

IIUD

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
URBAN DEVELOPMENT



MISSION

The Institute for International Urban Development is committed to promoting sustainable urban and regional development through community-based planning initiatives and research. We operate at the policy, program and project levels with teams that include regional experts and members of our network of local affiliates.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

December 2010

Five Years as a Not-For-Profit Organization

In May, the Institute celebrated its fifth year as an independent not-for-profit organization specializing in the documentation of emerging international development trends in developing and transitional economies and the development of innovative solutions to manage urban and peri-urban growth. Our Board has expanded from the original seven members who encouraged us to continue our international activities outside of Harvard to twelve members whose committed support has been critical to our work.

The Institute's staff has grown from the original three founders to an interdisciplinary group of six Senior Associates, three Associates, and several Affiliates who participate on a regular basis in our activities. As a result, we have now added social anthropology and environmental management to our professional expertise. Two or three interns participate in our activities every year.

The decision to expand the interdisciplinary nature of our team reflects the evolution of our activities in response to changing circumstances. While at Harvard, our work was sharply focused on urban growth management issues in developing countries and Eastern Europe. We focused on housing improvements, the delivery of public services and building the professional capacity of public officials through training programs. Although our work still has a clear urban focus, it now stresses the interface between cities and their region. This evolution started just before we separated from Harvard when, supported by the Christensen Fund, we developed a comprehensive strategy to improve the cash income of villagers in Eastern Anatolia through improved environmental management techniques.

Over the past five years, the Institute's activities have expanded six fold and our annual budget this year is over \$700,000. We are currently providing technical assistance in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. As a founding member of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development, we continue to be actively engaged in research on cross-border development issues in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and building the capacities of local officials on both sides of the border. Most of our Irish work also involves the harmonization of regional growth management policies on a cross-border basis.

Our involvement in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic urban area continues to be an important part of our activities. Following our work in Baku and the Old City of Damascus, we have started working on a strategy for the restoration of a major portion of 19th century Khedivial Cairo and will participate next year, in collaboration with *Design Convergence Urbanism* (DCU) in Madrid, on a cultural heritage project in Cholon, the historic Chinatown of Ho Chi Minh City.

In addition to our ongoing documentation of innovative urban and regional development strategies that are available on our web site, the Institute's sponsored research activities have increased significantly. In 2010, we prepared the second edition of the UN-Habitat documentation of North African cities that will be published in the forthcoming *State of African Cities*. We have also been commissioned to write a separate volume on urbanization trends in the Arab states. The report will focus on population growth, the economic role of cities, environmental challenges, housing, urban governance, and urban development corridors. The final report, *The State of Arab Cities: Addressing Urbanization Challenges in the Arab States' Region*, will be published by UN-Habitat in 2012.

Our presence in international networks has also increased and, this year, we have participated in the UN-Habitat Best Practices Meeting in Rio de Janeiro; the 46th Congress of the International Society of City and Regional Planners in Nairobi where Mona Serageldin gave the keynote address; and the annual forum of the Union for the Mediterranean in Marseilles, organized by the European Investment Bank.

Over the past two years, in response to the growing need for cross-disciplinary approaches, the Institute's development strategy has evolved towards forging strong relationships with entities that complement our expertise. In addition to our forthcoming work in Vietnam with DCU, we have developed a strong relationship with KV3, the South African civil engineering firm that provides us with engineering support in our work in Tanzania and with whom we have submitted several collaborative proposals to the World Bank for projects in Africa. We have renewed our relationship with the *Research Triangle Institute* for future USAID work and have started a promising discussion with the *Woods Hole Research Center* (www.whrc.org) to add our development policy expertise to their current research work in Brazil on the probable consequence of global warming on the upper Amazon's ecosystems and settlement patterns.

François Vigier

State of the North African Cities and State of the Arab Cities

In the fall of 2010, Mona Serageldin, Frank Vigier and Kendra Leith submitted to UN-Habitat the final version of the *State of the North African Cities* report and the Urban Land Market paper. The North African Cities report was published in November as part of *The State of African Cities 2010: Governance, Inequality and the Economies of African Cities*.

UN-Habitat has awarded IIUD funding to begin the State of the Arab Cities report, for which Mona Serageldin is the lead consultant. The team submitted the inception report in October for review at the Expert Group Meeting in Cairo and will submit the first draft of the report in February 2011. The complete report, *The State of Arab Cities: Addressing Urbanization Challenges in the Arab States' Region*, which will discuss population growth, land use and housing issues, urban development corridors, environmental challenges and transnational migration, among other topics, will be published in 2012.

Kendra Leith

Arusha, Tanzania

In 2010, the IIUD staff has provided technical assistance to the Regional Commissioner and his Task Force in Arusha, Tanzania to help guide the city's accelerated expansion. Working with the Task Force and community leaders, the team has identified factors that will affect urbanization and determined their impact, identified development nodes along major corridors, mapped existing and proposed land use and developed an urban development strategy. In 2011, the team will submit an urban development plan for the area, a proposed implementation program with pilot projects and a capital investment plan.

Village and ward meetings



Sources: Biorn Maybury-Lewis and Mona Serageldin

Increasing participation, identifying community challenges, needs and opportunities and incorporating those needs into the urban development plan are important for the success of this project. To date, the IIUD team has completed interviews with 26 ward development committees and 20 village councils. IIUD has made a special effort to reach all of the wards and villages, which are currently affected by urbanization or will be affected by planned and unplanned urbanization over the next decade. Engaging the energy of communities is the cornerstone of the people centred approach to development planning that we advocate.

Conferences

Mona Serageldin represented the Institute at several international conferences in 2010 including:

- The Fifth World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mona was a featured speaker in the day-long Dialogue 4 Event on cities and cultural diversity.
- The Holcim Forum for Sustainable Construction 2010 in Mexico City. Mona presented the case of Orascom Housing Communities in Egypt, which provides sustainable, affordable housing to residents.
- ISOCARP's 46th annual meeting-Nairobi. Mona gave the lead keynote address entitled *Accelerated Urbanization and a Dynamic Concept of Sustainability*.
- International seminar on the Sustainability of Urban Heritage Preservation in September, organized by the Inter-American Development Bank. Mona gave the commentary on the World Bank projects presented by Mr. Anthony Bigio, Senior Urban Specialist, The World Bank. She also gave the commentary on the presentation of the Aleppo rehabilitation project.
- Union for the Mediterranean forum *New Towns for Sustainable Metropolitan Cities*. Mona moderated the 2nd part of the plenary sub-session on the role of financial institutions in new town projects. Mr. Philippe de Fontaine-Vive, Vice President of the EIB, moderated the first part. The forum was organized by the State Secretariat Responsible for Urban Policy in France and the Union for the Mediterranean.

The International New Town Institute, Netherlands

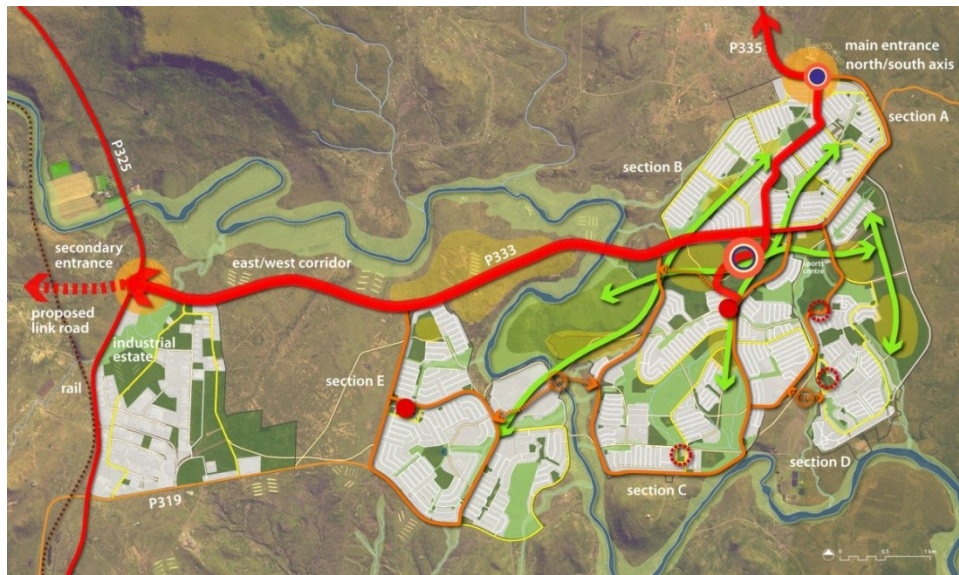
The International New Town Institute in the Netherlands – which researches all aspects of new cities being planned and built throughout the world – invited Jim Kostaras to present a paper at the New Towns & Politics Conference entitled, *New Smart Cities of the 21st Century*.

Training Programs

POLIS University, Tirana, Albania

In November, POLIS University's International School of Architecture and Urban Development Policies invited Jim Kostaras to teach a workshop and present a series of open lectures on behalf of the Institute.

Technical Assistance to Ladysmith/Emnambithi Municipality, South Africa



Regeneration concept plan for Ezakheni, South Africa (IIUD, Sept. 2010)

IIUD, in collaboration with KV3 Engineers, provided technical assistance to the Ladysmith/Emnambithi Municipality in South Africa from February to October 2010, by developing an urban design framework for the regeneration of the local township of Ezakheni.

IIUD staff traveled to South Africa in February to work with the local KV3 team and conduct initial fieldwork in Ezakheni. The draft urban design framework was then presented to the city council, officials of Ladysmith, and ward councilors at a meeting in early March.

The IIUD/KV3 interim report submitted to the Municipality in April included a spatial analysis of the township, a discussion of key planning issues, development strategies and a concept plan for Ezakheni. A node analysis report was requested in May that entailed a thorough study of existing primary and secondary nodes identified for regeneration as well as proposed sites for future development. This analysis was then presented to the Municipality in mid-July.

The final urban design framework report outlined the objectives, physical strategies and actions needed to capitalize on opportunities for economic and social renewal in Ezakheni. KV3 submitted the urban design framework and business plans to the Municipality in the fall of 2010. They are awaiting official approval from the National Treasury that has shown support for many of the proposed upgrading projects, particularly in the main entrance area of the town.

The IIUD team included Alejandra Mortarini, Natalie Pohlman and Kendra Leith, with assistance from Janaki Kibe and Alison Prier.

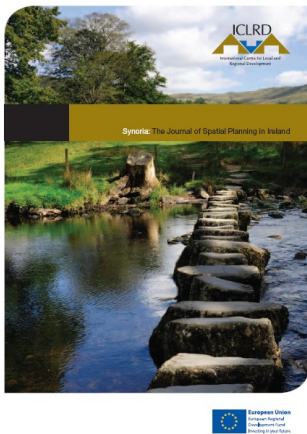
Natalie Pohlman

Sixth Annual ICLRD Conference

There have been dramatic change and uncertainties for the both jurisdictions on each side of the border over the past twelve months with the evolving economic situation leading to debates ranging from the need for a period of austerity to the opportunities for renaissance and resurgence. The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) will be hosting its Sixth Annual Conference on the 20-21 January 2011 in Sligo to consider these options in more depth.

Sponsored by the Special EU Programmes Body, this year's conference theme is *The Changing Business Community and Spatial Planning Landscape: Doing More with Less*. The conference will focus on the changing budgetary, legislative and policy landscape across the island of Ireland; the implications of reduced budgets for local government and their impact on planning and development. The conference will also look to emerging opportunities to build recovery and economic competitiveness, as well as practical solutions to address the oversupply of land and housing. Through the Institute's suggestion, Nic Retsinas of the Harvard Business School and Director Emeritus of Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies will be speaking about lessons from the Resolution Trust Corporation in solving the property crash of the 1990s in the U.S.

New ICLRD Journal of Spatial Planning



ICLRD will be launching a new journal, *The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland*, at the January conference. With this annual publication, ICLRD has taken another step on a journey that began in 2006 when it was started with the Institute as one of the founding partners. The purpose of the new journal is to support a cross-border policy and practice dialogue among planners, local government officials and representatives and central government agencies. Two of the articles reflect the Institute's key role in bringing international best practices to the ICLRD. Frank and John have written an article on cross-border cooperation among Swiss, German and French local governments in metropolitan Basel. The *Boston Indicators Project* is also featured in an article by Charlotte Khan of the Boston Foundation and Holly St. Clair of the Boston region's Metropolitan Area Planning Association.

Cross-Border Agreement between Newry-Mourne and Louth County

As follow-on to the 2009 Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region report and an executive training programme for councillors and officials in 2010, the ICLRD was commissioned by the two cross-border Councils to develop an agreement on strategic cooperation that opens up further opportunities for the sharing of services and joint management of key resources. John Driscoll

and Andrew McClelland of the University of Ulster provided technical assistance to both Councils in drafting a memorandum of understanding that outlines instruments and institutional structures that could be used to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the areas of: emergency planning; renewable energy and green technology; tourism and recreation; and sustainable economic growth and job creation. Cooperative structures were also outlined and include: a joint Committee of Elected Members; a joint Senior Management Group; an Advisory Forum; and Project Teams for implementation. The respective councils approved the agreement in November 2010.



Photo by Andrew McClelland

Case Study on Boston Metropolitan Area

Highlighting precedents through well-documented case studies has been a cornerstone of the Institute's efforts to help governments and non-government organisations to consider new approaches. Jim Kostaras and Frank Vigier of the Institute completed a case study on how the Boston Metropolitan Area promotes regional development through cooperation among local governments, metropolitan planning organisations, the business community and research organisations. The case is one of three international cases ICLRD is using to provide practical examples of how cooperation in local and regional development can be shaped by collaborative efforts. The cases highlight how territorial cooperation, particularly in the EU, is moving towards 'placed-based strategies' as promoted in different EU strategy documents.

Managing Cross-Border River Basins

The Institute will be participating in a new ICLRD study that will document the challenges associated with integrated decision-making in cross border river basins with a particular focus on water quality and the role of spatial planning. The research will document existing institutional structures and policy initiatives, explore current management practices, identify international good practices in managing river basins that involve more than one jurisdiction and put forward

recommendations as to how the current scenario – at the national, regional, local and cross-jurisdictional government scale – can be improved. Kendra Leith and Linda Shi of the Institute will be researching and documenting examples of inter-jurisdictional river basin management in North America.

Incorporating Local Needs and Regional Opportunities in Disposing Underutilized Residential Assets

Following the very successful visit to the Institute and the Boston region by Michael Finneran, Minister of State for Housing and Local Services in the Republic of Ireland, the Institute is exploring how it can assist both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland to find new uses for properties held by the newly created National Asset Management Agency. This work is being led by Kevin Maguire who recently started working with the Institute. He will be attending the ICLRD conference in January and a special ICLRD workshop on managing and disposing of surplus properties as part of developing a full proposal.

John Driscoll

IIUD Board Meeting in the Brazilian Amazon, October 31 – November 6, 2010

With the world's attention focused on the endangered rain forests, a little known fact is that the Amazon has become, in the past two decades, the locus of the most intense *urbanization* going on in contemporary Brazil. Now, IIUD and its Brazilian and international partner organizations are seeking ways to apply the Institute's considerable planning experience in the Brazilian Amazon's regional development.



IIUD's Board IIUD Board donated classroom supplies to the village school visiting an indigenous village on the Rio Negro, Amazonas. (Photo: Biorn Maybury-Lewis)

Between October 31 and November 6, 2010, John Driscoll, Biorn Maybury-Lewis, and Mary Shia accompanied the IIUD Board of Directors for their fall 2010 meeting in the northern cities of Manaus, capital of the central Amazonian state of Amazonas, and Belém, capital of the

eastern Amazonian state of Pará. These two enormous states not only contain most of the Amazonian biome but their capitals are at the focus of recent rural-urban migration: Manaus has now a population of 2.1 million and Belém 1.7 million.

In Belém, the Board participated in a series of seminars organized by Biorn and his long-time colleague at the Federal University of Pará, Professor Raul da Silva Navegantes. Over the course of a day and a half, social scientists, a prominent investigative journalist, a former mayor, a state government housing planner, and an urban transport planner explained the circumstances facing both the state and its capital city, the reasons for the rapid urbanization, and the prospects and challenges for the future. Concluding the visit, the Board toured some of the city's urban *favelas*, having gained innumerable insights into the reality of the eastern Amazon.



Manaus favelas (Photo: John Driscoll) and PROSAMIN relocation project (Photo: Biorn Maybury-Lewis).

Biorn Maybury-Lewis

Research Opportunity at Queen's University

At the suggestion of encouragement of Board member Janine Clifford, the Institute helped place Takara Tada, a candidate in the Doctor of Architecture program at University of Hawaii-Manoa, at Queens University Belfast for the 2010 fall semester. We asked Takara to write a note on her work for News from the Field.

For the past two months I have had the wonderful opportunity to do research at Queen's University in Belfast. One of my professors, Janine Clifford, connected me with the work of ICLRD through John Driscoll and Karen Keaveney. While in Belfast I spent my time exploring the dynamics of the current spatial divisions resulting from Belfast's Troubles. I surveyed many local designers and planners as well as the many people I came into contact with from all walks of life locally and around the world.

My main goal was to investigate the role of spatial practice in post-conflict cities that engaged social reconciliation. From this framework I would then travel to Nicosia in Cyprus, Beirut in Lebanon, and finally, Ahmadabad in India to further my exploration and document the resultant divisions. These are the physical manifestation of perceived and felt insecurity.

In brief, the potential of the built environment (the practice of the social ordering of space) where territory and space has played a central role in the conflict, or in its manifestation, is in its inherent impact. The built environment in this instance can have either have positive or negative impacts on current divisions, but rarely will have a neutral effect. In Belfast, urban design and planning can locate strategic places that reconnect isolated communities that are physically divided to the center of the city (in terms of accessibility and mobility) as well as socially divided due to perceived vulnerability. Locations can be identified in and around the city where divided groups can each easily access as well as benefit from would catalyze a process of integration. This would be a small, but important step towards rebuilding trust “cross-community.”

I have found very interesting work taking place, learning that design comes alongside the work and willingness that is already happening. Fancy images and mapping can be imported from anywhere, however, if there is not an understanding of the historical context, political limitations, and cultural issues, resulting from violent conflict, the process of design and its outcomes could potentially undermine any efforts that have been made to bring peace post conflict. If there is not an underpinning of *conflict transformation*, then design does not have an effective role in the post conflict generation.

Takara Tada

Development

We are expanding our newsletter distribution to include friends of the Institute. If you have friends or associates interested in the work of the Institute and would like to be apprized of our work through our newsletter, please send us their email address and we will be delighted to include them in our mailing list.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members and other friends of the Institute who funded our research and network activities and our summer interns over the past year. Thirty-five percent of funding comes through gifts and board member contributions.

If you are interested in making a gift to the Institute or any of our activities, please use the following form or contact Mary Shia, Director of Individual and Corporate Giving, at (617) 852-8343 or shia@i2ud.org.



Making a Gift

The Institute for International Urban Development is committed to promoting sustainable urban and regional development through community-based planning initiatives and research. Annual gift income is used to document innovative urban and regional development strategies and support student interns and network activities.

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