

## **International Forum of GEC and Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Areas: Dialogue and Experience of Asian Cities, Taipei, Taiwan, 29 November 2008**

The *International Forum of GEC and Land Use Change in Peri-Urban Area: Dialogue and Experience of Asian Cities* conference a dissemination event of PU-GEC Project (<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~shuli/PUGEC.htm>) was held in Taipei, Taiwan on November 29 2008, at the National Taipei University. Approximately eighty faculty, students and interested scholars attended the one-day event. The primary focus of this Forum was to frame the relationship between land use changes in peri-urban areas in Asian cities with the global environmental change issues.

Beginning the one-day Forum were keynote addresses by Professor Karen Seto, the current chair of Scientific Steering Committee of *Urbanization and Global Environmental Change* (UGEC) project of IHDP, and Professor Ian Douglas, past chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the *Peri-Urban Environmental Change* (PU-ECH) project of SCOPE. In her opening remarks, Professor Seto's speech, entitled "Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Asia: Challenges and Prospects for Sustainability", focused on the issues that peri-urbanization raises for Asian communities. Her presentation concluded with a focused examination of both challenges and opportunities that peri-urbanization raises for sustainability in Asian cities. In Professor Douglas' speech, he discussed the nature and character of peri-urban areas. These areas, as he noted, are the transition zones, or interaction zones, where urban and rural activities are juxtaposed, and landscape features are subject to rapid modifications induced by human activities. Moreover, they are impermanent; shifting in location as urban development proceeds. Today's urban fringe he noted may become tomorrow's suburb and the next century's inner city.

Following the keynote addresses presentations were made in three focus areas. In the first of these, **Peri-urbanization in Southeast Asia**, Professor Michael Leaf, University of British Columbia, discussed "New Urban Frontiers: Peri-urbanization and (Re)territorialization in Southeast Asia". Professor Kog Yue Choong, National University of Singapore, then presented his paper, co-authored with Professor Ooi Giok Ling, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore on "Peri-urbanization and Cross-border Cooperation in Southern Malaysia, Riau Islands and Singapore".

The second session, **Peri-urbanization in Taiwan and China**, included presentations by Professor Xiangrong Wang, Fudan University, China, on "Global climate change and assessment for eco-vulnerability of Estuary City—A case study of Shanghai". This was followed by a presentation entitled "Impact of Transport Infrastructure on Land Use Change in Medium-sized Cities", by Professors Cheng-Min Feng of the Institute of Traffic and Transportation, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. The session concluded with a presentation 'Peri-urbanization in Taiwan: A challenge for adapting to global environmental change' by the host of the Forum, Professor Shu-Li Huang, Institute of Urban Planning, National Taipei University.

In the final session of the Forum, **Peri-urbanization: a comparison of West and East**, Professor Peter J. Marcotullio, Distinguished Lecturer, Hunter College, CUNY, New York, presented his paper entitled “The Environmental Impact of Meat Consumption in New York and Tokyo”. The final session conclude with a presentation by Professor William W. Budd, of the Division of Governmental Studies and Services, at Washington State University and Visiting Professor at National Taipei University on “Managing Peri-urban Change in the Pacific Northwest and Taiwan”.

Following the Forum presenters at the conference were given a two-day field trip to Ilan and Taoyuan Counties of Taiwan. The field trip focused both on the impacts to ecosystem functions and services in Taipei’s peri-urban areas but also experience the severe urban sprawl impacting the study area.

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