

The urban transport crisis in emerging economies

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The proposed round table will discuss urban transport issues, policies, and initiatives in some of the world's major emerging economies: Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, and Vietnam. The round table will aim to include one presentation on each country, focusing on the capital and/or selected major cities. The round table will also serve as a venue to launch a new volume, entitled "The Urban Transport Crisis in Emerging Economies" which has been co-edited by the round table organizers (Dorina Pojani and Dominic Stead) and will be published by Springer in 2016 (before IV WPSC). The volume contributors will be invited to participate in the round table. Among the many "emerging economies," as defined by think tanks, investment firms, and international organizations, the countries listed above share a range of similar characteristics. They all have: (a) high urbanization rates (including megacities) relative to "developed" countries due to mass rural-urban migration and/or high birth rates; (b) dynamic urban development processes, led mostly by the private sector, with high construction levels; (c) extensive urban sprawl (including decaying large housing estates) and middle and upper class suburbanization; (d) segregated communities (e.g. gated communities for the rich and the middle classes); (e) chaotic traffic patterns, with high car and motorcycle use, and high environmental pollution; (f) rapidly growing motorization; and (g) informality and/or corruption in the formal planning system. In the past decade, studies have analyzed transport issues in individual cities in these countries. However, no comprehensive and

comparative overview has been published. The upcoming volume, as well as the round table, aims to fill this knowledge gap, which is crucial to understanding the needs of a large portion of the world's urban population. Although the focus of the proposed round table will be on urban transport characteristics, attention will also be directed to the socio-economic and ideological causes that underpin these characteristics. Also, transport problems will be discussed in relation to the distinctive spatial patterns and characteristics of the examined cities. The distinctive economic and political (and cultural) circumstances in rapidly developing countries can have significant impacts on their urban transport planning institutions and outcomes. A central purpose of the round table will be to refine a cross-national evaluation framework for the transport characteristics, problems, and potential solutions in large cities of these countries since their economic upsurge. The value of an international comparative perspective would be to set forth new explanatory factors that may be overlooked in research limited to developments in single cities or nations. Substantiated comparisons would provide a better understanding of urban transport outcomes in nations, which are above a certain level of development and showing significant promise of further growth, but still below the level of developed countries. The round table will consider the following issues: Urban land use patterns / spatial structures; Trends in transport use; Urban transport problems; Urban transport governance, decision-making, and financing; Proposed urban transport solutions and implementation issues; Other country-specific issues.

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