPH is hoping to have a significant presence at Habitat III to participate in the launch.

EAROPH is one of the discrete number of non-government organisations given a role in the preparation of policy recommendations for the New Urban Agenda. These recommendations build on a number of issues papers that were prepared by UN Habitat and released in 2015. It is intended that the policy recommendations will focus on practical concrete actions that can be taken by specific agencies including governments, targeting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals that have been adopted.

EAROPH members and their associates have prepared policy recommendations on the two areas allocated to us:

- Municipal Finance
- Local Economic Development.

These recommendations were taken forward by ISOCARP in February as a contribution by the non-government sector to development of the New Urban Agenda. As we understand it, various Policy Committees of Experts, representing non-government agencies are making their recommendations; governments are also submitting proposals; and the two sets of recommendations will massage the process into a cohesive document.

Agencies have also been invited to post their recommendations on the Habitat III website, so that they can be read by others. We have limited this to the policy recommendations alone, with a link to the whole submission on our website. This means that anyone can read the full background to the recommendations on our website, this explaining how we came to make these specific recommendations.

The preparation for the launch of the New Urban Agenda will be advanced by preparatory sessions to be held in Prague (March) and Jakarta (July). It may be important for EAROPH to be represented at these events, to press the case for our recommendations and to assert EAROPH's rightful profile as a cross-sectoral representative organization.

As discussed at 2.3 below, EAROPH members are also preparing two handbooks to assist in implementing the New Urban Agenda. It is interesting to note that the need for some new "toolkits" has emerged in very recent discussions amongst other lead agencies, so our work is well aligned with current thinking. It's all very well to put forward a New Urban Agenda as a document, but different countries and agencies will need some guidance on how to implement it on the ground.

## 2.2 Bendigo and the New Urban Agenda



Bendigo – old and new

The work we are doing in preparing for the New Urban Agenda provides the context for a workshop being held as an adjunct to the EAROPH Australia AGM in Bendigo. The workshop is on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> and the AGM will be in the morning of March 5<sup>th</sup>. Participation is encouraged and will be free, but it is important to register for the workshop, as places are limited. Hopefully we can accommodate everyone wanting to attend.



THINK  
TANK

The workshop is billed as a “think-tank”, following on from the successful global think-tank convened in the Clarence Valley last year. It will consist of a series of round table conversations rather than presentation of papers. There will be participation from local people as well as visiting experts who can make particular contributions to the discussion. The New Urban Agenda provides a global context for some new thinking, and we hope the round table sessions can ground this in local practical experience and action.

**(a) The workshop will cover the following issues:**

1. **Housing:** Bendigo and Castlemaine are the sites for some interesting case studies of social housing, including self build housing, and these will be briefly described. Bendigo is also one of eight local governments taking part in a new research project being led by the University of South Australia into the appropriate housing role for local government. John Byrne will steer the discussion to contribute to the strategic question for the researchers “What is the appropriate local government role in housing?”, and will also encourage consideration of the regional dimensions of the housing market.
2. **Urban Design:** John will give an introduction on this topic in advance of a 90 minute walking tour that will be guided by Council Officer Phil Dereuges. Strategic questions will be posed about “What works?” There will be an assigned lunch break along the way (participants to pay for their own lunch). The walking tour will also provide an introduction to the next session, by highlighting key heritage precincts and other cultural sites.
3. **The Cultural Economy:** Bendigo and Castlemaine have successfully drawn on their respective cultural resources to build economic activity around a strong sense of place. Jane Stanley and Rod Duncan will lead discussion about what this involves, with reference to some other cities elsewhere in the world, which have developed a vibrant cultural economy (Hoi An in Vietnam and Clarksdale in Mississippi, USA).
4. **Building a Regional Economy:** Harcourt is a rural community innovating to broaden its economic base well beyond its apples, Castlemaine is a country town which has some significant experience in business incubation as well as some surprising private economic initiatives in transforming its economy, and Bendigo is a regional centre that can provide a hub for the regional economy. Jane and Rod will take the discussion into consideration of what would be involved in these centres working together to strategically building a regional economy, and what lessons can be learnt from this for regional development in general.

On Friday evening there will be a suggested venue for dinner.

**(b) The EAROPH-Australia AGM**

On the morning of Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, EAROPH-Australia will hold its AGM.

The first part of the meeting will be concerned with reporting on activities in the previous year, and electing the Executive Committee for the following year.

The new committee will then convene to discuss some important issues including:

- The emerging collaborative relationship between EAROPH and the International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP) which is establishing its Asian office in Singapore;
- Taking advantage of EAROPH’s potential profile in the lead up to Habitat III, including engagement with Australian Governments who are key stakeholders in the New Urban Agenda;
- Mapping out domestic activities for EAROPH Australia over the next year including proposals for the next think tank/workshop linked to the 2017 AGM;
- Raising funds and other resources to expand our activities;
- Improving the services we provide to our members and the opportunities for participation in EAROPH activities.

As these and other issues may impact on the priorities of EAROPH Australia after 2016, it has been decided that the strategic plan will not be reviewed until the 2017 AGM.

## **2.3 Two Handbooks by EAROPH members to assist in implementing the New Urban Agenda**

### **(a) The first Handbook on Infrastructure Systemic Asset Management (iSAM)**

The first Handbook on iSAM is being prepared by KC Leong. This builds on KC's substantial expertise and material previously published for other audiences. The new Handbook of Series-1 will be targeted particularly to local governments in the developing countries in the Asia Pacific Region, as national governments are handing more authorities and resources to them to develop and manage infrastructures in order to provide public services needed by the people. The book will be readily accessible to a wide readership. The readers are recommended to attend an online training course on iSAM and learn the basics of infrastructures including how to develop, manage, operate and maintaining the enabling public assets. They will learn how the process of iSAM will empower the local government to use all the existing infrastructures to strengthen the sustainability of human settlements.

The contents of the handbook are:

- 1) National Governments in the Asia-Pacific region are empowering Local Governments to service inhabitants' needs.
- 2) Infrastructure Ownership, Stakeholders and Maintenance
- 3) Regional Population and Cultural Diversity
- 4) Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific region is the fastest in the world
- 5) Local Governments are structured differently in different countries
- 6) The Enabling Infrastructures and the World's First Urban Civilization
- 7) Infrastructure Systems and Network of Systems
- 8) Ultimately all Infrastructures are interrelated with Humans
- 9) How Infrastructure Deterioration Characteristics lead to Maximal Residual Value of the Asset?
- 10) Infrastructure Systems' Chain-Reaction Failures
- 11) Why are Infrastructures called Assets, and why do we need iSAM?
- 12) iSAM promotes Planned and Timely Maintenance of Infrastructures
- 13) iSAM needs the support of an effective Accounting System
- 14) Embracing IPSAS Accounting Systems in iSAM, especially the Accrual Accounting System
- 15) Treasury to carry out Performance Audits of the iSAM process
- 16) All existing Infrastructures must be properly managed and maintained annually in order to attain the Assets' designed life cycles
- 17) Planned Infrastructure Maintenance Versus Unplanned Maintenance
- 18) New Infrastructures are essential for Urban Growth
- 19) Innovations and New Technologies under iSAM
- 20) There are many Infrastructure System Assets that will benefit the Human Settlements under the care of local governments

(The readers will be given a long list of infrastructures and they are encouraged to be participants, answer all the questions and submit the completed table to the author and EAROPH. From their answers, the author and EAROPH will know what sort of

Infrastructures they already have, what sort of Infrastructures they would like to develop and for what reasons, and if they would like international organisations to assist them in the development. EAROPH will follow up with the international organisations if they would like to help.)

- 21) From proposal through to development, leading to asset operation and to life cycle maintenance, all phases of the iSAM must be checked and corrected to ensure the infrastructure objectives have not deviated or been inadvertently changed
- 22) Actively maintain Infrastructure Assets Register
- 23) Samples of Check Lists, Monitoring Reporting Systems and Action Plans with Cost and Benefits including Social Costs Impacts Minimization, which are required under the iSAM process
- 24) Infrastructures for Mitigation, Evacuation and Rescue from Natural Disasters
- 25) Good iSAM begins in your own home
- 26) Conclusion and Recommendation  
(Readers are encouraged to attend the online training course for this iSAM Series-1. After doing the online course and thereafter acquiring the practical experience of iSAM, readers are recommended to read the iSAM Series-2 Handbook to get advanced knowledge. Thereafter it is recommended they attend the online Certificate course on iSAM.)

**(b) The second Handbook on Building Local Economies (BLE)**

The second Handbook on BLE is prepared by Dr Jane Stanley. Jane previously wrote a handbook specifically for Australian Indigenous communities, but realized there was a need for a more international publication when she found it had been translated into Mongolian! The new Handbook will contain a number of case studies from different parts of the world, with conclusions about success factors and pitfalls.

The contents of the Handbook are:

Part 1: Understanding the Economy

- 1.1) Identifying Resources
- 1.2) How Markets Work
- 1.3) The Multiplier Effect
- 1.4) Working with Value Chains
- 1.5) Seizing Opportunities
- 1.6) Driving Economic Growth

Part 2: Case Studies

- 2.1) Clarksdale, USA
- 2.2) Ravenglass, UK
- 2.3) Honiara, Solomon Islands
- 2.4) Mount Isa, Australia
- 2.5) Hoi An, Vietnam
- 2.6) Ayija, Ghana

Part 3: Learning from Experience

- 3.1) Understanding Local Differences
- 3.2) Critical Success Factors

- 3.3) Common Pitfalls
- 3.4) Strategies for Change

### **3. Habitat III Urban Thinkers Campus RMIT, 16 February 2016**



#### **Reported by Dr Jane Stanley, President of EAROPH-Australia**

This event is part of the third “civil society” stream contributing to the New Urban Agenda, following behind the contributions from the government and non-government sectors. It is one of 26 such Campus events being held globally, and the only one being held in Australia. Dennis Ingemann and Jane Stanley represented EAROPH-Australia at the Campus.

The Campus was hosted by RMIT as part of its Global Compact – Cities – Program. This is a program developed by UN Habitat with various universities around the world as well as with 125 cities (including Singapore and Jakarta). An Australian partner for the Compact is World Vision Australia. Michael Nolan chairs the RMIT program and he introduced the Campus. A Welcome to Country was provided by Uncle Colin of the Warrunjarri Nation. RMIT Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean gave a stirring first address, calling for the shaping of a new urban and industrial renaissance amongst the participating cities.

Professor Ralph Horne, Director of the RMIT Global Cities Program, pointed to the widening gulf between rich and poor. Currently the 62 richest individuals in the world hold as much wealth as half the world’s total population! Australian cities are trending the same way, with the top 10% of individuals being ten times as wealthy as the average of the rest. Spatial segregation in cities is becoming more noticeable. Urbanization in Australia will increase the proportion of city dwellers from 40% to 70% by 2050, and will require a doubling of urban infrastructure. On the global level, it is clear that urbanization is not alleviating poverty but rather shifting it. Some cities are responding to this; for example, New York City has established poverty alleviation within its strategic planning on a massive scale. There is no generic blueprint, with different solutions appropriate for different cities. However the Sustainable Development Goals and the ten principles of the Global Cities Compact are helpful. Three key priorities for the new urban agenda are resilience, inclusion and ethical city development, and these were the topics identified and discussed in the Campus.

Tim Costello, Head of World Vision Australia, described his horror at observing the mushrooming of new Melbourne suburbs where the cultural hub is a club dominated by poker machines. He pointed to research showing that playing these rigged machines was as addictive as heroin, and bemoaned the fact that State Governments were also hooked on this source of revenue. Australia now has 20% of the world’s poker machines. Tim also described the tension between personal freedoms (including the freedom to gamble, drink alcohol and take drugs) and public wellbeing, with significant public opposition to the lockout laws that have been shown to reduce violence on the streets by 40%. The African credo “I am because we are” holds good, but many individuals seem to isolate themselves

from this reality. In primitive societies the survival group was around 150 people, and the member of such a group had established relationships with these people. As agriculture led to larger communities, religion provided a common bond. However, our current urban societies lack such a bond that can create trust. The dilemma is how to allow everyone a voice yet maintain trust and respect, especially when diverse values and belief systems are accommodated. This is a specifically urban dilemma, not generally a problem in country towns where the social networks are stronger.

Tim then discussed the increasing problem of displacement, with the world now having 60m refugees, the highest number since WW2. In Lebanon 35% of the population are now refugees. Remarkably, most are being housed by Lebanese families acting out of kindness, sometimes housing people with opposing religious and political views but motivated by humanity.

In Australia there has been some examination of what is driving the increasing wealth of the minority, with some analysts initially thinking it might be a feature of globalization, giving access to bigger markets. However it seems that it is actually being fuelled by the development industry and this is driven by politics. Tim pointed to strategies that could address the wealth gap including capping negative gearing, and introducing inheritance taxes on the super rich. In the UK and USA there is 4 times as much gifting of money to charities by the wealthy in comparison with Australia, much of this attributed to the death duties in those countries. If such a tax were imposed on inheritances over \$5M, this would affect less than 1% of the population but it would raise around \$5B. However, the political opposition to this is huge. It is clear “who has the power, who gets what they want, and who misses out”.

In question time there was discussion about the ethics of consumption where supply chains make use of child labour and virtual slavery (coffee and chocolate being the examples). Also there was concern about fairness having been sacrificed in the various trade agreements in favour of commercial opportunity. The issue of corruption was also raised. Tim pointed to the complicity of western governments that decry corruption in other nations in relation to the continued existence of tax havens that are used by their wealthy citizens. In relation to rampant corruption in less developed countries, it is now thought that this initially helped create organisations such as the Taliban and ISIS.

Doug Ragan from UN Habitat heads the youth program. In developing countries, 78% of people are under 30. Youth and urbanization are linked and we need to respond accordingly. In later discussion he made it clear that proximity to services does not equate to access to services, especially for young people. Access to open space is vitally important.

Steve Chadwick, Mayor of Rotorua Lakes Council in New Zealand, described the process followed by her council in establishing inclusive governance. When she campaigned for election the area was in decline, and her platform was revitalization through community inclusion. The new Council established a 2030 vision through a highly collaborative process, including partnerships with the local Indigenous community, which now has a role in joint decision-making. This has not always been easy, but the principle has been to open up conversations about any issues of concern, including racism.

Toby Kent is part of the Global Compact for Business, and he spoke about the role of business in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. It is in the interest of the private sector to create a safe and secure operating environment, and to make people more prosperous so they purchase more goods and services. He referred to the 100 Resilient Cities network, which is concerned with moderating shocks and stresses in the community and economy.

Martin Thomas from Habitat for Humanity talked about land tenure as a critical issue, and slums being at the front line for both positive and negative impacts. There are different scales of tenure security, and some flexibility is needed to move in the right direction. For example Cambodia has introduced a category of “soft tenure”. Martin also spoke in favour of three P partnerships – Public, Private and



People (communities, facilitated through NGO involvement). This aligns well with EAROPH's policy recommendations on Municipal Finance.

John Watson is a journalist who has moved to The Conversation so that he can continue to address important social issues. He feels strongly that print journalism has suffered from a move to measure readership, and to stop printing articles about less popular topics even if they seem important factually. So whereas many journalists saw themselves as leading in social advocacy, only a minority now hold this view. Popular journalism involves writing about the readers' own social group, as articles about "others" are less popular. He sees the current industry as brutal and ruthless. He is interested in young people obtaining news in different ways, including social media, but these networks are difficult to access or manage in a coherent way. One positive phenomenon is the much lower regard young people have for international borders compared with earlier generations. He thinks borders can be seen as "excuses for inaction over global problems". Young people have tended to give up on borders and politics, and are finding ways to break down barriers. However the political class seem inclined to view any arguments for more ethical behaviour as radical and threatening.

In the question session, the following issues were raised:

- A starting point for working with any community is "what works here?"
- New Zealand is looking at new tenure arrangements involving multiple ownership.
- In Barcelona, a housing activist has been elected as Mayor in reaction to austerity measures post GFC – anything is possible.
- Ikea in Sweden is making flat pack houses for refugees as an example of business responding.
- Public pressure on Shell over various environmental tragedies has resulted in some positive activities and commitments.
- Public messages in Melbourne (posters, graffiti) announce that refugees and migrants are welcome, outside the conventional communication channels.
- Council meetings can be video streamed and this increases public engagement.
- Young people are sometimes perceived as being disengaged, but in reality they just engage in different ways.
- Young people are often at the forefront of assisting refugees (who are themselves young).
- Education of young people is halted by displacement – in Somalia a whole generation has missed out on education.

Cesar Busatto, Mayor of Porto Alegre in Brazil, made a video presentation. His Council introduced a process of participatory budgeting some 26 years ago. This is seen as essential ethical practice – government working with the community. All communities take part in decision-making, and their decisions are acted on. There are strong collaborative networks with the private sector and universities as well. Porto Alegre is part of the Resilient Cities network.

Mayor Robert Doyle (Melbourne City Council) outlines how Melbourne, acclaimed as the world's most liveable city, is shifting to a knowledge economy. Workers in this sector often seek housing close to CBD work, and this is part of the trend to high-rise units. He sought to highlight the Council's achievements in public participation, for which it has received awards. He thinks that although all levels of government need to engage with communities, local government does this best. As an example, Council's ten-year financial plan was developed with the assistance of policy juries – a demographically representative group of 43 people selected from a large random sample of the community that indicated willingness to participate. The recommendations from this group were acted on, and the process was transparent and honest. He had other examples of how very

complex problems can be solved if all the stakeholders are invited to the table. He sees Melbourne as a “Conversation City”.

Another initiative the Mayor wanted to highlight was Council’s response to the Black Saturday fires of 2009. Apart from the deaths and injuries from fire, over 400 people died from heat stress in the city. The temperatures in the CBD were around 5°C higher than in the surrounding countryside. Council decided that temperatures could be moderated by planting trees, and committed to a ten-year program of planting 3,000 trees per year in the CBD. This is coupled with a program of using recycled wastewater and harvested stormwater for irrigation, with a recent introduction of small-scale underground recycling technology. The trees should extend the tree canopy cover from 24% to 48% and decrease temperatures by around 4°C.

The Mayor was asked about increasing homelessness in Melbourne, and whether this was a measure indicating failure to become more ethical and inclusive. The Mayor claimed that in fact CBD street sleepers had been stable for some time at around 140 people, and Council had partnerships with several key agencies to ensure these people had access to food, as well as other assistance.

There were several parallel discussions to develop recommendations that could be taken forward in the New Urban Agenda.

In discussion with Michael Nolan, it was agreed that EAROPH could work together with RMIT to engage the Federal Government with the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III. It appears that RMIT has established some communication channels that may be useful in this regard. It was also agreed that RMIT will circulate the EAROPH flyer for the Bendigo workshop together with the documented outcomes of the Urban Thinkers Campus, to encourage participation.

## **End of Report**

EAROPH-Australia bulletin Co-editors: KC Leong and Coralie Leong. [kcleong7@gmail.com](mailto:kcleong7@gmail.com)