Conference in Hong Kong 18-20 November 2013

Cities Learning Together
Local Communities in the Sustainable and Healthy Learning City

Precedings and Call for Contributions

A set of Conference Readings or Precedings will be prepared to support the work of this Conference. The Planning Group invites short Contributions relevant to the main themes and panel sessions. These will be distributed electronically to participants in advance of the Conference, and also made available for use at registration.

This Call is for Contributions to the work of the Conference, rather than for abstracts of academic paper. The Conference will be a closely connected-up event drawing together issues that are too often treated in isolation. Much will be handled through open panel dialogue, both in plenary sessions and around the several core themes.

Wherever possible, contributors to the Precedings will be invited to join appropriate panel sessions and engage in moderated discussion of a theme.

There will be an opportunity to revise and extend contributions into publishable papers after the Conference, with a view to inclusion in a volume in a Hong Kong based book series produced by Springer. You are welcome to say whether you might want to do this later.

The maximum length for Contributions is 2,000 words but there is no need to write at this length. Brief notes, key arguments, and points for attention relating to a particular theme and session, may be even more useful. For many people a page or so, say 500 words, may be sufficient.

The Precedings will be organised in sections that match the themes and work of the Conference. The deadline for Contributions to the Precedings is July 31st.

It will however help the detailed planning of sessions and choice of who takes part in which panel exchanges to know as soon as possible if you wish to contribute.

Please let me know as soon as you can if you wish to contribute in this way, and send your short contribution to chris.duke@rmit.edu.au as soon as you can.
Indications of intent and full contributions by the end of April will give good time to prepare and integrate the different strands, and to look elsewhere for what is missing.

If you are not keen to contribute yourself but know others who would be good, please share this invitation with them.

Inquiries and contributions should relate clearly to a theme and even a session. Please show where you see yourself contributing within the Conference framework.

The following note provides a current Conference Concept Outline. I have numbered the elements for which Contributions are invited. Precedings will be similarly though not necessarily identically ordered.

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**Conference Concept Outline to inform Contributions**

*A full Conference Schedule is available on Pascal and other Websites.*

This shows how the different essential elements of healthy city governance, development and living are approached and connected in the Conference.

This schematic note offers a concept framework with which to choose what contribution you can best make.

There are **(A) four dominant themes** – the *Core Theme Areas*

These are ‘real-world’ areas of policy and practice critical for high quality urban and big city development and living. They are:

- (A1) Green
- (A2) Health
- (A3) Social Dimensions
- (A4) Economic Dimensions.

Cutting across these are (at least) **(B) four main ‘players’** who can together see to it that things happen. These are the *Partners and Agents of Development:*

- (B1) City planners and administrators
- (B2) NGOs and civil society
- (B3) higher education
- (B4) the private sector.

Encompassing this four-by-four frame we have (at least)

**(C) four areas of difficulty or ambiguity** for getting things clear and right, or *Overarching Questions.*
The **Overarching Questions** are:

(C1) Neighbourhood, community and city  
(C2) The learning city - past, present, what future?  
(C3) Integration in governance  
(C4) Sustainability and big-city living

**Contributions should be coded with one or more of the A-C 1-4 codes above.**

Please note that we want to explore how the different agents can and do work together to tackle important real-world challenges in ways that reinforce good development, rather than having one initiative contradict or undermine another.

We therefore especially welcome **Contributions which take account of cross-boundary and inter-agency collaboration.** Examples of non-cooperation and ‘silo’ practices can also be helpful in pointing out lessons to be learned.

Because the strands are interwoven you may wish to use more than one code.

*For example*

a Contribution on NGOs and Civil Society in Green (Environmental) matters would be **A1, B2.**

Something on what the Private Sector can do in the social sector (Social Dimensions) at local level would be **A3, B4, C1.**

City Planners and Administrators in Health might also address Integration in Governance – **B1, A2, C3.**

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Please address queries and send contributions to Chris Duke at:  
[chris.duke@rmit.edu.au](mailto:chris.duke@rmit.edu.au)

*Chris Duke, convenor, on behalf of the Conference Planning Group. 15 March 2013*