GUANGZHOU INSTITUTE FOR URBAN INNOVATION
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A research institute for international urban innovation

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The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (the Guangzhou Award) is co-sponsored by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and the City of Guangzhou. The aim of the Guangzhou Award is to recognize innovation in improving social, economic and environmental sustainability in cities and regions and, in so doing, to advance the prosperity and quality of life of their citizens. Presented biennially, the award encourages innovation in public policy, projects, business models and practices.

The Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation was established in 2012 under the framework of the Guangzhou Award. The Institute is conceived as an international network of experts and institutions dedicated to furthering urban innovation concepts, tools and methodologies. Its members include research and academic institutions, professional associations, community-based organizations, industry leaders and individual experts.
Mission
Forging a first-class international think-tank of urban innovation

- Promoting evaluation and research of the Guangzhou Award
- Exploring and constructing a new framework for international urban innovation
- Promoting the innovative development and common progress of cities around the world
- Offering intellectual support for global urban innovation
The Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation fully supports the adoption of an urban Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by the international community. Its areas of focus correspond to the thematic areas of the proposed Goal 11 of the SDGs to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

In addition to these thematic areas, the Guangzhou Institute also engages in applied research and capacity building in support of good urban governance, smart city applications and technology.
Information Sharing and Knowledge Management

International Urban Innovation Database: serves as a knowledge bank of peer reviewed initiatives in urban innovation and analytical case studies and reports.

By logging onto the international database for urban innovation, you can:
- Expand scope of knowledge on urban innovation
- Search for materials and evidence on urban innovation research
- Exchange views and experience on urban innovation development
- Look for references and cases on decision-making in urban innovation
- Gather information and inspiration on urban innovation services

For more details, please log onto the international database for urban innovation: http://www.urban-innovations.org
International Cooperation

Opening up a “green channel” for international exchanges on urban innovation

The current network of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation includes the following institutions and partners:

1. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), USA
2. World Future Council (WFC), Germany
3. Environment and Natural Development to Africa (ENDA), Dakar
4. South African Cities Network, Africa
5. Institut d’Amenagement et d’Urbanisme de France (IAU), France
6. Oxford Brookes University, UK
7. Local Council Association of LACPEM, Pakistan
8. Federation of Sri Lanka Urban Councils (FLUCAN), Sri Lanka
9. CITRSCOPE, USA
10. UN-Habitat, Kenya
11. Cities Today, UK
12. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Germany
13. School of Government, San Ya-Van University, Guangzhou, China
14. The United Nations Office for Project Services, Switzerland
15. International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

1 to 15 refer to the locations of these organizations and institutions.
Case studies and analysis of lessons learned provide an important resource for capacity-building activities. These include conferences, seminars, workshops, study tours and exhibitions. Such as Workshop for Thought Leaders: Learning from Urban Innovation, Seminar on Urban Innovation, Plenary Meeting of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation. These are tailored for city and civic leaders and designed to promote dialogue between public, private and civil society leaders. The biennial “Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Seminar” uses a unique format and methodology to share lessons learned from each of the 15 shortlisted initiatives of each award cycle with hundreds of city and civic leaders and experts in attendance. These dialogues and capacity building events are organized together with the institute’s partners both in China and abroad.
Field Research
On-site visits to innovative cities

Experts, scholars and media representatives conduct on-site visits to innovative cities, enabling them to dig into the ideas, experience and practices of outstanding initiatives and learn from them.

- Sylhet (Bangladesh), A Disaster Resilient Future: Mobilizing Communities and Institutions for Effective Risk Reduction
- Bremen (Germany), Towards a new mobility culture: Reclaiming street space in the city through innovative Car-Sharing
- Seoul (Korea), Youth Internet Addiction Response and Youth prostitution Prevention
- Medellin (Columbia), Medellin Digital
- Chiang Rai (Thailand), Urban Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation towards Sustainable City and Climate Change Resilience
- Vienna (Austria), StartWien - A Programme for New Migrants to Help Them Settle In and Facilitate Their Integration in Vienna
- Kaohsiung, 1999 Anytime, Anything, Anywhere
- Vancouver (Canada), Visionary Vancouver: Creating a Welcoming and Sustainable Place for All
- Kocaeli (Turkey), Prepare Before It’s Too Late: Learn to Live With Earthquake
- Selerno (Italy), Sustainable Energy Now
- Lilongwe (Malawi), Lilongwe/Johannesburg: Cities Mentorship Program
- Sakhnin (Israel), TAEQ’s Green Building of Sakhnin: Center for Environmental Research and Education
- Curitiba (Brazil), Linking Environmental Preservation to Urban Development: The Green Areas of Curitiba
Join Us
Work and communicate with experts and institutions

Group Members: Departments, research institutes, teaching organizations and enterprises that focus on urban innovative development as well as regional research institutes working on urban innovative development.

Individual Members: Individuals who are involved in scientific research and teaching on urban and socio-economic development, science, culture and ecological environment, as well as corporate employees and individuals from related fields who are dedicated to the research of urban innovative development.

Global Partners: International organizations, NGOs, institutes, universities, media and enterprises who aim to promote urban innovation and sustainable development.

International Advisory Board: Former politicians and officials of international organizations, managers of local and urban governments, globally renowned authorities, specialists, scholars, high-ranking managers of international large enterprises, media professionals and independent scholars.
Work and communicate with experts and institutions
International organizations, universities, research institutions, media and enterprises

Exchange wisdom with world class experts
Experts and scholars in the field of urban innovation from different countries and institutions

Face-to-face conversations with city leaders
Mayors and urban managers from around the world
Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation
Address: Room 3901, Pearl River International Building, No.112, Yuehue Lu Guangzhou, 510030, China
Tel: +86-20-66289390
Fax: +86-20-66289391

Websites:  www.guangzhouaward.org
           www.urban-innovations.org
E-mail: institute@guangzhouaward.org