

**Brainstorming the Future of UGEC Science**  
**IHDP Open Meeting**  
**May 1, 2009**

**Attendees:** Karen Seto, Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, Rimjhim Aggarwal, Chris Boone, Frauke Kraas, Kerstin Krellenberg, Dirk Heinrichs, Shu-Li Huang, Szu-Hua Wang, Li Jiang, Jonathan Barton, Sara Hughes, David Simon, Corrie Griffith, Michail Fragkias

**1<sup>st</sup> Goal**

What are the emerging themes in UGEC research? What's missing, what are the gaps?  
A peer-reviewed publication for pushing forward our agenda is needed

What do we mean by global environmental change? (looking at global environmental change at the local/regional levels and the connections through the different scales)  
Global change and how the earth system is affected including the built environment  
Geographic and temporal scales – the political, economic, social, biophysical interactions are at different scales. A systems approach

Topics/emerging themes

- land allocation and transformation
- land use linkages
- food security
- biofuels
- energy
- land for development
- green areas (social/biophysical)
- urban agriculture
- urban remote sensing – must be added as well as migration patterns
- urban ecology
- science-policy interface
- sustainable buildings
- what is good urban governance
- cities as agents of change
- connections between cities, methodology or modeling training exercises
- agricultural diversity
- ecosystem services

How do we connect themes to other projects in the community?

Include agricultural diversity, land transformation, changes, ecosystem services

How to conceptually understand how cities change and compare this to others

How are we confronting complex issues? Uncertainty? The Integrated Risk Governance (IRG) project of IHDP is doing research on hazards, risk and uncertainty and would be a good connection point for UGEC.

Does the science plan need updating? – could be an output of our 2010 conference; what are the emerging questions?

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Goal**

We discussed themes for the 2010 UGEC International Conference (very similar to the themes listed above as emerging themes.)

Discussed people to include on the planning committee (bring the community together, joint presentations and panels) – this did not generate much information.

The conference should get projects on the ground, focus on practitioners

Ideas for the conference -

- Structure/design of conference – methodological approaches, use the results as a vehicle to share the knowledge learned across the conference
- Link up science with communities
- Have presenters describe their conceptual/methodological foundations, linking these multiple projects
- Include practitioners, (young) scholars, and other stakeholders. Also, people from multiple disciplines: urban planners, climatologists, Organize workshops, plenaries, and create opportunities for feedback (specifically design sessions with strong discussion components).
- 300 people, 2-3 day conference
- White sofa concept – 30 second sound bites; do it a bit differently than the way it was done at the IHDP Open Meeting – allow a freer flow of participants, making it less formal
- Use health as a cross cutting theme of conference
- Have groups communicate with each other to synthesize information prior to the conference – this applies particularly to the plenary sessions
- Have possible presenters send in papers (available online) and ask specific questions to be address prior to presentations (allowing for plenty of time)
- Use of the Decision Theatre at ASU in whatever way possible – maybe also using the research done on Phoenix as a case study.
- Other organizations to include– LTER, National and International Associations of Mayors, NGOs

## **Other Topics**

*Journals to consider for publications:*

Current Opinion, Urban Sustainability, Climate and Development, Int. J. of Sustainable Urban Development, Environment and Planning, Growth and Development

*Other products for policy makers?*

2 page policy briefs to be disseminated to elected officials or urban planners

*Future research topics next 3-5 years?*

Meta-study of urban growth patterns - how rates of urban expansion have changed when comparing it to today's numbers

Peri-urbanization issues, synthesis

Re-conceptualization of urbanization in the context of global environmental change

Ecology and urbanization, environmental justice (Chris and Michail are trying to get an edited book through Springer)

Mitigation, Adaptation, and Development (MAD) policies that are very short term, bundling them across time and scales (interested people: Sara, Karen, Rimjhim, Roberto, Chris, Dirk)

*What can the IPO do for you?*

IPO can be more an organizer for students

Publicize funding opportunities

Mobilize efforts for syntheses of results

*UGEC Website*

Add topics

Jobs details on our website for an internship or field experience - make sure that students are involved to have an international focus

Bibliography and actual article copies on web

Database of media experts (languages, themes)

Exchange of publications

Research and researcher archive to showcase what people are doing

June 17, 18<sup>th</sup> ICLEI Conference – need a speaker