



Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

AN IHDP CORE PROJECT

The UGEC e-Newsletter
Issue 6

WELCOME NOTE

Dear recipients of the UGEC e-Newsletter,

In the last two months, UGEC has been engaged in the design and planning of some very exciting sessions for the IHDP Open Meeting 2008 this coming October - sessions that will highlight new work and form new partnerships among members of the UGEC research community. The project also made steps towards its participation in several other conferences and events such as the *Resilience 2008* conference in April, the *Studying, Modeling and Sense Making of Planet Earth International Conference* in June and the *Fourth World Urban Forum (WUF4)* in October.

In this issue of our e-Newsletter, we list our IHDP Open Meeting proposed sessions and ask for your attention on three particular sessions: '*Ecology and environmental justice in urban areas*'; '*Emerging urban vulnerabilities under climate change; Implications for health and human security*'; and '*How do culture, beliefs, attitudes and traditions in urban societies interact with environmental change?*' We would like to fill a few remaining open spots for the first two while the third is a new proposal. Please do submit or connect relevant abstracts to these sessions as soon as possible.

Make sure to also check out the advanced training course on *Spatial Planning as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Natural Hazards* co-directed by UGEC Project Associate Urbano Fra Paleo which will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Spain this March as well as our new online bibliographic database service.

Please also remember to email us with all relevant information (publications, meetings/conferences, job/workshop announcements

etc.) that you would like to see distributed through our Newsletter before the end of February 2008.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2008 from the UGEC International Project Office...

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About the Project

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 “Climate Change Resilience in an Urbanizing Western Africa” February 22nd 2008, Dakar, Senegal

The ‘Climate Change Resilience in an Urbanizing Western Africa’ workshop will be the platform for discussion on a wide range of drivers of current responses to climate change (with a special attention on the Western Africa experience). The workshop will focus particularly on several aspects of responses to climate change in cities that have emerged from discussions in past workshops from the UGEC project members: main actors in those responses; the role of different actors, their actions and involve-

ment in the urban responses to climate change and their effectiveness; deficiencies and resistance of institutions to respond to climate change; windows of opportunities to overcome them.

The workshop will explore whether mitigation and adaptation are part of local strategies to respond to climate change in the region. How are local decisions made in the selection of mitigation or adaptation actions internationally and how compatible those actions can be to the local urban development agenda? In short, the workshop will showcase what steps need to be taken to foster urban sustainability through responses to climate change.

Main Workshop Questions

What has the impact of climate change been on Dakar (or how will it likely affect Dakar)? How do the institutions in Dakar adapt to it (Do for example specific institutions or social networks help the city to adapt?) What does climate change mean for Western Africa cities (and what does it mean for a city like Dakar in particular)? Is Dakar typical of the types of growing cities in Western Africa? More generally, how do cities of different scale in Western Africa adapt to climate change? Are current institutions in the region strong enough or robust enough to respond to climate change challenge; which institutions can take a leading role in these responses; what levels of cooperation can be expected and recommended among institutions operating at different administrative and political levels? Can a partnership of scholars and practitioners help in the formulation of robust action models of climate change resilience for poor and vulnerable people? How can we help vulnerable urban populations assess threats and devise tools to respond to increased risks (tools such as land-use and zoning plans, building codes and enhanced plans in insurance financing for disasters)?

Primary objectives

- Strengthening the understanding of responses to climate change from the perspective of social science (covering theo-

retical and applied perspectives). The activity will (re)introduce invited researchers and practitioners from the region to social science methodologies related to the topic at hand.

- The sharing of the international experiences and lessons in past and present responses to climate change in urban areas;
- Strengthening of the science-policy interactions with the target of building better local responses to climate change in the region. The organizers will devise activities that will promote dialogue and the creation or partnerships between scientists and practitioners

Goals

We are targeting the first formal contribution from the UGEC project to the topic of the response capacity of cities in Western Africa to climate change. The target is to highlight research already in progress in the region and to bring together practitioners and researchers in Dakar to exchange information and experiences and engage in knowledge building. The presence of the UGEC project will provide benefits to the local researchers since response to climate change can be assisted by international collaborations.

Tangible products

- A background white paper on Western Africa cities; How have these cities changed in the last 50 years?
- The creation of a Western Africa network of researchers and practitioners on the interface of urbanization and global environmental change; the target of the network will be the sharing of information and the development of long-term collaborative activities (in conjunction with UGEC or independently).
- The development of several joint publications (articles in leading journals, UGEC working papers) on the prospects and challenges in the urban responses to climate change.
- The enhancement of media attention to urbanization and global environmental change issues in the region; we need better use of

the media and to distill the products of the workshop to the media

- The exploration of the possibility of development of new research proposals covering key or new areas springing from the discussions.

IHDP EVENTS

2008 IHDP Open Meeting

The 7th IHPD Open Meeting, titled 'Social Challenges of Global Change', will provide the ground for emphasizing "the need to incorporate not only the general discussion about climate change, but also many other environmental changes which happen in our society: resource shortages, the destruction of ecosystem services, new threats to human health." At the first planning meeting of the ISPC, which took place in Bonn at the end of June 2007, the planning committee agreed on four core questions, which should cover the widespread aspects of Social Challenges of Global Change:

- How do we deal with demographic challenges?
- How do we deal with limitations of resources and ecosystem services?
- How do we maintain social cohesion while increasing (global) equity?
- How do we adapt institutions to address global change?

Contributions to this conference will relate to one of the questions mentioned above and the numerous cross-cutting issues and topics that intersect them, as laid out in the Open Meeting concept note. For more information contact Lis Mullin, openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

Timeline for the Open Meeting and Training Seminars

Dec 2007 – March 2008: Selection process for abstracts and applications

Mar 2008: Communication of acceptance of sessions, oral presentations, posters, and training seminar applications

Apr 2008 – May 2008: Communication of acceptance of travel grants
May 2008: Early Registration Begins
August 2008: Introduction of late fees for registration (1 August)
12–15 October 2008: 6th International Human Dimensions Workshops (IHDW)
15–19 October 2008: 7th Open Meeting

UGEC Proposed and Related IHDP Open Meeting Sessions

Please find below the list of IHDP OM '08 session proposals the UGEC project is directly involved in (as well as related session proposals).

The majority of our session proposals are now full – accompanied by abstracts that UGEC researchers submitted. We are still seeking expressions of interest for participation in the few spots still open in three of our proposed sessions. We would appreciate receiving your short abstracts (up to 250 words) for those sessions by January 20th. If you have already submitted an abstract for the conference that fits in one of the proposed sessions below, please do let me know – it is possible that we could still incorporate the abstract in one of the sessions. If you have already submitted abstracts unrelated to the listed proposed sessions but within the UGEC scientific agenda, please let us know for a coordination of UGEC related abstracts. Please send your abstract by email to: fragkias@asu.edu

You will always find the most up-to-date list of proposed sessions at:

<http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=IHDPOM08>

Ecology and environmental justice in urban areas

Co-conveners: Christopher Boone, Michail Fragkias

Link to description and/or abstract:

http://www.ugec.org/docs/IHDPOM08/IHDPOM08_UGECSession_EcologyEJUrbanAreas.pdf

This session focuses on the intersection of questions on how to deal with limited resources and ecosystem services and how to increase equity and establishing social cohesion at various levels (the second and third challenges posed in the IHDP OM 08 concept note). Scholars have recently started exploring complex links between ecology environmental justice through new integrated, collaborative, transdisciplinary and synthetic research on the dynamics of socio-ecological systems. Despite the increasing intellectual acceptance of the links between ecological and social systems, scientists are just beginning to make the empirical connections between environmental justice and ecological structure and function as both fields have devoted enormous resources to developing robust metrics and models.

This session will capitalize on these efforts and pinpoint new research, datasets and methods at the intersection of ecology and environmental justice for urban areas that help address the following overarching questions: How does the distribution of environmental inequities, measured by the uneven distribution of ecosystems services, affect the vulnerability and resilience of urban social-ecological systems to regime shifts? And in turn, how do social and ecological regime shifts affect the distribution of ecosystems services and environmental justice patterns in urban areas?

Emerging urban vulnerabilities under climate change; Implications for health and human security

A joint session between GECHS and UGEC
Co-conveners: Linda Sygna, Michail Fragkias

Climate change is becoming increasingly more understood as a threat to global public health. Complex interactions of climate change stressors on urban systems such as heat waves, extreme drought, flooding, and natural disasters and factors such as coastal zone location, urban heat island effects, air pollution, urban density and sanitation may increase vulnerabilities of particular population groups – as these effects are not experienced evenly across the board but affect at a greater degree the poor, and in

particular children and elderly. Increased instances of heat stroke and other heat-related medical conditions are being reported in hospitals across the world for both the elderly and children and deaths from heat-related factors are on the rise. As the climate and weather patterns change, extremes of both heat and cold can cause immediate fatalities. Temperature and precipitation changes can reduce supplies of freshwater and increase the risk of malnutrition as well as increase the vulnerabilities to water-borne diseases. The Earth's warming climate is currently estimated to contribute to more than 150,000 deaths and 5 million illnesses each year, according to the WHO - numbers that could potentially double by 2030 (Eilperin, 2005).

This session identifies the new emerging and pressing vulnerabilities to the impacts of global environmental change on populations in cities. A reduced ability for adaptation for particular urban population groups threatens human security and brings about the potential for detrimental impacts. The session will explore pathways of strengthening worldwide human security through adaptation strategies.

How do culture, beliefs, attitudes and traditions in urban societies interact with environmental change?

A joint session between UGEC and the Global Land Project (GLP)

Co-conveners: Dawn Parker, Tobias Langanke, and Michail Fragkias

The session will explore aspects of human agency as it links to environmental change, in particular informal institutions that take shape in urban and ex-urban environments. The major question the session seeks to explore is: To what degree do culture, beliefs, attitudes and traditions of the members of urban societies affect environmental change or get affected by environmental change?

The session will focus on the linkages between culture, beliefs, attitudes, traditions and information and environmental behaviour and decisions and the role that institutions might play in

shaping and mediating these behaviours. More specifically we would like to pose the question as to how agent beliefs and behaviour interact with and are mediated by, the built environment in urban areas; the role of norms (formation, evolution, etc.) critical mass in belief systems and path-dependent cultural change and the influence of globalization and cultural change in urban areas.

Presentations will focus on the influences of resident attitudes, behavior, and beliefs on urban lifestyles, residential behaviour, land use, energy and transportation choices, the evolution of urban function and form and their implications for sustainable urban growth (levels of energy and water consumption, waste, emissions etc.)

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED SESSIONS ARE NOW FULL AND ARE LISTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

New Directions for Urban Remote Sensing for Sustainability Science: Old Questions, New Approaches, and Remaining Gaps (FULL)

A joint session between UGEC and the 100 Cities Project

Co-conveners: Maik Netzband, Karen C. Seto, Lela Prashad, Michail Fragkias

Urban Remote Sensing (URS) has proved to be a useful tool for cross-scale urban sustainability research as humankind increasingly facing the challenges of an urbanizing world. It can track rapid changes in physical characteristics of human environments – local, regional and global and can allow scientists to gather important information in the context of human environment interactions such as the environmental consequences of various social, economic, and demographic processes and phenomena.

But studies concentrating on the challenge of world urbanization and its interconnections to global environmental change still claim an unmet need for linked spatial and socio-demographic information. The well documented gap between social science and remote sensing research arises from a lack of correspondence in nature

or landscape units to grids or even small-scale administrative units and an imperfect coupling of URS information with social science data streams. The potential benefits of bridging that gap are great and voices in support of cross-disciplinary advances in URS methods and techniques and their integration with social science are multiplying as the social value of such an effort becomes obvious.

This session seeks to better understand how urban remote sensing can best be utilized by both researchers and practitioners in urban models, planning, and policy formulation. Two major questions posed in the session are: What is the potential of URS for an integrated interdisciplinary social science with a focus on urban sustainability?; How can URS fill the gaps in scientific information best for the needs of integrated spatial social science?

Urban responses to climate change (Two sessions - FULL)

Co-conveners: Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez, Bill Solecki, Michail Fragkias

Link to description and/or abstract:

http://www.ugec.org/docs/IHDPOM08/IHDPOM08_UGECSession_UrbanResponses2CC.pdf

This session will explore how cities respond, fail to respond, or could better respond to climate change. Cities are considered the locus of action in responding to the challenges of climate change. An increasing number of cities around the world have begun to respond to climate change through mitigation actions but fewer cities have created comprehensive responses through climate change adaptation initiative and combined (mitigation and adaptation) action. The session will focus on the institutional drivers of current responses to climate change; the role of different actors and institutions (in public, private, social, informal sectors, and international organizations), their role and relationships in the responses to climate change in urban areas; the deficiencies and resistance of institutions to respond to climate change; the windows of opportunities to overcome them and; how cooperation/collaboration between actors could effectively establish better meas-

ures, solutions, and responses to climate change.

Critical questions that the session seeks to address include: What are the strengths and weaknesses of current institutions to respond to climate change? How can we adapt local institutions to the challenge of climate change? What institutions can take a leading role in those responses and at which administrative levels? How can mitigation and adaptation be best a part of local strategies in response to climate change? What is the level of compatibility and coherence of mitigation and adaptation actions with the local urban development agenda? What steps need to be taken to foster urban sustainability through responses to climate change?

Forecasting the magnitude, location, and form of urban growth (FULL)

Co-conveners: Karen C. Seto, Peter Marcotullio, Michail Fragkias

Link to description and/or abstract:

http://www.ugec.org/docs/IHDPOM08/IHDPOM08_UGECSession_UrbanGrowthForecasting.pdf

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project is organizing a session focused on the intersection of urban growth modeling and (global) environmental change to help create solutions for future demographic challenges. The purpose of the session is to discuss the state of the art systems in urban growth forecasting and their utility for practitioners, planners, policymakers, conservation agencies and other stakeholders who have an interest in identifying the likely location, size and shape of future urban growth; also, to facilitate a discussion among users and developers of models (and parties responsible for the generation of required data) to assess the gap in needs.

The session will present aspects of modeling and forecasting urban growth across the globe.

Questions to be discussed during the session include: what do we know about the future urban landscape and how it relates to other land uses? How will the magnitude and shape of urban areas affect and be affected by global environmental change? What is the policy rele-

vance of urban growth models; do they provide solutions to problems associated with rapid urbanization in the face of global environmental change? Are there steps to be taken that make urban growth forecasting more policy relevant?

UGEC-RELATED SESSIONS

Drivers of Change: Patterns and Processes of Urbanization in Developing and Developed Areas

Co-organizers: Harini Nagendra, Darla K. Munroe, Jane Southworth

Link to description and/or abstract:

http://www.ugec.org/docs/IHDPO08/IHDPO08_OtherSessions_Nagendra.pdf

This special session aims to fill a crucial gap by bringing together research from multiple contexts, to provide a systematic study of the patterns and processes and environmental implications of land use/land cover change in developing regions, urban areas and their hinterlands. Submissions addressing a wide range of issues under this broad theme are welcome. We anticipate that the presentations contained here will be inherently comparative, with examples from different ecological, social and institutional contexts, giving us an opportunity to understand how the human dimensions of urban change vary over time and space in different parts of the world, from areas just beginning their processes of development and infrastructure changes, to regions of complete urbanization over much longer time frames.

Nighttime Lights

Organizer: Chris Elvidge

Link to description and/or abstract:

http://www.ugec.org/docs/IHDPO08/IHDPO08_OtherSessions_Nighttime_Lights_20071205.pdf

Nocturnal lighting is a unique and widespread indicator of human activity. Interest in satellite remote sensing of nighttime lights stems, in part, from the difficulty in global mapping of human settlements in a repeatable, timely manner from traditional sources. Although there are some cultural variations in the quantity and quality of lighting in various countries, there is a

remarkable level of similarity in lighting technology and lighting levels around the world. The primary factor affecting the quantity of lighting is wealth. Regions with high per capita income generally have much more lighting than regions with low per capita income. Countering this trend in the most affluent regions are energy conserving lighting technologies that have the added benefit of reducing nighttime sky brightness. For more than a decade satellite derived maps of nighttime lights have been used as a proxy for socioeconomic variables that are difficult to measure in a globally consistent manner. In this session we will explore several applications of nighttime lights in areas of interest to the IHDP community.

OTHER EVENTS

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

UGEC Project Associate Urbano Fra Paleo is co-directing a NATO Advanced training course on Spatial Planning as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Natural Hazards. Here's the scope of the ATC: "Strategies for the reduction of the impact of disasters on population, resources, commodities or functions have been primarily based on response and recover, and less attention is paid to the strategy of mitigation. However, it has been observed how the more we intervene in the phase of mitigation the less is necessary to intervene in the phase of response, and the weight of recovery and reconstruction is lowered. [...]"

One of the dimensions of natural hazards, their areal extent, associates the other dimensions with population, resources and functions, which implicitly have a spatial location. Some hazards have a probable location, and this character facilitates the incorporation of the risk component in the mitigation process. This particularly happens with more catastrophic events, floods, tsunamis, volcanism, landslides, or snow avalanches.

Spatial planning is a very efficient mitigation

strategy because it allows to avoid or reduce exposure and vulnerability by zoning and relocation. As a process, it follows a series of phases where risk analysis and assessment can be easily integrated, because it is a decision making process. Zoning plans designate the location of the land uses in the urban and rural environments, while the functioning works mostly as the result of allocation. Risk management involves many allocation operations which work as the result of the location of basic infrastructures and services. Spatial planning facilitates the integration of risk management plans and social participation in the risk management process."

There are grants for researchers from NATO partners and Mediterranean Dialogue countries. If you are interested in this advanced training course, please visit the ATC website: <http://www.xente.mundo-r.com/science/atc/>

Resilience 2008 - Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation in Turbulent Times

(Monday-Thursday, April 14-17, 2008) This international science and policy conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden between April 14-17. For more information visit: <http://www.resilience2008.org/>.

Climate Change: Science and Solutions Conference

The 8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment is taking place between Wednesday and Friday, January 16-18, 2008, organized by the National Council for Science and the Environment. The conference will be a platform for developing and advancing science-based solutions to climate change. The dialogue will include leading scientists, policy makers, industry leaders, educators, and other solutions-oriented innovators, developing comprehensive strategies for protecting people and the planet against the threat of climate change. The three-day conference will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade

Center in Washington, DC. For more information:

<http://www.ncseonline.org/2008conference/>

Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium

The sixth annual symposium hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium (UERC) on Monday, Feb. 4th, 2008. During the symposium, you will have opportunities to network, build partnerships, and exchange information about urban environmental issues and the practical application of related ecological and social sciences in the Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA metropolitan region. The day will be packed with a series of presentations, a poster session, keynote speakers, raffles, and plenty of time to network. Join us to learn, share and be inspired.

The UERC is a consortium of people from universities and colleges, state and federal agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, other professionals and students interested in urban ecological research and creating a network to collect, share, and use ecological data in the Portland/Vancouver area. Please see the UERC web site at www.uercportland.org for details.

Ecocity World Summit (7th International Ecocity Conference)

(Tuesday-Saturday, April 22-26, 2008) Throughout Earth Day Week in San Francisco, the Ecocity World Summit (7th International Ecocity Conference) will be convening an international community of inspired change-makers; individuals who are addressing problems of the world's environment with thoughtful long-range solutions that are truly sustainable, ecologically healthy and socially just. For more information go to: <http://www.ecocityworldsummit.org/index.htm>.

International Symposium on Society and Resource Management - ISSRM - 2008

The 14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) will be taking place between Tuesday and Saturday, June 10-14, 2008 at the University of Vermont in Burlington. The web site for the 2008 ISSRM is now "live" and can be found by logging on to www.ISSRM2008.org. ISSRM is the official annual meeting of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources, and is the largest international gathering of academics, researchers, graduate students, and practitioners interested in the application of social science to natural resources and environmental issues. The theme of the 2008 Symposium is "People and Place: Linking Culture and Nature", and will 1) emphasize the human dimensions of environmental and natural resources issues, 2) include the broad array of social science disciplines and related fields of study, and 3) illustrate the interdisciplinary, cooperative, and collaborative character of research and management. The 2008 Symposium will include a Welcome Reception, plenary sessions with keynote speakers, concurrent sessions of scientific papers, a poster session and reception, a Student Forum, a Student Paper Competition, a Graduate Career Fair, and an awards dinner. Abstracts for posters and presentations and proposals for coordinated sessions are due by February 8, 2008. For more information visit www.ISSRM2008.org.

International Symposium on Urban Energy and Carbon Management

The Global Carbon Project (GCP)/URCM "International Symposium on Urban Energy and Carbon Management: Challenges for Science and Policy" and "International Workshop on Urban Energy and Carbon Modeling" are scheduled for 4-6 February 2008 at AIT Centre, Asian Institute of Technology, Pathumthani, Thailand is now online. <http://www.gcp-urcm.org/A20080204/HomePage>. The events have received interests from development community such as UNEP, UN/ESCAP, IEA, and World Bank in this event in addition to researchers and scientists. The website for the

events will host the detailed agenda as well as presentation slides and reports in the due course.

(GCPs COP-13 official side-event titled "Urban Carbon Management: Gaps in Scientific Understanding and Policy Discussions" on 6th December 2007 was very successful with over 100 participants and fruitful discussions. The UGEC community might have an interest in the materials uploaded on the event's web-page at <http://www.gcp-urcm.org/A20071206/HomePage>)

International Workshop on Anthropogenic Changes of Asian Monsoon

21-24 April 2008, Nanjing, China - First Call for papers

The Monsoon Asia Regional Integrated Study (MAIRS), as an element of ESSP (Earth System Science Partnership) focused on the study of the coupled human-natural system of Monsoon Asia, is particularly interested in this issue and would like to initiate a new research project on this topic. The workshop aims to bring scientists who have engaged in this area to exchange their current knowledge of this issue and discuss the major scientific issues that need to be addressed.

Key topics of the workshop:

- 1) The Asian monsoon in a warming earth, and the evidence for changes in the monsoon system
- 2) Impacts of various air pollutants, especially aerosols, on monsoon and hydrological cycles
- 3) Impacts of human-induced land cover change (via bio-geophysics and biogeochemical processes of the land surface) on Asian monsoon
- 4) Drivers of aerosols emission and land cover changes in monsoon Asia
- 5) Regional model- a tool of study anthropogenic change of Asian monsoon (developing, system and component, evaluation, inter-comparison)

Website: <http://www.mairs-essp.org/>

UGEC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online UGEC Bibliographic Database

We are happy to announce that the new UGEC Bibliographic Database is now available on our website. The database incorporates recent (mainly post year 1990) publications in the field of Urbanization and Global Environmental Change as well as peripheral themes. It currently includes over 900 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. as well as books and book chapters. (Many thanks to Ed Gilbert for all the programming involved in making this available in a web format.)

You can visit our online database at <http://www.ugec.org/references/index.php>

If you decide to utilize the database, please acknowledge the use by acknowledging "The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC) Bibliographic Database, January 2008". (The database is also available in 2 different file formats, Endnote and XML; the files are available on the UGEC website (www.ugec.org) under 'Members' and then 'UGEC Biblio DB') Suggestions for changes and improvement of this database are always welcome.

New IHDP UPDATE co-edited by the UGEC Project

The latest IHDP Update (http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de/Pdf_files/Updates/IHDPUpdate2_2007.pdf) is titled "The Implications of Global Environmental Change for Human Security in Coastal Urban Areas". The issue was a joint effort by three IHDP core projects: Urbanization and Global Environmental Change (UGEC); Global Environmental Change and Human Security

(GECHS); and Land-Ocean Interactions in Coastal Zones (LOICZ). It 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 those complex interactions. To subscribe to the IHDP UPDATE newsletter, see the IHDP website (www.ihdp.org) under Publications."

New Project Endorsement: Global Environmental Change and Urban Land Use Change in Peri-urban Area: A case study of Taipei-Taoyuan area

This newly UGEC endorsed project is led by Shu-Li Huang, Professor at the Graduate Institute of Urban Planning of National Taipei University, Taipei, Taiwan.

From the project website: "Global environmental change has prompted concerns over the role of urban areas in global systems. Peri-urbanization, both as a social phenomenon and a physical transformation of landscapes, can be regarded as an impetus for global environmental changes. Peri-urban areas are frequently characterized by valuable natural environments and resource bases, and can provide essential life-support functions for urban residents. The land use and land cover change in peri-urban areas resulting from urban sprawl, and consequent transformations in the biophysical and socio-economic systems, are often ignored by urban planning professionals and urban and rural land administrators.

The natural environment of Taiwan is characterized by active geomorphic processes with steep topography and unstable hydrologic processes, which are highly sensitive to extreme climatic events such as typhoon. The rapid economic growth of Taiwan from 1970–2000 transformed the island from a rural economy to an industrialized one. Almost 80% of Taiwan's

people currently live in urban areas, making it an urbanized nation, and approximately 90% of the entire population reside on the western coastal plain, where peri-urbanization is increasing environmental pressure and already threatens the cities' life-supporting environments.

The issue of environmental change in peri-urban areas was also examined by the Peri-Urban Environmental Change Project (PU-ECH) of SCOPE. Land use change and ecosystem service in peri-urban areas should be seen and valued differently. The PU-GEC project proposes studying the effect of global environmental change and land use change on ecosystem services in peri-urban areas, using the Taipei-Taoyuan area as a case study.

Objectives to be achieved by this project:

- To study the influence of globalization on land use and land cover change in the Taipei-Taoyuan peri-urban area.
- To study changes in ecosystem service in the case study peri-urban area as a result of land use and land cover change.
- To study interactions among global environmental change, peri-urbanization, and ecosystem resilience in Taipei-Taoyuan area."

The PU-GEC project began on August 1 2007 and will run until July 31 2010. The project involves 5 collaborators from Singapore, China, USA, and Canada. The project is funded the National Science Council in Taiwan. More information on the project can be found at:

<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~shuli/PUGEC.htm>

Selected New Publications

Aspinall, Richard J. and Hill, Michael J. (eds), 2007, *Land use change: science, policy and management*, CRC Press, New York

From the publishers: "Land Use Change: Science, Policy, and Management presents spatial theories and methodologies that support an integrated approach to analysis of land use change. Focusing on spatial representation and modeling, this book addresses such important scientific issues as the dynamics of change, integration and feedback between system elements, and scale issues in space and time. It also examines management issues

such as requirements for improved decision-making in land management and the interpretation and communication of scientific knowledge for adaptive management. Regional case studies from both developed and developing countries are also included along with a discussion of change in rapidly urbanizing areas." The book includes several urban case studies. (<http://www.crcpress.co.uk/>)

Pelling, Mark, 2007, Learning from others: the scope and challenges for participatory disaster risk assessment, *Disasters* 31 (4): 373-385 Dec 2007

Marcotullio, Peter J., and Schulz, Niels B., 2007, Comparison of energy transitions in the United States and developing and industrializing economies, *World Development* 35 (10): 1650-1683 Oct 2007

Marcotullio, Peter J., and Williams, Eric, 2007, Limited provision of roads as a bottleneck on vehicle CO2 emissions in Asia: an international comparison of national trends, *International Journal of Environment and Pollution*, 30 (1): 27-44 2007

Schipper, E.L.F., 2007, Climate Change Adaptation and Development: Exploring the Linkages' Tyndall Working Paper No. 107 (http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working_papers/twp107.pdf)

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UGEC International Working Paper Series - Recent Addition

The newest working paper in the UGEC International Working Paper Series is titled: Urban

and Environmental Changes in Himalaya: A Study of the Lake Region of District Nainital in Kumaon Himalaya, India by Prakash C. Tiwari.

Abstract: The Himalayan Mountain ecosystem is currently experiencing unplanned and unregulated urban growth. The fast expansion of road linkages, emergence and growth of rural service centers and increased access to markets has facilitated urbanization in Himalaya. Urban growth and resultant land use changes on sensitive mountain slopes is not only resulting into the depletion and destruction of nature as well as increased incidence and severity of natural risks, such as, slope failures, disruption of hydrological system and water pollution, degradation of forests etc. within the urban ecosystems as well as in their surrounding areas. It is therefore highly imperative to analyze and interpret the steering factors of fast urban growth and assess its environmental impacts, particularly in densely populated high mountains of Himalaya.

The working paper can be found at:
http://www.ugec.org/docs/UGEC_WP07-05.pdf

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 existing list of papers in the Series. <http://www.ugec.org/tiki-index.php?page=WPSeries>

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Opportunities

Julie Ann Wrigley Chairs of Sustainability
Arizona State University is announcing the establishment of four Julie Ann Wrigley chairs of sustainability. The university seeks intellectual leaders from all sectors with unusual vision, intellectual breadth, and practical experience to lead in sustainability-focused endeavors. Each will identify and promote practical solutions to sustainability by building on Arizona State University's portfolio, catalyzing new transdisciplinary research on sustainability, and forging solution-oriented partnerships among academia, business, government and other stakeholders. ASU welcomes applications of internationally recognized leaders in the realms of sustainable business practices, renewable energy systems, global environmental change, and complex system dynamics for these distinguished professorships:

The *Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Sustainable Business Practices* will advance both theoretical and practical frameworks for businesses of all scales to incorporate sustainability principles in their operations, supply chains, product development, manufacturing, and distribution systems.
http://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/docs/sos/chair_sustainable_business_practices.pdf

The *Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Renewable Energy Systems* will advance the research and practical applications related to renewable energy technologies and designing innovative, yet practical, solutions to the renewable-energy challenge.

<http://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/docs/sos/chairenewableenergy.pdf>

The *Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Global Environmental Change* will advance both the theoretical and practical frameworks for addressing the social, economic, and environmental consequences of urbanization with special attention to the interactions of cause and impacts of climate change with these processes.

<http://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/docs/sos/chaireglobalenvironmentalchange.pdf>

The *Julie Ann Wrigley Chair in Complex Systems Dynamics* will advance both theoretical and practical frameworks for addressing sustainability challenges and integrated solution options through conceptual modeling of human-environment interactions as interdependent complex systems.

<http://schoolofsustainability.asu.edu/docs/sos/chairecomplexsystems.pdf>

For more information contact: Dr. Jonathan Fink, Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University, PO Box 873211, Tempe, AZ 85287-3211 or email at linda.kuiper@asu.edu.

SSC Member Updates

UN-Habitat Expert Group on Cities and Climate Change

David Simon was an invited participant in this potentially very important meeting in Nairobi, 22-23 November 2007. It represented a key step in the UN Human Settlements Programme's process of producing a policy in this crucial arena. A draft was due for presentation at the UNFCCC COP13 in Bali in December. Also participating were Patricia Romero Lankao (Global Carbon Project) and David Satterthwaite (International Institute for Environment and Development), along with other specialists,

some local authority officials and mayors from the East African region, and representatives of various UN agencies. David reports that it was very important for UGEC to have been represented in this forum, laying the foundations for lasting collaboration. The next issue of the *State of the World's Cities* will focus largely on GEC issues.

Launch of the New UK National Committee on the Human Dimensions of GEC

As chair and co-convenor of the new *UK National Committee on the Human Dimensions of GEC*, David Simon organised and led its launch conference in London on 16th November. This brought together a good cross-section of UK-based social scientists working on various aspects of GEC. The keynote speaker was Bob Costanza, Director of the Gund Institute of Environmental Economics at the University of Vermont; with other presentations by Diana Lierman (Director of Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute), Harriet Bulkeley (University of Durham) and Marcus Oxley (Tearfund, and head of British NGO action group on disasters and climate change). David was elected chair of the Committee for the next year and UGEC Associate, Mark Pelling, was elected onto the committee with responsibility for newsletters and publicity.

David Simon also visited colleagues in the Dept of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, on 6-7 December, including Karen O'Brien and Linda Sygna (respectively the Chair and new Executive Officer of GECHS). He presented a seminar on 'African cities coping with climate change: approaches and issues'.

The Open Urban Studies Journal

The *Open Urban Studies Journal* is an Open Access online journal which publishes original research articles, reviews and short articles in the field of urban and regional studies. Topics covered include: theory, methods, planning, development, analysis, design, policies and programs applied to urban studies. Please visit the journal's homepage and Instructions for Au-

thors for article submission at the following website:

www.benthamscience.org/open/tousj

The journal aims to provide the most complete and reliable source of information on current developments in the field. The emphasis will be on publishing quality articles rapidly and openly available to researchers worldwide. All published articles will be deposited immediately upon publication in at least one widely and internationally recognized open access repository. Moreover, all articles are indexed by Google and Google Scholar, therefore providing the maximum exposure to the articles.

If you are interested in submitting an article to this Open Access journal, then please upload it at <http://www.benthamscience.org/open-ftp> or refer to the journal Instructions for Authors (the journal website is stated above), alternatively contact us by e-mail at tousj@benthamopen.org or nida@benthamscience.org for submission guidelines.

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 is-

sues. 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.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE INFORMATION

If you have been forwarded this e-Newsletter by email and would like to subscribe directly to the list, please send an email to LISTSERV@LISTS.ASU.EDU with the text (command) "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 with the command "SIGNOFF UGEC-L" at the message body or by sending a message to the list owner, Michail Fragkias at fragkias@asu.edu

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