



Connecting planners and planning across the Commonwealth

CAP Newsletter – January, 2017

Welcome to the January CAP Newsletter sharing news of activities by our members around the world.

The main activities since the last newsletter have been the completion of United Nations Habitat III in October in Ecuador, and the CAP 2016 Business Meeting and Planning for Sustainable Development Conference held between 7-10 November in Fiji.

Habitat III

Habitat III (17-20 October 2016) proved to be a substantial gathering of more than 35,000 delegates from around the world. With more than 167 countries (on behalf of the 193 member states of the United Nations) participating in the first event of its kind in twenty years, Habitat III provided an opportunity to focus on the importance of cities, the challenges of rapid urbanisation and growth, economic and environmental sustainability, the challenges of infrastructure, the importance of land tenure and the need to work across all our networks if we are to succeed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted and provides a powerful brief for governments at all levels. Local Governments in particular were involved for the first time which is so important in the field of planning. Civil society and the business community were all represented and vocal at the event and in the many months of discussions and meetings preceding the event. The NUA aims to tackle poverty, climate change and inequality, and while not mandatory or binding, could provide an excellent guide for sustainable urbanisation. Please follow this link for an excellent [explanation](#) of the NUA. The combination of the NUA and the SDG's gives us all a framework to consider in our day to day work. How will each and every one of us be committing to help our communities achieve these laudable goals? What will we change and do in our daily lives?

CAP and its members were well represented with presentations at multiple official events. In particular CAP and its partners including the [World Urban Campaign](#), [Global Planners Network](#), General Assembly of Partners and the Habitat Professionals Forum took part in many events on the importance of planning, placemaking, community engagement, smart cities, the role of the humanitarian sector and the challenges of rapid urbanisation. This resulted in a strong collaborative presence and was a credit to all involved. A huge thank you to HRH The Prince of Wales for his video presentation at Habitat III and subsequently at the CAP Conference (see below). A second huge thank you to the [RTPI](#) who led a strong delegation and lobbied relentlessly regarding the importance of planning as a key component to solving many of the current challenges and achieving the goals. [Planning Institute of Australia](#) and [Canadian Institute of Planners](#) were also strongly represented.

Where to from here? How do we achieve these laudable goals? How do we make the first steps as professionals in this space? Jessica Espey (UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network) describes the NUA as a *"scaffolding to implement the SDG's at local levels"* and refers to aligning monitoring processes which seems a sensible approach for us all. Working parties looking at best practice examples, implementation options, timelines and processes for monitoring progress and financing options have been established in the World Urban Campaign process. Other partner groups are also currently establishing various programs to provide guidance and assistance. More information from CAP and our working parties will be included in regular updates to all members but volunteers are welcome.

CAP Business Meeting: 7 November, Shangri La Resort, Fiji

The CAP Business meeting occurs every two years and provides the opportunity to elect the new Executive Committee. Sitting President Dyan Currie and Secretary General Clive Harridge were re-elected unanimously.

- **Governance Review**

It was agreed at the Business Meeting to reform the structure of membership of the Executive Committee and allow all members to have a Vice-President to represent them on the Executive. Alternatively, member organisations may choose to have alternative representation such another member's Vice-President if they so wish. These changes were approved following consultation with all CAP members and followed consideration of a number of options. The changes will help make CAP a more democratic organisation enabling all member organisations of whatever size the opportunity to participate directly in the work of the Executive Committee.

- **Friends of CAP**

The Business Meeting agreed the establishment of a new category of membership (non-voting) to be called 'Friends of CAP'. This new membership class will provide an opportunity for individuals and organisations who support the objectives of CAP to be kept up to date and participate where appropriate in our activities even though not being eligible to be a full member.

- **CAP Training Programmes**

The meeting also considered a proposal for a project regarding Training Programmes being accredited by CAP. Further details to follow.



Business meeting attendees



CAP Conference 2016

7-10 November, Shangri La Resort - Fiji

The New Zealand Planning Institute, in collaboration with CAP and the Planning Institute of Australia, held the very successful Planning for Sustainable Development Conference in Fiji in November immediately following the CAP Business meeting. Highlights included: video messages from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (see below) and Rt Hon Baroness Patricia Scotland QC (Secretary-General of the Commonwealth), live streaming of Conference as part of the World Town Planning Day Online conference, a lively session on implementing the NUA, study tours including an example of leading practice in redeveloping informal settlements and a social program that included demonstrations of fire walking. The video messages provided an inspiring opening to the Conference and demonstrated the influence and support that CAP has at the highest levels.

Thank you to the amazing conference organising party, sponsors and all attendees for an excellent event.



Conference delegates

Attendees included the two winners of CAPs Young Planners essay competition who each received a grant to attend the Conference – Nelson Asira (Kenya, student at Maseno University, Kenya), and Charlene Liao (Australia and Kiribati, Current position - Policy Advisor to Kiribati Government).



Clive Harridge, CAP Secretary-General, Nelson Asira, Charlene Liao and CAP President, Dyan Currie

Charlene and Nelson wrote a report on their attendance at the Conference which is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0TAns1QMY3rczRGVWdlQXktaVE/view>

A highlight of the conference was the agreement reached to support the establishment of professional associations in Fiji and the Pacific Islands. CAP looks forward to helping those associations form and develop.

CAP Fiji Declaration

CAPs Fiji Conference was the first major international planners' conference held after Habitat III. Recognising the huge significance of the New Urban Agenda so recently approved at Habitat III, CAP delegates from across the Commonwealth agreed the CAP Fiji Declaration.

The Declaration calls on Commonwealth Governments at national, sub national and local levels to take actions as a matter of urgency to help deliver UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda (approved at Habitat III in Quito in October) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In taking such actions the Declaration calls on Governments to recognise the crucial role of planners and spatial planning in achieving success. This Declaration is a major

initiative for CAP and will be used by CAP members through 2017 and beyond to promote the importance of planning in the Commonwealth and to urge action at all levels of Government. Representing some 40,000 planners in 27 Commonwealth countries CAP plays a major role in promoting the value of planning around the world – the Fiji Declaration will help enormously with this.

The full text of the Declaration is available here [CAP Conference 2016\Fiji Declaration.pdf](#)

Planning for Rapid Urbanisation – A new CAP project supported by HRH The Prince of Wales

A major event at the CAP conference was the formal announcement by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in his video message of the Planning for Rapid Urbanisation project which is being led by the Prince's Foundation for Building Community with the support of CAP and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. The following extracts are taken from the [Prince's Foundation for Building Community](#) website where further information can be found.

The Planning for Rapid Urbanisation initiative will draw on the extensive experience and knowledge within the Commonwealth to co-ordinate the development of innovative, practical online tools and educational resources to support all those involved in designing towns and cities, regardless of whether they are property or planning professionals, so that they are prepared for rapid, but sustainable urbanisation. Using the resources they will be able to follow set processes that generate material to be dropped into templates that will create, for instance, a draft set of urban framework plans identifying and designing well-structured growth areas.

Over the next two years the Foundation will be running workshops with partners in three to five pilot cities in the Commonwealth who will help to test, develop and refine the tools to ensure they respond to the diverse needs of a range of different contexts.

Through the initiative the Foundation and its Commonwealth partners aim to support local governments across the Commonwealth to deliver on UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and help meet the COP21 targets, by ensuring urban growth that is safe and sustainable, while improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive. The online toolkit and case studies of pilot projects will be formally launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Spring 2018

Ben Bolgar (Senior Director at The Prince's Foundation for Building Community) said:

"The scale of project urban growth in the coming decades is quite simply beyond comprehension. Much of that growth will be on the periphery of secondary cities and it is there that we believe simple, practical planning tools will be most effective in avoiding unplanned urban sprawl and condemning millions of people to impoverished and unsafe environments.

We are delighted to be working with the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum on this crucial initiative to help strengthen and simplify forward planning and share best practice from other city extensions that were well planned decades ago and have demonstrated their resilience over time," said Ben Bolgar, Senior Director, The Prince's Foundation for Building Community."

CAP Supports the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative (QCC)

CAP's Secretary - General Clive Harridge represented CAP at a reception at Buckingham Palace on 15 November 2016 where High Commissioners and other representatives received awards from the Queen in recognition of their country's role in the QCC. The initiative, which was launched at CHOGM in Malta in 2015, aims to create a global network of protected Commonwealth forests to be preserved in perpetuity to mark the Queen's service to the Commonwealth. Clive commented:

"It was a great honour for me to represent CAP at this event and meet the Queen and other Commonwealth leaders in support of this initiative. We as planners have a huge role through our spatial planning work to help secure the protection of the natural environment including forests and woodlands, and it is excellent that this role is recognised at the highest levels in the Commonwealth"

Further information about the QCC can be found here [Queen's Commonwealth Canopy](#)

In memory

It is with sadness that we report the following deaths of two longstanding supporters of CAP:

- **Georges Phedonos** (Cyprus Association of Town Planners). Georges was CAP Vice President Europe over the period 1980 to 1984 and he represented the Cyprus Association of Town Planners at the CAP Business Meeting and Conference in Gold Coast Australia in 2001.
- **Bosire Ogero** (Kenya Institute of Planners). Bosire was CAP Vice President East Africa from 2002 until 2010 and again from 2012 until 2014.

Our condolences go to all family, friends and colleagues of Georges and Bosire.

CAP Details

For over 40 years CAP has promoted planning around the world. It has influenced the way people and governments think about planning. CAP captures the very essence of planning with its strong sense of purpose in ensuring planning plays an essential role and creating a strong sense of identity across the Commonwealth with a strong ethos of working together. Most of its activities are carried out by volunteers from professional planning institutes across the Commonwealth. Together these institutes have a combined membership of over 40,000 people.

For more information

visit www.commonwealth-planners.org

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