

UGEC SSC Meeting, Vancouver, UBC, Sunday 18th June 2006

Participants:

Michail Fragkias, Stanford University (external)
Cheikh Gueye, ENDA Dakar
Frauke Kraas, University of Cologne
Ooi Giok-Ling, Nat. Institute of Education, Singapore
Ula Löw, IHDP Secretariat Bonn (external)
Sue Parnell, University of Capetown
Karen Seto, Stanford University
David Simon, University of London
Bill Solecki, City University of New York

Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez was not able to attend due to an urgent family matter.

1) Introductory Round

2) Recap of South Africa meeting/ICLEI: internal meeting was a good discussion, worked on intellectual strategic agenda (knowledge production, lobbying, technical processes) and content (Website, IPO, science development, brochures); some loose ends, little follow-up.

Engaged with ICLEI meeting; disparity in language and in understanding of language was obvious, we were shocked at the complete lack of understanding; no research agenda, 'researchers' present were really consultants; UGEC has to position itself; from that meeting we understood that we have to sell GEC to urban constituency (while we thought we had to sell urban theme to GEC community). Policy people were not able to articulate what they require – we have to be careful to open up that space and *do some serious work on that interface!* Brochures that are easier to read, with concrete case studies, are needed to make policy people understand that GEC is not just 'global babble'. Scale is another issue (they think, research is done on micro-scale. We have to be able to talk to city scale).

- ❖ Brochures, case studies
- ❖ UGEC has to be vocal about MDGs (health, hunger, poverty)
- ❖ Transfer GEC to local level, make it understandable
- ❖ Content-based facts
- ❖ Write papers for donors to reshape discourse
- ❖ Individual tailoring of how to talk to them
- ❖ Keep in touch with those that are more responsive, keep dialoguing, record echos/reactions, as they will be the ones eventually "taking over" our issues

Final comment: ICEI is just one player. Experience would probably have been different again at Cities Alliance.

- ❖ Check out Cities Alliance – they gained ground

3) Publications / Outreach / Knowledge Creation / Dissemination

Publication Strategy: How can a wider audience be reached?

- Workshops
- Put young practitioners (policy, local authorities..) together with young scientists
- Special papers
- Theme-oriented (i.e. MDG themes) papers, papers for policy, brochures, case studies (see above)
- Speaking at conferences
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Entry points for action:

- ❖ UK National Committee/IHDP SC
- ❖ 30th August: plenary session at UK Royal Geography Association, London: can we get someone else from IHDP, i.e. from IT?
- ❖ Paper for Journal (Sue, David & Coleen)
- ❖ Other big meetings: IGBP, Cape Town 2008 (?): strategize how to interface with natural scientists; maybe sponsor 1-2 young scholars to attend
- ❖ Check Capetown UGEC SSC minutes

Scientific Papers:

Have to be tailored to themes, too. The paper summarizing the Science Plan did not get accepted by GEC Journal.

Theme 3 of Science Plan is cutting-edge! That's where we make a signature statement

- ❖ Translation/tailoring of Science Plan for *Science* or *Environment*, make it into an article with strong reference to Science Plan (Example: Sue's piece in 'Urban Studies' – Karen will get it for us)
- ❖ Bill to write an outline on what an article based on Science Plan would look like (this entails UGEC submission to *Global Environmental Change* journal); splits up research themes with research examples and case studies; definitions and caveats; research needs; policy on authorship necessary (I think it was decided that all SSC members will be named?)
- ❖ David and Frauke should co-edit their papers (issue of anglo-american journals' bias against other cultures' inputs such as 'German density')
- ❖ "Bombard" journals
- ❖ Find a good structure for the website, too

Knowledge Creation, Outreach:

- ❖ UGEC newsletter, on irregular base to reduce pressure and produce better results

- ❖ 3-page policy papers or set of information cards to break down Science Plan in bullet points; pick policy-brief type theme
- ❖ Encyclopedia (like the LUCC e.) on what urbanization actually means
- ❖ Data graphs and maps, animations on urbanization processes and connections to GEC for one or two cities, i.e. for school kids etc.; explain maps! (example: Phoenix Atlas)
- ❖ Get in touch with SEI – they start a new project on urban-ecological systems ('Mystra')
- ❖ Put young practitioners (policy, local auth.) together with young scientists (see above)
- ❖ Combine regional and topical expertise plus capacity building – will be very attractive for funders!
- ❖ Talking about the 'hard stuff' (problems, water, food, MDGs in general) may secure money from development banks
- ❖ Get profile in IPCC process through IHDP (see below, funding)
- ❖ Profile urban and human issues in GTOS (see below, funding)
- ❖ Comparative analysis across case studies (down the line)

4) Flagship Activities

- Concentrate on 3-4 core activities and piggy-bag on existing projects to save energy
- Activity proposal: see Karen's proposal on "Urban Growth Forecasting: Fact or Fiction?" at AAG, April 2007
- Issues of consumption are critical (what will happen to water resources if the Indian middle class consume more water..... what will happen to air and climate if Chinese middle class all get cars)
- How to link urban land-use/-cover change with changes in consumption/energy demand/lifestyles
 - ❖ Produce some complex models, i.e. 'consumption by hectar' – will be a success with donors and policy makers

5) Endorsement Application Policy

- to be read by all SSC members
- endorsements for projects only after funding is secured; letters of support can be produced
- if approved, project will be placed on UGEC website
 - ❖ about four of our SSC members' projects to be placed on website, also for better general understanding

6) IHDP

IHDP SC (Ula): new Chair Oran Young; working groups on science development, outreach, policy and capacity building established; discussion on placing the Secretariat under UNU's 'umbrella' underway (UNU's Environment and Human Security Program is situated in Bonn).

Comments: 'no bed of roses', funding situation of UNU insecure. However, this is not about being funded by them. There may be a chance of increased German funding if IHDP moves to UNU.

(General comment: Slow payment procedures at IHDP negative. Ula is filing an official request and additional short report on these particular issues from UGEC SSC meeting to Petra with copy to Andreas).

7) Funding

IPO still "in review" at NSF, but basically through; funds should be released in fall. General budgets so far 25,000 Euro which covers about two meetings.

- ❖ Costs of Vancouver and Cape Town meetings to be clarified (Petra, Ula)

Further funding possibilities: ICSU, APN

State-of-the-art reports:

Germany (Frauke): 1) BMBF funded Megacities of tomorrow – sustainable development; 14 project funded in pre-phase at the moment.

2) DFG: Megacities – megachallenge: Informal Dynamics of Global Change (Pearl River Delta/China, Dhaka/Bangladesh, Pune/India). Frauke would like to apply for endorsement for this project through UGEC.

3) Helmholtz Association: Risk Habitat Megacity (Santiago de Chile)

German funding of IHDP: strong divide between natural and social sciences; natural sciences traditionally much better funded but afraid now of money spliced off for social science/interdisciplinary research.

Funders' position different from scientists' position.

South (Sue, Cheikh): research capacity building in South is necessary, but not yet happening in practice; currently, there seems to be only money for direct and urgent humanitarian aid; however, at ENDA, the team for environment and desertification is one of the best funded teams which indicates what's important to funders.

The urban theme has faded into the background and shifted towards 'environment'.

Donors have not really caught up with the new urban agenda (as opposed to the one of the 70s!) and its urgency!

Singapore (Ling): Funding tends to be goals-driven; there are quite a number of Asian funding agencies, i.e. Taiwan and China-based foundations. The IGU Asian network just got accepted. Ling is eager to build sustainable cities project in that programme.

Some ideas:

- big NSF proposal for South Africa, if food and poverty are addressed, they can offer some money SA;
- NSF is probably place for workshop money
- US: Moore Foundation has close links with US Nat. Academy of Sciences, have a huge 5 Mio. \$ project; generally, there are a lot of new donors around!!
- 'Mystra' project (SEI, ex-CUBE) will establish center for urban studies – there is big money there!
- comparative project across our case studies (should be done 2 years down the line along the Science Plan template)
- BMBF
- EU
- network from Cheikh's and Ling's side to attract funding
- flagship areas of capacity – array of multiple skills
- ICSU, APN (see above)

- ❖ Sue and Karen to put up 2-pager proposal idea for South Africa
- ❖ Cheikh and Ling to look into their networks' funding possibilities/contacts
- ❖ SEI/Mystra: who?
- ❖ Moore Foundation: Karen?
- ❖ BMBF: Frauke?
- ❖ Conference of Donors could be organized during the 2008 Open Meeting in Delhi, were most donors also have offices

Fundraising has to be strategic. Identifying of funding opportunities:

- ❖ IPO task
- ❖ IHDP task

8) Science/Policy Interface

- ❖ IHDP is more visible now in IPCC, and UGEC can get active in IPCC process through IHDP
- ❖ Global Terrestrial Observation System – UGEC to insert 'human' and 'urban' into this (so far no mention of 'urban' in their programme)

9) WUF Researchers' Roundtable

Preparation of presentation for the following day:

- Why is it important that urban environmental management should include all aspects of GEC
- Define GEC in an urban context/ clear examples
- Link of research to ideas, action, actors at each level
- We have an exciting global reach, bridge between research and policy, particularly useful to city managers because we do NOT only deliver knowledge based on case studies

UGEC is being profiled at the same level with ICLEI and IDRC.

10) Invited guests

Invited researchers were present in the afternoon to get to know to UGEC and give short presentations themselves, in order to explore possible links for common research activities, followed by discussion and reception:

John Robinson, UBC – geographer, interactive models and scenarios on sustainable development ('fly people through the future of their city'); recently closer links to IHDP as IT (Industrial Transformation) SSC member.

Peter Marcotullio, UNU – urban environmental change, planning, ecology, ecosystem modelling

Terry McGee, UBC – historical geography

Michael Leaf, UBC – planner, geographer, land development in SE Asia and China, interested in effects of urban transition, projecting into the future, issues of social and environmental change, governance, informalities

Terry brought up the notion of paradigm shift with regard to planning, challenging the assumption of rural-urban differences; instead look at rural-urban interface. Same for economic dualism between formal and informal – instead look at them as interlocked.

Comments/questions from guests to UGEC:

- projects too much by themselves (role and identities)?
- Communication still too much one way/how are others', esp. non-scientists' perceptions integrated in science work?
- IHDP should do a conference of donors (careful, UK Day experience was not great)
- IHDP fills role of bringing social scientists together to work in teams (something that initially only natural scientists did)

Michael Leaf seemed interested in cooperation, and there are many overlaps.

Guest Monday Morning:

Bill Rees, UBC, ecologist, developed ecological footprint analyses; cities leave a lot of impact; energy a major issue, look at all sectors with regard to energy; conflicts on resources will rise. What would a city look like if eco-print could be reduced, and what would this mean for the individual's life? Compare eco-prints of countries – this is similar to UGEC theme “What are the zones of influence of urban systems and how do these social and physical ‘teleconnections’ affect GEC?” (if we manufacture in China, this adds to our eco-footprint).

11) SSC members

Younger scholars who do innovative and interdisciplinary research; affiliations: planner, urban ecologist, sectoral capacity (water, energy); one from India; one from China; max. three additional SSC members

- ❖ Request funding from IHDP for inviting potential SSC members (at ESSP OSC meeting)

12) IPO

Set of tasks were identified and are documented. EO should also attend Beijing ESSP OSC meeting.

- ❖ We will need an account at ASU as soon as IPO is established

13) Next SSC meeting

Interim SSC meeting in Beijing, in November 2006

Next SSC meeting: Arizona, 14th and 15th April, before AAG