

## REPORT OF W101 ANNUAL MEETING 2005

### 1. W101 Annual Meeting 2005

W101(Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development) Annual Meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005 in Tokyo. 18 members attended including Dr. Win Bakens (Secretary General of CIB) and Dr. Tsutomu Shimazaki (One of co-coordinators of W101). The meeting was held in conjunction with SB05 (the 2005 World Sustainable Building Conference).

Three issues were discussed on the meeting; Revision of “Objectives and Scope”, Current work program, and Activities for 2005-2006. New Objectives and Scope that is shown below was endorsed with additional sentences proposed by Dr. Thomas D. Galloway (Georgia Institute of Technology). Current work program was also endorsed.

Research and discussion on the activities will be focused on the two themes; i) Extending the concept of urban sustainability, and ii) Infrastructure development for sustainable cities. As to the theme i), unique and explicit concepts of urban sustainability will be proposed by this working commission, including the “Bonsai City”., and the result of the research and discussion will be summarized in order to aim at editing a book.

### 2. New Objectives and Scope of W101

As the tidal wave of global trends such as borderless economy or global warming sweeps across the world, phrases such as “sustainability”, “partnerships” and “urban renaissance”, are used to describe and explain responses and phenomena taking place in wholly different cities in different countries. Of course the precise way in which these phrases are interpreted in different countries and in different settings will differ, but there can be no doubt that there is a broad commonality of concerns that need to be addressed by cities around the world. These relate to those fundamental factors necessary for urban sustainability, and a clear analysis of them would be the essential starting point for the work of W101. To respond effectively and appropriately to the challenges of these global trends, the way in which both spatial planning and infrastructure development are understood are going to need to be radically revised and brought up to date.

Moreover, evaluation of the infrastructure has been changing in spatial terms. The major infrastructure of urban places were designed and developed without sufficient value placed on the matters of sustainability. Also, many of these infrastructures, particularly those designed in the post-WWII period, have been ones that have contributed to urban sprawl and go against objectives of place making and the new urbanism. This view also leads to different set of questions in different cities.

In those contexts, the major concerns of W101 are followings:

- Firstly, to explore and further understand both the similarities and diversities of the current

issues that are being addressed as they relate to city planning and urban space, and explore ways in which the concepts of spatial planning and infrastructure development can be developed to be able to deliver the solutions required in different cities.

- Secondly, to discuss on how infrastructure should be rethought and re-examined in relation to sustainability, for instance, from disaster prevention point of view, and to discuss on the infrastructure of urban places on spatial terms for suitable urban form and structure.

By seeking to address these issues, our goal is to be able to contribute to:

- the achievement and maintenance of sustainable cities
- place making by cities
- effective urban regeneration
- the adoption of integrated planning systems

### 3. Current Work Program

For the time being, W101 will concentrate on the following two issues. Meeting will be held on these topics with related CIB Commissions and Task Groups

- ***extending the concept of urban sustainability***, what is the suitable methodology of planning to keep the balance of growth requirements and limitations.
- ***infrastructure development for sustainable cities***: how should the term “infrastructure” be thought of and applied in responding to the global trends to which cities are going to be subjected, and how should the role of infrastructure be rethought and re-examined in relation to sustainability.
- ***spatial planning***, what is the actual and potential role of spatial planning

### 4 Special Session “Bonsai City”

In the meeting, special session entitled “Bonsai City –a new keyword for sustainability from traditional art of planting to art of planning” was held with four guest participants from three SB05 Session Units relating to urban issues. The moderator was Dr. Yasushi Asami(University of Tokyo, Japan).

The introduction of “Bonsai City” is as follows;

“What do you imagine from the word of “Bonsai”? Bonsai, or potted plant, is a Japanese traditional art of planting a tree in a pot. A Bonsai tree should be managed well in limited space to maintain its beauty in spite of its natural growth and change. Endeavour, technology and wisdom of how to harmonize with natural growth and change, how to effectively use the limited space, and how to keep it beautiful as an art, are required here.

City is often compared to living things, as it continues to grow and change autonomously. Planners often attempt to directly plan and control a city as if they could handle it all by themselves. However, with the limitations of environmental capacity, energy resources like a Bonsai pot, should

we consider that future cities would be much more needed to be managed carefully than before, while respecting natural growth and change? Moreover, beauty and attractiveness is also needed as if an artistic creature. We must seek to the sustainable growth model which is applicable to, not only small towns but also mega cities.

Bonsai also needs the procedure of “Sentei”, which means pruning or cutting off the branches, so as to maintain its beauty of shape, and to improve its value in the long run. It seems that the Sentei procedure resembles the growth management process of urban planning in a way. Bonsai is growing beautifully, although it is limited as a system. We would like to advocate “Bonsai City” as a new concept of sustainable future city. Therefore, in the 2005 Tokyo meeting, we would like to put “Bonsai City” as the main theme of the session, and have a broad discussion about whether it could be a leading concept on sustainable spatial planning strategy in the future.”

On the session, First, Dr. Asami presented the introduction of the session and the concept of “Bonsai City”. Next, four presenters reported their research; Dr. Miki Muraki(Chiba University, Japan) presented “Sustainable Development for Urban Regeneration in Tokyo Bay Area: Brownfield Developments with Effective Energy Utilization”, Dr. Tarja Häkkinen(VTT Building and Transport, Finland) presented “Trends and Indicators for Monitoring the Sustainable Development of Urban Environment on the Basis of the TISSUE Research Project”, Mr. Tatsuo Akashi(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan) presented “Importance of Sustainable City Policy to Control Locations of Superstores: Towards Compact Urban Form like Bonsai”, Ms. Valeria Serrano(Serrano Pecorari & Asociados, Argentina) presented “Four Dimensional Cities, Towards an Urban Paradigm Shift”.

### **Next Annual Meeting (2006)**

Next Annual Meeting of W101 will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006, at University of College London, UK, in conjunction with COBRA 2006.



# **BONSAI CITY**