



NEWSLETTER

N°18 – September 2009

*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*

Sorry for the delay, as this Newsletter should normally have been sent at the very beginning of July. It was not due to holidays (!!): but a heavy work charge has led us to postpone the preparation & mailing of this issue, a situation never met before. The next issue (N°19) will be thus mailed at the end of next October.

G.Antier & P.Berger, Club Leaders

News from the Club

Global satisfaction at the end of the regional meeting of the Club, held in **Dunkerque** last **May 28**, at the Urban Community HQ's, with a central topic concerning every member of the network: "Creating urban agencies within developing cities". 26 people attended the presentations and participated into the debates: 7 agencies (Besançon, Dunkerque, Grenoble, Ile-de-France, Lyon, Marseille and St-Omer), but also the MEEDDAT (French Ministry of the Sustainable Development), SCET (CDC group), the UE Commission and the University of Lille 1. Former Minister and President of the Urban Community, Michel DELEBARRE emphasized the fact that "nobody could consider the future of a city without studies and questionings, which are in fact the core know-how of the urban agencies".

Introductory talk by Gérard Blanc, Director of the Dunkerque Agency, before M.Delebarre's speech.



And there lays the interest of creating the same kind of structures abroad, particularly within the developing cities.

G.Antier (IAU-IdF) introduced then the situation of the **urban agencies around the world**, characterized by the wide variety of structures. The meeting continued with a presentation of the technical cooperation driven by the **Dunkerque Agency** with **Annaba (Algeria)** and **Bizerte (Tunisia)** for creating their own agencies. That was the conclusion of a workshop set along the three previous days with the Algerian partners of this cooperation: O.Amri and B.Belouahem introduced on a very spontaneous & dynamic way their comments about the relation between the harbour and the city in Dunkerque (two other workshops will be organized soon over the main topic in Annaba and Bizerte).

G.Rouhet (Lyon Agency) set out the studies driven within the partnership associating the agencies of **Lyon, Paris** (Apur) and **Rabat-Salé in Morocco** [see Newsletter n°17]: links between transportation and planning, expertise about various tasks of the Moroccan agency (land use plans, GIS, etc.). His conclusions and comments were later confirmed by Mrs.M.Vitorge (**Grenoble Agency**), this about the cooperation with the **Meknes Agency**, mostly in the field of transportation matters.

F.Merelle & N.Rochas (**St-Omer**) related on their own the cooperation started in 2008 with Lalo in **Benin**, emphasizing the necessity of communicating (abroad and in France) about the cooperation activities of the French urban planning agencies.

Based upon the experience of the IAU **Ile-de-France** with the **Moroccan & Mexican urban agencies**, G.Antier has illustrated the two facets (contracts and cooperation) of these activities. Then Z.Moussa, Team Leader at the **UE MED-PACT** Program, introduced the UE partnerships with the Mediterranean cities, and Mrs.M.Prévoit (**Lille 1**) gave her final comments about the feedbacks of these experiences within the agencies: a basic concept of "exchanges" maybe more significant within the cooperations than in the contracts, the consequences of the arrival of a new generation of planners here and abroad.. All this contributed to the final debate managed by the former President of the Club - a Dunkerque inhabitant - Ph.Nouveau.

Books Review

« **Ghettos de riches** », Th.Paquot, Paris, Perrin, 2009, 298 p., 20€.

This is a collective and very stimulating book prepared by about twenty authors for a world tour of the gated communities, this from the USA & Latin America up to India and China after Europe (Istanbul, Cairo, etc.).



The developing city is usually inclining to the segregation than to the social diversity. But these gated communities pass a new stage when extending the social withdrawal to the middle-class after the rich ones, this in the name of a new social...and ecological status !!

These communities do not necessarily mean the end of the city and of urbanity. But there is no doubt that they convey a new kind of spatial and social control when denying any urban diversity.

Who & where ? News from the agencies

⇒ **The 5th Urban Research Symposium** was held in **Marseille last June 28-30** about the topic « **Cities and climatic change** ». Our club has participated to this meeting organized by the World Bank, the French Ministry for Sustainable Development and the AFD, with help from Isted and from the city of Marseille. 500 people from 80 countries (mostly academics and researchers) attended the symposium. It emphasized the role of the cities into the fight against the climatic change (« *The Climate battle is mostly played within the cities* ») through the strategies for reducing its causes (Greenhouse Gas Effect) and the adaptation to the climatic warming, which is particularly necessary in the developing cities. The 150 papers were referring to five main research axes :

- Climatic change indicators
- Planning efficiency (urban planning, transports, building rules & concepts)
- How can urban planning and management answer to the climatic challenges
- Financing and incentive policies
- Social aspects, notably the impact over the most vulnerable populations.

The AGAM (Marseille Agency) had also participated before into (special meeting about « *Climate, Cities and Mediterranean Sea* »). The Lyon Agency introduced the ways through which their urban community tries to adapt itself to the climatic change.

The IAU Ile-de-France was also attending the Symposium, as having just been selected by the WB with Egis Bceom & BRGM in order to study the impact of the climatic change within four cities of North Africa (Rabat, Casablanca, Tunis and Alexandria).



Alexandrie
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After a mission driven last Feb. in **Lalo (Benin)**, the Saint-Omer Agency was initially committed to assist this municipality into the revision process of its land-use plan. Due to several matters (coherence, etc.), the territory to be considered is now the District of Couffo (6 municipalities, 572 000 people). The Agency also works about the GIS Project (a partnership with Spot Image has been set up about the satellite 2006 imagery) and about a drinkable water network project, this particularly for sanitary reasons. A delegation from Lalo is expected on September in Saint-Omer for the official decentralized cooperation agreement.

On your agenda



On the initiative of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) and of the National Association of Local Authorities of Morocco, the 5th meeting « **Africités** » and the Citexpo exhibition will be held in Marrakech (Morocco) on Dec. 16 to 20, 2009.

The central topic is « *African Local*

Governments' Response

to the Global Crisis: Promoting Sustainable Local Development & Employment ».

The previous meetings were successful. Thus this new Summit should welcome several thousands of national and local stakeholders coming from the whole African continent. They will present and exchange their ideas and experiences and promote their know-how at Citexpo.

www.africités.org



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