



# Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

DECEMBER 2011  
ISSUE 17

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AAG Annual Meeting

New York, NY USA

February 24-28, 2012

### Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions

London, UK

March 26-29, 2012

### The Sixth International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA6)

Hanoi, Vietnam

April 16-22, 2012

### Lund Conference on Earth System Governance: Towards Just and Legitimate Earth System Governance – Addressing Inequalities

Lund, Sweden

April 18-20, 2012

### Resilient Cities 2012 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

Bonn, Germany

May 12-15, 2012

### REAL CORP 2012: RE-MIXING THE CITY – Towards Sustainability and Resilience?

Schwechat, Austria

May 14-16, 2012

### Adaptation Futures: 2012 Conference on Climate Adaptation

Tucson, AZ, USA

May 29-31, 2012

### Urban Environmental Pollution: Creating Healthy, Liveable Cities

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

June 17-20, 2012

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### Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

June 20-22, 2012

### 32<sup>nd</sup> International Geographical Congress (IGC): Down to Earth

Cologne, Germany

August 26-30, 2012

### 6<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum

Naples, Italy

September 1-7, 2012

## RECENT EVENTS

**Training Workshop: Urban Response to Climate Change in Asia – Understanding Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies | National Taipei University, Taiwan | November 10-15, 2011**

This training workshop was funded by the National Science Council of Taiwan, and organized collaboratively by the UGEC project, SARCS (Southeast Asia Regional Committee for START), and the National Taipei University. It was open to young scholars mainly from SARCS member countries.

The workshop focused on urban responses, including mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change in Asian cities. The goal of the workshop was to collect studies from different countries and integrate them into synthesis or research papers to provide valuable references for drafting IPCC AR5. Trainers, who were

largely UGEC Scientific Steering Committee members, helped mentor the participants who were grouped into small teams under four topical areas including: Urban spatial planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation; Urban densities and energy use; Urban adaptation and the role of local governance regimes; Vulnerability assessment of coastal cities.

UGEC has dedicated a page on the main website to the trainees, which includes their photos and bios (this page is still being updated). It is accessible via a link on the “workshop” section of the site. Timelines for each group’s papers and projects vary throughout the upcoming year, but they will be posted accordingly at our website once completed.

**UGEC website link:** <http://ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=Workshops>

**Workshop website link:** [http://www.sarcs.org/new/capacity/2011\\_%20Urban\\_%20Response/Urban.htm](http://www.sarcs.org/new/capacity/2011_%20Urban_%20Response/Urban.htm)

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### Annual UGEC Scientific Steering Committee Meeting

In November, the UGEC project recently held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual SSC meeting in Taipei, Taiwan at the close of the training workshop “Urban Response to Climate Change in Asia – Understanding Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies”. This is a particularly interesting time for the project as it heads into its final three-year cycle, underscoring the need to have a clear vision and strategic direction, all which framed in large part the discussions at the meeting. As UGEC looks forward, we have number of activities in mind that will focus on synthesizing what we already know and have learned over the years as a community. Plans for a special issue and book proposal are underway, as well as a workshop in early 2012 that will address the need for urban typologies. Additionally, we are working to expand our Scientific Steering Committee and our Project Associates along with Project Affiliates, a new initiative which we hope will capture a significant portion of the community (young or early career scientists), in order to continue to build and diversify the regional and thematic expertise of UGEC networks. We are very excited for these next few years ahead and hope to see many of you at the upcoming 2012 Planet under Pressure Conference, which will be an important and exciting venue for the global environmental change community. There, the UGEC project will be collaboratively convening a number of sessions and will host a side event (see page 4 for more details).

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### CEPAL-ECLAC’s events throughout the year

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has put together a number of important urban-themed events and workshops throughout this last year. Click on this [link](#) to read the highlights of these events which are listed below:

- ClimateAdaptationSantiago (CAS) Project 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop: “Climate Change Adaptation in Latin American Megacities: Characteristics and Impacts” | January 24-27, 2011
- Colombia National Seminar “Eco-efficiency and Development of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean” | June 31-July 1, 2011
- Inter-regional Seminar “Eco-efficiency and Sustainable Urban Infrastructure in Asia and Latin America” | August 3-4, 2011
- ClimateAdaptationSantiago (CAS) Project 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop: “Climate Change Adaptation in Latin American Megacities: Plans, Programs and Actions” | September 26-27, 2011

### **CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS**

#### **UGEC Viewpoints VII - Call for Abstracts**

Interested parties should send us a 300 word abstract of your envisioned contribution which should discuss your current research or could be forward looking – including a discussion of problems or knowledge gaps, potential solutions for moving forward, etc. In general, *Viewpoints* articles should be semiformal presentations of research findings in the context of urbanization and global environmental change with more emphasis on the policy implications of the research. For examples of articles, you will find our most recent issues on our website at this link: <http://ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=Viewpoints>

After we make the selections – we aim at a total of 10-12 contributions – we will then ask you to submit a full article of around 1500-1800 words. Potential contributors should begin by **sending us your 300 word abstract by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. After we notify you of acceptance, we will request your full article by the end of January. We estimate the final product to become available in March.

Abstract submissions should be emailed to Corrie Griffith: [corrie.griffith@asu.edu](mailto:corrie.griffith@asu.edu) Feel free to email any questions you may have about the publication or the process. We are looking forward to another great issue!

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**Mediating Climate Change in the City: Experimenting with Urban Responses - Workshop for Early Career Researchers | Durham University, March 19-23, 2012**

The aim of the Mediating Climate Change in the City workshop is to provide a focal point for dialogue and collaboration for early career researchers working in the broad area of urban responses to climate change and to develop capacity for advancing scholarship in this field. Researchers undertaking doctoral or postdoctoral research with interests in a broad range of theoretical perspectives that seek to engage with the ways in which climate change is being governed, addressed, and encountered in the urban arena, including those focused on institutional theory, policy studies, political economy, governmentality, practice theory, actor-network theory and science and technology studies, are invited to participate.

Prospective participants should submit a short abstract (300 words) detailing their current research in the broad field of urban climate change governance by **December 15th 2011** to Gareth Edwards ([Gareth.Edwards@durham.ac.uk](mailto:Gareth.Edwards@durham.ac.uk)).

Click [here](#) to read the full workshop announcement.

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**REAL CORP 2012: RE-MIXING THE CITY – Towards Sustainability and Resilience? | Schwechat, Austria, May 14-16, 2012**

Cities worldwide are facing rapid social, economic, environmental, technological and cultural changes such as: rapid urbanisation, aging of society, security issues, housing emergency, new solutions on mobility, integration of immigrants, food and water shortage, etc.

Especially in times of economic crisis and demographic changes in cities, it is necessary to think about how to best handle what we have, and therefore “RE-MIXING THE CITY” is a challenge to manage and re-combine the elements which make our modern cities in order to better respond to change. REAL CORP 2012 in Schwechat will offer the

possibility to collectively discuss a wide range of topics in different panel groups and workshops.

Abstract deadline: **December 23, 2011**. View the [conference website](#) for more information.

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**Resilient Cities 2012 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change**

The Resilient Cities 2012 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change which is sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn will take place May 12-15, 2012 in Bonn, Germany along with the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Talks (May 14-26, 2012).

Proposals are welcome for presentations, panels, workshops, posters and co-events. Adaptation and resilience-building experts willing to contribute shaping the Resilient Cities 2012 program are invited to submit their contributions using the online submission system available on the congress website.

The themes for the call for contributions are:

- Urban risk assessment and management
- Socio-economic dimensions of climate change adaptation
- Institutional dimensions
- Strategy, policy integration and mainstreaming
- Urban adaptation planning and practice: Experiences and solutions (including urban design)
- Resilient infrastructure (including urban logistics)
- Financing the resilient city

The submission deadline is **December 31, 2011**. [Send your contribution now.](#)

For additional information, visit the [Resilient Cities 2012 website](#) or contact: [resilient.cities@iclei.org](mailto:resilient.cities@iclei.org)

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**Urban Environmental Pollution: Creating Healthy, Liveable Cities | Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 17-20, 2012**

Cities require huge amounts of energy, resulting in large quantities of waste products, causing unsustainable environments. Cities are sources of air, water and soil pollution. Light and noise pollution are now known to adversely affect urban people. The role of urban heat islands and air pollution (Pm 2.5 and ozone) on human health is beginning to emerge. Lack of green space may have psychological effects for urban dwellers.

The nature of the urban environment and pollution on human health and well-being was explored at UEP2010 in Boston in June of 2010. UEP2012 aims to pick up where UEP2010 left off and continue the exploration of the urban environment and how to create healthy and liveable environments in cities.

Abstract submission deadline: **January 16, 2012**. Learn more at the [conference website](#).

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***International Journal of Geographical Information Science Special Issue on Land Change Modelling: Moving Beyond Projections - Call for Papers***

Papers are sought concerning land change modelling from applied perspectives concerning geography, ecology, planning, and related environmental studies, as well as from technical perspectives concerning process stationarity and model validation that are relevant to the above mentioned features. Of special interest are unique and new ways of conceptualizing, processing, and modelling land change. The deadline for submission of papers is **May 31, 2012**.

Download the full pdf announcement [here](#).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER NEWS**

**2012 Planet under Pressure Conference**

The UGEC project in collaboration with other IHDP projects will be convening and co-convening sessions at the PUP. The days to which they are assigned are:

Day 1: State of the world's cities: An overview of interactions between cities and global environmental change

Day 2: Urbanization as an opportunity for a sustainable future

Day 2: Transforming our way of living: Risk and opportunity in urban coasts

Day 3: Urban governance challenges for sustainability and global environmental change

A listing of the UGEC and UGEC-related sessions, with their descriptions can be found on our website at the following link: <http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=PUPsessions>

Panel session - UGEC will also be a part of the panel session "Improving collaborations in global environmental change research: Perspectives from the

IHDP core projects" in which representatives from various core projects will discuss the challenges and also the ways forward drawing from their own perspectives and experiences, exploring how the connections between the human and natural science dimensions of global environmental change could be strengthened as well as how to work better together collaboratively for future interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary sustainability research. The scheduled day and time is TBD.

UGEC side event – UGEC has plans to host a side event in order to provide an opportunity for those of you within the UGEC community or who may be new to UGEC to come together in a less formal way outside of the conference sessions, to which we could unfortunately only accept a small number of applicants. All PUP participants interested in the urban theme should attend the event. We will send out further communications once we've determined the venue and other details.

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**IHDP Scientific Committee Membership - Call for Applications/Nominations**

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) is an international, interdisciplinary science programme, dedicated to promoting, catalysing and coordinating research, capacity development and networking on the human dimensions of global environmental change. Its mandate is to provide international leadership in framing, developing, and integrating social science research on global environmental change and to promote the application of its key findings. The full article with details on how to apply can be accessed at the IHDP website:

<http://www.ihdp.unu.edu/article/read/scientific-committee-membership-call-for-applications>

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**Publications**

**Parnell, S. and Walawege, R. (2011). Sub-Saharan African urbanisation and global environmental change. *Global Environmental Change*, 21S, S12–S20.**

**Bai, X., Chen J., Shi, P. (2011). Landscape urbanization and economic growth in China: Positive feedback and sustainability dilemmas. *Environmental Science & Technology*, just accepted. doi: 10.1021/es202329f**

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**"Climate Change and Human Security: The Challenge to Local Governance under Rapid Coastal Urbanization"**

Michael R. Redclift, King's College, University of London, UK, David Manuel Navarrete and Mark Pelling, King's College London, UK

This important study documents the choices and risks of people who are powerless to change the economic development model which is itself forcing climate change. The book examines the Mexican Caribbean coast and explores the wider issues of managing climate change in vulnerable areas of the tropics. It also points to the inability to integrate development thinking into climate change adaptation. The authors suggest that failures in local governance, the transparency of state actions and the local populations' lack of effective power represent a greater threat to adaptation than the absence of technical capacity in vulnerable areas. Using local case studies of communities, fishing villages and tourist destinations, this well-researched book will appeal to international students and academics working on climate change and professionals in development, conservation and tourism industries. Download the pdf announcement [here](#).

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**"Understanding the Drivers and Consequences of Global Urbanization Using Emerging Remote Sensing Technologies"** By Dell'Acqua et al., posted on September 30th, 2011 in Articles, Earth Observation, Urban Monitoring

Earlier this year in April, two complementary workshops were held in tandem: NSF funded Urban Remote Sensing (URS), organized by Dr. Libby Wentz and Dr. Maik Netzband, and the NASA funded Forecasting Urban Growth (FORE) workshop, organized by Dr. Michail Fragkias and Dr. Karen Seto.

This recently published article in *Earthzine*, a contribution of the IEEE Committee on Earth Observation (ICEO) in support of the Group on Earth Observations and its mission, is an on-line source for news, articles, information and educational materials about Earth Science, Earth observations and users of Earth information for the international Earth-observing community. The article which is written by workshop participants provides an overview of the event and also a discussion of outcomes and what's needed for future work. Read the full article [here](#).

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**Kjosavik, D.C., & Vedeld, P. (2011). *The political economy of environment and development in a globalised world: Exploring the frontiers*. Trondheim: Tapir Academic Press.**

"This book is a critical exploration of the theoretical and

thematic frontiers of environment and development studies in the context of globalisation." Chapter 9, "Reconciling development with the challenges of climate change: Business as usual or a new paradigm?" authored by UGEC SSC member David Simon provides insight into whether or not it is possible to address the current climate and other environmental challenges under existing paradigms and whether we can continue implementing development models and policies even with modifications.

To read the full chapter click [here](#).

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**New Publication from the 2010 GLP Open Science Meeting: "Paying for Ecosystem Services - Promise and Peril" in *Science Magazine***

The authors, including Ann Kinzig, Charles Perrings, Terry Chapin III, Steve Polasky, V. Kerry Smith, Dave Tilman and B.L. Turner II, take a critical look at the opportunities and possible pitfalls related to existing environmental markets and market-like mechanisms. The authors touch on issues including lessons learned from existing payment schemes, uncertainties in the science underpinning the various schemes in question, and the dangers of perverse incentives. The authors also look at the tradeoffs resulting from the interdependence between various ecosystem services produced on public lands or seas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as requirements for observations and measures of the importance and condition of ecosystem services.

Download the pdf of the full article [here](#).

Read the [IHDP press release](#).

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**New Online UGEC Bibliographic Database**

The International Project Office now hosts the Online UGEC Bibliographic Database for emerging UGEC-themed literature. The newest version of the database can be found on the online reference manager Mendeley (**Link: <http://www.mendeley.com/groups/902561/urbanization-and-global-environmental-change/>**).

The database incorporates recent (post 2000) publications in the field of urban GEC as well as peripheral themes. It currently includes over 1000 publications collected from around 100 journals from the fields of urban geography, sociology, economics, planning, ecology; ecological economics, climatology, atmospheric science, conservation, sustainability, and development.



## **JOBS**

### **\*University of Waterloo | Tenure-track Position in Planning, Specializing in Environment and Health**

For further details view the [pdf](#) of the full job description.

### **\*PhD Vacancies, VU University Amsterdam Urban Development, Landscape Management, Land Use Change and Climate Adaptation**

For more information: Prof. Dr. Ir. Peter H. Verburg  
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### **\*Sustainability Science Fellowships at Harvard University: Doctoral, Post-doctoral, and Mid-career Fellowships**

<http://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/cid/programs/sustsci/grants-fellowships/fellows/fellowships-in-sustainability-science>

## **ABOUT US**

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 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.

## *Get Involved*

**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. You can find more information about these opportunities under the “Get Involved” section of our website.**

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