

IIUD

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
URBAN DEVELOPMENT



MISSION

The institute for international urban development is committed to promoting sustainable urban and regional development through community-based planning initiatives and research. We operate at the policy, program and project levels with teams that include regional experts and members of our network of local affiliates.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Fall 2009

Strategic Planning in Arusha (Tanzania)

After joining the Institute in August, Natalie Pohlman has been assisting Daniel Tsai in applying the web-based planning tool created for the Qassioun Informal Settlement project (Damascus) for the capacity building and strategic planning project in Arusha, Tanzania. Under the direction of Mona Serageldin, Natalie has been contributing to the presentation tool by formatting and creating informative maps, diagrams, and other images. Some of these graphics highlight existing conditions in and around the Arusha municipality and its wards, while others illustrate areas of improvement as well as new urban development sectors. This presentation/planning tool is an important part of the Institute's technical assistance to the regional, district and local authorities of Arusha to prepare a development plan. This plan will help the region cope with its rapid growth, soon to be prompted by the addition of two new Universities: the East African Campus of the Aga Khan University and the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology.

Natalie Pohlman

State of North African Cities

UN HABITAT has awarded IIUD funding to continue our work on the documentation of North African cities. This update of our 2008 report is to be completed by Mona Serageldin, Frank Vigier, Kendra Leith, and Caroline Jordi by the beginning of next year. This report stresses income inequalities and land management issues. It will be presented as part of *The State of African Cities 2010: Governance,*

Inequality and the Economies of African Cities.

Kendra Leith

Activities in Ireland

On November 20th, 2009, ICLRD held it's first of five training modules in the *Shaping and Managing Cross-Border Development*, a professional executive training program for councilors and public officials and private sector representatives in Newry-Dundalk Twin-City Region. The first session included presentations by: the North/South Ministerial Council to set the larger context for cross-border cooperation; exploring international examples of corridor development and inter-jurisdictional cooperation (John Driscoll IIUD/ICLRD); and spatial planning on the island of Ireland – the Regional Development Strategy and the National Spatial Strategy (Jim Hetherington, Department of Regional Development). The program is coordinated by Dr. Neale Blair (University of Ulster). Future topics will include: evidenced-informed planning; shared futures; balancing social, environmental and economic development; and defining a sustainable future.

The Fifth Annual ICLRD Conference will be held in Enniskillen (Northern Ireland) on 21-22 January 2010. Entitled *Preparing for Economic Recovery: Planning Ireland, North and South, out of Recession* it brings together a distinguished set of experts (see attached Draft Program) to explore the role of cross-border cooperation in addressing the issues raised by the recent economic downturn. As in the past, it is expected to be well attended by public and private sector senior professionals. Frank Vigier will be chairing the final session where, Declan Kelly, the US Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland will be the keynote closing speaker.

Three other ICLRD activities that are underway include:

1. Action research on the implications of the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland and new planning legislation in the Republic of Ireland on inter-jurisdictional spatial planning;
2. Action research on best practices in cross-border and inter-jurisdictional spatial planning and regional development within the EU and the US that can inform cooperation in the Irish cross-border region. John Driscoll travelled to Paris and Lille to meet with officials involved in cross-border planning and also presented the Newry/Dundalk twin city region project to the 8th *Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners* in Nancy, France on the December 4, 2009.
3. A technical workshop to be held on the morning of the annual conference on *Evidence-Informed Planning: Making Information Accessible to Build Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation*. The workshop will feature presentations by Charlotte Kahn who is the Director of the Boston Indicators Project and Holly St. Clair, Data Services Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Both organizations have been working together for a number of years to promote inter-jurisdictional planning and shared services by providing access to timely and relevant information to local government officials, politicians, the community and voluntary sectors and academic researchers.

John Driscoll

Board Meeting in Egypt

The IIUD October 2009 Board meeting was held in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt. In addition to meeting with H.E. Dr. Abd el-Azim Wazir the Deputy Governor of Cairo and General Adel Labib the Governor of Alexandria, the Board met the following senior public officials:

- Dr. Mustafa Madbuli, Director General, Organization for Physical Planning, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and New Communities.
- H.E. Eng Ahmed El-Maghrabi, Minister of Housing, Utilities and New Communities who briefed the Board on "Cairo: 2050" the long-term plan for Cairo.
- Dr. Sami Saad Zaghoul, Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who discussed current urban issues in Egypt.

Meetings were also help with Eng. Ibrahim Mahlab, chairman of Arab Contractors (Egypt's largest contracting firm); Mr. Ahmed Naïm, sales and marketing director and Eng. Abd el-Ghafar, construction manager of the *Smart Villages Co.*; and with Mr. Samir Sawiris, chairman and CEO of ORASCOM Hotels and Development, the largest real estate development company in Egypt and with Eng. Omar El-Hitam, the firm's managing director. ORASCOM is currently developing Egypt's largest private sector housing project (50,000 dwelling units) for moderate and lower income families and disadvantaged groups (widows and orphans and single elderly). The project is financed by a consortium of Egyptian, USA and Mexican real estate developers.

The Board also visited the Cairo Historic Center Renovation Project led by Dr. Mona Zakaria. In Alexandria, Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Board member and Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, led the Board on an extensive tour of the Library.

Mary Shia
