



# 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**

## **A successful workshop in Rennes**

*For the first time, the annual FNAU meeting (held in Rennes last week on Oct.19-21 about "The Sustainable city") had integrated an international workshop. Its topic was « What kind of sustainable urban development in developing cities? ». More than 70 people have attended the debates during three hours. And most of them accorded themselves that it was very necessary to remind the other urban agencies that the international cooperation was not tourism, but a true partnership. The workshop emphasized how the future in the « North » is more and more depending from what is going to happen in the « South ». And this mostly within the cities..*

**Rennes, Oct 21<sup>st</sup> :  
Sustainable urban development  
in developing cities**

Climate change and a reshaped economic geography with the growth of China, India, or Brazil.. Ph.Nouveau (Dunkerque) introduced the debates of the workshop by mentioning these two main challenges. He also added that the concept of « sustainable city » has not the same meaning in the "North" and in the "South"'. So what can be said ?

G.Antier et P.Berger (Iau IdF & Lyon) first gave their own opinions. The first one enhanced the fact that life is often close from survival for dozens of millions of urban inhabitants in the developing cities, which removes them from sustainability. See for example the urban sprawl, the wild and carbon-loaded mobility, the permanent decay of the urban services, or the social segregation everywhere.

P.Berger considers that there is no unique « recipe » for the sustainable urban development ("SUD") in its tasks or in its implementation, within LDCs or in emerging countries.



Facing the « SUD » luxury version of some private customers, marketing version of some local authorities, or global version by the international public investors, the developing cities try anyhow to insert SUD within some vital topics (hazards, transport..). But there lays, as a basic condition, a certain degree of planning, and long-term financial and human means.

Reaction by **J.P.Elong Mbassi** (UCGL Africa). While approving the previous papers, he preferred on his own to insist about the city as « a mirror of economic models » and "a land for segregation". Because these both generate poverty and urban riots, which cannot be accepted as « normal ». Considering the challenges and alternatives of SUD, he argued that democracy must decide. In any case, it is obvious that the developed cities feel now at stake regard to the speed of the urban changes in the developing countries, particularly in terms of SUD.



The five delegates from MAJAL / the Federation of the Moroccan Urban Agencies described how difficult it was to take SUD into account : diversity of the developing cities and ambiguity of the projects between social, economy and environment.

**N.Le Denmat** (AFD) illustrated through several examples (Medellin, Durban) the integrated approach of the urban development driven by AFD in relationship with the territorial communities, this about planning, urban dynamics, environment, etc. SUD projects must be appropriated by the population and their authorities.

As a matter of conclusion, the other speakers said that the cities had to be considered through « territory » and « partnership » keywords. These being two major conditions for a better sustainability.

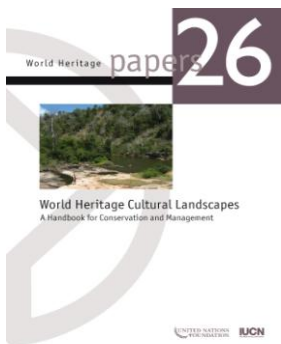
## Books Review

**The urban planning agencies and the decentralized cooperation**, FNAU – MEEDDM - AFD – CUF, Sept. 2010, 32 p.

Following the previous booklets about the *Agencies' assignments abroad* (2008) and about the strategic planning last March, 2010, this 3<sup>rd</sup> document has been released during the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Agencies in Rennes.



Basically a practical guide, it enhances the main assets of the agencies for acting within a decentralized cooperation framework, and the various questions from the local communities when they wish to associate them to an international project.



*P.M. Tricaud, Landscape Planner at the IAU IdF urban planning agency, has actively contributed to this "Handbook for Conservation and Management" published by UNESCO.*

## Who & where ? News from the agencies

**The agencies from Rhône-Alpes et Ile-de-France were at Shanghai Expo '2010** in the framework of their respective regional pavilions. On July, a one-week conference session by Paris-Ile-de-France, with help from IAU IdF & l'Apur about the « Greater Paris », and later in August, on Rhône-Alpes' initiative, an exhibition about « Urban planning and Mobility », with a movie and a serie of conferences associating the three agencies of Lyon, St-Etienne & Grenoble.

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### The Lyon Agency in Rabat-Salé-Témara

Cooperation with Rabat (notably about urban transportation and environment) et and with the urban planning agency of Rabat-Salé-Témara led the ADEME to sign a contract with the Lyon Agency. Its aim is to promote in Morocco (firstly in Rabat) an environmental approach of urban planning, adapted to the Moroccan à la réalité marocaine.

In accordance with CGI, the various partners have selected the Al Boustane area as a test-project, a newly mixed-area (housing & offices) over 200 ha, well-landscaped by the Yves Lion team.

CGI-Y.Lyon



The agencies of Lyon & Rabat work with the *Tekhné* firm (Lyon) and with the creators of Al Boustane in order to strengthen the project by a well-defined environmental approach which might be later a reference in Morocco. A handbook about this project will in fact be published and widely distributed in Morocco.



### IAU Ile-de-France in Damascus

Two projects are underway within the Syrian capital city : a first consultancy in the framework of the new Damascus Master plan, sub-contracted by the Lebanese firm URBI, aimed to set up a general overview and development guidelines in the field of the urban heritage.

A second consultancy was just concluded with GCEC in order to provide a methodological and thematic assistance to the Master Plan of « Rif-Damascus », the peripheral area of the city.

## On your agenda



Next Feb.24-26 will be held in **Singapore** the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference Global Visions about **“Risks and Opportunities for the Urban Planet”**.

<http://globalvisions2011.ifou.org/>