THE ROLE OF SPATIALLY FOCUSED STRATEGIES IN ADDRESSING URBAN CHALLENGES IN THE POST 2015 CONTEXT

Developing country cities face a range of challenges, including, among others, rapid and chaotic urbanization, ecologically unsustainable development, and a state of flux caused by natural or man-made disasters. Over the past year, ISOCARP has provided technical assistance to three city administrations – Recife in Brazil, Panaji in India, and Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – towards developing spatially-focused strategies to address their most pressing problems. These have focused on a variety of solutions – whether promoting mixed use urban development, expanding public transportation systems, integrating Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) into existing planning frameworks, or developing an overall strategic planning policy regime.

Building on this experience of ISOCARP, as well as other ongoing activities, this event will exchange lessons from different contexts and explore the relevance and utility of spatially-focused approaches.

Relevance of the event to Habitat III and Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

This event relates aims to will demonstrate how spatial planning can help in addressing the major development challenges facing cities and towns in developing countries and emerging economies – whether rapid population growth, ecologically unsustainable development, or other urban crises caused by natural disasters or conflict. Thus it is directly related to the post-2015 development agenda as well as HABITAT III.

Format and panelists

The event will take the form of a panel discussion, wherein the moderator will ask the panelists to first deliberate upon the different types of urban challenges facing cities in the post-2015 era – drawing from their experience in working with Goma, Panaji and Johannesburg. This will be followed by a discussion on the role of spatially-focused interventions/ approaches in addressing these challenges, and finally a debate on the problems and pitfalls that might be faced in adopting such approaches.

Moderator: Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Vice-President, ISOCARP

Panelists:

Mr. Simon Montague, Managing Director, Montague International Associates

Mr. Christian Horn, Architect-urban planner, Rethink - office of the built environment
Mr. Rogier van den Berg, Urban Planning and Design Lab Task Manager, UN-HABITAT