

## **GPEAN Report, March 2016.**

Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) is a network of Planning Schools Associations worldwide. Currently, the Network has 11 members.

- + AAPS: Association of African Planning Schools
- + ACSP: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, US
- + ACUPP: Association of Canadian University Planning Programs
- + AESOP: Association of European Schools of Planning
- + ALEUP: Association Latinamericanas de Esuelas de urbanismo e Planeacion
- + ANPUR: Associação Nacional de Pós-graduação em Planejamento Urbano e Regional
- + ANZAPS: Australian and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools
- + APERAU: Association pour la Promotion de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche en Aménagement et Urbanisme
- + APSA: Asian Planning Schools Association
- + TUPOB: Association of Planning Schools of Turkey
- + ASPI: Association of Schools of Planning in Indonesia

The main activities of GPEAN are as follows:

- + Organisation of World Planning Schools Conference every 5 years
- + Publishing of Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning book series every 2-3 years
- + Activities and networking to strengthen communication between associations and planning schools

**World Planning Schools Conference (WPSC):** WPSCs are held every 5 years. The first was in Shanghai in 2001; the second in Mexico in 2006, the third in Perth in 2011. The fourth WPSC will be held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2016. The Local Organising Committee has informed that 1161 abstracts were submitted during the Call for Papers, and about 1000 of them have been accepted. More detailed information about the ongoing work for the preparation of the Congress is to be provided by AESOP Events Officer.

From GPEAN's perspective, the World Planning Schools Conferences are important events not only to bring together the global planning community and enhance interactions between different member associations, but also to promote, and put spatial planning and planning education on the global agenda, and consequently to strengthen the position of planning schools and associations worldwide. Regarding the WPSC2016 to take place in Rio de Janeiro, it is also important to create links with the Habitat III meeting (to take place in Quito in 2016 October) with a view to maximise the synergy between the two events.

Having stated these potential global impact and outreach, the importance of WPSC as a platform for the GPEAN member associations to interact with each other should not be overlooked. With this in mind, GPEAN intends to hold various meetings during the WPSC, such as Associations' Presidents Meeting, Secretary Generals and Treasurers Meeting, Conference Chairs Meeting, and a Meeting for the Representatives of Associations' Young Academics Networks/Unions.

**Dialogues Book Series, Volume VI:** Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning is a book series that bring together a selection of articles from all member associations. It has been published every two-three years since 2004, and currently Dialogues 6 is being prepared. Starting with

this issue, Dialogues Books will be focusing on certain themes, and the theme of Dialogues 6 has been identified as “The Right to the City”. Every association nominates papers from their community fitting in with this theme. In the case of AESOP, Best Congress Paper Prize winners and nominees from previous years have been reviewed and nominated (in line with the theme). It is planned to publish Dialogues 6 in 2016.

**Networking:** GPEAN is an accredited partner for Habitat III, and as such it is invited to the PrepComs (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> already held, 3<sup>rd</sup> will be organised); it is asked for feedback to certain reports and debates, for which member associations are also asked to contribute, and AESOP had contributed to the debates of Habitat III New Urban Agenda, “The City We Need” principles, etc.

GPEAN is also a member of the network called Habitat UNI - Universities Network Initiative. UNI has Thematic Hubs as follows: Informal Urbanism; Urban Governance; Climate Change; Food Security; Urban Futures; and Gender Thematic Hub. Cross-cutting activities between these hubs and AESOP Thematic Groups is a possibility that can be explored and encouraged. Thematic Hubs hold many activities, from research to training and conferences.

UNI also carries out Urban Lecture Series, which comprise 15 minutes-long videos by planners and academics. They are looking for new people and content, and nominations from our community for dynamic speakers for these Urban Lecture Series are welcome.

It should also be noted that some of the members that were supporting UNI recently withdrew, and among them are Norway and Sweden. AESOP CoRep representatives from these countries could perhaps explore the process behind this and help support this initiative. Urban Gateway is a way of joining UNI. Schools and individuals can join UNI through Urban Gateway.

GPEAN is also planning to cooperate with ISOCARP through possible joint training/teaching activities and joint sessions in congresses with a focus on bridging theory and practice, education and profession.