



# NEWSLETTER

N°8 – January 2007

*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*

## News from the Club

The **coordination meeting** of the various clubs of the FNAU network was held in Paris on Jan.31, 2007. The International Cooperation Club has mostly emphasized the quarterly publication of our Newsletter (now both in French & English) and the opening-on-line of our English website [www.fnau-international.org](http://www.fnau-international.org) last October 23, 2006.

Patrice BERGER & Christian SOZZI (**Lyon urban agency**) are now co-managing the International Cooperation Club with Gilles ANTIER (Greater Paris regional agency).

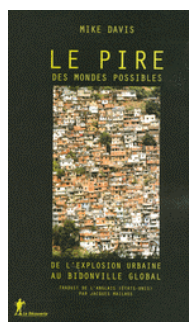
They have summarized their **three main tasks for the Club in 2007 – 2009**, being the following :

- 1- Helping several countries to set up structures equivalent to the French urban agencies, particularly when these countries are on way to develop decentralization processes & inter-municipal structures;
- 2- Making the agencies able to play a **significant role within the French decentralized cooperation** in the field of urban management, this including a technical assistance to the agencies beginning to work abroad
- 3- Strengthening the role of the Fnau network and of the agencies as partners for the **exportation of the French know-how in the field of urban planning and development.**



## Books Review

**Planet of Slums (*Le pire des mondes possibles*)**  
by Mike DAVIS, Paris, Ed. La Découverte, 2006, 249 pp.



*« The main function of the urban fringe within the third world is to be a kind of urban dumpsite. »*  
The rather politically incorrect style of this US researcher is well illustrated by this phrase. The book has a quite straightforward style, particularly when ( the author is considering the activities of the World

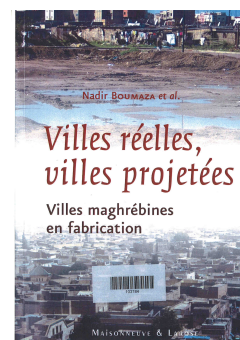
Bank or the Structural Adjustment Programs, and the demonstrations are served by numerous statistical data & charts. We do not know if « the urban explosion will drive [the world] to a global slum », but this statement of a relentless slum-producing machine is worth closely reading, this also because of the author's polemic talent.

**Real cities, Planned cities [*Villes réelles, villes projetées*]**, by N.Boumaza (dir.), Paris, Maisonneuve & Larose Ed., 2006, 691 pp.

A heavy collective issue bringing 39 experts together in order to analyse the making-of processes of the Maghrebian cities.

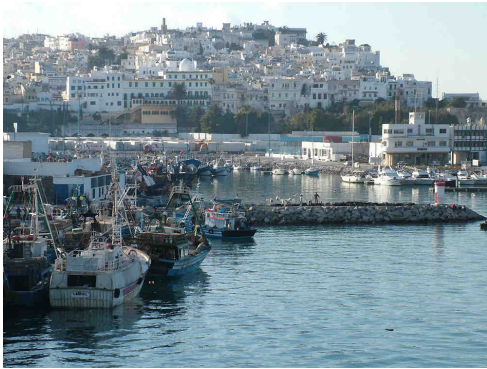
The analysis of their specific urban dynamics, of the role of the urban inheritance, and finally of the urban planning and development policies, lead the contributors to a wide criticism of the local planning practices, these being too often « inherited and imported » from the developed countries.

These analyses and researches may sometimes appear a bit rough when considering the shift between the theoretical processes and their practical effects. But this is precisely why they might be also be very useful to many professional planners...



## Who & where ? News from the agencies

The FNAU network and 6 agencies have participated into the **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Moroccan & French agencies in Tanger** last December 18 & 19. It was organized by the new Moroccan network named *Majal* (« Territory »), created last July and associating 26 agencies. This new federation is presently headed by the Director of the Tetouan Agency, Mr. Abdelouahed Fikrat.



Tanger, le port et la ville  
Cl. C.Castanier / [marine-marchande.net](http://marine-marchande.net)

Several French agencies have already initiated programs of decentralized cooperation in Morocco, such as Clermont-Ferrand with Marrakech, Bordeaux with Casablanca, Nancy with Fès. Some others are opening their own programs, such as Lyon with Rabat, in partnership with IAURIF, Aix-en-Provence with Oujda, Dunkerque with El Jedida, Marseille with Tanger or Grenoble with Meknès. This cooperation include technical exchanges – although the Moroccan urban agencies are governmental bodies and are more involved than their French colleagues into the daily urban management (building licenses, etc...), and inter-networks exchanges between FNAU and *Majal*.

The technical cooperation set-up by the agency of Lyon in **Costa Rica and Salvador** has been summarized in a pleasant and well-illustrated bilingual document. Urban planning, transports, quality of the urban down-towns, decentralization : if another agency of the FNAU network has also exported these topics and this know-how, we would appreciate to tell more about its experience in this Newsletter.



While participating last Dec. 2006 at the **2nd Urban Forum** set-up by the Municipality & the urban agency of **Chihuahua** (Mexico) and reviewing the projects of the agency, IAURIF / the Greater Paris Region Urban agency has also re-contacted the AMIMP, the Federation of the Mexican urban agencies.



The next national meeting of the agencies in Cancun on April 2007 will maybe give the opportunity to raise some new projects with the Fnau network and several agencies. The last one was the training session on « Managing the Urban Mobility », organized in Queretaro on Dec.2004.

## On your agenda

International Meeting about **The taxi & the City**, on September **20 – 22** at the Gulbenkian Foundation in **Lisbon**, organized by the «Institute for the City on the Move» (IVM), which recently published a study about «the expansion of the role of taxis in a conurbation's system of transportation». [www.ville-en-mouvement.com](http://www.ville-en-mouvement.com)



« **Bus Systems without limits** » ! A nice topic for the 5<sup>th</sup> Bus International Conference organized the UITP in **Bogota on Feb. 14 – 16**. From bus system development, a special session on “bus system concepts”, infrastructure and station design - the scientific content of this edition in the proper city of the “transmilenio” goes far beyond the bus vehicle itself. [www.uitp.com](http://www.uitp.com)