



# NEWSLETTER

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*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*

*Let's go now ! The preparation with AFD of a booklet about the role of the urban planning agencies within the decentralized cooperation – to be published next October – will be a key action in 2010 for our Club : notably with a regional meeting in Bordeaux next June 9, and on Oct.21 the management of a special workshop about "Sustainable developing cities" during the 31<sup>st</sup> Fnau annual meeting.*

*But let's get also some news from Rio, Mexico or Benin, while reading about the use of public space or the present issues in SE Asia.*

*G.Antier & P.Berger, Club Leaders*

## News from the Club

FNAU took part into WUF5, the 5<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum held in Rio de Janeiro last March 22-26 under the topic « *The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide* », with more than 13,000 participants. The true heart of WUF5 was in fact a hundred of side events, networking events, training sessions, thematic debates and seminars..., acting as a kind of « projects fair » in which countries, NGO's, international bodies, public institutions and private companies can introduce their projects and practices in order to promote their ideas and methods.

Fnau has also released at WUF5 a booklet about the french urban agencies' know-how in terms of strategic planning and sustainable development.

**Wish to download it ?** <http://www.fnau-international.org/international-activities/>



**Three key facts from WUF5** : the attention paid to the community participation to the urban projects, particularly within popular areas and shanty towns ; the significant growth of the concerns about the climatic change ; and the stress about the partnership with the private sector and the urban services companies. Bahrein will welcome in 2012 the next WUF6.



**Our 4th Regional meeting : Bordeaux, June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Several public urban planning agencies do enjoy already a significant experience in terms of decentralized cooperation. But the way to link this know-how with their territorial communities is sometimes difficult, while their experience might on the contrary facilitate the projects. How to avoid disfunctioning, find updated information, elaborate a project with other partners within the French networks ? As a prelude to the Fnau / AfD booklet to be published next October about these topics, this meeting of our Club will allow councillors and urban planners to discuss and find answers, the central idea being to insist mostly about « **who made how** » than about « **who made what** ».

The morning session will alternate speeches about the French decentralized cooperation, the links in this field between agencies and communities, the AfD, the French partnership for Cities & Territories, etc., with a first case-study (Bordeaux) and the presentation of the Fnau AfD booklet.



Cl. Etteinger / IAU

The afternoon meeting will mostly insist about practical case-studies (Lyon, Paris, Marseille), before a round-table associating councillors (V.Feltesse, C.Raynal.), the Fnau Delegate M.Belliot and the two Club leaders. The meeting will end after a discussion about the workshop « *Sustainable developing cities* » to be organized in Rennes . **Suggestions from our foreign readers are welcome !!**

## Books Review

**SE Asia now trapped [L'Asie du Sud-est prise au piège]** by S.Boisseau du Rocher, Paris, Perrin Asie, 2009, 452 p.

A heavy book, full of datas and well-served by an interesting bibliography, which is mostly focusing over the relationship between super-capitalism within SE Asia and political modernisation.

After her survey of the social and economic situation of the countries in this zone, the author fears that they are now literally trapped when facing how their necessary political transformations are either uncompleted or mostly embryonic.

To be mentioned also a good chapter about the « Chinese pressure », which is more widely questioning the future of this zone in front of the US trusteeship, the Japanese influence and the future of ASEAN.



**Public spaces [L'espace public]** by

Th.Paquot, La Découverte, Paris, 2009, 125 p.

As he enjoys the urban debates (rich ghettos, delusions of heights...), the author is here considering the threats against the public spaces, and thus against the communication. Paquot, an urban philosopher - but easily understandable - knows how to build his analysis of the public space over historical foundations.

He shows us how this space is either “erased”

by walls, by the video surveillance or by the privatization of the urban public spaces, or frequently standardized by world-scale urbanization, with the commercial centres, the mass tourism or the street furniture ... As usual, he finds some sources of hope when looking how the citizens do reinvest their own streets and public spaces, this at least within the most industrialized countries. However, with its more informal uses, sometimes hidden or even threatening, the public spaces within the developing cities could be more deeply studied.

## On your agenda

Next meeting of **Cities and Ports** will be held in **Buenos Aires & Rosario on Nov.15-19** on the topic « *New world, new challenges for portcities* ». As mixing local problematics and global ambitions, the port city is a fantastic laboratory to set-up sustainable development projects.

## Who & where ? News from the agencies



Last January was driven in **Mexico** a joint mission by the urban planning agency and the Urban Community of **Bordeaux**. Its task was to evaluate the technical, economic and urban feasibility of a public transport project on dedicated lane such as a ‘tram-train’ (or equivalent) linking the cities of León, San Francisco del Rincón & Guanajuato.



This mission might lead at mid-term to a global partnership between the Bordeaux UC and the Mexican State.



An excellent initiative : in order to better ensure their cooperation program with **Lalo & the Couffo (Benin)**, the urban agency and the St-Omer Community have put locally a young graduate from the Grenoble Urban Planning Institute. He stays there since a visit last March paid by a delegation from St Omer for participating into several workshops about planning and inter-communality.

His four-months training session will focus over the feasibility of a municipal – or maybe inter-municipal- urban land register. The Agency will also take part to the first conference of the benino-french decentralized cooperation next June 8-9 juin in Cotonou.



The IAU Ile-de-France signed with UN-Habitat an agreement during WUF5.

It makes now concrete IAU’s involvement into the World urban campaign for Sustainable development (of which IAU had welcomed the Dec.2009’ Steering committee) and into the Un-Habitat ‘ project “100 sustainable cities”.

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