



NEWSLETTER

N°14 – July 2008

*This is the Newsletter edited by the
"International Cooperation Club"
of the FNAU network.
FNAU is the non-profit association of the
French public urban planning agencies*

**Breaking
news**

Marseille yesterday, and tomorrow Nanjing

Our Newsletter n°13 had mentioned the upcoming WUF4 to be held in Nanjing (China) next Nov.3-7, and we are back here to this event which was the main topic of the ADP association quarterly dinner and of the recent meeting of our International Club in Marseille, last May 27 & 28. However, a press release from UN-Habitat last June 21st said that WUF4 was to be postponed, if not cancelled, upon request of the Chinese Ministry of Housing & Construction, officially because of the consequences of the recent and tragic earthquake in Sichuan. **But UN-Habitat announced last June 30th that finally WUF4 was confirmed in Nanjing at the same period.**

G.Antier, P.Berger & C.Sozzi - Animateurs

News from the Club

WUF4 was the central topic last May 27 & 28 in Marseille, this both at the quarterly dinner of the association « ADP – Developing Cities » and during the meeting of the Fnau International Club. Warm thanks to the Marseille Agency (AGAM) which perfectly organized these two meetings in Pharo House with the support from the International Relations Dept. of the City of Marseille.

More than 30 people attended the **"dinner-debate"** of May 27 welcoming Nicolas **Buchoud**, in charge of the international activities at SFU / Association of French Planners and active member

of the Global Planners Network, and Marcel **Belliot**, the Fnau General Delegate. N.Buchoud emphasized how interesting and necessary were the city planners networks for sharing ideas, methods and good practices. He considers that the challenge of WUF4 is to set up an active network of the French professionals, this before, during & after the Forum.

On its own, M.Belliot emphasized the opportunity given by WUF4 to increase the international activities of a growing number of French agencies. During the debate, O.Mourareau (MoFA Min. Foreign Affairs) precised the ways and contents of the French participation, saying that it was a prelude to a "new partnership for the cities".

The meeting of the **International Club on May 28** morning was mostly about the **cooperation with the Mediterranean cities**, with some 30 people - among which six agencies - were represented : the project of Mediterranean Union (JL.Rieffers), the Marseille desk of the World Bank (G.Pipien), the "Mediterranean workshops" of Cergy (F.Ampe) and the International Relations Dept. of the City of Marseille (M.Reynaud) widely participated into the debate, this before a general discussion about the activities of the Fnau agencies in the Mediterranean area, opened by C.Brunner (Agam).



It was also decided during the afternoon meeting of the Club that the next meeting of the Club will be held at Fnau (Paris) on **Tue. September 30**, particularly about the project of cooperation of the St-Omer agency with Benin.

The booklet introducing the international activities of the French agencies has been also introduced to the participants(see below p.2) in order to gather various remarks and suggestions for improvement.

Who & where ? News from the agencies

The booklet **introducing the international activities of the French agencies** will be available at the end of September. Published in French & English (each 16 p.), it includes :

- (a) a presentation of the French agencies, of the Fnau network and of the ways of international activity of the agencies;
- and (b) a selection of 17 references abroad by eight agencies (Bordeaux, Clermont, Dunkerque, Ile-de-France, Lyon, Marseille, Mulhouse and Paris).



The global concept, editing and picture research were carried on by the IAU-Ile-de-France, in cooperation with Fnau and with the agencies involved into the project. The booklet will also be available on line on the two Fnau websites.

A meeting of preparation of the **8th European Towns and Planners Biennial Meeting** (to be held in Nancy / France on Oct.2009, in connexion with the 30th FNAU Annual Meeting) was held in Paris last April 11th.

Marcel Belliot, Fnau General Delegate, waits for 200 to 300 foreign participants to this Biennial Meeting. The main topic will be **The role and small & mid-sized cities in Europe.**



Karlovy-Vary, a mid-sized city in the Czech Republic
Doc. Bobak Ha'Eri / Wikimedia

Next preparation meeting : Nov.21 & 22, in Paris.



Bordeaux, Lyon & **Riga** (Latvia) are all three registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. They have started last May (with a financial support from the French MoFA) a three-years cooperation over three main topics :

- the protection and valorization of the historical heritage : improving the processes of protection as a complement to the recent laws and regulations;
- the ways to upgrade the public transportation (tramway) and for the revitalization of the downtown public spaces;
- the redevelopment of the Daugava river banks,



in which numerous urban development projects should meet more coherence with a strategic plan.

Riga –
Cl.P.Berger

Books review

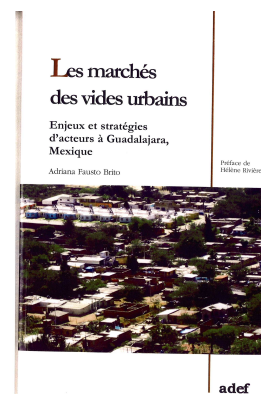


Les marchés des vides urbains (The « urban gaps » market), A.Fausto Brito, 191 p., Paris, ADEF, 2008.

The big cities are full of gaps : some 17% within the Mexico / Guadalajara metropolitan area, being eight years of land resource for construction. These wasted areas are «managed» by the local community or by developers. The author studies rather brilliantly the tasks of the owners over these spaces, which seem to belong to everybody..and to nobody. Which strategies in terms of waiting, of construction or of reconstruction ?

And more widely, what kind of negotiations with the authorities, as the management of these urban gaps is a peculiar challenge for governance and social equity within every South American city ?

An interesting and original book about a rarely studied and discussed matter.



Wishing to receive this Newsletter by e-mail ? Just register your e-mail address on www.fnau-international.org