

Application for hosting the Joint ACSP – AESOP Congress 2013



Aerial view of Cardiff City Centre

This application is made by the School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff - UK.

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1 Host Organisation

1.1 Cardiff University and School of City and Regional Planning

Cardiff University is one of Britain's leading teaching and research universities with around 28,000 students and 6000 academic staff. The University's breadth of expertise in research and research-led teaching spans across 27 Schools, encompassing: the humanities; the natural, physical, health, life and social sciences; engineering and technology. These offer education for a wide range of professions as well as a longstanding commitment to lifelong learning.

Cardiff's School of City and Regional Planning (CPLAN) is one of the UK's leading centres for teaching and research in urban, regional, rural, spatial and geographical social sciences. The School has a multi-disciplinary applied human geography and urban studies focus that for over half a century has been at the cutting edge of spatial planning research and professionally accredited education. The 2008 UK research assessment exercise placed the school first in respect of the largest concentration of planning researchers. CPLAN currently has around 80 research and teaching staff drawn from 11 countries, 250 undergraduates, 200+ master students and over 50 doctoral students. The School works diligently to maintain an international perspective with a busy programme of international visitors and fellows and active links with Asia, the Americas and Europe; 17% of our students come from outside the UK.

Planning and planners have been assigned a key role by many governments in helping to achieve sustainability, including the promotion of health, and physical and mental well-being. One of the most exciting developments for the school and planning is the recently established interdisciplinary Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE). PLACE is led from CPLAN and brings together scholars from Engineering, Medical, Social Science, Psychology, Business, Law and Earth Science to address the 'big questions' - that is fundamental and practical issues- in designing, managing and governing sustainable cities. Under the auspices of the new institute, CPLAN has started collaborative work with the medical school, engineering, and the social sciences. Our scholars also work on sustainable food planning. Based in the capital, promoting health and welfare with special reference to the needs of Wales is an important role of the University and one which is fulfilled via a strongly inter-disciplinary and multi-partnership approach.

1.2 Rationale for hosting the 2013 Congress

CPLAN is an internationally networked School that is also deeply rooted in its home territory. Wales has not hosted an AESOP congress previously and the School sees hosting the AESOP/ACSP congress with scholars from Europe and North America in Cardiff as an opportunity and further stage in the creative dialogues it has long promoted between its local milieux and the wider world. As the only planning school in Wales, a culturally complex nation with persistent economic problems, CPLAN has decades of engagement with national/regional government, business and

civil society. The breadth and urgency of the nation's problems has prompted research and policy initiatives which cut across traditional categories. Thus, for example, with long standing health issues in the former mining communities – health, urban design and housing are becoming coupled, as are food and social exclusion. CPLAN's research and teaching (via client-based projects) is intimately involved in these kinds of initiatives and their critical and dispassionate evaluation.

Hosting the joint AESOP-ACSP congress will support, develop and dramatically increase the intensity of the already mutually profitable engagement between international and local/regional perspectives and understandings of contemporary challenges which are being conceptualised and sometimes addressed in innovative ways.

1.3. Organizational and financial capacity

There is broad and enthusiastic support from the University and School for hosting the joint 2013 ACSP-AESOP joint congress around a core team of academic and support staff which will serve as Local organising committee, including:

- Prof Chris Webster (HoS & Chair)
- Dr Andrea Frank (Co-Chair)
- Dr Huw Thomas
- Dr Neil Harris
- Dr Francesca Sartorio
- Dr Robert Smith
- Prof Kevin Morgan
- Geraldine Bousie (Senior Technician)
- Helen Spittle

The Head of School, Prof Webster, has long-standing experience in conference leadership and chairing scientific conference committees such as IBEE (Innovations in the Built Environment Education, 2009-11) or the international conferences on Private (Urban) Governance/Cities and Gated Communities (2006-12). Dr. Frank likewise has organised numerous workshops and four conferences on planning pedagogy in the UK; she has also served as track organiser for AESOP and PRC congresses. The school has the fiscal resources and standing to provide financial security for the event. We expect to attract sponsorship from the Welsh government, professional bodies and private investors to keep costs reasonable and provide reduced fees for delegates from very low income nations. RTPI Cymru (Welsh branch) has already expressed its support for bringing the conference to Wales.

1.4 Experience in hosting conferences

The School of City and Regional Planning has considerable experience in hosting international events and conferences, colloquia, workshops and seminars for a variety of audiences. In June 2011, CPLAN hosted the 6th International Conference in Interpretive Policy Analysis with 360 international delegates and only 4 weeks prior to that a 200 delegate event: the 2nd International conference on China's Urban Transition and City. In 2010, events included a public lecture on 'Building Eco-houses' which was attended by 250 and live-streamed to another venue with 200 attendees. Similar size events are organised on an annual basis. Cardiff University's event management service also organises regularly conferences and is responsible for staging graduation ceremonies for 5000+ students and their families. The University has a substantial technical support section and with their help, events have been broadcast through BBC Wales and often podcasts are also produced.

Given the nature of the conference and its focus on planning, Cardiff Council and the City of Cardiff are keen to work with the University in making the AESOP-ACSP 2013 congress a success. Before

and during the conference we will be supported by both the Event Management Service for Cardiff University and the Cardiff Convention Bureau. Cardiff & Co, the city's Convention Bureau has over ten years of experience in supporting large scale events in the city, providing online hotel reservations/accommodation bookings, assistance with local transport and social programmes.

2. Location, Cardiff – Wales, UK

2.1 Cardiff, the Capital of Wales – Attractiveness for Planners

Cardiff, located on the southern coast of Wales, is one of the youngest capitals in Europe. The city is host to two Universities and a renowned music and performing arts college. A formerly major port city facilitating the export of coal from the Welsh Valleys throughout the world, Cardiff has long been home to a range of ethnic groups making it an exciting and interesting place to visit. A city with a growing population, it remains spatially compact, in part a result of planning decisions over many decades.



City of contrast: Old next to New

Over the last twenty years, Cardiff has had several large brownfield regeneration projects associated with economic and spatial restructuring. These have included a major waterfront renewal project in Cardiff Bay, which has been the subject of considerable research. Here are found the 'Senedd' – the debating chamber of the National Assembly for Wales and the Wales Millennium Centre, home to the Welsh National Opera. Both buildings have won critical acclaim for their design. In the city centre, vibrant bars, cafes and restaurants are all easily accessible by local transport or on foot. The bustle of the city centre is only a few strides from peaceful parklands and the castle grounds. Indeed, Cardiff has one of the highest per capita to parkland ratios in the entire UK.

Wales – with a population of just under 3 million - has gained a level of independence after a decisive referendum in 1999 and it sits alongside Scotland and Northern Ireland as having an elected assembly with law-making and administrative powers. Many of the Assembly's powers are related to local planning and environmental issues and this alone makes it an interesting case study for planners to visit. The government is still developing in its capacities but is also active in nurturing its own national-regional identity. This manifests itself in its approach and adoption of sustainable development as a core value. It is indeed one of the first government institutions to adopt a statutory duty on sustainable development. The Welsh Government has also announced recently an extensive programme of legislative reform which will be well underway by 2013, including Wales's first opportunity for devising its own legislative framework for planning, separate from its historical linkage with England.

Many of these issues will be explored through mobile workshops during one of the congress days, see 3.3. *Mobile workshops* for more detail.

2.2. Accessibility

Cardiff is easy to reach from anywhere in the UK or overseas; it is one of UK's most travel-friendly cities. Enhancing the intermodal transport links has been a priority of British transport planning and offers visitors a remarkable public transport network connecting airports, ferry ports, coaches and trains station.

By air: Cardiff's International Airport (<http://www.tbicardiffairport.com/>) lies 13 miles outside the city centre and welcomes flights from over 50 direct destination and over 400 worldwide connection flights. In addition, Bristol, Birmingham and London Heathrow Airports are within 45min-2 hours and offer alternative gateways.

Typical roundtrip fares from US/Europe to Cardiff are *:

From/to	Price from...
New York - Cardiff (rtn)	600 £ /960 \$
Atlanta - Cardiff (rtn)	750 £/1200 \$
Los Angeles – Cardiff (rtn)	675 £/1080 \$
Toronto – Cardiff (rtn)	700 £/1120 \$
Paris – Cardiff (rtn)	100 £/114 Euro
Frankfurt – Bristol/Cardiff (rtn)	160 £/183 Euro
Rome – Bristol/Cardiff (rtn)	230 £/260 Euro
Zürich –Cardiff (rtn)	200 £/228 Euro

*(Sept 6, 2011; exchange rate: GBP/US\$ at 1.60)



By road: Cardiff is situated on the M4, providing a direct route from London and the M50 and M5 which link the Midlands and South West of England. To the west of Cardiff the A48 and M4 provide a fast route for travellers using ferry services from Ireland.

By rail & coach: Modern air-conditioned trains and coaches travel direct from London and its airports (2 hrs journey, every 30 min), Manchester (3.5 hrs), Liverpool (3 hrs), Birmingham (2 hrs), Bristol (35 min), Portsmouth and many more cities. For more information – www.nationalrail.co.uk.

By sea: For those travelling from mainland Europe there is a wide choice of entry points to the UK served by ferry. Ferry ports (Holyhead, Swansea, Dover, Bournemouth etc) link with the national motorway and railway network to provide fast and easy access to Cardiff.

When you arrive/in the city: Few cities have a more convenient central public transport hub. Cardiff Central Station is in the heart of the city where the main train and bus connections merge. There is a comprehensive public transport network serving the city centre, the outskirts and Cardiff Bay. There are water taxis opposite the Millennium Stadium which operate throughout the year to Cardiff Bay. In addition, Cardiff offers a rent-a bicycle scheme with 14 pick-up and drop off stations throughout the centre.

2.3. Hotel capacity & Delegate accommodation

Cardiff has a tradition of hosting major events (World cup, Cricket, 6 Nations Rugby) and has recently been recognised by the British Meetings and Events Industry as the 7th most popular UK conference destination. There is thus ample hotel capacity and a choice for delegates from cosy guest houses over economical accommodation to a luxurious five-star hotel. Due to the compact city centre most hotels are only a short walk from the conference venue and the railway station.

The School will be liaising with the Cardiff Convention Bureau to offer delegates a convenient, web-based accommodation booking service (secure site- linked to the conference's website hosted by the School). As soon as the proposed conference's dates (22-27 July 2013) are firmed up, we will negotiate guaranteed allocations with highly competitive hotel rates.

Examples of the range of hotels currently available:

- Marriott Hotel (184 bedrooms)
- Hilton Hotel (197 bedrooms)
- Novotel (138 bedrooms)
- Mercure (165 bedrooms)
- Holiday Inn (157 bedrooms)
- Park Inn (146 bedrooms)
- Park Plaza (129 bedrooms)
- Premier Inn (200 bedrooms)
- Radisson Blue (215 bedrooms)
- Big Sleep Hotel (81 bedroom)
- St. Davids Hotel (132 (bedrooms)
- Parc Hotel Thistle (140 bedrooms)
- Future Inn (197 bedrooms)
- Barcelo (102 bedrooms)
- Maldron Hotel (216 bedrooms)

In addition, a luxury 200 bedroom hotel is being build by Wyndham Hotel group at the water's edge in Cardiff Bay and due to be completed by Spring 2013.

Sufficient rooms in budget accommodation, for students in particular, has already been provisionally secured in university residence halls, which will be available as the conference dates are post university sessions. Residence halls are also in walking distance to the conference venue (5-10 min); all rooms are en-suite, include breakfast and are equipped with free WiFi.

2.4 Venue

The AESOP-ACSP congress will take place on Cardiff Universities' city centre campus and selected civic buildings located in the heart of city. This includes the University Main Building, Glamorgan Building (which is the home of the School of City and Regional Planning) and Bute Building (Home of the Welsh School of Architecture). In addition – larger sessions, opening plenary, key note speeches, receptions, dinner etc. will be staged in civic building such as the National Museum, City Hall or St David's Hall. All buildings are equipped with suitable audio-visual technology and accessible for disabled people. The University campus also provides EUODAM and Cardiff University Wifi access to delegates.



Glamorgan Building



Cardiff University Main Building

National Museum Cardiff

The National Museum, Cardiff, is situated next to City Hall, in the heart of Cardiff's impressive civic centre. The building, with its striking neo-classical façade opened to the public in 1927. The National Museum is a unique and prestigious location for conferences, dinners, and hospitality. The Museum's art galleries offer guests an exclusive private view of works of art over pre-dinner drinks or a gala dinner served in the Main Hall.



National Museum – Wales - Galleries

Cardiff City Hall

City Hall stands in the heart of Cardiff and within 2 min walk from the home of the School of City and Regional planning. It is the centre-piece of one of the world's finest civic centres, which features impressive buildings, landscaped gardens and tree-lined avenues. Like the campus, it is within walking distance of all city centre hotels and student residence halls. The main Assembly Hall will comfortably seat 600+ delegates, and is well suited to host the major sessions of the joint congress. It was recently used to host the 2010 Travel Media Association of Canada convention.



City Hall - exterior



City Hall – meeting spaces

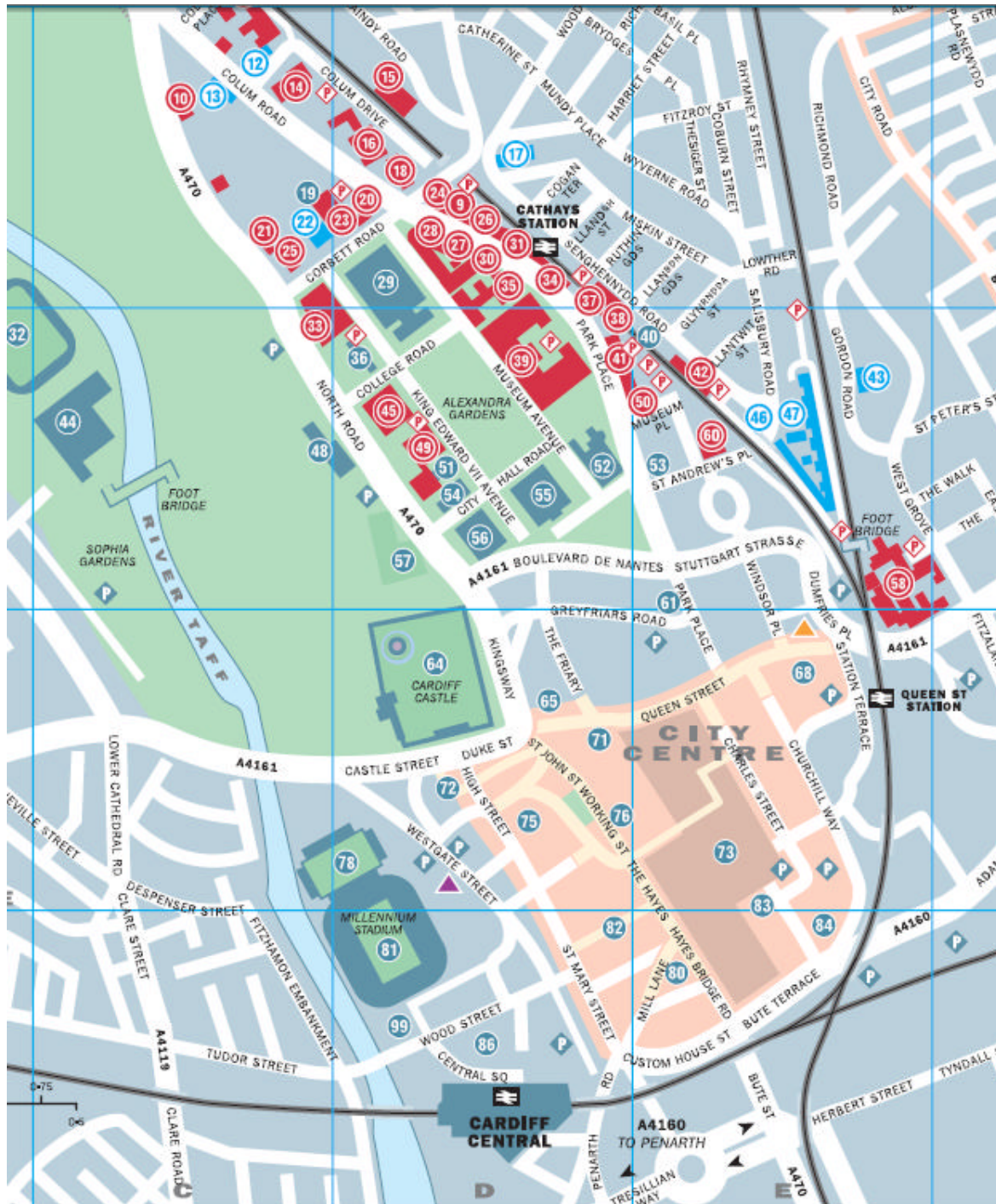
St. David Hall

St David's Hall is the National Concert Hall and Conference Centre of Wales, owned and managed by Cardiff Council and located right in the middle of the city. As well as major musical and entertainment events, St David's Hall has served as venue for political conferences and large shareholders' meetings. The building is extremely versatile with technical facilities suitable for major conventions. The auditorium has been ranked acoustically as 6th best in Europe and is permanently wired for broadcasting. The University uses the venue regularly for graduation and commencement and this could be an alternative venue for the open/closing plenary or podcasted sessions and or the opening reception.



St David Hall – Main Auditorium

The centrality and proximity of the conference venues and hotels (see map below) will allow a sustainable pedestrian oriented conference event. University buildings are # 45, 49 and 39. City Hall and National Museum, Cardiff are buildings # 55 and 52. St. David's Hall is building #76. Most hotels are in the city centre (pink shaded area). Residence halls are buildings 46/47 and 17, 22.



3. Congress theme and tracks

3.1 Congress theme: *Planning - feeding body, mind and spirit*

This theme encourages a critical exploration of planning's role in addressing important contemporary challenges which are shared globally, and experienced locally. These include securing the material underpinning for life itself, with adequate nutrition (including water) recognised as a central part of addressing long-term inequalities in every country, North and South. The design and organisation of towns and cities is also vital in addressing issues of sustainability and public health, two aspects of more sophisticated approaches to measuring quality of life. Many have also suggested that places that are good to live in, that uplift the spirit and allow people to explore the potential of collective as well as individual endeavour, will have appropriate public spaces. In these and other ways planning may be thought to hold out the prospect of different, perhaps better, ways of living. And in so doing it offers a forum in which alternative ways of life, and the values central to them, can be debated. This expansive view of planning is one which would have resonated with many of those in the planning movement internationally in the early twentieth century, whose intellectual legacy may well be worth revisiting as we enter a period of significant centenaries, such as that of the founding of the Welsh Housing Trust in 1913, part of the early planning movement in Wales and the UK.

The essentially benign view of the potential of planning has been questioned however in recent years and planning's possible role in creating and sustaining some of the very problems it seeks to address also bears investigation and discussion. The Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning has an international reputation in relation to many of these issues – notably, food and planning (it leads the AESOP thematic group in this area), environmental sustainability and urban design but also critical policy analysis. It would welcome the opportunity to facilitate sharing of research and scholarship in these and all other aspects of the theme among colleagues from North America, Europe and, indeed, elsewhere.

3.2. Congress Tracks

Following traditions of previous event but also reflecting the congress theme we envision the following 15 track topics

- Planning for sustainable places (this could include planning for the just city)
- Sustainable food planning
- Planning for healthy cities
- Planning for multi-culturalism/spiritual pluralism
- Planning education and practice
- Planning Theory
- Planning History
- Transport Planning
- Rural and landscape planning
- Planning law and property rights
- Urban, social and economic regeneration
- Regional and strategic planning
- Transnational, European spatial planning
- Urban design and preservation
- Housing

3.3 Proposed Mobile workshops

As indicated above mobile tours will be featuring significant planning achievements and activities in and around Cardiff/South Wales. Suggestions include:

- Waterfront and harbour regeneration I (Cardiff Bay, tour of environmentally acclaimed Parliament Building & Barrage & Penarth Pier)
- Waterfront regeneration II (Barry & Swansea/Mumbles – home towns of C. Zeta-Jones & Dylan Thomas)
- Model towns and villages (Oakdale miner's village and Cwmbran – (New Town in Gwent))
- Integrating sports facilities in the city (Olympic village, Millennium stadium)
- Local transport networks (valley lines, Cardiff bus and water taxi, OYBikes)
- Cardiff – Victorian arcades and 21st Century shopping environments – walking tour
- Sustainable (zero carbon) developments (Works at Ebbw Vale)
- Industrial Heritage: Newport transporter Bridge, Blaenavon and Big Pit
- Urban heritage: City of Bath
- Alternative forms of living: Live/work units (Paintworks, Bristol)
- Visit to Poundbury or Coed D'Arcy, Prince of Wales model villages
- Cardiff's Green Infrastructure – from Victorian park to ecological mitigation to food production – allotment gardens (trip to Flat Holm if tide allows?) – bicycle tour of Cardiff's parks
- Greening the Valleys – Landscape park development strategy and first developments
- Renewable energy production: wind farms and strategic infrastructure
- Historic preservation and heritage – Brecon & St Fagans, Cardiff Castle possibly linking up with Castell Coch through the work of Victorian gothic architect William Burgess.
- Local food production, health and sustainability



Waterfront regeneration – Cardiff Bay



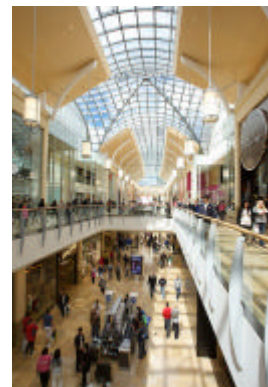
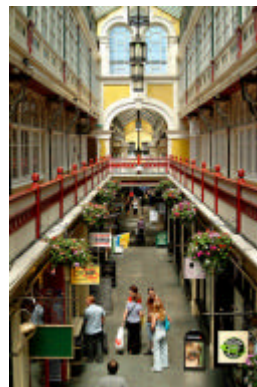
Alternative Transport: Rent a bike scheme



Transporter Bridge, Newport – Industrial heritage



Model villages: Poundbury, Dorset



Inner City Arcade-shopping

4. Sustainability and Inclusiveness

As hosts we wish to make this congress as accessible, inclusive and environmentally friendly as possible; this includes the active involvement of students and pairing junior academics with experienced track chairs to ensure involvement of the future leaders in the field in AESOP/ACSP. We seek to offer favourable day rates to encourage invitation of practitioners. As school we have excellent links with professional bodies and we will work with associations such as RICS, RTPI, and CIH and the North American counterparts to directly address and invite these audiences.

4.1 Greening and virtual access/participation

Events such as conventions have a significant carbon and ecological footprint. As part of the congress, we will use the expertise of academics under the leadership of Dr. Andrea Collins and Dr. Andrew Flynn in the school to project the ecological footprint and explore ways of reducing the footprint through planning measures. A carbon footprint calculation workshop will be offered for delegates.

In addition, we propose (if financially feasible) to create an additional category of delegate – allowing those that cannot come to Wales to access selected session via podcasts or such like technologies remotely at a fraction of the registration fee. Podcasting is done regularly for graduation ceremonies and selected teaching events and the university has the capacity to support the use of these technologies for selected sessions. The details of this will be worked out in the future – with careful consideration so as to not diminish attendance of the event.

We propose to reduce paper by using smart phone apps for those delegates that wish to use them rather than hardcopy programmes and will produce abstract/proceedings as CD. A hard copy of the programme will be available for those that prefer that option.

4.2. PhD Workshop & Location

The School of City and Regional Planning is a research council approved provider of Ph.D. training and education. At present there are more than 50 individuals from the UK and abroad enrolled in doctoral studies. The school has an acclaimed research record the broad field of planning and will be delighted to host the PhD workshop in conjunction and prior to the ACSP/AESOP congress.

Several suitable venues for such an event are available, including (economically attractive) university owned premises in the lush countryside of Wales (Gregynog) or other similar venues which will offer an inspiring environment for intensive and creative working and debate.

4.3 Accompanying persons programme and Post conference tours

A varied accompanying persons' programme can be offered (given sufficient demand) with trips to popular sites of interest such as Caerphilly Castle, Wales National Botanical Gardens or steam ship tours on the Bristol/Severn Channel.

While the UK and Wales are recognised as a tourist destination – we seek to develop a post conference tour programme visiting historically significant planning achievements along the lines of Garden cities/model towns and villages such as Low Impact Developments in West Wales (Llannawley) allowed under special use class (zoning), the Italianate village of Portmeirion (North Wales), and other model/company towns such as Cadbury and Port Sunlight (Liverpool) and Letchworth.

This document has been produced by CPLAN with kind support of Cardiff & Co (convention bureau) and the Cardiff University Conference planning support team. Photos and images were kindly provided by the above organisations.