

SCUPAD

Salzburg Congress on Urban Planning and Development

Planning for the Carbon Neutral World: Challenges for Cities and Regions

Call for papers

You are invited to submit a paper for presentation at a workshop at the SCUPAD Congress 2008, "Planning for the Carbon Neutral World: Challenges for Cities and Regions," to be held in Salzburg at Schloss Leopoldskron, May 15 -18, 2008.

SCUPAD is an independent, non-profit international organization of planners, whose members are based all over Europe, in the Middle East and North America and lately also in India and Northern Africa. All SCUPAD members are professionals working at a high level in their respective organizations: planning and other government authorities, educational and research institutions, private development and consultancy practices.

With its annual Congresses since 1965, SCUPAD presents topics for discussion of a contemporary nature and of critical relevance to urban planning and development. Unlike most other international conventions, SCUPAD developed its characteristic style as a more personal exchange among experts, engendering informality, international and trans-disciplinary discourse and a lively social and professional network that carries on beyond the Congresses.

The context:

The major challenge facing this and the next generation of architects, planners and builders is how to develop land use patterns that respond to the demands of the post-carbon age and provide a high quality of life for future generations. How our profession adapts to the need for reducing dependency on fossil fuels and contributes to the use of new technologies and approaches to planning and development that foster sustainability is critically important and will be the focus of this year's SCUPAD Congress.

SCUPAD will draw on the broad knowledge and experiences of Congress participants to debate and examine the strategies used by governments and communities to address the opportunities and challenges we face. Plenary sessions will exhibit several case studies from diverse regions and cities that have started to implement plans/projects for the carbon neutral age.

Invited presenters for the Congress include: Prof. Dr. Hansjurg Leibundgut from Switzerland, Stefano Camicchi from Italy, Wulf-Heinrich Daseking from Freiburg, and Nicky Gavron, the Deputy Mayor of London.

The Congress will convene three workshops, in which several participants will be invited to present their work.

Mixed land-use and multi-functional structures in urban areas: a contribution to the carbon neutral society?

Moderator: Han Joosten, Research Director, Bouwfonds Property Development

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During the past 30 years in many urban areas, the leading planning doctrine called for the spatial split between different functional uses. This policy has led to distinct areas for residential use, for retail, for working spaces (offices and other businesses) and for leisure (parks and sports facilities), often combined with lower building densities. At the same time, the increase in the mobility of people has been enormous, mainly caused by the growing distances between the locations where people conduct their daily activities (living, working, recreating).

For the next SCUPAD Congress, we are asking for papers demonstrating the use of publicly- and privately-initiated strategies based on mixed land-use and multifunctional structures, and the resultant impacts on the urban environment. These papers may also contain examples of how the strategies make a contribution to the carbon neutral society.

Regional and Local Economy

Moderator: Dieter Läßle, Professor, Dept. of City Planning, HCU-Hamburg

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In the advanced capitalist countries, cities and regions have been faced with a deep structural change in their economy. Today, manufacturing functions are spread throughout the world in the form of global value chains under the control of global players. However, many metropolitan areas today represent privileged location for firms in the field of knowledge-based services. This new international division of labour, is based on an extremely powerful transport and communication system with a high dependence on fossil fuels.

At the same time, we are confronted with an industrialized, globalized agriculture with an extremely high use of fossil oil for industrial farming and for shipping and flying food around the world. (See Shiva: Soil not Oil, 2007)

A new sensibility for the 'metabolism of cities' – especially the aspect of how they use resources and what happens to their waste – will open promising perspectives to reduce the input of fossil fuel and non-regenerative resources. New recycling and, particularly, upcycling-oriented construction strategies, intelligent forms of lifecycle management for material products and urban infrastructure systems can open new ways into a carbon neutral future of urban and regional economies. But we also need a new culture of consumption, and new concepts of development and well-being.

- What will be the perspectives of a carbon neutral economy?
- Will the present-day tendencies be reversed?

- Will this foster a spatial or regional reintegration of value chains, reinstall stronger regional service-manufacturing linkages, strengthen local economies and stimulate locally-based ecological agriculture?
- Or will this reinforce globalization combined with strategies of technical efficiency and dematerialization?

For the coming SCUPAD Congress, we ask for papers showing possible ways to carbon neutral urban and regional economies in consideration of the present-day socio-economic tendencies and vested interests.

Transportation

Moderator: Dr. Karel Martens (Radboud University Nijmegen, Department of Spatial Planning and Institute for Management Research)

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Current Western societies are based on high levels of mobility, facilitated by high-quality infrastructures and low transport costs. The post-carbon age challenges this very organizational basis of our post-industrial societies, giving rise to three possible scenarios.

In the first, perhaps optimistic, scenario, science and technology are able to develop new energy sources that can replace fossil fuels. These are not only renewable and environmental friendly, but also enable individual motorized mobility. The switch to sustainable energy sources will marginalize environmental concerns and unleash an even stronger growth in mobility at regional and global levels, resulting in a new spatial structure at global, regional and local scale.

In a second scenario, the search for replacement energy sources is unsuccessful and governments are unable to develop a feasible alternative for individual motorized mobility. The result is a structural shortage of energy for the transportation sector, forcing businesses and people to reduce their mobility and develop new organizational models. The result is a forced re-organization of the spatial order towards compact cities, mixed land uses, and self-contained cities and regions.

In the third scenario, the energy needs of the transport sector are pushed down through a fundamental restructuring of the transport system. Efficient, low-energy, collective transport systems will replace current car-based systems. Long distance travel will move from fast modes (airplane, high speed railway) to slow speed (regular trains, zeppelins). The new modes will develop into the backbones of a renewed spatial order, resulting in a new centers and new peripheries.

Presentations:

We invite academics and practitioners to submit papers that explore these – and possible other – transport scenarios for the post-carbon age. We especially welcome papers explore the following issues in relation to the post-carbon age: future land use patterns at

regional level; developing energy-robust urban environments; transition scenarios; planners as managers of transition; accessibility in a carbon-free era; and the impact of carbon-free transport systems on the distribution of accessibility.

Researchers and practitioners in planning who wish to present and discuss their work are invited to submit an abstract of their proposed paper by 28 February 2008. The abstract should be no more than 500 words long, and include the following:

1. Indication of the workshop to which the paper is submitted.
2. Paper's Title.
3. Writer's name, affiliation and contact details (preferably email).
4. Outline the problem or the strategy discussed, and its relevance to the workshop theme.
5. If relevant: references. No more than three should be included.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Tamy Stav: T.Stav@fm.ru.nl.

Authors will be notified by 15 March 2008 whether their paper is accepted for presentation at the Congress. A full version of each paper to be presented at the conference should be sent to SCUPAD by 15 April 2008.

A subset of the papers accepted for presentation will be published following the Congress, and all papers accepted will be offered publication on the SCUPAD website. Upon acceptance of submitted proposals, authors will receive instructions on the format suggested for the papers and the presentations.

Registration:

Information on the costs of attending the Congress, including a registration form, is available on the SCUPAD web site: www.SCUPAD.org. A full Congress 2008 program can also be found on the website. Inquiries about Congress registration should be addressed to: Thomas Dillinger, SCUPAD Treasurer, tdilling@pop.tuwien.ac.at.

The Congress fee will be waived for those whose papers are selected for presentation at one of the Congress workshops.