

UGEC SSC Meeting, EGS, UCT, 22 February 2006 @ 1500

Present: KS, RS-R, SP, OGL, CG, DS

Apologies: FK, WS, GL

Agenda: as previously circulated.

RS-R opened the meeting by outlining the tasks as per the agenda. He reported WS's new appointment as leader of a big Hunter College initiative on UGEC in the NY area but that links well to us. WS also sees our priorities as being the need for 'flagship' research and effective networking. FK is in China so RS-R had been unable to talk with her beforehand.

Summary of recent activities:

1. ASU meeting: KS and RS-R visited ASU before Christmas, hosted by Chuck Redman (head of the new Institute for Global Sustainability) and staff – mainly a dialogue about UGEC and our plans for the IPO and how its staff would interact with ASU staff. Agreed that ASU staff would assist IPO on web design, meeting co-ordination etc.
2. Work also proceeded on the grant application to NSF for establishing and promoting UGEC. ASU has now submitted this and there is confidence that this (c.US\$375k) will be forthcoming by April/May; ASU will match this. We also need to prioritise going live with our website there once the domain name has been registered.
3. The advert for our Executive Officer is on the IHDP website and in the IHDP Update 1/2006 and we must move efficiently to appoint after the closing date. KS has had 3 enquiries to date. ASU has officially approved the post; the IPO staff will technically be ASU employees, so all standard ASU background checks will need to be done on our staff. We need to ensure that at least one of us meets candidates prior to appointment; and work out key questions to ask candidates and referees. DS: we could perhaps use Skype 2.0 (with video facility) – which is available as of yesterday – for a videoconference interview.
4. Xiaopei Yan: KS has sought contact by email and in person in Shenzhen, and stressed the need for active participation. Reassurances received and a co-authored paper has been submitted for the IHDP Update. However, she has not attended any meeting, and responses to ongoing discussions have been lacking. Agreed: to discuss directly with her the importance of this, and seeking a commitment to attend our June meeting in Vancouver ahead of WUF. We need active Chinese representation and participation. We also need to seek proposals for an Indian representative. We would all explore with our contacts and report back. However, we agreed to wait until we have compile our portfolio of existing SSC skills, so that we can seek to complement these by an appointment (e.g. energy, water, transport).
5. IHDP Update 2/2006: 8 papers received; some need editing and an intro would link them and enframe them in relation to UGEC and the Science Plan.
6. IHDP Project Leaders & Officers' (PLO) meeting: KS represented UGEC. IHDP funding is \$12-25k pa; recommendations for increasing IHDP fundraising was discussed. Each project summarised its activities and plans. Most mentioned urbanisation as relevant! Some tension emerged between individual Core Projects and

national funding sources, over joint and funding, with some from IHDP. Some concerns were expressed re not all IHDP work being peer reviewed (cf. other international bodies). This raised questions re the value-added of IHDP and the individual Core Projects. Answer lies in what would or could not have happened in the absence of IHDP. (*We agreed that all our UGEC outputs must be peer reviewed*). Most of those present were academics, who were reluctant to engage much in advocacy, however important this is (*again, this distinguishes UGEC*). These issues will be taken forward by Scientific Committee. KS felt clearly that IHDP is regarded by IGBP, Diversitas and WCRP as the Cinderella. Thus IHDP/UGEC should claim its own terrain – e.g. urbanisation. Late March: SSC and Core Project Officers' meetings to be held in Norwich, UK. RS-R and KS to attend; DS would attend part – in relation to establishment of a UK GEC National Committee.

7. ICLEI Contacts: RS-R has initiated in Mexico, though nobody is coming to CT.

8. FAO meeting on Land Use Characterisation System (LUCS) in Rome: KS attended and proposed a specific joint project on urbanization of deltas among FAO, LOICZ, and UGEC. The LUCS is focused on characterizing land use, including gradients of settlements and urban areas. They seek direction from us to help develop a classification scheme for urban areas. Currently, the discussion on settlements and urban areas has been dominated by natural scientists, and many classification schemes do not include an urban class.

9. Co-operation with other Core Projects (to be discussed under tomorrow's agenda). ESSP (Earth Systems Scientific Partnership) links IHDP, IGBP, WCRP and Diversitas – but is chaotic relationship in practice, lacking clear structure and mechanisms. It is holding a big consultative conference in Beijing in Nov06. We have submitted 2 parallel sessions, one on our own and one jointly with LOICZ and GECHS (on coastal urban areas). The organisers accepted the latter but the standalone was merged with another session on GEC in urban areas (submitted by Thomas Kraft – who has now moved to Univ of Cologne). It's important for us to have a presence and thus to submit papers to the session.

10. RGS/IBG Annual Conference Aug/Sept 2006. DS was successful in obtaining a plenary session (90 mins). Frauke Kraas has agreed to participate as the conference-funded member. One of KS/RS-R/WS to attend but need funds; SP is no longer coming. CG is willing to come but needs funding. All 3 people approached by DS as potential discussant are unable to come. Sue Grimmond (KCL) or Tim O'Riordan (emeritus UEA) or Brendan Gleeson (Griffith Univ, Brisbane) were suggested.

11. Listserv: KS has circulated a proto-list; a couple of other names have been added. Any others should be sent to KS. Gregor Laumann has an intern at IHDP who will set up the system.

What we want out of this meeting

1. DS: need to be focused and realistic about what each of us can do alongside other commitments; clear targets and reminders necessary. Constraints will be relieved once IPO is operational and EO in post. Need to recognise that new research de novo takes time for grants to come on stream, relative to existing work by committee meetings.
2. RS-R: outreach and networking, e.g. ICLEI (see above); training activities aimed at practitioners (as already done in Mexico, Bonn, etc).

3. SP: move beyond admin set-up a.s.a.p. into research and to be strategic, claiming 'other' work that is good and within our remit. Expect our leading edge work to yield results within 4-5 years.
4. KS: agrees with this; we also need a programme of flagship publications and reports eg IHDP Update, journals, etc. Will report on meeting at FAO later on.
5. CG: important to distinguish between networking, training and research. Unclear how to facilitate new research on these issues, building on the Science Plan. Our role on SSC: isn't it more to give leadership and direction than to undertake research directly. How can he promote interest and propose relevant projects, galvanise funding etc in W. Africa? He is involved in many networks on different themes funded from diverse sources but not connected. He would like a big push on relevant research but we should discuss how to take forward the strategy.
6. RS-R: no point in repeating existing work; our role is to collate and take it to the next level and to promote research in new areas/gaps. Thus a key early task for IPO should be to compile an inventory of existing research projects and outputs. DS recommended that this should comprise two elements: ongoing projects (as harnessed through our endorsement mechanism) and doing a thorough literature search to compile a thematically arranged bibliography. This would extend what we did for the Science Plan and might even be produced as a research paper etc. and be available on our website as a resource for the (U)GEC community.
7. SP: Admin tasks in hand and should be complete within a few months. Advocacy: training, workshops, networks, translating science into policies. Some of this has begun. However, we need more progress on advancing the Science Plan (flagship research projects, regional applications, new cutting edge research, branding existing research as IHDP. DS pointed to big differences in technical and implementational capacity in various countries – and to differentiate outputs/advocacy accordingly as different audiences. IPO will be able to help 'translate' scientific outputs into appropriate advocacy documents (academics should mainly focus on own areas of expertise). KS: key windows of opportunity arise that must be exploited e.g. FAO at present.
8. SP: we should build up library of resources/materials on our website to use for research and esp training/advocacy – avoids repetition, saves time, provides good image, and helps to bridge across the research-advocacy divide. Can also link in materials from endorsed projects and vice-versa. Agreed.
9. RS-R: this also a key method to expand our network and collaborators.
10. SP: need a menu/portfolio of skills we offer. DS: this should be on our website but also as part of one panel on our forthcoming foldout leaflet as a way to invite contact from interested parties.
11. SP: we also need to consider method – too little written about, and is very important for teaching new researchers too. Could draw on comparative research to explore the methodologies and skills required. CG: problem: who is training whom? He likes 'research action': bring together different but complementary perspectives in dialogue on approaches to real problems. What is new: the 'global' in GEC; environmental research has been under way for decades, so now we need to focus on linking the local to the global. Agreed/ DS: also felt increasingly through his recent literature review work that much of the relevant lit draws on, or reports, 'natural' or other disasters which are of short duration and therefore the research foci have been on (i)

forecasting/prediction/early warning, (ii) post-disaster recovery. By contrast, GEC impacts are/will be slow onset and of long duration; therefore our focus needs to be on long term anticipation/forecasting, adaptive behaviour and coping strategies. Even though many of the same research methods and tools may be valuable, the orientation needs to be different.

12. RS-R: Agenda 21 is a simplistic blueprint re the environment – we can take this forward.
13. KS: we need to get out of this meeting a way to write up a layperson's guide to the links between environment/GEC and urbanisation. SP: agreed and this needs to be for different audiences – in her recent experiences, the natural scientists have little idea of the social scientific approaches or role. KS/RS-R US National Academy and SCOPE projects in Tempe at present are also natural science-driven.
14. Funding: we need access to resources for meetings/events that are separate from SSC meetings, and as seed capital, and to translate the Science Plan into the different languages we identified in Bonn.

23 February 2006 @0845

1. Science
2. Synthesis (a) regional applications - what comes (or do we want) out of this?
(b) regional comparison

(NB: overarching/cross-cutting issues: scale, temporality, resources)

- Foci: (a) land cover change (beyond MEA, which is poor on this)
(b) Production, distribution and consumption of natural resources (incl. water, energy, waste production and GEC impacts, materials, land, urban footprints, biodiversity) linked to pop growth and growth of middle classes.
(c) Food and dietary change – key link between urban and rural, and North/South.
(d) Climate and cities: physical changes (temp, rainfall, etc), impact of extreme events, changing urban form and function, economic bases; health (increasing scale of diseases of poverty, impacts of temperature increase, e.g. malaria)
(e) Governance: urban citizenship; human capacity for urban enviro management (e.g. energy, water); urban regulation to cope with GEC; finance; national/local policy drivers; institutional capacity, including regulation, formality/informality, local govt systems, partnerships, etc; scale of city: wealth and inequality
(f) Infrastructure, form, function: density, urban systems, transport modes; urban/peri-urban/rural linkages; cities in regional context;
(g) technology/ building standards: renewable resources; ICTs; industrial transformations (broader than IHDP IT project), including dematerialization.
(h) globalization: history (e.g. port cities and locational implications), trade, capital flows, production flows labour flows/migration; governance discourses (e.g. WUF, UN-HABITAT, ICLEI)

(i) Definitions and methods: 'urban', GEC (to distinguish from disasters, vulnerability, social justice, etc)

3. Flagship research/new research

4. Funding: (a) NSF have travel/meeting grants up to c £12k – 2 deadlines p.a.

5. (b) translation of Science Plan & leaflet: **Action**: Xiaopei Yan to pursue with Chinese IHDP National Committee re Chinese translation (important to have this done before Beijing meeting in Nov06; CG to seek funding from IFAS for French translation

(c) US National Academies have received US\$10mn for their work on environment/urbanisation – comparative study on China, SA, Brazil (SP has circulated Stren's notes on their SA meetings in late 2004).

5. Publications: It's thus urgent for us to publish key articles (*Area, Nature, Science, World Development, GEC* etc) a.s.a.p. to claim the ground and ensure that these are cited as basic reference points. This will also cement our SSC role as leadership and catalytic for new research and drawing in wider constituencies **Action**: lead authors indicated below.

Area: CV/DS/SP – under way.

World Devt: essentially the Science Plan RS-R/DS

Nature: GEC of disasters; key importance of urban arenas; hang it on the NASA image of night/day and illuminations and map of world urban settlements as percentage of land area, other urban images in order to highlight urban growth rates of population and land and the global consumption implications for food, water, energy, and waste production; changing urban contexts. DS/RS-R to lead; KS to help on graphics. Avoid being too descriptive.

Science: GTOS focus? SP/KS 2k words

Land Use Science (Richard Aspinall, ASU, is an editor) – in a year or two, as have special issue on GLP soon. KS to liaise.

Landscape and Planning Research:

Urban Studies: special issue – Science Plan as umbrella, with hard research-based papers to help claim other work as UGEC by getting authors to tie papers to relevant aspects of the Plan as illustrative case studies. SP on editorial board so should not be lead ed. RS-R to prepare proposal. 8 or 9 papers, with one as integrative intro based on Science Plan and co-authored by SSC. Prepare this first and circulate it to other authors

Environment and Urbanization DS/CG to discuss with editor. V empirical orientation but widely read and cited. Intro piece on how GEC is different framing device for urban management – i.e. consistent environmental agenda because of long-term and thus everyday impacts of changing 'normality'.

Regional outlets, e.g. *SJTG* (OGL to explore), *SAJS*, Francophone African (e.g. *ENDA Review* – seek funding from IFAS for translation if necessary, alongside Science Plan – see above).

Timetable: By 25th March (start of IHDP meeting in Norwich, UK): first draft of *Area* paper, *WD*, *Science*, proposal to *Urban Studies*, enquiry/proposal to *E&U*. By mid-June have these all complete and *Area*, *Science*, *WD* submitted, and concept of *Nature* paper. **Action**: as per above list.

June SSC in Vancouver: agreed to start with dinner on evening of Saturday 17th; then all day 18th and into 19th. OGL leaving on 19th; RS-R leaving 20th; DS/SP

leaving 21st or 22nd; KS before 23rd (maybe as early as 20th); CG staying for entire WUF. FK (and others informally) to seek recruits for contributions to *E&U* special issue if it goes ahead. **Action:** KS/RS-R to write a.s.a.p. to WUF organisers (Dr. Christine Auclair, Human Settlements Officer, Monitoring, Global Urban Observatory, Urban Secretariat, UN-HABITAT; email: christine.auclair@unhabitat.org) to introduce FK and CG as SSC liaison contacts and to seek SSC participation in Round Table. KS to seek out accommodation in Vancouver.

Executive Officer: ASU has given \$1.5k for advertising, so we must prioritise where. **Action:** KS to initiate ads in Chronicle of Higher Educ (\$250); AAG (\$225 for v. short ad; \$511 for short ad), and ensure that it appears on the jobs noticeboard at AAG conf, with DS as contact in attendance. DS to put on CGB and RGS/IBG websites.

Selection process: applications must speak to the job and person specs; **Action:** shortlisting to roll after 1 March. Shortlisted candidates must speak by phone with Ling and David. Will be interviewed by at least one SSC member (KS or RS-R); goal is to have appointee either started or at least able to attend June meeting in Vancouver.

Funding cont.:

Funds available now:

- (a) IHDP core funding \$25k/a: adequate for about 2 SSC meetings p.a., depending on number and average airfare/accom costs. We agreed on importance of meeting approx. six monthly to galvanise and maintain momentum, especially during these early stages. Where possible, SSC meetings should be appended to other conferences to maximise effectiveness and rationalise our travel. For instance, several SSC members might have Beijing (Nov06) – see below – expenses paid through other channels.
- (b) ASU grant application to NSF: C\$20-25k for additional travel and meetings. **Action:** KS to circulate us all with the final application as submitted.

Requirements:

- (a) Research: need a blend of new advances and new case studies (esp comparative ‘meta-projects’ to serve as flagships. Different timings to be considered.
- (b) Networking activities: (i) links with other IHDP Core Projects (e.g. Patricia Romero Lankao with Global Carbon Project; Karen O’Brien with GECHS; Robyn Lechenko) and regional activities. **Action:** Invite them right away; make them privy to our documents etc. (ii) regional/thematic research networks of affiliates (an active group of relatively close collaborators, like an extended SSC, as a subset of people whose work has been endorsed via our mechanism).

- (c) Workshops: annual as per Science Plan, with major 5-year review. Again, could link to other conferences, e.g. ESSP meeting in Beijing, Nov06 – also using this opportunity to liaise with other IHDP Core Projects via precirculated documents outlining areas of mutual interest/interaction. **Action:** each of us could take a lead in such liaison with one of the projects beforehand. Gregor could start by giving us a consolidated list of IHDP funders for reference and to avoid duplication. KS to initiate and then liaise with SSC members to pursue individual organisations. OGL to investigate Singapore possibilities.

Process for Vetting Applications for Endorsement: to be submitted to IPO once operational; in the interim to KS, who then sends each one to 2 relevant SSC members (in terms of methodological, conceptual or regional expertise), as far as possible spreading the load among members. Criteria: quality, and compliance with what we ask in the proforma. In longer term, could also use associates for vetting. **Action:** KS to insert appropriate instruction onto the now-ready proforma, and to post this on our website (and IHDP website).

Process for Identifying and Approving Associates: **Action:** within 3 weeks KS/RS-R to finalise a list of criteria/purposes against which to assess potential affiliates, and to post on website. **Criteria:** in terms of what we want for project endorsement: (i) core scientific standards, (ii) advance thematic areas of the Science Plan (iii) contribute to increasing regional depth (iv) facilitate comparative analysis, (v) facilitate links and dissemination (these should already be in the endorsement document). Associates: energetic individuals to participate actively in IHDP UGEC initiative through e.g. direct involvement in workshops, research projects and publications, establishment of regional and thematic networks, interfacing with the SSC. We are particularly keen to encourage young and innovative scholars from different parts of the world.

Website: until domain name registered and IPO operational, maintain the Hunter College site and duplicate entries on IHDP main site (with hotlink to Hunter College).

General point: SSC members expressed concern regarding the very slow reimbursement of expenses, and also transparency in relation to subtractions/deductions by IHDP. For future meetings, the precedent being used this time by UCT of sending a centralised overall invoice from the host institution to IHDP could facilitate and simplify process. **Action:** RS-R to take this up with IHDP.

DS 23/2/06