

Recent Events and Meetings / 近期活動及會議

The Growth of Global Cities

I recently moderated a speaker session on 'Planning the Future of Global Cities' at the RICS Annual Conference with speakers from the UK and Singapore. This brought into focus some of the issues that global cities are facing in the coming years – issues that have considerable bearing on planning and urban design.

In the next 15 years the world is forecast to add 1.1 billion city dwellers, so across the globe cities are transforming themselves and expanding to house offices, homes, employment and distribution centres. And of course Hong Kong is situated in the middle of the fastest growing region. Asia already accommodates 60 percent of the planet's population, and somewhere between 50-60 percent of these are living in cities, with a forecast of up to 70 percent by the mid-21st century.

So perhaps the most appropriate way to start is to define what exactly a global city is – as distinct from all the other cities. In brief it is one that can be considered to be an important node in the global economic system. So its not merely size that matters. This tends to indicate that globalisation itself can only be enacted in strategic geographic locales according to a hierarchy of importance to the operation of global affairs. And typically in Asia, global cities are out performing their host countries. Cities in Asia that traditionally acted as gateways for product delivery and export, are now gateways for global influences and ideologies. The United Nations is predicting the number of mega cities (those with populations in excess of 10m) to jump from 28 to 41 by 2030.

The McKinsey Global Institute states that over the next decade the 600 largest and best-connected global cities will contain a fifth of the world's population, capture up to two-thirds of the world's economic growth, and encompass more than half of global GDP. Shenzhen just across our boundary for example aspires to be the Silicon Valley of China for both innovation and hardware makers. As knowledge centres become talent magnets, talented workers want certain lifestyles, so we have a situation where there are real opportunities for urban design.

The term was popularised by the environmental sociologist Saskia Sassen in a 1991 book *The Global City*, and I was talking to her just last month about this when she was attending the Conference on Climate Change in Hong Kong. But the world has changed – in 1991 Saskia was only writing about 3 cities : New York, London and Tokyo.

When I looked this up on the latest Economist Intelligence Unit Competitiveness Index I found that New York City was still top, followed by London (the two Alpha Plus Plus Global Cities), but Singapore was third closely followed by Hong Kong (tied with Paris) with Tokyo in 6th place. Of the 8 Alpha Plus Cities two were from China (excluding HK) - Beijing and Shanghai. However very recently it was reported that even in China Hong Kong was no longer top of the Competitive League – According to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Hong Kong is now beaten into second place by Shenzhen. That's how fast things change in the world of global cities.

Paul Krugman, the Nobel winning economist has in fact come up with a model that remains surprisingly accurate – that as cities enter a network hierarchy they enter a pattern of self-organisation where the largest city of an established economy, say New York in the United States, was about twice the size of the second city, which was in turn twice the size of the third city – so there appears to be something of a relationship between size, scale and frequency of large cities. Having said that of course we are living in a rapidly urbanising world, and Hong Kong is situated on one end of the Pearl River Delta considered to be one of the fastest developing city regions in China, if not the world.

It is not only China that is exerting a gravitational global pull to Asia which now accounts for 40% of the world's GDP. Throughout Asia we are seeing rapidly expanding CBDs, an industrial base which supplies large parts of the world, an emerging consumer class, and urbanisation on a scale never seen before in human history. There are also moves towards a wider Economic Community (ASEAN) with the removal of many barriers to trade. But we are also noting a deepening polarisation between the 'haves' and 'have nots'.

New technology is impacting the property market, and some analysts claim to identify 'micro-cities' within cities, thanks to the digital revolution and rapid technological change. We have new business and residential clusters but also outward sprawl which creates its own problems. In urban design terms we need to look for ways to marry city growth with rising land costs and economic development, so that we can safeguard a quality of urban life as cities continue to regenerate and expand. Liveability is at the heart of this – it does not necessarily relate to expanding GDP but to the ability of city policies to avoid social and economic polarisation within the community.

Several other aspects also stand out:

- the catalyst created by the creation of new City business districts in terms of attracting global investment and how vulnerable this might be to changes in the financial or entrepreneurial climate, particularly as the first tier of global cities are growing at an accelerating rate in relation to their host countries;
- the momentum towards development intensification which we are very familiar with, but also the opportunities for adaptive re-use;
- the economic stimulation associated with global business and the impact they have on older communities in terms of specific types of regeneration;
- and finally the lack of adequate resilience strategies that already effect the same asian cities. A lack of resilience is already affecting the daily lives of many people in Asia from food and water supply, energy production and distribution, to regular catastrophic inundations. The politics of planning tend to hang over this issue wherever we look, but there is a paradox – because at the same time as we are recognising these problems, shifting demographics, increasing urbanisation, (now past 50 percent), and prevailing economic forces are positioning asian cities as competitive global entities.

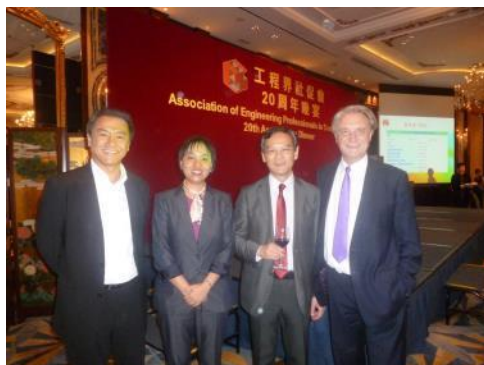
All in all future urban designers are probably going to have to deal with the 'urban' at least as much as the 'design'.

Peter Cookson Smith

1 June 2015

Association of Engineering Professional in Society 20th Anniversary Dinner on 8 May 2015

HKIUD President Peter Cookson Smith with



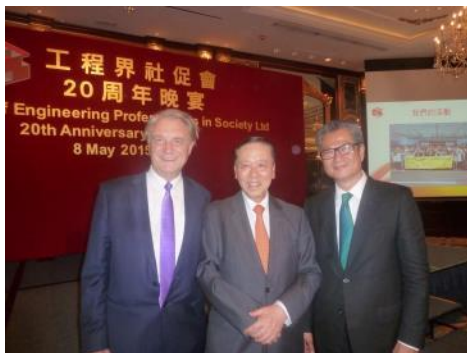
Raymond Lee President of HKIP, Serena Lau Past President of HKIS; and Legco Representative the Hon Tony Tse



Ms Anissa Wong Permanent Secretary for the Environment



Raymond Lee President of HKIP, Brenda Au Head of Kowloon East Development Office; and Vincent Ng President of HKIA



Paul Chan and Raymond Ho

HKIUD Urban Design Dialogue Sharing Session



HKIUD Urban Design Dialogue Sharing Session co-organised with the University of Hong Kong was successfully held on 18 May 2015.



Moderator: Dr. Peter Cookson Smith, HKIUD President



Opening Remarks by Prof. Chris Webster, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Hong Kong University



Urbis Limited : Landscape and Urban Design, Mr Sandy Duggie and Mr. Alan Macdonald



Architectural Services Department : Stanley Waterfront - Connectivity and Diversity, Ms. Alice Yeung



Hong Kong – Barcelona Urban Exchange Proposals, Mr. Steven Lee, Mr. Tony Ip and Ms. Casey Wang



Discussions

RICS Hong Kong Annual Conference 2015 - Building Hong Kong's Capacity for Sustainable Growth – What can be done to stay competitive?



Peter Cookson Smith moderated a discussion on Global Cities at the RICS Conference on 21st May 2015, with Professor Janet Askew, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, and Professor Chye Kiang Heng, Dean of the School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore.

Peter Cookson Smith was the moderator of an HKIP Presentation on Neighbourhood Planning, at the Hong Kong Planning Gallery on 23rd May 2015, with Professor Janet Askew, Professor Mee Kam Ng and Maggie Chin from Planning Department as Participants

HKIP Joint Professional Networking Party on 22 May 2015



Mr. Charles Li, Vice President (External Affairs) attended HKIP Joint Professional Networking Party on 22 May 2015, with Mr. William Tseng, Dr. Rosman Wai, Vice President of HKIA, Mr. Tak Wong, President of HKILA, Mr. Vincent Ho, President of HKIS, Tony Ip of LEAPS and Mr. Larry Poon of HKGBC.

HKIA Annual Award Prize Presentation Ceremony on 28 May 2015



HKIUD President Dr Peter Cookson Smith, Vice Presidents Stephen Tang and Charles Li, Council Member Joel Chan attended the HKIA Annual Award presentation ceremony on 28/5/2015 in Pacific Place. Two project teams lead by VP Stephen Tang and Council Member Joel Chan won the Special Architectural Awards- Heritage, for their PMQ project (Transformation of the Former Police Married Quarters at Hollywood Road into a Creative Industries Landmark) and the Jao Chung I Academy project respectively. Both projects demonstrated how old dilapidated buildings can be reintegrated with the city to allow the general public appreciate the history of the places through creative urban design approach in revitalization and preservation.

with Mr. Vincent Ng, President of HKIA, Ms. Rosman Wai, Vice President of HKIA and Mr. William Tseng, Vice President of HKIA

HKIUD Meetings Calendar (May)

五月會議

Date	Time	Meetings	Venue
6/5 (Tue)	6:30 pm	Council Meeting	Immediate Past President's Office
21/5 (Thur)	6:30 pm	MEC Meeting	Immediate Past President's Office

Upcoming Events and Meetings / 活動及會議預告

AIA Hong Kong - Presidential Forum

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AIA | HK AIA Hong Kong
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hong Kong 2015
Second Quarterly Presentation:
Presidential Forum
June 8, 2015 (Monday)
18:00 - 20:30

ome join us on the evening of Monday, June 8, for our first Presidential Forum and Cocktails.

urrent presidents of AIA and other international and local professional institutions shall convene at the recently mpleted venue of Education First in Causeway Bay for a lively chat around “Architecture and Cities”. Explore rough discourse the role of architects beyond designing great buildings – memorable places, sustainable munities, walkable and livable cities. The event is also a platform to discuss and share thoughts and oncerns, particularly on image, identity, livability and affordability and an opportunity to interact, and an opportunity to meet other professionals from HKIA, ULI, RIBA, HKIUD, and HKIP.

peakers/Moderator:

- r. Sujata S. Govada, Assoc. AIA** | President | The American Institute of Architects Hong Kong Chapter
- rs. Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA** | President | The American Institute of Architects
- r. Christine Bruckner, FAIA** | President | The American Institute of Architects International Region
- r. Vincent Ng, JP** | President | The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
- r. K K Ling, JP** | Director of Planning | HKSAR Government

Mr. John Campbell, RIBA | President | Royal Institute of British Architects

Dr. Peter Cookson Smith, Hon. AIA(HK) | President | Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

Prof. John Ng | Chairman, GLC | The Hong Kong Green Building Council

LUH:	2.0 LUs/HSW	CES #392 PROGRAM:
DATE:	June 8, 2015 (Monday)	18:00 - 18:45 Registration & Cocktail Reception
TIME:	18:00 - 20:30	18:45 - 20:30 Presentation with Q&A
VENUE:	Education First, 23/F, Tower 2, Times Square, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong	REGISTRATION FEE: AIA/HKIA/HKIP/HKIUD/RICS/RIBA/ULI Member: \$100.00 Non-Member: \$200.00

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HKGCC: Smart City • Smart Hong Kong



The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation are partnering with the Business Environment Council, Hong Kong Green Building Council and Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design to organize a forum, with an aim to identify the strengths and opportunities that drive Hong Kong towards a smart city. Event Details are as follows:

Date and Time	2015/06/11 09:30 to 13:30
Venue	Charles K Kao Auditorium, Lakeside 2, Hong Kong Science Park, Shatin

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BEAM Pro

Beam Professionals would like to invite HKIUD Members to the BEAM Society Limited 2015 Training Events for which HKIUD is a supporting organisation:

1. **29th BEAM Pro Training & Examination**, 30 July 2015 at HKCEC, Wan Chai
2. **4th BEAM Affiliate Training** on 8 October 2015 at HKPC Building, Kowloon Tong
3. **30th BEAM Pro Training & Examination**, 16 Nov 2015 at HKCEC, Wan Chai

To know more about the BEAM Pro Training, please visit HKGBC / BEAM Society Limited websites:

[http://www.hkgbc.org.hk/eng/beam-Professional.aspx /](http://www.hkgbc.org.hk/eng/beam-Professional.aspx/)

http://www.beamsociety.org.hk/en_professionals_1.php

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The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) is organizing the Annual Conference with the theme “Development for a Smarter World City: Hong Kong” on **12th September 2015 (Saturday)** for which HKIUD is a supporting organisation.

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HKIUD Meetings Calendar (May)

五月會議

Date	Time	Meetings	Venue
9/6 (Tue)	6:30 pm	Council Meeting	Immediate Past President's Office
10/6 (Wed)	6:30 pm	PAC Meeting	Vice President's Office

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design Limited

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