

Session proposal

Planning for Sustainable Urban Regions - limits and perspectives

Action based Research Approaches from the International
Research Initiative Sustainable Development of Urban
Regions founded by BMBF

1. Context/Background

We are all familiar with the numbers of future urban populations and the related need of sustainable urban and regional development. Our globalizing world is confronting researchers, planners and implementing organizations with increasing complexities. Challenges of natural risks, social injustices, and culturally based behavioral differences affect our daily work. In the past the effect of accelerating global urbanization has been extensively studied and affected the practice of planners. The main focus here has been on existing and future megacities for several years. The Urban Age Programme by the London School of Economics and the Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft and the programme Research for the Sustainable Development of Megacities of Tomorrow by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) illustrate successful initiatives of the past.

2. Short Description of the session

The proposed session will introduce innovative planning approaches from a newly setup long-term funding programme of BMBF called Sustainable Urban Development of Urban Regions (SURE). In total it stretches over a period of more than eight years with different funding phases incorporating 10 large research consortia involving more than 30 research institutions in Germany, numerous companies and several multi-national networks. The regional focus of this initiative is East Asia and Southeast-Asia at the forefront of accelerated urban growth. Each project represents transdisciplinary research, aiming for change and lasting impact. Thereby, the German partners closely cooperate together with local research institutions as well as local and national governments.

By means of this ambitious initiative, new and fresh ways of planning and spatial interventions to overcome the shortcomings of traditional planning will provide the basis for more evidence-based decision-making for local stakeholders thereby supporting more people-centered urban and regional development.

3. Objectives of the session

In the course of the proposed session, four projects of SURE will introduce their case-study related approaches:

- Data driven policies for resilient urban design (Linking disaster risk governance and land-use planning: the case of informal settlements in hazard prone areas in The Philippines)

- Integrating quality of life into sustainable urban transformation of Phnom Penh (Build4People)
- Territorial approach to climate action (Urban Rural Assembly)
- The role of infrastructure, digitalization and resources for climate action (PolyUrbanWaters)

The aim of the subsequent discussion with the audience will be to reflect on those concepts and approaches and how to change the way we plan for the sustainable development of urban regions. The focus will be on planning tools as well as on their possible application in terms of global solutions towards more resilience.

4. Format of the session

After an Introduction of the addressed problem and the presentation of the key findings (panel) there will be the possibility for a joint discussion in the plenary.

5. Programme/Agenda

Facilitator:	M.Sc. K. Dietrich; SURE Facilitation and Synthesis Research Presenting the SURE Programme Initiative by the BMBF (5min)
Moderator/Discussant:	Prof. F. Schwartze; SURE Facilitation and Synthesis Research Introducing the four presenters (5min)
Presenters:	Dr. L. Fan; Urban Rural Assembly / Prof. L. Ribbe; PolyUrbanWaters / Dr. A. Blöbaum; Build4People / Prof. S. Greiving for LIRLAP Presenting their projects (20 min)
Panel Speakers:	Dr. L. Fan; Urban Rural Assembly / Prof. L. Ribbe; PolyUrbanWaters / Dr. A. Blöbaum; Build4People / Prof. S. Greiving for LIRLAP / Dr. M. Waibel; Build4People Comparing Hypothesis by the Moderator to open and streamline the panel discussion. (30 min)
Open discussion:	Discussing with the audience (30min)