

## **UGEC SSC Annual Meeting | London, UK | February 23, 2014**

**Attendees: Karen Seto, Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez, Christopher Boone, Xiangzheng Deng, Shu-Li Huang, Shuaib Lwasa, Darryn McEvoy, Patricia Romero-Lankao, David Simon, Corrie Griffith, Mark Watkins**

### **Scoping Meeting Reflection:**

The general feel was that the Scoping Meeting was a success.

**Urban Transition Team (UTT):** A group of about 8 to 10 involved in creating the next urban project. It will be a mix of SSC and others. Its lifetime would be about 12 to 18 months. The IPO will help craft a concept note outlining the mandate of the UTT, and will issue a call for nominations from the larger network.

Some names mentioned for the team include: Sari Kovats, Megan Melamed (or someone from the IGAC network), Aromar Revi, Anu Ramaswami (who had expressed interest in joining the SSC, but not the UTT), Mark Pelling, Peter Marcotullio, Thomas Elmqvist, Wang Rusong, Claire Herrick (Urban Health), younger scholars (Jed Gomez and Riyante are from the Asia training workshops), Bernard Barth, Bob Kehew, and Nordin Hassan. Xuemei Bai was also mentioned, but because of her involvement with the Future Earth Science Committee, it would have to be in the background. SSC members that would like to be a part of the group included Shuaib, David, Paty and Chris. Overall, members should be enthusiastic for the task and strong enough to push any project forward. There should also be a mix of regional representation, gender, academics vs. practitioners, and age. If possible, representatives from other programs (IGBP, IHDP, DIVERSITAS, etc.) and GEC community should be involved.

A tentative first meeting for this group would be either before or after the UGEC Conference in Taipei at which time they would present their own visions of what the new project would be. Six months after the first meeting, they would submit their final report, which would be used as a research agenda for the new program. This timeline allows for more development in Future Earth. The UTT should be left to their own decisions and directions and not to necessarily focus on a "UGEC 2" or on Future Earth as the end-game. They also would help map out what happens after the UTT is finished, but wouldn't necessarily become the next project/program's SSC. The composition/goals of the UTT should be allowed to evolve during its lifetime.

### **The State of the SSC:**

The group agreed that it was time to have a new member or new members of the SSC. Given her overall inactivity in UGEC, Dagmar will be asked to step down. Names that were introduced to replace her include: Anu Ramaswami, Sari Kovats, and Peter Marcotullio. A greater change in the SSC was cautioned against by some, given that much of the activity in the next two years would be Synthesis-related and some continuity should be maintained in order to facilitate this.

**Planned Synthesis Activities:**

Product/Activity	Who?	When?
UGEC Handbook	Karen and Bill	Hoped to be completed by conference, most likely early 2015. Possible page-proofs by conference. Want to have a book launch at conference.
Special Issue in Earth's Future: "Urban Carbon"	Paty, Kevin Gurney, and Karen	2015
Urban Climate Vol. 7 on Adaptation	David and Hayley Leck	2014
CO-SUST Special Issue: "Adaptation in Africa"	David	2014
Transitions to Sustainable, Low Carbon Urban Future: Special Issue of CO-SUST Cambridge Sustainability Series volume	Bill and Chris	Workshop in June 2014
Global Land Use in an Urbanizing Era (MIT Press)	Karen and Anette Reenberg	March 2014

**Proposed Synthesis Activities:**

Product/Activity	Who?	When?
"Lessons Learned from Ten Years of UGEC"	Roberto	2015 - 2016
Transitions Workshop: Special Volume for Cambridge Sustainability Series	Bill and Chris	2015
Regional Workshops (SE Asia, L. America, Africa, E. Asia)	Darryn, Roberto, Shuaib, Xiangzheng	2014 - 2015
UGEC Synthesis Slides	IPO	Before 2016

Four regional workshops were proposed by members of the SSC. Darryn had been planning to have a workshop in Vietnam and will now be expanded into a UGEC SE Asia Workshop. Roberto will host UGEC in Latin America in Ensenada, Xiangzheng will host UGEC in East Asia in Beijing, and Shuaib will host UGEC in Africa in Nairobi. These workshops would be attended by leaders from all other workshops with an emphasis on inter-regional discussions. A workshop template will be developed by the IPO and workshop hosts in order to maintain consistency in workshop outputs, which could include special issues in journals, briefs, books, etc. A leader of this group would also be selected by the group itself in order to facilitate the creation of the template.

Rather than putting on workshops in the US and Europe, literature reviews and comparisons would be done. Eastern Europe was considered another possibility for a workshop, possibly in collaboration with the Polish Academy of Sciences.

An emphasis on UGEC branding was discussed. This could include social media branding through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Researchgate. The SSC agreed that there was a need for UGEC products and UGEC branding of SSC and network activities.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> International UGEC Conference:**

New sessions were discussed during the meeting. These included ones from the UTT, a group of practitioners, DIVERSITAS, GLP, and other projects. The SSC wanted to make sure that the synthesis aspect of the conference was put at the forefront when communicating with session organizers and presenters. The IPO would build a template for those submitting papers describing what would be expected of them in terms of content. A new conference agenda would be developed by the IPO in order to determine the amount of space we have for sessions.

The lack of responsiveness from the conference committee was lamented, with members of the SSC asking for a reinvigoration of the current committee. If nothing changed, then new members would be asked to join while others would be asked to step down. Karen and Roberto would email the ICAC to facilitate this reinvigoration. The possibility of the SSC stepping in to help plan the conference was also brought up.

### **Future Earth:**

The Future Earth Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was vigorously discussed. When asked what benefits joining Future Earth would provide, a few that were mentioned included: a platform to engage with practitioners, branding, and assistance in communication. The MOU was left to contemplation by the SSC, with follow-up to occur in the days after the SSC meeting. The general consensus is to sign the MOU unless otherwise is noted by March, 2014.

### **Future Activities:**

Darryn offered to host the 2015 SSC meeting at RMIT's Europe campus in Barcelona, Spain. A tentative time of late summer/early autumn 2015 was set. This is in part a strategic placement that will coincide with discussion of funding opportunities with Horizon 2020. Other European players might be invited to the meeting in order to discuss such opportunities.

In order to deal with difficulties of arranging monthly teleconferences across many time zones, it was decided that the IPO would arrange two teleconferences per month, likely on the same day/following day. This would allow those in Asia/Australia to more easily join discussions. There was also a call for more substantive discussion rather than just updates from the IPO. A monthly email could be sent out to replace such updates.

Financials were also presented and it was discussed that we will need to have a more systematic process for determining who and what receives funds over the next two years. A first step will be for the IPO to develop good budget estimations for future activities, including the regional workshops. Also, given the need to use ~ 35K prior to September 2014 Darryn and Roberto are planning to host their respective workshops prior to that time.

Karen and Xuemei are looking for possible panelists for the Copenhagen Urban Sustainability Conference.