

Royal Town Planning Institute

International network

November 2009



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Is RTPI international?

- 5% of our members live and work abroad in 89 countries
- We accredit planning courses abroad, and aim to do more
- Our own members have many links abroad
- Our Summer School has international scholars
- We get hundreds of enquiries a year *about* planning overseas from UK and *from* overseas planners about UK
- An International Committee advises the Board
- Work with international planning organisations ...



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RTPI - member of international organisations

- [Association of European Schools of Planning](#)
- [Commonwealth Association of Planners](#)
- [European Council of Spatial Planners](#)
- [International Federation for Housing & Planning](#)
- [UN-Habitat and World Urban Forum](#)
- [Global Planners Network](#)



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... and individual countries

- Contact with national planning institutes from AETU (Spain) to ZIRUP (Zimbabwe)
- This is then 'multiplied' by membership of international organisations already listed
- [Professional Institutes UK-China](#) - working with other built environment professions
- New links with the German Academy ARL – joint seminar on Climate Change foreseen



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Regions & Nations

How do their links arise?

- Region activities:
 - study tours
 - planner-to-planner contact
- Overseas employment experience
- Voluntary Service Overseas
- Multi-country projects especially via the EU
- RTPI Cymru “Wales for Africa”
- Scotland and Malawi, Canada, New Zealand, China



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International Development Network

- Origins in International Development Forum (1989-2004)
- Has a 13-member (!) network advisory group
- Steadily growing membership: over 500 all over the world
- Monthly e-Bulletin / Meetings / [Website](#)
- Task Groups: Small Islands, China, India, Ethiopia
- Link to Development from Disasters Network
- A good way to use the information which comes into the Institute, for the good of members and others
- A good way to channel requests for help from members and others



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Global Planners Network

- Started 2006 in Vancouver with the World Planners Congress and World Urban Forum 3 of UN-Habitat
- Created an action programme for GPN
 - *Develop and share global knowledge base – APA*
 - ***Further develop capacity for planning - RTPI/CAP***
 - *Promote sustainable human settlements – APA/PIA*
 - *Promote equity and empowerment – CIP/RTPI*
 - *Outreach to engage new partners – CIP*
- Worked towards the Zhenjiang Congress of Global Planners Network and World Urban Forum 4 both held in China last autumn



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Why was that event so important?

- The World Planners Congress in Zhenjiang at the end of October produced the [Zhenjiang Communiqué](#), an [Action Programme](#), and fed into sessions at the World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing, which immediately followed. Influencing UN policy is best done through this kind of multi-lateral working



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Words, engraved in stone

见风转舵

... See the wind, turn the rudder

Fortunately corrected in time to read ...
*the Global Planners Network steers towards
harmonious settlements, places in harmony with nature
and places where there is harmony between people.
We champion planning as a strategic, integrative,
inclusive and pro-poor process.*



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What next?

- Keep the RTPI objectives clear
 - we promote the value of planning
 - we emphasise the professional planner's contribution to sustainable development.
- Play to our strengths:
 - **Advocacy:** working with others and contributing to major initiatives such as UN-HABITAT Reports and new World Urban Campaign
 - **Building Capacity** share experience with planners worldwide and help planning education in other countries
 - **Communication & Networking** through international connections



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Point to ponder

- Can we continue to provide a friendly, inclusive network when 5 years' experience tells us that it is labour-intensive and dependent on a staff member?
- Is such a Network compatible with supporting the “barefoot” planner?
- So should the Network be changing?



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Thank you



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