



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

The UGEC e-Newsletter
Issue 3 - June 2007

WELCOME NOTE

Dear recipients of the third UGEC e-Newsletter,

In the past couple of months several events and initiatives have brought more vividly to the forefront the challenges posed by the complex interactions between cities and global environmental change. Interest in the issues from the academic, business and political spheres has significantly increased, with the understanding of the critical position of the world's largest cities with regards to climate change mitigation and the adaptation capacities of urban societies. Most notably, this past May, mayors and representatives from local and municipal governments and international businesses from more than thirty world cities gathered in New York City for the second C40 Large Cities Climate Summit. The UGEC project was present in the parallel International Symposium of the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) held from May 10th and 11th at Columbia University in New York City, a symposium that preceded the C40 Large Cities Climate Summit.

This coming September, the United Nations will hold a special high-level meeting on climate change in New York, before this year's annual session of world leaders in the General Assembly. This UN meeting was scheduled by the UN Secretary General and is considered as a prelude for the UNFCCC COP in December taking place in Bali, Indonesia. At the same time, in NYC, the UGEC project will be emphasizing the need for attention to cities through the organization of its first workshop themed "Re-

sponses of Urban Areas to Climate Change"; the workshop will take place on the Hunter College campus – hosted by the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities, in parallel to the UN General Assembly discussions on climate change.

The project continues to experience a growth of its regional and thematic networks. We are particularly happy to announce the addition of two new project associates:

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Dr. Lisa Schipper is a climate change and disaster risk researcher at the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand; and Dr. Rimjhim Aggarwal, an economist at the School of Sustainability, Arizona State University, focusing on development, natural resources and the environment with an explicit interest in the study of the linkages between poverty, environmental degradation and population in South Asia and Africa.

The UGEC is now moving into our activities phase for the remainder of 2007 and 2008. I hope you'll enjoy reading the related news and announcements below. Suggestions and contributions to this newsletter are always welcome.

Sincerely,
Michail Fragkias, Executive Officer
Danielle Tomerlin, Comm. Coordinator

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project (an International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change – IHDP - Core project) initiated its e-Newsletter this year 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. At this stage we plan to send out a digest 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 message. An archive of messages sent to the list is available at <http://lists.asu.edu/archives/ugec-l.html>. Our website (www.ugec.org) will always carry the most up to date so do not forget to visit it from time to time.

UGEC EVENTS

UGEC Workshop Announcement – Responses of Urban Areas to Climate Change – Sept. 26th and 27th, 2007

The present and future of societies are intrinsically associated with the growth of their cities. Concerns about the well-being of current and future urban inhabitants have promoted approaches to balance both the promise and threat that urban growth presents to development of sustainable societies. The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project (UGEC) (www.ugec.org), a core project from the International Human Dimensions Program (www.ihdp.org), is an effort to expand our knowledge and understanding of urban areas in the context of global environmental change. We believe that opportunities for urban sustainability in the 21st century need multidimensional approaches, looking beyond the local scale and integrating a dynamic perspective of the interactions between local, regional and global biophysical and social processes generated by and affecting urban areas.

UGEC sponsors and carries out research on the interactions between urban areas and global environmental changes, as well as other activities seeking to expand the knowledge on this topic. Workshops are instrumental tool in this regard. They create forums where scholars and practitioners share knowledge and ideas in an effort to create integrate perspectives of the complex reality and dynamic of urban areas.

The topic of the first UGEC workshop is to understand how cities respond, fail to respond, or could better respond to climate change. Recent international attention to climate change highlights the interactions between urban areas and global and regional biophysical processes. It also provides an excellent opportunity to assist urban areas to better respond to the challenges created by climate change. The development and collapse of civilizations have a strong link with environmental management and, in particular, with adapting to and mitigating climate im-

pacts and stresses. Human society has undergone several climate adaptation phases, particularly evidenced in the structure and organization of settlements and urban space. Technological advances have gradually transformed the capacity for adaptation to adverse climate conditions in urban areas. Changes have been particularly dramatic in the last century, where the adoption of mechanical means has facilitated the prioritization of aesthetic aspects over functional aspects in urban design and adaptation to climate. Those changes have been based on significant energy costs (e.g., air conditioning, new materials), and new architectural and urban forms.

Attention to the bidirectional relation between urban areas and climate has focused on the impacts of urban areas on climate change, in particular, the effects of green house gas emissions and the so-called heat island effect. Unfortunately, less attention has been provided to the impacts of climate change on urban areas. The increasing frequency and magnitude of climate related natural disasters in urban areas during the past decade are some of the clearest indicators of the magnitude and significance of those impacts. There is, however, a broad range of pathways through which climate change affects urban areas. These impacts depend on a number of factors, including the vulnerability of peoples and places and their capacity to adapt.

Some international efforts have begun to focus on urban areas as key actors addressing the challenges of climate change, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. The recent C-40 summit that brought together leaders of 40 major cities around the world and other similar events, propose a series of actions in this direction. Despite the benefits of these initiatives, there is still an incomplete knowledge and discussion that would facilitate expanding these initiatives to a larger number of urban areas around the world, particularly middle and small cities in countries. This workshop seeks to create a constructive discussion in this direction. Attention to the responses of urban areas to climate change during the workshop will

explore the compatibility and coherence between mitigation and adaptation responses. The workshop will focus particularly on two aspects:

- What do we know about the role of different actors (public sector, private sector, social sector, informal sector, and international organizations), their actions and their involvement in the responses to climate change in urban areas, and;
- The deficiencies and resistance of institutions to respond to climate change and what are the windows of opportunities to overcome them.

The regional focus of this first UGEC workshop will be the Americas. Future UGEC workshops will rotate their regional focus. This will facilitate the development of regional focuses, securing funding opportunities for the workshop, facilitate the discussion during the event, and obtaining concrete results from each workshop.

This first workshop is expected to have several types of products: develop a first contribution from UGEC to the debate on climate change, explore the development of new research proposals covering key area on this topic, develop three joint publications (an article in a leading journal, a UGEC working paper, an opinion letter), enhance the attention to global environmental change in urban areas and the contributions from UGEC to the study and practice of this topic through media communications.

The workshop will bring together 20 scholars and practitioners from the Americas and it will take place on the campus Hunter College in New York City between September 26th and 28th, 2007. The CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities will be the key host of the event.

OTHER EVENTS

Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) launch

Two members of our Scientific Steering Committee, Bill Solecki and Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez participated in the International Symposium of the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) held from May 10th and 11th at Columbia University in New York City. The UCCRN Symposium preceded the C40 Large Cities Climate Summit (<http://www.nycclimatesummit.com/>) held in NYC on May 15th- 17th. Among other themes, the symposium covered issues of climate risk management, urban/climate change programs, climate risk mitigation, infrastructure risks in coastal cities and integrating climate and energy science into urban policymaking.

Advanced Training Course on Spatial Planning as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Natural Hazards

UGEC project associate Urbano Fra will be (co)organizing the “**Advanced Training Course on Spatial Planning as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Natural Hazards**”. Tentatively, it will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, on January 2008.

Some of the participants will be representatives from UNEPTIE (United Nations Environment Programme - Division of Technology, Industry and Economics), IHDP (International Human Dimensions of Global Change Programme), ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network), Council of Europe and other international organizations, which are being invited to attend. The trainees will be scientists, managers and decision makers from North America to Central Asia, including Eastern European Countries and the Mediterranean Region.

A forum on the same matter will bring representatives from various international organizations working in the fields of economic development and the management of natural hazards, bringing their perspectives regarding spatial planning as a strategy for risk mitigation. For more information contact Urbano Fra at: upaleo [AT] unex.es

UGEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

UGEC Bibliographic Database

We are happy to announce that the new **UGEC Bibliographic Database** is now available on our website. The database incorporates recent (post year 2000) publications in the field of urban GEC as well as peripheral themes. It currently includes over 700 publications collected from around 100 journals from the fields of urban geography, sociology, economics, planning and ecology; ecological economics, climatology, atmospheric science, conservation, sustainability, development etc.

If you decide to utilize the database, please acknowledge the use by making a reference to “The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC) Bibliographic Database, June 2007”. This June 2007 version of the database does not include books or book chapters.

The database is available in 2 different formats, Endnote and XML; the files are available on the UGEC website (www.ugec.org) under Members → UGEC Biblio DB. Suggestions for changes and improvement of this database are always welcome.

New Project Associates

Lisa Schipper is an adaptation researcher based in Bangkok, Thailand. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences from Brown University (1997), a Masters of Science with distinction in Environment and Development from the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia (2000) and a Ph.D. in Development Studies from the School of Development Studies at UEA (2004).

Her PhD thesis, titled 'Exploring Adaptation to Climate Change: A Development Perspective', examined three elements of adaptation - theory, policy and practice - and was funded by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. The field work was based in El Salvador, where she explored issues of vulnerability to floods and droughts in the lower basin of the Lempa River, eastern El Salvador. Throughout her PhD, Lisa wrote, edited and team led the Earth Ne-

gotiations Bulletin coverage of the UNFCCC negotiations. She continues to edit for ENB, and on occasion also write.

Lisa has since worked at the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka, where she helped co-ordinate the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (published by Earthscan). She is currently at the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre (<http://www.start.or.th/>) in Bangkok, Thailand, where she continues research on adaptation, vulnerability and development issues in the context of climate change and disasters. At START, Lisa is involved in the ACCCA project, and the development of a new PhD programme at Chulalongkorn University.

She is currently editing a volume titled 'Reader in Adaptation to Climate Change', with Ian Burton, and assisting with the new 'Journal of Climate and Development' and is working on a project for DFID in Ethiopia that is looking at mainstreaming adaptation and vulnerability reduction.

Within the scope of the UGEC project, Lisa will explore conceptual issues surrounding risk and rural-urban conflicts (exploring recent disasters in cities and the role that rural-urban conflicts may have played in determining the risk) and explore socio-cultural vulnerability factors specific to cities. Lisa also aims to foster existing and new partnerships with research and practitioner communities and organizations in Southeast Asia (ideally placed for this task at the Southeast Asia START Regional Centre).

Her most recent publications include:

Schipper, E.L.F. (2006) 'Conceptual History of Adaptation to Climate Change under the UNFCCC' *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law (RECIEL)* 15 (1): 82-92.

Schipper, E.L., E. Boyd (2006) 'UNFCCC COP II and COP/MOP I: At last, some hope?' *Journal of Environment and Development*, 15(1): 75-90.

Schipper, L., M. Pelling (2006) 'Disaster Risk, Climate Change and International Development: Scope for, and Challenges to, Integration', Special issue of *Disasters*, 30 (1): 19-38.

Rimjhim Aggarwal is an Assistant Professor in the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Before joining Arizona State University, she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, in College Park. She has held visiting positions at the University of California, Berkeley and Southern Methodist University. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University. She has served as a consultant to the World Bank about Energy Solutions and to the United Nations University World Institute of Development Economics Research in Helsinki, Finland on the Impact of Globalization on the World's Poor and to the World Bank for Energy Solutions. Rimjhim has conducted extensive theoretical and empirical research on the linkages between poverty, environmental degradation and population in South Asia and Africa. She has published several journal articles and working papers in her career in addition to receiving numerous awards, honors and grants. Within the scope of the UGEC project, she is planning to lead a workshop activity towards the end of 2008 focusing on water and urban growth issues in dry regions, looking at the emerging challenges and vulnerabilities that can be attributed to global change.

Her most recent publications include:

R. M. Aggarwal, "Risk Sharing and Transaction Costs in Groundwater Contracts: Evidence from India," *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (in press).

R. M. Aggarwal, "Resource Poor Farmers in South India: On the Margins or Frontiers of Globalization?" *World Institute of Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) Research Paper Series*, RP 2006/97, September 2006.

This research was featured on *Eldis Gateway to Development Information*, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

Available at the publications section of:

<http://www.wider.unu.edu>

R. M. Aggarwal, "Impact of Globalization on Local Ecosystems and the Rural Poor," *World Development Special Issue on "The Impact of*

Globalization on the World's Poor." 34 (8): 1405-1418. August 2006.

Selected Recent Publications

The second working paper in the UGEC WP Series (Global environmental change – conceptualising the challenge for cities in poor countries, by Susan Parnell, David Simon and Coleen Vogel) is forthcoming in the journal "Area" published on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society (www.rgs.org) with the Institute of British Geographers.

Mark Pelling has published a report titled 'Investigating urban risk accumulation in six countries in Africa', for the AURAN network, the ProVention Consortium and UNDP

The report can be found at the Publications section of the ProVention Consortium website: <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/>

Forthcoming IHDP Update: "Global Environmental Change, Natural Disasters, Vulnerability and their Implications for Human Security in Coastal Urban Areas"

The UGEC project collaborated with two IHDP projects, the Global Environmental Change and Human Security project (GECHS) and the Land-Ocean Interactions in Coastal Zones (LOICZ) project (co-sponsored by IGBP) for the publication of a joint IHDP Update with the theme "Global Environmental Change, Natural Disasters, Vulnerability and their Implications for Human Security in Coastal Urban Areas".

This issue focuses on natural disasters associated with global environmental change in coastal urban areas and sheds light on the main pathways of social and urban vulnerability to natural disasters caused by climate variability and change. The invited authors explore the close links between global environmental change, human security, and urbanization from multidimensional perspectives seeking to provide integrated approaches to the study of complex interactions.

The contributions include: "Three Cities and Their Vulnerabilities to Climate Hazards", by

Alex de Sherbinin, Andrew Schiller and Alex Pulsipher; "Cities as crucibles of disaster politics", by Mark Pelling and Kathy Dill; "Climate change and the risks of settlement in the low elevation coastal zone", by Gordon McGranahan, Deborah L. Balk and Bridget Anderson; "Storm surges - the case of Hamburg, Germany" by Hans von Storch, Katja Woth, and Gabriele Gönner; "Adaptation Options for Built Environment: Linking Experiences of Developed & Developing Countries" by Monirul Q Mirza; "Management Strategies for Urban Coastal Zones: Integrating DPSIR concepts with GIS Tools in People's Participatory Programs" by N. Balchand Alungal, Mooleparambil S. Madhusoodhanan and C. Reghutathan, and "Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Varadero, a Coastal Zone under Tourist Exploitation" by Barbaro V. Moya, Alfredo Cabrera, Lorenzo Castillo, and Jose Rojo.

The contributions focus on the implications of GEC, vulnerabilities and natural disasters on human security in urban coastal zones areas. With urban coastal areas facing increased risks due to GEC, the identification and implementation of mitigation and adaptation programs lies at the forefront of integrated urban planning and coastal management. Moving forward requires the assessment and, eventually, increased awareness, education, and training on the interrelationships between social and environmental urban coastal processes. The themes that emerge from the contributions include: the added value in the coupling of global perspectives on population vulnerabilities with local place-based studies; the benefits of use of technological advances in several scientific fields together with local community action and democratic participatory systems; the need for consideration of a multiplicity of interacting contributors to socio-environmental stress that act at different spatial and temporal scale; and the integration of distinct analyses that expose differing social science view points (as in the case of political economy/ecology contrasted to the more traditional managerial approaches). The Update is expected to be published in the second half of 2007.

Researcher's Database

Registering on our website (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).

UGEC International Working Paper Series - Call for contributions

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 is 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).

On our website you can find the first two papers in the Series: “Global change and urban risk: the challenge for African cities” by David Simon (WP07-01) and “Global environmental change – conceptualizing the challenge for cities in poor countries” by Susan Parnell, David Simon, and Coleen Vogel (WP07-02).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

IHDP Vacancy Announcement – Programme Officer for Communication, Public Information and Outreach

**EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:
15 July 2007**

Programme Officer for Communication, Public Information and Outreach at the IHDP Secretariat (part time: 60-80%).

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change is a joint programme of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations University (UNU).

The IHDP Secretariat is administered and hosted by the United Nations University at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany. IHDP Secretariat staff is employed by UNU and based in Bonn. IHDP is an international, interdisciplinary science programme. It promotes, co-ordinates and communicates research on the human dimensions of global environmental change. This research focuses on the ways human beings and societies (a) contribute to and drive global environmental change; (b) are influenced by and impacted upon by global environmental change, and (c) respond to global environmental change. IHDP takes a social, human, behavioural and economic science perspective and works at the interface between science and practice. IHDP entertains a world-wide network of distinguished scientists, runs and/or cosponsors about a dozen international science projects and organizes capacity development and training activities. IHDP is a member of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP).

The IHDP Secretariat is the central node of the programme's activities and is mandated to oversee and implement its operations. It is administered and hosted by the UNU at the UN Campus Bonn, which hosts a variety of UN agencies working in the field of environment and sustainable development. A team of professionals from different national and academic backgrounds

staffs the IHDP Secretariat. The main working language of the IHDP is English.

The IHDP Secretariat is currently seeking to fill the position of **Communications Officer (CO)**. The position is central to the Secretariat's goal of promoting, co-ordinating, and communicating research, policy advice and capacity development. The CO works closely with IHDP's Scientific and Programme Officers and our International Project Offices and partner programmes, and reports directly to the IHDP Executive Director. The CO is in charge of a portfolio of ongoing and fast-track activities in the area of public information, communication and outreach, and oversees and/or conducts a number of publication and editing activities. He/She contributes to programme planning, reporting, and the development of new activities.

Qualifications:

- An advanced (post)graduate degree(s) preferably in the communications and journalism disciplines. Some study background or training in the environmental or social sciences.
- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in global environmental change research and policy, knowledge of international scientific collaboration and network development.
- Significant professional experience (3-5 years) in outreach, public information and communication, press and media work, especially in scientific contexts.
- Excellent in spoken and written English. Other languages desirable. Strong drafting, writing and editing skills. Computer literate (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Website design and maintenance - Html or other tools, CMS, Databases).
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate multiple tasks and prioritize job functions. Able to work efficiently and exercise sound judgement under minimal supervision. Able to supervise colleagues and able to work effectively as a member of a team.
- Willingness to travel internationally and perform under time pressure.

More information about the terms of reference can be found on the main page of the IHDP website: www.ihdp.org

PLUREL project

Stephan Pauleit (sp [AT] life.ku.dk) informed us you about a new research project called PLUREL (Peri-urban Land Use Relationships – Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban – Rural Linkages). It was launched in January 2007 and will terminate in 2010. PLUREL is a consortium project with 31 partner institutions from across Europe and funded by the European Commission under its Framework 6 RTD programme. The project aims to develop an improved understanding of urban - rural land use relationships in Europe's rural - urban regions and to support policy making from regional to European levels with new tools for the assessment of sustainability impacts of urbanisation trends and scenarios. Please find more information in the attached newsletter and on our website www.plurel.eu

“Plurel is a large research project funded within the 6th Research Framework Programme of the European Union. 31 partner organisations from 14 European countries and China participate in the project. It is led by the University of Copenhagen. The project started in 2007 and will terminate in 2010.”

“The PLUREL project will develop the new strategies and planning and forecasting tools that are essential for developing sustainable rural-urban land use relationships. These strategies and tools, generic in nature, will support the analysis of urbanisation trends in the EU so that ways can be identified of both supporting this process and mitigating its negative impacts. In this way the PLUREL tools will help improve the quality of life of the population living in cities as well as in the peri-urban and rural surroundings. PLUREL will evaluate costs for the implementation of these strategies, and help stakeholders to better understand, plan and forecast the interactions between urban, peri-urban and rural areas.”

New Global Urban Research Centre at the University of Manchester

From the announcement at the University of Manchester: “The School of Environment and Development (SED) has secured backing from the University’s Strategic Investment Fund to develop a new centre for research in Urban Development. We have appointed Professor Caroline Moser to lead the Centre and are about to make two immediate additional appointments, a Lecturer in Urban Development Planning and a Research Fellow in Urban Development. GURC will be based close to other SED research centres, notably the Brooks World Poverty Institute, the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, and the Centre for Urban Policy Studies.”

The research agenda of the interdisciplinary GURC follows two principles of the centre: (i) a rigorous and relevant academic research agenda that links theory to global urban development practice and (ii) a ‘bottom up’ focus on urban globalization on the ground. These two principles are in line with the goals of UGEC in light of the need for “translation of conceptual debates and empirical conclusions into operational frameworks, to ensure their integration into policy, planning and programming” and a people-centric approach.

For further details about GURC please contact Professor Caroline Moser (caroline.moser [AT] manchester.ac.uk) or visit <http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/gurc/>

Urbanization patterns and processes in Bangalore

Harini Nagendra, Adjunct Fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India, and the Asia Research Coordinator at the Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC) at Indiana University has initiated UGEC-related work in Bangalore, India. “Bangalore, India’s third largest city with a population of over 6 million, and a growth rate

of 38% between 1991 and 2001, is impacted by rapid urbanization. Once known as the garden city of India, the numerous deciduous patches, fresh water lakes, wetlands and fertile agricultural land that surround the city are fast disappearing. Our interests are in assessing changes in ecosystem services provided by the city, along with information on institutions and policies that impact the distribution of these ecosystem services as well as their future resilience under alternate scenarios of development. We are seeking to evaluate how local traditions of conservation interact with regional policies and global trends of economic growth, resulting in unique spatio-temporal configurations of urbanization, habitats and biodiversity distributions in different ownership regimes, and across traditional areas and new, rapidly urbanizing locations. Satellite images and historical maps of the city will be used to develop databases on changes in wetland and fresh-water services, biodiversity and green cover, and map land cover change over time. Interviews with key stakeholders from different socio-economic strata and geographic locations will evaluate their interactions with urbanization processes. The potential impact of key policies on future change will be explored through scenario development and narratives with a wide variety of urban stakeholders. Through these approaches, this research aims to provide an understanding of the key drivers of urban landscape change in Bangalore, and to explore whether these can be used to develop sustainable policies for environmentally friendly ways of development.”

Funding currently comes from an International Foundation for Science grant, and the Society in Science: Branco Weiss fellowship from ETH. Dr. Nagendra holds a Bachelors degree in Microbiology, a Masters in biological sciences, and a PhD in ecology from the Indian Institute of Science. For those interested in communicating with Harini, she can be reached at: nagendra [AT] indiana.edu

Noteworthy

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, an independent entity established in 1970 to advise the Queen, the Government, Parlia-

ment and the public on environmental issues, (<http://www.rcep.org.uk/>) has published its 26th report on the Urban Environment. The news release, summary and full report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/index.htm>

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 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 expanding 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 (www.ugec.org). You can assist us in achieving our goals by forwarding this e-Newsletter to any potentially interested party. Please submit all relevant information (book, meeting, job, workshop announcements etc.) that you would like to see distributed through our Newsletter in a timely manner.

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