



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

February 2010

E-Newsletter

Issue 13

Welcome Note...

Dear Readers,

We hope that this issue finds you well in this new year!

We have been very busy organizing the first UGEC conference taking place this fall and we would like to guide your attention below to the Update section for more general information. There is also more on proposed sessions under the Announcements section, as well as details about how to submit your abstract under Call for Papers. We hope to see many of you this October here at Arizona State University!

You will also find in this issue numerous UGEC related events spanning throughout 2010, along with a variety of opportunities to submit abstracts. We also have the pleasure of announcing two new UGEC endorsed projects and have included our usual job announcements, related initiatives and publications. Lastly, an overview of our third issue of *UGEC Viewpoints* is included here and printed copies will be mailed out soon by the end of the month.

Please enjoy the read!

- Corrie Griffith and Michail Fragkias, UGEC Project Office

EVENTS

Recent

2009

[SENSE-Research School for Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment Symposium, "Climate Proofing Cities"/ Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change](#)

*Amsterdam/Volendam, Netherlands
December 01-04, 2009*

2010

[Chatham House International Conference: The Future of Cities](#)

*London, UK
February 08-09, 2010*

Forthcoming

2010



[World Urban Forum 5, The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide](#)

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
March 22-26, 2010*

[ICLEI Resilient Cities 2010, 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

*Bonn, Germany
May 28-30, 2010*

[Urban Environmental Pollution 2010 - Overcoming Obstacles to Sustainability and Quality of Life](#)

*Boston, MA USA
June 20 - 23, 2010*

[World Cities Summit: Livable and Sustainable Cities for the Future](#)

*Singapore
June 28-July 01, 2010*

[National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility \(NCCARF\) - 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference](#)

*Queensland, Australia
June 29 - July 01, 2010*

[IOA - Institute for Asian and Oriental Studies: 21. European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies \(ECMSAS\)](#)

Bonn, Germany



UPDATE

International Conference on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change *Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainability in an Urbanizing World*

15-17, October 2010
Arizona State University

The call for papers and session proposals has now been extended until **April 15th, 2010** for The International Conference on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change, "Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainability in an Urbanizing World" (more information about this is listed under the Call for Papers section).

Our event will be open to scientists, policymakers and the general public and will provide a comprehensive perspective of current knowledge of the dynamic and complex interactions between urbanization and global environmental change.

Our conference has been working closely with the [Global Land Project \(GLP\)](#) Open Science Meeting. GLP is a joint research project for land systems for the [International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme \(IGBP\)](#) and the [International Human Dimensions Programme \(IHDP\)](#). The two projects will convene on Sunday October 17th, so that together we can focus jointly on themes surrounding the urban, land, and climate change interface.

Together with the UGEC Conference International Science and Planning

July 26-29, 2010

[The International Society for Ecological Economics 11th Biennial Conference, "Advancing Sustainability in a Time of Crises"](#)

Bremen/Oldenburg, Germany

August 22-25, 2010

[International Conference on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change \(UGEC\), "Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainability in an Urbanizing World"](#)

Tempe, Arizona, USA

October 15-17, 2010

[Global Land Project \(GLP\) Open Science Meeting, "Land Systems, Global Change and Sustainability"](#)

Tempe, Arizona, USA

October 17-19, 2010

[PLUREL: Peri-urban Land Use Relationships – Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban – Rural Linkages](#)

Copenhagen, Denmark

October 19-22, 2010

[First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization](#)

Harbour Plaza Hong Kong, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

December 15-17, 2010

[Resilience 2011, "Resilience, Innovation, and Sustainability: Navigating the Complexities of Global Change"](#)

Tempe, Arizona USA

March 11-16, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sustainability Lecturer Position open at Arizona State University

The School of Sustainability at Arizona State University - Tempe, AZ, USA invites applications for a Lecturer position to support the growth of an innovative interdisciplinary undergraduate major in sustainability.

Applicants must be committed to building a program in sustainability. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching four courses per semester, including sections of SOS 110 (Sustainable World) and SOS 111 (Sustainable Cities), as well as involvement in the internship program, and teaching 300-level core courses relevant to their training. The initial close date is February 14, 2010. Full details of the position and the application process can be viewed here – [\[Download pdf\]](#)

Proposed Sessions for the 2010 UGEC Conference

You are invited to submit abstracts under the following two sessions organized for the 2010 UGEC conference. Details of each are included below. Please send your submission under the guidelines of the corresponding authors. Upon acceptance, you will be asked to make a formal submission on the UGEC conference website. Furthermore, we are continually looking for session ideas and encourage you to submit these through the abstract submission link on our website: www.ugec2010.org.

Governing climate change in the city

Organizers: Harriet Bulkeley, *Department of Geography, Durham University*; JoAnn Carmin, *Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Concept and Objectives: Municipal authorities and non-governmental actors are increasingly viewing the city as a means through which to engage in climate action, both to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to projected climate impacts. As new policies, programs, and projects take root in cities around the world, more often than not, the emphasis is on the designs of these initiatives

Committee we have finalized the [Conference Concept Note](#), including the conference structure and schedule, and are continuing to formulate sessions and topics that will best address the most salient ugeg problems/questions emerging within both the research and practitioner communities. We have also updated our conference website with the most current information on how to submit your abstract, registration fees, and logistics. Our fees include discounts for Early Bird and Student registrants and we anticipate having a combination ticket for those who would like to participate in both conferences – details of this should be finalized soon.

Furthermore, invitations have been sent out to plenary speakers for the joint UGEC/GLP day which will carry the theme of “Sustainable Land Systems in the Era of Urbanization and Climate Change”. On this day we envision two plenary sessions coupled to open sessions on the topics of “urban linkages to peri-urban and distant land uses, climate change implications” and “sustaining desert cities under climate change”. Conversations are currently underway with our ISPC regarding speaker candidates for the first two days of our conference and we hope to soon announce who will be attending.

Finally, we are working diligently to have the registration capability of our conference website up and functioning by the end of the month. Please check back to register.

Conference website:
www.ugec2010.org

Conference inquiries/questions:
Ugec2010@asu.edu

rather than the ways in which decisions are made and the processes through which climate action is initiated and sustained. Academic research has tended to examine the factors that have led to the development of particular policies or initiatives, rather than attending to the politics of such processes, the urban governance contexts within which they are emerging, and the implications for public and private authority. In this session, we seek to engage with different theories of urban governance and draw on empirical evidence to examine how, why and with what implications cities in developed and developing countries are assessing, planning, and implementing climate mitigation and adaptation programs. Individually, the papers in this session should each focus on a specific dimension of governing climate change in urban centres. Through diverse examples, consideration of emerging trends in mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and assessments of both innovations and critical issues, the papers will collectively suggest new theoretical frameworks for assessing and advancing urban climate governance.

Interested participants should send an abstract of max 300 words to Harriet Bulkeley (h.a.bulkeley@durham.ac.uk) no later than March 2nd, 2010.

Adapting border cities to climate change: practices, options and constraints

Organizers: Francisco Lara-Valencia, *School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University*; Margaret Wilder, *Center for Latin American Studies and Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona*

Concept and Objectives: Even as some cities and municipalities within the U.S.-Mexico borderlands are gradually becoming more mindful of the unusual risks that climate change creates – prompting greater recognition that mitigation and adaptation measures are urgent – most border communities are failing to take sufficient steps to prevent climate instability from presenting even larger dangers in the future. While large U.S. border cities like San Diego and El Paso are taking action, smaller urban areas on both sides of the border are falling behind even in adopting basic commitments to protect people and property from climate variability. The border and the national policies toward the border area create an even more complex scenario for climate action in the region. In this session we would like to explore the following issues:

- The various forms of mitigation and adaptation being adopted by cities on both sides of the border
- The distinct conceptualizations of vulnerability to climate change in a binational context
- The emergence of new forms of collaboration and governance being proposed or developed in the region to adapt to climate change
- The role of non-governmental entities in promoting local and cross-border responses to climate change
- The institutional responses to climate change
- The role of borders and border policy in curtailing or promoting adaptation efforts.

Both conceptual and empirical papers are welcome, and we look forward to receiving proposals that focus on different border cities and make use of different approaches. Interested participants should send an abstract of max 250 words to Francisco Lara (francisco.lara@asu.edu) and Margaret Wilder (mwilder@arizona.edu) no later than March 2nd, 2010.

Call for Papers

The Faculty of Construction and Land Use (FCLU) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) will hold the [First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization \(ICSU\)](#) from December 15-17, 2010 in Hong Kong. This conference series will provide an international forum for the international scientific/engineering community to examine the challenges and potential solutions for ensuring a sustainable process of urbanization and sustainable operation and management of urbanized areas.

Papers relating to all aspects of sustainable development, operation and management of urban areas are invited and papers directly addressing issues created by urbanization are particularly welcome. The themes of Energy, Infrastructure, and Environment will guide the submissions, but are not exclusive. The deadline to submit is **March 1st, 2010**. More details about the conference and call for abstracts are available [here](#).

UGEC RELATED INITIATIVE

UGEC SSC co-chair, Dr. Karen Seto, leads Yale University's [Urbanization and Global Change Group](#) in examining rapidly urbanizing regions around the world to uncover the drivers behind urbanization, the role of globalization in the urban process and the environmental impacts of urban land expansion. With a focus on India and China, their interests include understanding fundamental processes to advance academic knowledge and crafting rules-of-thumb for policy application.

The four main questions they address are:

- *How have urban areas grown in the past?*
- *What drives urban land expansion?*
- *How and where will urban areas likely expand in the future?*
- *What are the environmental impacts of urban land expansion?*

Project case studies include the following (click on each for more information):

[Pearl River Delta, China](#)
[Nanchang, China](#)
[Chengdu, China](#)
[Bangaluru, India](#)
[Doha, Qatar](#)
[Red River Delta, Vietnam](#)
[Silicon Valley, USA](#)



[Lecturer in Sustainability.](#)

The [PLUREL conference "Peri-urban Land Use Relationships – Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban – Rural Linkages"](#) is organized jointly by the PLUREL project; ASEM 4th Symposium on Urban Forestry; Landscape Tomorrow; Danish Association of Landscape Ecologists; and the Danish Architecture Centre. The conference will take place October 19-22, 2010 at the University of Copenhagen and is the final event of the PLUREL project: PERI-URBAN LAND USE RELATIONSHIPS - STRATEGIES AND SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES funded by the European Commission's sixth Framework Programme for research (EC FP6 036921).

Abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations (max 400 words) should be submitted online to one of the twelve session topics. Please use the link for abstract upload on the conference website (the website link is above). Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee on clarity, appropriateness of the topic, methodology, originality and contribution to the field of research. The deadline for abstract submission is **March 1st, 2010**. Click [here](#) to review the call for papers.

The [UGEC Project](#) is accepting abstracts as well as session proposals for the [International Conference on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainability in an Urbanizing World](#), to take place October 15-17th. The submission deadline has been extended until **April 15, 2010**. The first open science conference is an international effort to bring together scientists, practitioners, policy makers, and stakeholders to understand the multi-faceted interactions between urban areas and global environmental change. The conference seeks to build a forum for reflection, exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons, ideas, and information, contributing to the creation of efficient strategies for urban sustainability. The structure and approach of the conference is specifically designed to foster dialogue among participants. Oral presentations and posters are encouraged to communicate the knowledge and lessons learned from research projects and practices. The UGEC Open Science Conference invites presentations and posters on the following broad topic areas:

1. Effects of and responses to climate change in urban areas
2. Land use and land cover
3. Biodiversity, habitat conservation and urban areas
4. Public health
5. Governance and institutions

The aim of the [GLP Open Science Meeting: Land Systems, Global Change and Sustainability](#) is to advance the science of land systems and their change for analysis and response to global change and sustainability. This event will bring together large parts of the international research community working on land change issues, showcase the width and scope of ongoing research, help build a community in this highly interdisciplinary field, inspire new research and facilitate review, theory building and extrapolation. The Open Meeting invites poster and oral presentations and will be organized around a number of themes, emerging from the GLP Science Plan. The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended until **April 15, 2010**. You are invited to submit abstracts under one of the six main themes listed below:

1. Effects of land use change on ecosystems and their services
2. Inter-linkages between ecosystem functions and ecosystem services
3. Vulnerability and resilience of land systems
4. Processes and pathways of change in land systems – data and modeling approaches
5. Governance and institutions for land systems
6. Managing land systems to cope with global change and to develop sustainable pathways for the future

Joint day: GLP/UGEC - The first conference of the UGEC Project has been organized in close cooperation with the Global Land Project's (GLP) Open Science Meeting. Both research communities will convene on Sunday, October 17th under the theme of **Sustainable Land Systems in the Era of Urbanization and Climate Change** in order to focus jointly on themes surrounding the urban,

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ABOUT US

The Urbanization and Global
Environmental Change (UGEC)
project is a science project that
targets the generation of new

land, and climate change interface. The goal of this day is to build contacts and networks among urban and land-change specialists to foster more collaboration worldwide, expanding the range of issues addressed. Abstracts are welcome through **April 15th, 2010** under the following topics below and can be submitted at either of the conference websites www.ugec2010.org; www.qlp2010.org :

1. Direct and indirect interactions of urban areas and land use changes
2. Competition for land
3. Urban areas and climate impacts
4. Impact of urbanization on a large scale (beyond urban areas), biogeochemical cycles and ecosystem functions
5. Sustainable cities in arid areas

New journal – City, Culture, and Society

The 21st century has been dubbed the century of cities - sustainable cities, compact cities, post-modern cities, mega-cities, and more. CCS focuses on urban governance in the 21st century, under the banner of cultural creativity and social inclusion. Its primary goal is to promote pioneering research on cities and to foster the sort of urban administration that has the vision and authority to reinvent cities adapted to the challenges of the 21st century. The journal aims to stimulate a new interdisciplinary paradigm that embraces multiple perspectives and applies this paradigm to the urban imperative that defines the 21st century.

Topics of special interest to CCS include urban economics, cultural creation, social inclusion, social sustainability, cultural technology, urban governance, sustainable cities, and creative cities. As a peer-reviewed international journal, CCS welcomes contributions from disciplines including but not limited to economics, business, accounting, planning, political science, architecture, geography, sociology, historiography, cultural studies, population studies and public administration.

The [International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development](#) is a medium for research that seeks to understand the complex challenges facing urban areas. This journal is fully peer reviewed, publishing original research and review papers, also think pieces and position papers from scholars of various disciplines and practitioners. The goal is to connect and learn from the views and experiences of developed, developing and transition countries. Authors from developing and transition countries are strongly encouraged to submit their work. Click on the link above to find out more.

New Project Endorsements

The UGEC Project has accepted two new applications for project endorsement. The first project, [Global Climate Change and Urban Growth in the Yangtze Delta, China: Impacts and Responses](#), is led by Dr. Xiangrong Wang, Director of the Centre for Urban Eco Planning & Design in the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering, Fudan University. This research project has three parts. The first will be to evaluate and analyze the impacts of climate change on urban growth in Yangtze Delta, China (by taking Shanghai as an example); (2) provide the countermeasures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on urban growth in China; and (3) establish a GIS-based information system to manage and store data on climate change and urban growth.

The second, [Preparing Cities for Climate Change: An International Comparative Assessment of Urban Adaptation Planning](#), is led by Dr. JoAnn Carmin, Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - Cambridge, MA. As the title indicates, the project is a comparative study of cities and their climate adaptation policies. The research investigates: 1) the types of climate adaptation plans being adopted in cities; 2) factors that explain the different approaches municipalities are taking in their climate adaptation planning; 3) the ways in which knowledge of projected climate impacts is shaping urban planning and action; and 3) the extent to which NGO and community-based efforts support, replace, or circumvent government adaptation initiatives.

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 and utilizes an innovative framework for the 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 and targets a stronger coordination and collaboration between academics, political decision-makers and practitioners working on urban and environmental issues.

The UGEC project is currently engaged in ongoing efforts to expand its regional and thematic networks. Our 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 (<http://www.ugec.org>).

MEMBERS OF THE UGEC (SSC)

Karen Seto, Ph.D.
(Co-Chair)

Yale University

Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, Ph.D. (Co-Chair)
University of California, Riverside

Frauke Kraas, Ph.D.
University of Cologne

David Simon, Ph.D.
Royal Holloway

University of London

William Solecki, Ph.D.

IHDP NEWS & EVENTS

The [International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change \(IHDP\)](#) begins the year under the new leadership of Executive Director, [Dr. Anantha Kumar Duraiappah](#). In talking about his vision and strategic direction, Dr. Duraiappah describes that his future goal for IHDP is "...to support and guide policy making towards solving global environmental challenges through path breaking integrative social science research." More specifically he highlights the following measures needed for accomplishing this:



- Forming strategic partnerships;
- Identifying strategic policy interventions at the global, regional and national levels;
- Designing strategic outreach;
- Building the next generation of social scientists; and
- Monitoring, evaluating, learning and adapting to an evolving global landscape on environmental challenges.

Dr. Duraiappah has served as the Chief of the Ecosystem Services and Economics Unit with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya and has held senior positions in multiple development and academic organizations, such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Winnipeg, Canada, and the Institute for Environmental Studies at Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. To learn more about Dr. Duraiappah and his future outlook for IHDP click the link [here](#).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The third issue of **UGEC Viewpoints: Integrative Perspectives on Urbanization and Climate Change** has gone to print and will be mailed to our listserv in the coming weeks. Thank you again to all who contributed articles. Much like the last issue, the theme was left open so as to highlight the diversity of research currently being undertaken within the UGEC community. You will see that many of the contributions focus strongly on adaptation challenges and strategies occurring at a variety of scales: within the municipality and at the state, national, and regional levels. Articles will also address responses to climate change and how these responses can be incorporated into policy with a particular emphasis on the challenges of urban water distribution and management. The following are the articles and authors highlighted within this issue:

- **Andrea Lampis**, *Challenges to Adaptation for Risk-Prone Coastal Livelihoods in Tumaco, Pacific Coast (Colombia)*
- **Darryn McEvoy & Jane Mullett**, *Perspectives on Climate Change Adaptation Policy "Down Under": A Change of Course for Australia*
- **Dirk Heinrichs, et al.**, *Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies in Latin American City-Regions: The Case of Santiago de Chile*
- **Jose Lobo & Michail Fragkias**, *CO₂ Emissions in U.S. Counties: The Importance and Interplay of Population Size, Income and Creative Economic Activity*
- **Martin Doevenspeck, et al.**, *Thirsty Capital: Urban Growth, Water Management and Infrastructure Investments in Khartoum*
- **Richard Dawson, et al.**, *The Tyndall Centre's Urban Integrated Assessment Facility*
- **Thomas Sick Nielsen, et al.**, *Challenges of Urbanization and Peri-Urban Development in Europe: The Contribution of the PLUREL Project*

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- **Yangfan Li & Xiaodong Zhu**, *Urbanization and Global Environmental Change and Its Implications for China's Future Urban Socio-Economic Development Strategy*
- **J. Marshall Shepherd**, *On the Role of Urbanization in Hydroclimate Extremes: Changing Water Cycle, Record Floods, and More*

Related Publications

The [Population-Environment Research Network \(PERN\)](#) has recently released the proceedings of its workshop on urban population-development-environment (PDE) dynamics, held in Nairobi Kenya in June 2007 and co-organized with [CICRED](#), [APHRC](#), and [CIESIN](#). The papers include case studies of specific cities as well as some more theoretical contributions on issues such as urban sprawl. To download the papers, please click [here](#).

The [Urban Transitions and Climate Change Project](#), sponsored by the UK Economic and Social Research Council and led by Dr. Harriet Bulkeley at Durham University, researches the ways in which cities are responding to climate change. The project analyses how cities are addressing climate change through their energy and housing systems, and the social and technical factors that are shaping the possibilities for urban transitions in the face of a changing climate. "The UTACC project is now entering a period of in-depth investigation of case studies of climate change experiments in different cities. This research is expected to contribute to our understanding of how urban transitions are being governed, how responsibilities for climate change are being reconfigured through such processes, and the consequent implications for socio-environmental justice." You may download their third newsletter here for more information. [[Download pdf](#)]

Project Associates & Endorsements

We are continually looking for projects to endorse and interested members of the community to become UGEC project associates in order to enhance and expand our network of scholars and practitioners. Please click [here](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

New Publications by UGEC Project Affiliates

Fra, U. (ed.) 2009. Building Safer Communities. Risk Governance, Spatial Planning and Responses to Natural Hazards. Amsterdam: IOS Press.
296 pp., hardcover
ISBN: 978-1-60750-046-9

and two UGEC affiliates contribute with two chapters:

Roberto Sánchez Rodríguez. Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in Urban Areas. A Role for Urban Planning pp 105 - 124

Urbano Fra. On Exposure to Natural Hazards: Revisiting a Neglected Primal Action pp 61 - 87

([...more publications](#))