



# Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

## The UGEC e-Newsletter ISSUE I - FEB 2007

### WELCOME NOTE FROM THE PROJECT CO-CHAIRS

Dear recipients of the first UGEC e-Newsletter,

We welcome you to this periodic electronic publication. UGEC e-Newsletter is a resource to maintain our broad community informed about relevant news to our research topic and the development of our project.

The recent publication of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report WG1 Summary for Policymakers highlights the urgent need to address the challenges created by climate change for societies. The upcoming publication of the reports from IPCC Working Groups 2 and 3 will strengthen the importance of this topic, in particular for urban societies. Urban areas play a central role in the interactions between socio-economic and geo-political processes and biophysical processes, particularly in the case of climate change, and UGEC activities for 2007 seek to address a number of key issues in this regard. We also seek to open a forum for discussion for our community about the contributions of the forthcoming reports. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to expand attention to this topic. We also invite you to have an active involvement with UGEC through the various mechanisms established by the project (becoming a project associate, getting your projects endorsed, participate in our Working Paper Series and Seminar Series etc.) We look forward to your thoughts, comments and suggestions.

Karen C. Seto & Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez

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### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project (an International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change - IHDP - Core Project ([www.ihdp.org](http://www.ihdp.org))) initiates its e-Newsletter as an electronic avenue for important announcements regarding international meetings, workshops, conferences, colloquia, lectures, seminars, calls for papers and grant proposals, and job opportunities. If you wish to contribute content of that scope to the next issue of e-Newsletter please submit the information you wish to see distributed to the UGEC network of scholars and practitioners to [fragkias@asu.edu](mailto:fragkias@asu.edu).

At this stage we plan to send out a newsletter every couple of months (with the possibility of establishing it as a monthly circulation as the project expands). Directions on how you may subscribe or unsubscribe are included at the end of this newsletter. An archive of messages sent to the distribution mailing list is available at <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/ugec-l.html>. Our website ([www.ugec.org](http://www.ugec.org)) will always carry the most up to date information on the project so do not forget to visit it from time to time.

Note: The distribution list for our products has evolved from the older mailing list for the project (ihdp-urban-gec) which is now replaced by our new distribution list, UGEC-L.

## UGEC EVENTS

### FOURTH SSC MEETING IN TEMPE, AZ, APRIL 14TH AND 15TH 2007

The 4th SSC meeting of the UGEC project will take place in Tempe, AZ over the weekend of April 14th and 15th 2007. One of the primary goals of the meeting is to build strong relationships between the project and the academic community at our host institution, Arizona State University. Researchers and practitioners from nearby universities, agencies and institutions are also encouraged to communicate with the executive officer of the project in order to explore possibilities for participation in side events. Contact information: Michail Fragkias, [fragkias@asu.edu](mailto:fragkias@asu.edu)

## OTHER EVENTS

### UGEC PROJECT PRESENT AT THE 2007 AAG MEETING, APRIL 17TH – 21ST, 2007.

Members of the SSC will participate at the 2007 Meeting of The AAG, April 17-21 2007 in San Francisco, CA, USA. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the executive officer of the project for the scheduling of meetings with particular SSC members and participation at the planned UGEC networking event for the evening of April 18th, 2007. Contact

## URBANIZATION AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE – LATIN AMERICA WORKSHOP

This workshop will focus on strategies for adaptation to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and climate variability on urban areas in Latin America. It seeks to overcome the perception that the impacts of climate change and climate variability will occur in the distant future and, therefore, that there is no justification to rethink allocation of resources in order to address them. It will bring together scholars and practitioners in an effort to facilitate integrating those adaptation strategies in the development of new approaches for current urban problems. The workshop will take place in Morelia, Mexico in November 2007.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW INTERNATIONAL PROJECT OFFICE

Our new International Project Office (IPO) was recently established and is hosted by the [Global Institute of Sustainability](#) at Arizona State University in the United States. One of our goals for 2007 is to establish the IPO as a central point of communications and interactions among the researchers of our network and a significant resource for the greater community.

### NEW PROJECT ASSOCIATES AND A CALL FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENTS

We are thrilled to announce the addition of the newest UGEC project associates: Peter J. Marcotullio and Urbano Fra Paleo.

Peter J. Marcotullio is a faculty member at United Nations University and the Institute of Advanced Studies. From his webpage at UNU: “Peter J. Marcotullio [...] received his undergraduate degree in Psychology and a Master’s degree in Biology from University of Pennsylvania, USA, and a Master’s degree in Geography and PhD in Urban Planning from Columbia University, USA.

Upon graduation he accepted a position with the UNU-IAS and has been with the Institute since then. Currently, he is a Research Fellow managing the Urban Programme. Marcotullio has published articles on globalization and urban development in Pacific Asia and he is the co–editor of Globalization and the Sustainability of Cities in the Asia Pacific Region, UNU Press (2001). His research interest focus is regional planning as a response to globalization and environmental pressures, and the relationship between development and urban environmental conditions.”

Urbano Fra Paleo is a professor at the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Extremadura in Spain. Prof. Fra holds a Ph.D. in Applied Geography from the University of Santiago de Compostela and is a member of the Natural Hazards and Vulnerability Research Group at the University of Extremadura ([link](#)), a research group studying “the components and complexity of the various natural hazards that have an impact on social and economic development.

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project is continuing its efforts for expanding its regional and thematic networks. In order to provide a better understanding of the interactions and feedbacks between global environmental change and urbanization, the project utilizes an innovative conceptual and methodological framework. The project targets a stronger coordination and collaboration between academics, political decision-makers and practitioners working on urban and environmental issues.

Our new website provides links to the UGEC Science Plan, information on how researchers can join our network as project associates, and how research projects and agencies can get their projects endorsed by UGEC ([www.ugec.org](http://www.ugec.org)).

We truly look forward to creating a strong interdisciplinary collaborative network of researchers and practitioners that will help achieve the goals of the UGEC project. You can help us achieve this goal by forwarding this email to any potentially interested party.

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UGEC INTERNATIONAL WORKING PAPER SERIES

Moving towards our goal of promoting of new and innovative research on issues of Urbanization and Global Environmental Change, we are pleased to announce the UGEC International Working Paper Series. The UGEC International Working Paper Series aims to circulate and promote original and innovative work on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change issues. This Series targets work done by the academic and practitioner communities of the UGEC project.

Work in progress that addresses one or more themes of the Science Plan are especially welcome. Working papers on the need and practical use of scientific knowledge on global environmental change in managing, planning, and development of urban growth are also welcome.

This series provides the opportunity to scholars and practitioners to present the results of their research available in a timely fashion and receive feedback from a broader community of scientists and practitioners. The UGEC working paper series is maintained by the UGEC International Project Office. Many of the working papers will be in draft stages of articles that eventually target publication in scholarly or professional journals.

More information on Policies and Procedures, the Review Process, copyright issues and submission instructions can be found on our website (under Activities – Int. Working Paper Series).

## RESEARCHERS' DATABASE

Registering on our website ([www.ugec.org](http://www.ugec.org)) will allow us to include you in a database of a wide network of researchers (which will be eventually accessible to our registered users for browsing and searching). This will allow us to also include you in our UGEC-products recipient list (mainly newsletters and reports that will be published in the future).

## COMING SOON

The UGEC project is pleased to announce the following additions to its list of forthcoming activities.

- The IPO is currently in the process of establishing a Seminar Series that will primarily be taking place at ASU; speakers from across the world will be invited to speak individually or as part of panels on specific Urbanization and Global Environmental Change themes. Please do indicate your interest for an invited talk to Michail Fragkias at [fragkias@asu.edu](mailto:fragkias@asu.edu).
- A communications coordinator for the project is expected to be hired by the end of February.
- An announcement for the inaugural award for young scholars in the field of Urbanization and Global Environmental Change is forthcoming.
- A new book co-edited by Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez titled "Urbanization, Global Environmental Change, and Sustainable Development in Latin America" is forthcoming in 2007. The book is being published both in English and Spanish by the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). Full citation: Urbanization, Global Environmental Change, and Sustainable Development in Latin America. Sanchez, R. and Bonilla, A., eds. Sao Paulo, Brazil. Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). 2007.

## SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe to our distribution list, send an email to [LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU) with the text "SUB UGEC-L" at the message body. If you believe you were added on this list by mistake or wish to not receive email from the UGEC project, you can unsubscribe by sending an email to [LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU) with the text "SIGNOFF UGEC-L" at the message body or by informing the list owner, Michail Fragkias at [fragkias@asu.edu](mailto:fragkias@asu.edu)

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC) project is a science project that targets the generation of new knowledge on the bi-directional interactions and feedback loops between urban areas and global environmental change at local, regional and global levels. It follows a multi-disciplinary approach for a comprehensive understanding of the driving and resulting economic, political, cultural, social and physical processes. An important feature of this core project is the explicit commitment to translate abstract knowledge about GEC into local decision-making contexts. The project is expected to provide a platform for close interaction between practitioners, political decision-makers and researchers.