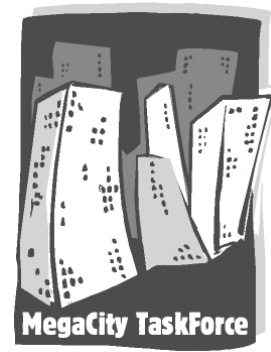


MEGACITY TASKFORCE

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION



Newsletter No. 4

Cologne, 10 April 2005

Dear reader,

This is the fourth issue of the Newsletter of the MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union (IGU). Its focus lies on reports of the 30th International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Glasgow, reports about conferences and workshops and hints to coming conferences in the context of global megacity research. The Newsletter is disseminated via E-mail and/or ordinary mail (upon request). Please feel free to pass it on to interested colleagues. We endeavour to keep our internet presentation up to date and invite you to visit our website at www.megacities.uni-koeln.de for information and details.

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1. International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Glasgow: Report on the sessions on megacities

When in the year 2015 almost 60 megacities will sprawl on the Earth surface more than 600 million people will be living there. These mega-cities have become important loci of global change reflecting and reproducing within their territory the dynamics and struggles associated with social forces and environmental dynamics on different scales. Against this background a series of three well-received sessions at the International Geographical Congress in Glasgow (16-20 August 2004) were jointly organized by the IGU MegaCity TaskForce and the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP).

One part of the contributions emphasized cities as areas of disparities and potential for social conflicts and analyzed changes in the social dynamics and socio-spatial patterns in a number of case studies. Martin Coy (University of Innsbruck) presented

recent research on the case of São Paulo analyzing conflicting actor interests as well as current efforts of non-governmental organizations and the municipality to regenerate inner-city areas. Itzhak Schnell (University of Tel Aviv) demonstrated for Tel Aviv how socio-cultural parameters rather than spatial vicinity and neighbourhood relations structure social segregation. Lisa Benton-Short and Marie D. Price (both George Washington University) presented a ranking of major cities based on immigration as an indicator for cultural globalization and compared them to other, particularly economically based global city hierarchies. Bill Solecki (Hunter College, City University New York) presented findings from research together with Robin M. Leichenko (Rutgers University) on the export of American urban lifestyles and their impact on the formation of urban landscapes in cities in less developed countries.

A second set of presentations focussed on megacities as areas with a high degree of vulnerability and highly stressed natural environments being risk-prone for natural disasters. R.B. Singh (Delhi School of Economics) demonstrated in an empirical case study from the Delhi Metropolitan region co-authored by Anju Singh (Banaras Hindu University) the critical role of well-established and adapted monitoring and observation systems in the assessment of how urban expansion and land use changes associated with rapid industrialisation inevitably led to massive environmental risks. Irasema Alcantara-Ayala (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) proposed an integrated disaster management model developed together with Fouad Bendimerad (Chair of Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative) and Friedemann Wenzel (University of Heidelberg) aimed at reducing risk to megacities by involving researchers, local governments and institutions, and community leaders into a local coalition (drawing upon experience from a case study of Istanbul). Finally, Javier Delgado-Campos (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) presented a paper on the effect of rural-urban dynamics on the vulnerability of a region in central Mexico, prepared together with Gabriela Angeles-Serrano and Irasema Alcantara-Ayala (both Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). They argue that an assessment of recently industrialized rural areas functionally linked to a regional central place is required to understand the interaction among socio-environmental indicators affecting areas susceptible to land-sliding and foresee likely losses of natural valuable areas.

Gregor Laumann, IHDP

2. MegaCity TaskForce and Steering Committee approved (2004-2008)

The Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union approved the continuation of the work of the MegaCity TaskForce Steering Committee during the IGC in Glasgow, by prolonging its period of activities from 2004-2008.

The Task Force mission is to encourage the development, promulgation und dissemination of new und societally relevant research topics on megacities - including theory-led, basic research as well as problem-solving and applied aspects of geographic expertise. Emphasis lies on issues of continental and global scale, and on the restructuring of urban life over the middle and long term, with particular reference to global environmental, socio-cultural, political and economic change. Furthermore, the Task Force is aiming at embedding megacity research in internationally and globally acting organisations and institutions as well as to enhance the visibility of the crucial importance of megacities as global innovation motors and risk areas.

Major aims and objectives of the Task Force are:

- a) to play a leading role in the development, promulgation and dissemination of new research topics on megacities; encourage and promote research programmes on the dynamics of megacities; participate in international committee work
- b) to provide information and service
- c) to establish a megacity network and promote cooperation with other relevant initiatives

The new, approved Steering Committee consists of 17 members of 15 states (Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Korea, Switzerland, USA). Ex officio members are: Prof. Ronald Abler, USA and Prof. Woo-ik Yu, Korea. Further potential members from other countries may be recruited in due course. Following is a list of addresses and short bio data of the SC members:

Prof. Dr. Surinder Aggarwal

A Ph.D. from Kent State University, Ohio, Prof. Aggarwal has taught at many universities including Kent State, Ohio, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Delhi University. Presently he is Head of Geography Department, at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi 110007, India (Tel: +91-11-7664691, Fax: +91-11-27667336, Email: surinder1@vsnl.com, surinder_aggarwal@hotmail.com)

He also holds the position of Director; Special Assistance Programme of the University Grants Commission on research areas of Urban Regional Development and Natural Resource Management; Fellow of the Developing Countries Research Center, University of Delhi; Member of various academic and selection committees of the University of Delhi and other Universities in India; Member, Science Plan Committee of DIVERSITAS (one of the global programmes of ICSU) for Global Environmental Change and Human Health Project (the Global Project has a strong urbanization/megacities component); Steering Committee Member of IGU Commission on Environment and Health; Member, Editorial Board of International Journal of Urban Environment (Springer).

He has remained consultant to WHO-SEA to promote and strengthen Healthy Cities Programme in southeast Asia region and has been consultant to Asian Development Bank on integrating and mainstreaming social dimensions of infrastructure projects in India. Has earned several recognitions including Fulbright scholar, DAAD award for environmental research and visiting scholar at the University of Bonn. Co-editor of Asian City (Kluwer) and special issue of Geojournal on Asian Urbanization .

Prof. Dr. Irasema Alcantara-Ayala

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First degree in Geography at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). In 1997, she obtained her PhD in Geography with speciality in Geomorphology from the University of London. Afterwards, she carried out a postdoctoral stay in the

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. At the present time, she works as Associate Professor in the Institute of Geography at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and as a Lecturer in the Bachelors and Postgraduate Geography programmes at the same University. Her research is concentrated on mass movement, natural hazards, risks, and prevention of natural disasters. She has published various papers and some book chapters, as well as presented her work at several international meetings. She is working in collaboration with the National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) in developing a national strategy to mitigate the risk associated to slope instability in Mexico. Currently, she is the International Geographical Union (IGU) Representative within Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and President of the Mexican Society of Geomorphology.

Prof. Dr. Hildegardo Córdova Aguilar

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP)

Phone at work: 0511-626 2000 extension 4533, Telefax (0511)261-8867

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Education and Degrees:

- University of Wisconsin Madison 1976-1982; Ph.D in Geography, 1982
- Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Doctor in Geography, 1980
- University of Texas at Austin, 1970-1972; M.A. in Geography, 1972
- Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos; 1964-1968; B.A. in Geography 1969

Major Fields of Interest:

- Rural Development, Regional Planning, Biogeography, Economic Geography, Urban Geography, Latin América.

Languages::

- Spanish, English (fluent); French (understandable); Portuguese (only read).

Post doctoral training:

- Four months in France for a Stage in Urbanism and Land Management, 1983.

Current positions:

- Full Professor of Geography, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) since 1992.
- Retired Professor of Geography at the Escuela Académica Profesional de Geografía, Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) since 2004.
- Executive Director of the Center for Research in Applied Geography (CIGA-PUCP) since 1985.
- Coordinator of the Geography School at the PUCP since 1987.
- Director and Editor of *Espacio y Desarrollo*, Annual Journal of the CIGA, PUCP since 1989.
- Editor of *Revista Geográfica*, Commission of Geography, Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) since 1998.
- Vice President of the Commission on Geography, Panamerican Institute of Geography and History from 1997 to 2005.
- Member of the Board, Sociedad Geográfica de Lima, since 1990.

Prof. Dr. Martin Coy

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1954: born in Frankfurt am Main; under-graduate studies of geography, geology and economy at J.-W.-Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main; post-graduate studies at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris; Ph.D. on regional development in the Brazilian Amazon at the University of Tübingen; Post-Doc (Habilitation) on urban development and planning in the Brazilian Mid-West at the University of Tübingen; visiting professor at various European universities (Salzburg, Innsbruck, ENS/Paris) and universities in Brazil and Argentina; actual position: Professor of Applied Geography at the University of Innsbruck (Austria); other functions: co-editor of "Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen", member of the International Editorial Board of "European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies"; megacities-related thematic and regional interests: processes of urban fragmentation, inner-city renewal, gated communities, urban planning and sustainable urban development, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Paris.

Dr. André Carl Horn

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Position: Senior Lecturer; Other IGU associations: Representative of IGU Urban Commission and MTF in South Africa; Member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow, Corresponding member of IGU Gender Commission and co-editor of GeoJournal Special edition on Gender and the City. Organiser of MTF meeting: Durban, South Africa, 2002. Megacities-related foci: The megacities of Africa. The impact of globalisation and population migration on the cities of Africa. Service provisioning in big cities in Africa. Management of the new mega-municipalities of South Africa.

Prof. Dr. Amir Khan

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Amir Khan is Professor and Head of the Department and CIET Coordinator NWFP for NRB Social Audit of Governance and Delivery of Public Services and SAAAW Projects funded by UNDP/CIDA and DFID. The main responsibilities are teaching, research and management including, monitoring, training, data collection, analysis and reporting. Dr. Khan got his PhD from the University of Nottingham UK in the field of Environmental Planning in July 1991. Since then Dr. Khan has carried out extensive research in the field of Human Geography, Urban/Regional Development Planning, Urbanization, Housing and population. He published more than 50 research publications and worked as consultant with different national and international organization such as, USAID; World Bank, UN-WFP, ICIMOD, DFID, UN/ESCAP, UNDP, CIDA, and CIET. He has produced more than a dozen project reports for these national and international agencies. Dr. Amir Khan was the Chairman of the National Committee for the International Geographical Union (IGU) and the President of Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA) from 1997 to 2003; Member of Commonwealth Geographical Bureau from South Asia; student member of RTPI London, member of Academic Council and Senate of the University of Peshawar.

Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas

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1991 Ph.D.; 1996 Habilitation (Ph.D. II); 1997 Gerhard-Hess-Award of the German Research Foundation; 1998 Heisenberg Scholarship of the German Research Foundation; 1987-1989: Research Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Münster; 1989-2000: Senior Research Assistant and later Assistant Professor, University of Bonn; since 2000: Full Professor, University of Cologne; Research topics: Processes and Dynamics of Metropolises and Megacities, Cultural Geography; Southeast and East Asia. Chair of the MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union (IGU), Vice-President of the Alfred-Wegener-Stiftung, elected Reviewer of the German Research Foundation, Speaker of the Scientific Working Group on Southeast Asia of the German Geographical Society (DGfG), Member of the Board of the German Association for Asian Studies, Member of the International Advisory Board of the Geographical Journal; 12 scientific books and >120 articles; Editor of the Journal „Petermanns Geographische Mitteilungen“ and the Book Series „GeographieKolleg“ and „GeographieRegional“.

Prof. Dr. Marcelo Lopes de Souza

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Geography and Urban Planning Professor at the Department of Geography of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Published 7 books (among them “O desafio metropolitano” (“The Metropolitan Challenge”), 2000), and “Mudar a cidade” (“Changing the City”), 2002), and over 50 articles and book chapters.

Megacities-related regional and thematic foci:

- 1) Urban problems ([self-]segregation, drug trafficking and violence, urban poverty) in Brazilian and other Latin American cities.
- 2) Urban planning tools/approaches and their relevance for contemporary Third World urban challenges

Prof. Dr. Terry Mc Gee

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Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia. B.A. (U.N.Z), M.A. (First Class) (UVIC, N.Z.) PH.D. (UVIC.N.Z). Has held appointments at the University of Wellington, University of Malaya, University of Hong Kong, Australian National University and University of British Columbia. Former President the Canadian Association of Geographers. Published over 20 books and 200 articles. Principal research interest is the urbanization process in Asia (particularly Southeast Asia) and the growth and challenges of mega-urban regions. Author of the The Southeast Asian City (1967), The Urbanization process in the Third World (1971)

Hawkers in Selected Southeast Asian Cities (with Yue-man Yeung) (1976) Theatres of Accumulation (with Warwick Armstrong) (1984) Extended Metropolitan regions in Asia (with Ginsburg and Koppel) (1991). Most recent research has been on the social economic, environmental and planning challenges of the peri-urban regions of extended metropolitan regions of Asia, particularly Southeast Asia. Writing is also continuing on a new version of The Southeast Asian City.

Prof. Dr. Günther Mertins

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born: 20.06.1936 in Mülheim-Ruhr, Germany; studies of Geography, History, Geology and Political Science at the Universities of Cologne and Giessen.

1964: Dr.rer.nat., Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Giessen.

1973: Dr.rer.nat.habil. (Habilitation), Faculty of Geosciences and Geography, University of Giessen.

1964: Assistant Professor, University of Giessen.

1972: Associate Professor, University of Giessen.

1974: Full Professor, University of Marburg.

2001: Emeritus Professor; Lecturer, University of Marburg.

Visiting Professor: Universities of Barcelona/Spain, Barranquilla/Colombia, Bogotá/Colombia, Córdoba/Argentina, Havana/Cuba, Innsbruck/Austria, Mérida/Venezuela, Recife/Brazil, Tucumán/Argentina.

Main research fields: Urban Geography (esp. megacities), Population

Geography (esp. migration), regional and urban planning; Latin America, Iberian Peninsula.

Dr. Zin Nwe MYINT

Department of Geography, University of Yangon, Yangon, Myanmar

Zin Nwe Myint finished her Bachelor and Master of Art in Geography, Yangon University, Myanmar. Her master thesis on "Geographical Study of the Urban Growth of Yangon City" was finished in 1998. After a six month scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which she spent at the Department of Geography, University of Cologne, she has finished her Ph.D. on "Sustainable Urban Development of Yangon City: Woodfuel Supply". Her research foci are Urban and Social Geography.

Prof. Dr. OOI Giok-Ling (HSSE)

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(Ph.D., ANU, Canberra), Giok Ling is Associate Professor at the National Institute of Education as well as Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies. She has been Director of Research at the Ministry of Home Affairs and also taught at the National University of Singapore as well as the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

Giok Ling works in housing and urban studies as well as developmental issues such as ethnicity and health. She is also a member of different international projects (IHDP, APN, UNU – U. of Tokyo) conducting research on urbanisation, cities and global environmental changes.

Prof. Dr. Rita Schneider-Sliwa

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Ph.D./USA, University Professor of Geography, Urban and Regional Studies; Director, Institute of Geography, University of Basle, Switzerland (1995-present). *Editorial Activities and Scientific Committees:* Geographica Helvetica, Swiss Journal of Geography; Westermann "Das Geographische Seminar"; Basler Stadt- und Regionalforschung; Basler Beiträge zur Geographie; Bulletin de l'Association de Géographes Français; Revue Géographique de l'Est; Association Interuniversitaire de Géographie de l'Est; Regio Basiliensis; Landeskomitee International Geographical Union; Association Suisse de Géographie; Association de Géographes Français; Alemannisches Institut Freiburg i.Br. *Professional Memberships:* Association Suisse de Géographie (ASG); Deutscher Verband der Geographen an Deutschen Hochschulen (VGdH); Verband der Angewandten Geographen (DVAG); Association de Géographes Français; Association Interuniversitaire de Géographie de l'Est; Association of American Geographers (AAG); American Planning Association (APA); Schweizerische Studiengesellschaft für Raumordnung und Regionalpolitik (ROREP); Regio Basiliensis e.V.; Geographisch-Ethnologische Gesellschaft Basel; Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin; Arbeitskreis USA im Verband der Geographen an Deutschen Hochschulen.

Prof. Dr. William Solecki

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Ph.D. Rutgers University, Professor of Geography at Hunter College-City University of New York. His research focuses on urban land cover, land use modeling, and on the human dimensions of global environmental change. Dr. Solecki currently serves on the U.S. National Research Council (NRC), Special Committee on Problems in the Environment (SCOPE) and was a panel member on the NRC, Committee on Population and Land Use. He currently serves (has served) as the co-leader of several climate impacts and land use studies in the New York metropolitan region. He currently is a member of the UN Man and the Biosphere Programme, Urban Biosphere Reserve Workgroup, and currently is on the editorial boards of three journals, Professional Geographer, Urban Ecosystems, and Social Science Quarterly. He recently served as the Chair of the Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers.

Prof. Dr. Ben Wisner

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Ben Wisner began work in rural Tanzania in 1966, writing his PhD dissertation on how households cope with drought in eastern Kenya (1978). During the late 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s he worked in many parts of Africa on questions concerning wood fuel and rural energy, water and sanitation, drought, flood, community health and food security. Wisner retired from full time teaching in 2000, and engages in research and consulting from bases in the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College, Ohio, as well as the Development Studies Institute, London School of Economics, and the Benfield Hazard Research Centre, University College London. He has served as senior technical editor for United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2004). *Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development*. Geneva: UNDP <http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/rdr.htm> and co-editor of *Environment and Health in Emergencies and Disasters*. Geneva: World Health Organization/UN High Commission for Refugees/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2002. http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/emergencies/en/. Co-author of *At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability, and Disasters* (London 2003); author of *Power and Need in Africa: Basic Human Needs and Development Policy* (London 1988), and numerous refereed papers, book chapters, and reports. He is also co-founder of the web site devoted to social aspects of disaster management, RADIX: www.online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/radix.

Prof. Dr. YAN Xiaopei

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(B.S. in China, M.Phil. in England, Ph.D. in China), a professor in urban geography, and director of the Centre for Urban & Regional Studies, Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen) University, China. Her research interests are industries and urban development, megacity, urban internally spatial structure, and regional development and planning. The important results have been achieved in the dynamics of urban growth based on the research of producer services, the delimiting method of CBD, the application of progressing theories of urban geography in urban planning. Her recent research focuses on the service geography, urban land use, urban village and rural-urban relation. She is awarded a grant for remarkable young scientists by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and has directed three other projects funded by this National Foundation. And four international collaborative projects and ten other projects have also been directed by her. Her publications are therefore fruitful. Now she is a member of the MegaCity TaskForce, IGU, member of the Commission on Monitoring Tomorrow's Cities, IGU, member of the International Advisory Board, Urban China Research Network at Albany, USA, member of CNC-IHDP, vice chair of the Commission on Urban Geography, Chinese Geographical Society, member of the Urban Planning Society of China, standing member of the Regional Science Society of China. She has been a member of the Commission on Population Geography, IGU for a long time.

Prof. Dr. Woo-ik YU

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Date of Birth January 6, 1950

1967~1973 Bachelor and Master of Art in Geography, Seoul National University

1976~1980 Dr. phil. in Geography, University of Kiel, Germany

1980~present Professor, Department of Geography, Seoul National University

2003~present Advisor, Policy Planning Commission, City of Seoul

2002~present Member, Editorial Board, Weekly Magazine "Future Korea"

2000~2002 Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Seoul National University

1995~1997 Secretary General, 29th International Geographical Congress, Seoul

1994~1998 Secretary General, Presidential Commission on Policy Planning, Korea

1989~1994 Member, Presidential Commission for 21st Century, Korea

Woo-ik Yu wrote more than one hundred papers and books on geography. Main interests of his research lie in socio-cultural geography and regional policy of Korea. He wrote also hundreds of essays on journals and newspapers.

3. International Geographical Congress, Florence, Italy, 2004**Report on a Symposium on Geosciences for underground development of cities**

This Symposium (22nd August, 2004), labelled as T37-02, was chaired by Giuseppe Nardi from the University of Napoli and myself. The Symposium was rather well attended with a maximum of about 70 participants. It was framed in a series of three symposia dealing with Urban Geology. One of these was entitled 'Geoscience in the cities' (T37-01) and the other 'Assessment of, and responses to geological hazards and risks in urban areas' (T37-03). The total number of oral presentations in these three Symposia was 33, 15 of which in T37-02. There were 50 poster presentations, just three of these in T37-02.

Despite the different titles several of the papers might well have been presented in one of the other Urban Geology Symposia. Although the relatively large number of Italian papers did not come as a complete surprise during this IGC, it does reflect the high level of research on suburban development currently available in Italian universities. However, apart from underground parking garages, the metro and a few other public facilities, Italian cities do not show spectacular cases of underground development, as for example some Chinese cities and Montreal. On the other hand, many Italian cities do have extensive underground networks of underground canals (e.g. Napoli) and (historic) military systems (e.g. Torino).

The Napoli school of Giuseppe Nardi was very well represented with five good to excellent papers, dealing with various aspects of this emerging field. Much attention was given to GIS application, and many efforts were exerted in creating reliable databases for urban areas in Italian cities to produce acceptable results from GIS application. Other remarkable papers were by Al-Hashimi, who showed historic (7th century AD) underground development in Al-Najaf City (Iraq), by Marker who pointed to the lack of policies in development plans where major subsurface development would be acceptable taking into account all, including geological factors, by Dehls et al., demonstrating the great potential of Radar Interferometry in identifying subsidence impact of just a few centimetres along railway tunnels in the city of Oslo

(Norway), by Nathanail who raised some fundamental questions concerning data-collection and ownership, and by Numi et al. who introduced an innovative and user-friendly web-based urban geo-database for the city of Helsinki (Finland) with a long tradition of underground urban development.

In sum, this Symposium displayed state-of-the-art knowledge and information both on tools and methods to understand and visualize the urban subsurface, on the use of geo-parameters for underground construction, on the way how our ancestors used their subsurface beneficially, and on the challenging interaction between geoscientists and urban planners. The Symposium clearly demonstrated the viability of this emerging branch of the geosciences geared at direct application in society.

Eduardo F.J. de Mulder

4. The 8th World Congress of Metropolis 2005 Berlin, 11-15 May 2005

Tradition and Transformation: The Future of the City

For as long as there have been cities, they have been important economic, political, and cultural centre attracting large parts of the population. Today, too, people around the world move to cities in search of work and better prospects. In 2007, half of the world's population will live in urban areas, and in 2015, more than 600 million people will live in cities with a population of more than 5 million, two-thirds of which will be located in developing countries. Despite all the risks and conflicts this development will entail, metropolitan regions are far from being just gigantic trouble spots. Instead, they are also increasingly becoming global centres of communication, innovation, and growth for business and the scientific community. At the same time, they set the pace for social developments and trends in culture and fashion.

Twenty years of co-operation within the framework of the METROPOLIS city network, which represents more than 80 cities worldwide with more than one million inhabitants, have shown that metropolises in both economically developed countries and Third World countries are undergoing a process of fundamental change and that sustainable solutions have to be found, particularly for the following problems:

The sometimes exponential growth of traffic has regularly entailed the complete breakdown of the traffic system in many cities. Reducing and successfully managing private traffic is thus indispensable to the "future of the city," as is stronger promotion of environmentally friendly means of transportation that help reduce emissions and maintain the city's mobility, which is necessary for its daily functioning.

Urban waste management must be improved by reducing the amount of waste, increasing recycling efforts, and employing new technologies.

Clean water is a valuable resource whose economical and sustainable use must be ensured by effective urban water management.

Urban poverty and pollution are great challenges not only for the rapidly growing metropolises of the developing countries. Models for preventing developments of this kind and for renewing disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods are becoming more and more important in the economically developed countries too.

The meticulous collection and analysis of data and indicators that help us to recognize urban development problems at an early stage are important building blocks for improved city management and an efficient administration.

Different models for governing and managing cities, the implementation of such models, and the involvement of the local population and local players are important elements of "metropolitan governance".

The 8th World Congress of Metropolis 2005 will focus on the issues described above and include the presentation of innovative ideas from business and the science community. The Congress is meant to support the process of transforming cities around the world into livable, democratic metropolises ready to meet the challenges of the future, while taking due account of the different traditions of cities and their residents. Metropolis's six Standing Commissions will present their experiences and results. Events complementing the conference, such as workshops, field trips, a Women Congress, a Youth Congress, and a continuing education seminar on "Rail Transport in the City" will offer experts from the political sphere, the administration, science, and business an excellent forum for establishing contacts and exchanging experiences at an international level.

A festive touch will be added to the Congress by the welcome reception given by the Congress's host, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, at the magnificent concert hall, Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt, a ceremony and a dinner at the Zeughaus (armory) celebrating the 20th anniversary of Metropolis, and the farewell banquet hosted by the President of Metropolis and Mayor of Barcelona, Joan Clos. Berlin's Carnival of Cultures will serve as an entertaining conclusion to the Congress. This cheerful and colorful event has demonstrated for years how a cosmopolitan way of life and cultural diversity can enrich our lives.

For further information see

http://www.metropolis2005.org/en/kongress_2005/tradition.html

5. Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow in Tokyo

The IGU Commission on Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow will convene its Annual Conference in Tokyo in August 2005. First circular.

Recently, many geographers view Tokyo as a global city. Enforcing a rapid industrial change and a high concentration of globally linked economic functions, Tokyo is positioning in the global urban system. As you might observe, Tokyo provides an ideal context for the Commission's goal of Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow since the future has already started here!

On behalf of the Commission, and as Conference Organiser, we invite you to participate in the planned programme of activities. This first circular provides basic information on the conference arrangements, key dates and guidelines for the contributors. For those wishing to participate in the meeting please fill the conference form and do not forget to let us know about your colleagues that have an interest to participate in this conference.

Local organizers: Professor Yuji Murayama (University of Tsukuba), Professor Guoqing Du (Rikkyo University)

Conference dates: Saturday 20th August until Wednesday 24th August 2005

Scientific excursion: Thursday 25th August until Sunday 28th (Morning) August 2005
Conference venue: Rikkyo University, Ikebukuro Campus, Tokyo

The detailed information will be announced later in the commission's homepage:
<http://cities-of-tomorrow.com/>

Conference theme: The primary objective of the Commission on Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow is to identify, interpret and monitor the processes and patterns of urban change in the contemporary world. Special themes of the conference are

1. Urbanization Trends: Western and Asian Mega-Cities
2. New Methodologies in Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow

Further important themes are:

1. Interurban Dynamics: Flows, Networks in Space
2. The Intra-Urban Dynamics: Local Spaces and Development Processes
3. Governing the Metropolis and Cities of Tomorrow
4. Urban Tourism and Its Functions for Urban Development

6. Request for Cooperation

We would like to invite you to cooperate with the TaskForce by

- sending us details about various activities, like conferences, call for papers, etc. to be disseminated on the homepage under 'events';
- sending us details on ongoing or new projects and research initiatives (to be included under 'research');
- informing us on recent publications (quoted in the same way as on the web under 'documentation' and 'publications');
- sending us material on individual megacities, such as maps, statistics, www-links for inclusion into the webpage under 'documentation'.

The aim is to provide a website that is both informative and topical and reflects the state of the art of megacity research.

Finally, please let us know whether you are interested in being kept in our Megacities mailing list. Any feedback from you - be it in connection with research projects, news on relevant meetings and activities, the Newsletter, or other matters - will be highly appreciated! Please contact either Frauke Kraas (f.kraas@uni-koeln.de) or Ursula Dörken (u.doerken@uni-koeln.de), who is responsible for the secretariat in Cologne.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in our activities and wish you good summer!

Frauke Kraas

Günter Mertins

Ursula Dörken