

Metropolis Activities Report

October 2012 – March 2013

1. STATUTORY MEETINGS

1.1. Outcomes of the Metropolis Board of Directors meetings

The Metropolis Board of Directors meetings, brought to a close on 17 November 2012 in Guangzhou, hosted over 500 national and international participants and urban thought leaders.

One year after the launch of the Metropolis Initiatives, Guangzhou became the perfect occasion to present the Initiatives progress to encourage further participation, partnerships and peer evaluation. The event also unveiled the five winners of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation co-organized by the City of Guangzhou, Metropolis and UCLG.

Urban Innovation was the major theme of the 2012 event which culminated at the Political Forum on Governance and Innovation when Mayors discussed on how the new life styles, aspirations and heightened expectations and demands for quality of life are now influencing new and innovative urban and metropolitan public policies.

The Metropolis Board of Directors meeting concluded the event. Among the decisions taken the Initiative on “Green Economy” proposed by the City of Buenos Aires was approved, also the transfer of the Metropolis Training Institute from Montreal to Seoul and the creation of two new Institute Antennas in Mexico City and Porto Alegre. A task force for local governments to take the lead regarding the sustainable urban financing towards Habitat III was created. Metropolis currently has 121 members, ten of which formalized their membership at the Board of Directors Guangzhou: Buenos Aires (City), Kaoshing, Lahore, Gujranwala, Fuzhou, Kunming, Xian, Shenzhen, Karaj and Medellin.

1.2. Metropolis Women International Network sections meeting in Guangzhou

The annual meeting of the antennae of the Metropolis Women International Network was held on 14 November. It brought together representatives from Abidjan, Amman, Bamako, Bangui, the Brussels-Capital Region, Dakar and Mashhad, coordinated by Barcelona. Also present were representatives from Johannesburg, the city that shall host the next Board of Directors meeting. Montreal’s decision at the last Metropolis

Congress in Porto Alegre not to continue coordinating the network was announced, which is now being assumed by the Secretariat General.

1.3. Metropolis annual Meeting in Johannesburg, 16-19 July 2013

The meeting website and registration to the event is available since February 2013 (<http://joburg2.metropolis.org/>).

The Metropolis Secretariat General and the Johannesburg team are working jointly on the event's website contents and on the development of the program sessions (see provisional program attached).

The theme of the event is "Caring Cities", based on the concept of Ubuntu, an African ethic or humanist philosophy focusing on people's allegiances and relations with each other.

The underlying values of this extraordinary philosophy seek to honor the dignity of each person and are concerned with the development and maintenance of mutually affirming and enhancing relationships.

In addition to the technical visits, the host city will organize 6 thematic sessions around the following key issues of "care":

- Hungry citizens, cities and food resilience
- Smart / agile cities in developing countries
- The power of the informal economy
- Resource resilience
- Engaged citizens and
- Social cohesion in a caring city

In addition to Metropolis' statutory meetings, the Metropolis Initiatives will organise dynamic sessions; the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) shall hold its Board of Directors meeting and the Metropolis Women International Network will organise its annual meeting of antennae in which it will elect the city that will lead the network in the forthcoming years. At the same time, it will be responsible for organising two round-table discussions on "Safe Cities for Women". Finally, the South African Cities Network and UN-Habitat's Global Network on Safer Cities will take part in the debate with the common goal of making our cities an appropriate place of refuge for all.

A second preparatory visit of a Metropolis delegation has been held from 8-10 April 2013.

2. FIRST EDITION OF THE GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, co-organized by the City of Guangzhou, Metropolis and UCLG, granted a global recognition to five successful practices in urban innovation carried out by: Kocaeli (Turkey), Lilongwe (Malawi), Seoul (South Korea), Vancouver (Canada) and Vienna (Austria). The participation of the fifteen nominated cities was highlighted at Guangzhou International Exhibition on Urban Innovation, in additions to the achievements made by Guangzhou in urban innovation. The publication “Deserving and outstanding initiatives of the 2012 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation” is available on the Metropolis website.

3. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

In the framework of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 17 November 2012, the panel of judges for the Metropolis Initiatives assessed the four proposals submitted in the 2013 call for proposals, with the following results:

- “Green Economy Center” project, submitted by Buenos Aires

The appraisal undertaken by the panel of judges concluded that this project meets the stipulated requirements. Metropolis has granted a final budget of 15,000 euros per year to the two-year project.

- “Permanent Workshop on Comprehensive Risk Management in Latin American Cities” project, submitted by Mexico City and FMDV

The panel of judges’ overall assessment was very positive, but approval was withheld on account of the project’s conception as a training workshop, among other reasons. It was decided that the project developers should instead be invited to take part in the workshop and seminar program to be run by the Metropolis Training Institute in Seoul with a training proposal on comprehensive risk management in Latin American cities.

- “Developing Sustainable Urban Tourism: A New Framework for Institutional Collaboration” project, submitted by the Barcelona Tourism Consortium

Despite a positive appraisal of various aspects of the project, the panel of judges ultimately withheld its approval of the project as a Metropolis Initiative. It was decided that the project developers should instead be invited to take part in the workshop and seminar program to be run by the Metropolis Training Institute in Seoul with a training proposal on sustainable urban tourism.

- “Comprehensive Recovery of Metropolitan River Areas: The Experience of the Llobregat River” project, presented by the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

The project was rejected in the current call for proposals as it was considered that the scope of its benefits was limited to the local arena and that it had low potential for replicability in other metropolises, as it targeted a very specific area.

Moreover, at the appraisal and follow-up meeting of the ongoing Metropolis Initiatives corresponding to the call for proposals the previous year, the panel of judges decided to adopt the Initiatives “Promotion and Development of the Barcelona Institute of Technology for the Habitat and the City Protocol” and “Concrete Actions Taken by Metropolises to Mitigate, Anticipate and Adapt to Climate Change.”

Thus, the panel of judges decided to set December 31, 2012, as the deadline for both Initiatives to submit the signed agreements offering the necessary guarantees to continue the corresponding projects. If, by the stipulated deadline, the agreements have not been signed, the Initiative in question will be suspended in light of the serious risk posed to the project’s viability by the failure to declare project support and commitment.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES

In compliance with the decisions taken during the Porto Alegre Congress, and then confirmed by the Board of directors held in Guangzhou, the following cities have been suspended as members of Metropolis.

Unsubscribed members 2013

As agreed during the Berlin meeting, February 2013.

Nº	Member	Country
1	ALGER	<i>Algeria</i>
2	BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIA	<i>Argentina</i>
3	CHANGSHA	<i>China</i>
4	DILI	<i>East Timor</i>
5	DUBAI	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>
6	HANGZHOU	<i>China</i>
7	KAMPALA	<i>Uganda</i>
8	LIBREVILLE	<i>Gabón</i>
9	MANILA	<i>Philippines</i>
10	MONTREAL	<i>Canada</i>
11	OMSK	<i>Russia</i>
12	PORT MORESBY	<i>Papua-New Guinea</i>
13	SHENYANG	<i>China</i>
14	SOFIA	<i>Bulgaria</i>
15	TEL AVIV	<i>Israel</i>

Remarks:

- These are all members with pending payment for several years and they haven't answered to different reminders from General Secretariat. Montreal has called for voluntary redundancy, will be withdrawn from Metropolis.
- Tunis belonged to the list of members with pending payments for several years to unsubscribe, but on 20 February the city informed the Secretariat General the intention to continue belonging to the Association and requests for more time due to the crises in the country.

5. METROPOLIS REGIONAL SECRETARIES MEET IN BERLIN

The Metropolis regional Secretariat for Europe hosted a Regional Secretaries Meeting from February 13 to 16, 2013 in Berlin as a result of the invitation proposed by the Mayor during the Board of directors celebrated in Guangzhou. The meeting was attended by the Regional Secretaries, members of the Metropolis presidency, and staff from the Secretariat General, as well as representatives of the Metropolis International Training Institute, which was recently relocated to Seoul.

The meeting offered attendees a chance to conduct an in-depth discussion of several key issues to be submitted for approval at the next Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting (Johannesburg, July 16-19, 2013): steering of the association's internal processes (recommendations for the governance model and role of the regional secretariats), the appointment of a new treasurer, the amendment of the Metropolis statutes, the revitalization of the Metropolis Women International Network, and the relaunching of the Metropolis International Training Institute following its transfer to Seoul. The opening of the new Metropolis Institute will be organized from the 22nd to the 25th of May in Seoul.

The topics of this important preliminary meeting of Board of directors will be spread later on.

5.1. Treasurer in Metropolis

A tender for a Treasurer position in Metropolis has been launched. All applications will be received up to 15th of June at the General Secretariat.

6. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

6.1. Asian Mayors Forum, Bangkok, November 2012

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has hosted the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF), a platform for regional mayors to share their experiences in urban management, in Bangkok, 28-30 November 2012. During this Forum, Metropolis engaged with city leaders, urban managers and administrators to discuss the various cooperation, capacity building and training aspects to jointly address the challenges of the cities and urban regions.

The Metropolis International Relations manager represented the Metropolis Secretary General during the Asian Mayors Forum in Bangkok.

6.2. 6th Africities Summit, Dakar, December 2012

Metropolis participated in the 6th Africities Summit, which took place in Dakar from 4 to 6 December 2012, coinciding with the holding of the UCLG World Council and the Executive Bureau.

6.3. Global Conference of Local Elected Women, Paris

The conference “Gender Equality, a Priority for Global Development”, organized by Paris City Council with the support of UCLG and Metropolis, was held on 31 January and 1 February 2013. The conference brought together participants from different parts of the world, among whom were representatives from various antennae of the Metropolis Women International Network, including Abidjan, Dakar, Pune, Santiago de Chile, Barcelona and Brussels.

A Plan of Action was put forward to make the participation of women in decision-making across all spheres (political, economic, financial and human development) a priority on the United Nations Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

Preparations are now underway in Metropolis to successfully bring to fruition the 3rd International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women, to be hosted by the city of Abidjan (Ivory Coast) from 24 to 27 September 2013, under the title of “Women and Armed Conflicts”.

6.4. UN Women, New York City 2013

The coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network attended the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, organised by UN Women in New York, coinciding with International Women’s Day on 8 March 2013.

The session’s main theme was violence against women and it was highlighted that the 21st century is the century for the inclusion of women across all fields, including full and equal rights and participation. The 21st century must be the century in which gender equality is made a reality, for which firm commitment will be required to prevent and put an end to violence against women and girls. The representative from the Women’s Network availed of the opportunity to meet with Begoña Lasagabaster, Chief of Leadership and Governance, to strengthen the links between the UN and the Metropolis Women International Network, particularly regarding safety in cities, violence against women and women’s empowerment.

6.5. Metropolis engaging Urban India in connecting with Global Cities

During 13, 14 and 15 March 2013 Metropolis participated, as one of the support institutions, in one of the largest Urban Infrastructure conferences in India, Municipalika – making cities better. The three day conference in Delhi NCR focused on governance, urban reforms in India, energy, environment and affordable housing. The conference was attended by over 800 national and international delegates from public, private and urban organisations. Some of the key Metropolis partners from India also attended this conference. Metropolis engaged with various cities and urban agencies through its promotional and information desk at the Municipalika Expo area.

The Metropolis team also met with NIUA vice president, Prof O P Mathur and acting director Prof Usha Raghupathi to discuss various programs on urban capacity building and applied research platforms to bring successful international experiences to be shared with policy makers and urban managers in India. Prof Mathur discussed the frameworks of International training at NIUA and greater need for Indian cities to plan for desirable urbanization. NIUA and Metropolis discussed the next stages of Capacity Building fund to be focused on urban reforms, administration and management. The fund would put specific focus on tier two cities of Indian. As per Census of India 2011, there are currently thirty three (33) urban agglomerations/Cities in India over one million population.

6.6 International taskforce of local and regional governments for Post 2015 and Habitat III process

The Metropolis General Secretariat took part at the creation meeting of local and regional government's taskforce organized by CGLU with the purpose of contributing to Post 2015 and Habitat III process.

On this occasion the Metropolis General Secretariat proposed a contribution for OMD financing.

6.7. World Forum for Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP)

The 12th March, at Barcelona Metropolitan Area headquarters, the Metropolis General Secretariat joined the preliminary convention during the Third Edition of World Forum for Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP). This convention established the rights required to achieve more supportive and sustainable metropolitan areas, the required democracy model for these activities, the role of local authorities of metropolitan peripheries and their connection with relevant cities.

6.8. Cities Alliance Strategic Meeting

The Metropolis Regional Secretary for Africa, Émile Danho, attended the strategic meeting of Cities Alliances held from 22nd to 24th March in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, as the representative of the organization.

7. INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR 2013

APRIL	2013	
25-26	São Paulo	Meeting of the Metropolis Initiative "Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance"
25-26	Mumbai	Conference on Green Cities & Townships
MAY	2013	
14-16	San Francisco	Living Labs Global /Cities Summit
14-17	Kampala	CLGF Kampala Conference 'Developmental Local Government' and special UNDP consultation on post-2015 Development Agenda
19-26	Seoul	Trial Training Program on Urban Transportation Policy
22-24	Istanbul	ISTANBUL 3W Congress International Solid Waste, Water and Wastewater Congress
JUNE	2013	
5-7	Lyon	UCLG Executive Bureau
JULY	2013	
15-16	Johannesburg	Peer Review Training Johannesburg Bus Rapid Transit System organized by Berlin and Johannesburg
16-19	Johannesburg	Metropolis Annual Meeting & Board of Directors

17-18	Johannesburg	5 Metropolis Initiatives Workshops: Kreanta/ Durban & São Paulo/ Living Labs , The Climate Group, Citymart/ Melbourne / Berlin/Estado de São Paulo
SEPTEMBER	2013	
9-11	Toronto	Meeting of the Minds
24-27	Abidjan	International Forum “Dynamic Cities Need Women”
OCTOBER	2013	
TBC	Buenos Aires	Metropolis Initiative Workshop on “Transferring Knowledge and cooperating in culture, education and city”, organized by Kreanta
1-4	Rabat	UCLG World Congress
NOVEMBER	2013	
14-17	Barcelona	Smart City Congress