

Telling City Success Stories

Publication of Roundtable on SDGs & Urban Innovation



Urban Innovation
Community

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◎ CONTENTS



● **1** / *Editor's Note / P1*

● **2** / *Preamble / P3*

● **3** / *Welcome / P4*

● **4** / *Telling City Success Stories / P7*

● **5** / *Urban Experts' Viewpoints / P14*

● **6** / *Voices from International Organizations / P19*



1 / *Editor's Note*



In September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Commonly referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (or SDGs), the 2030 Agenda is comprised of 17 goals and 169 targets. In the course of 2016, the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGS) is expected to come up with 2 indicators for each of the 169 targets to be approved by the UN General Assembly and applied by all member states. Experts representing several different stakeholder groups agree that over 65 percent of the SDGs will require the full cooperation and engagement of cities and local authorities if they are to be attained.

On December 5th, 2015, the Urban Innovation Community organized a Roundtable on SDGs & Urban Innovation: Telling City Success Stories, on the sidelines of the UCLG World Council Meetings, where the international community gathered to discuss, debate and formalize a consensus on UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during annual Conference of Parties (COP) in Paris.

Gathering some 60 mayors, local officials, NGO representatives, and local development experts, the roundtable aims at discussing and sparking new train of thoughts on how to strengthen the role of urban innovation among the city leaders, institutions and urban stakeholders, including private sector organisations. It further explores the strategic pathways for Urban Innovation Community to provide new tools, expertise and knowledge on implementing and achieving the SDGs at the local level. The Community officially announced the launch of the 2016 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, and made its annual report on activities and outcomes in 2015 and work plan for 2016.

The roundtable is firstly held by the Urban Innovation Community under the UCLG conference framework, the theme of which is closely connected with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations this year, focusing on the international hotspot issues and approving that the urban innovation serves as a vital approach to achieve SDGs by the local governments. By compiling the insightful ideas and visions of the roundtable into this publication, we hope that it can enlighten and provide guidance for the global urban leaders and experts.

2 / Preamble

Urban Innovation As Driving Force for the SDGs
/ Liu Baochun

Urban Innovation As Driving Force for the SDGs



Dr. Liu Baochun

Director of Urban Innovation Community

As the New Year is just around the corner, this is a perfect time for us to slow down and contemplate upon what has been achieved in the past year, and to look into plan for the new year. The Urban Innovation Community serves to enhance international exchange, cooperation and peer learning in the field of urban innovation, facilitate research in the latest trends and progress in promoting urban sustainability by innovative approaches to urban management and development, provide reference and suggestions for policy and decision-making in urban areas, and ensure that the value of the initiatives submitted to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation be brought to its full in promoting peer learning and decentralized cooperation by UCLG members.

I am very pleased to announce that the year 2015 has been a busy yet successful year for the Community, having achieved previously-set goals in the following dimensions:

Membership and Partnership. *In the past year, we have seen this young network expanding to a total of 38 member cities, reaching out to the different continents around the world. A strong and reliable relationship has been built not only with cities, but also with international organizations, including UCLG, METROPOLIS, the UN-Habitat, C40, and ICLEI. The Community has been an effective platform to share knowledge, experience, and resources with our member cities and partner institutions.*

Decentralized and Peer Learning. *In 2015, the Community organized case study visits to thirteen of the shortlisted and winning cities of the 2014 Guangzhou Award, including Abu Dhabi, Antioquia, Boston, Bristol, Buenos Aires, Christchurch, Dakar, Hamburg, Jakarta, Melbourne and Rio de Janeiro. Some of the Guangzhou Award participating cities have been highly enthusiastic in joining these study visits, which are carried out by city government officials, urban researchers, and media representatives. These visits produced very useful findings in how cities make innovations in order to promote urban sustainability and citizens' livelihood, which are being shared in the study reports.*

Knowledge and Information Sharing. *Working in partnership with Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, METROPOLIS and UCLG ASPAC, the Community has organized several seminars, workshops and trainings in 2015, including the Public Participation and Urban Development Innovation Forum in collaboration with the Chinese Society for Urban Studies, the Workshop for Thought Leaders in collaboration with the School of Public Management of Sun Yat-Sen University, and especially the Roundtable on SDGs & Urban Innovation: Telling City Success Stories, organized on the sidelines of the 2015 UCLG World Council Meetings, during the 21st Annual Conference of Parties (COP) of UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris.*

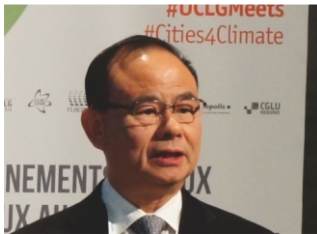
2016 would be a milestone year for cities around the world, with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, consensus reached during COP 21, and the upcoming Habitat III. The role of the Community would focus on telling innovative success stories of our cities, and demonstrating the role of local action in enhancing sustainability for mankind.

On behalf of the Urban Innovation Community, I am very thankful for the great support from members and partners, and wish you prosperity and happiness in 2016.

3 / *Welcome*

*Innovation—the Foundation of Achieving Urban
Sustainable Development*
/ *Su Zhijia*

Innovation—the Foundation of Achieving Urban Sustainable Development



Su Zhijia

***Chairman of Guangzhou People's
Political Consultative Conference***

On the occasion of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Urban Innovation Community is organizing this session on the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals and urban innovation. First, on behalf of Mr. Chen Jianhua, Mayor of Guangzhou City and UCLG Co-President, I would like to extend my sincere welcome and heartfelt gratitude to all the city leaders, international experts, and friends from the international organizations and institutions.

With rapid socio-economic development, the ever-growing boom of global urbanization and increasing urban density, cities in the world need to discuss how to face and tackle urban challenges in the urbanization process, in order to achieve sustainable urban development and enhance the increasing material and spiritual demands of our citizens. In 2012, the City of Guangzhou, together with UCLG and METROPOLIS, launched the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, in order to recognize cities and local governments for their successful practices of innovative development, to exchange experience and disseminate knowledge, and to encourage cities to join hands in addressing challenges and difficulties in the course of urban development. Currently, thanks to the previous cycles of the Guangzhou Award in 2012 and 2014, as well as follow-up research, discussions of excellent examples, and field study activities, great results have been achieved in promoting prosperity and sustainability by innovative approaches to urban administration and development.

Innovation fuels development. Facing the past, we have successfully solved urban issues with innovative approaches. Nowadays, cities in the world put Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations into practice, for the source of realizing the sustainable development of cities lies in innovation. The third Guangzhou Award has now been launched. We sincerely invite all of you to recommend cities and initiatives to participate in the selection of the third Guangzhou Award and attend the Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference. With the standards of SDGs, the fruits of Paris Climate Conference and the expectant achievements of 2016 United Nations Conference on Human Settlement, the third Guangzhou Award will promote the exchanges and communication and the sharing of experiences among cities. The Urban Innovation Community will provide a platform for global cities and local governments to explore the innovative mode of sustainable urban development!

Finally, wish the session a full success and hope all the guests and friends would exchange opinions and provide suggestions for achieving sustainable urban development jointly and tell the stories of your cities. Thank you very much!

4 / *Telling City Success Stories*

***Bristol: European Green Capital, a Liveable and Resilient City:
Innovative, Creative and Entrepreneurship***
/ George Ferguson

Green City and Green Economy
/ Raymond Louie

Innovation Provides Solutions, Reform Addresses Challenges
/ Henri-Paul Normandin

***Meeting Complex Challenges Requires Coordinated
Actions in Different Domains***
/ Jorge Perez

***Seeing is Believing: Guangzhou's Story of
Innovation--Guangzhou Encyclopedia***
/ Nicholas You

Bristol: European Green Capital, a Liveable and Resilient City: Innovative, Creative and Entrepreneurship



George Ferguson
Mayor of Bristol

Bristol is about 170 kilometers west of London. The city has half a million population, so this is a small city in Chinese terms. It is a complex historic city, so it is a city you cannot start from scratch. You work with what you've got. It has a lot of blue and green as you can see in the city.

We are the current European Green Capital which is an award but we also regard it as an absolute duty to share what we've learned. So out of this, we produce the Bristol method which demonstrates from our successes and failures the things that other cities could learn from. But more importantly, we won the Guangzhou Award, of which we are extremely proud. It means more to me than winning an Oscar, although I am never likely to win an Oscar but this has more purposes as I said on the stage then. I believe awards are really important. They help to give us ambition and direction. It is working for the award that is as important as winning it, and then sharing the journey with other people. This is what cities are made of. We have one world in our small city, a rich world. I am passionate about the role of cities in tackling with climate change and I think it has become the theme of this topic in Paris. I am pleased that this is now recognized the two examples of how cities would contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

But before that, I want to express the importance of partnership. What we did in Bristol which helped us get to the point of the European Green Capital is that we formed a civil society partnership between our universities, major institutions, businesses, cooperatives and community organizations across the city. These people are representatives of our partnership now in over 800 different organizations. That gave us the base and I believe would also be the legacy that we leave behind us. So we apply a partnership approach within and outside Bristol, sharing all of these with fellow cities, such as Guangzhou. Guangzhou became our sister city in 2001 and we will be celebrating our 15th anniversary with Guangzhou next year. But I have said that Bristol as a typical European city in many ways is a laboratory for change. It is also a laboratory for innovation, a real life laboratory.

This is an example of a very ugly autonomous car that we are testing in Bristol on the basis if it can work in a very complex city like ours, it can work anywhere. One of the Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure access to affordable, sustainable, reliable and modern energy for all. So through this, we are saving a huge amount of energy. We are reducing our CO2 output by 40% by 2020, 50% by 2025, 60% 2035, 80% 2050. But I want to go back and increase the ambition on that and get carbon zero by 2050. But it is not so easy for a city like us, but easier for cities with high natural hydro resources for instance. And we are doing that through insulations, through renewable energy, through district heating and setting up the Bristol Energy Company which is the first major corporation owned energy company. It has a triple bottom line, dealing with energy property, dealing with clean energy and making money for the city because we need to find new ways of investing in more sustainable development.

We are working with communities, enabling them to install solar PV on some of our buildings. We are doing that on ourselves and they benefit from the feed-in tariffs. But unfortunately, now they are being reduced because the Chinese are very successfully producing cheaper portable tapes, so we need less in the way of subsidies. We put young people absolutely at the heart of everything we do. My guiding factor in everything we do is let's make a child-friendly city. It is a very useful thing behind our engineers and everybody. It is a way of making a good city for everybody. But the second SDG that we are addressing is building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

This is a demonstration of Bristol's open project. This is the data dome which is visible part of a partnership with our leading university using their supercomputer. Our infrastructure around the city in which will install 144 core cables, and that is linked to our lamp posts. This will enable people to try our autonomous cars in the city. That will give us many gains. We will be experimenting with 5-G mobile with the Internet of everything. Basically, it is an information framework that will enable us to make much more intelligent decisions about policies or about how you move around the city and

where you go when you are visiting our city.

Now the majority of people in Europe live in cities. Our job as leaders of cities is to make them safe, healthy and sustainable. And the smart city is one that uses innovation with that purpose. It is not a smart city that is totally focused on the technologies without being focused on the people. We cannot do this alone. We can only do this by working together, so I finish with the emphasis on sharing being the key to success. Thank you very much.

Green City and Green Economy



Raymond Louie

***Acting Mayor of Vancouver | President of Federation
of Canadian Municipalities***

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share a few words from two perspectives. One perspective is the most specific perspective, the reason why I am here, and other perspective from Federation of Canadian Municipalities as well. This sharing platform and opportunities that Guangzhou has provided to us have been helpful.

First of all, innovation and technology exchanges and I think some more supports have been given to us by learning among cities. After thirty years of sister cities relationship with Guangzhou, I know, from my standpoint, things have changed tremendously. We look forward to continue growth and friendships between our countries, specifically our cities. This year marks the thirtieth anniversary and recently, our mayors have celebrated in Guangzhou. That was very positive of all the pictures and experiences. They enjoy a solid relationship. I mention this because I think it is important for all of us to build those relationships at the political level but also to foster relationships between our cities at staff level as well, because ultimately we officials recognize that we don't actually do the work that our staff must do on the ground pieces that provide us with the opportunities to be confident and be proud of our initiatives that we have conceived.

Like Bristol, Green Capital of Europe, Vancouver is also a green city in the world. That name is not only a chance for you, a chance to ourselves, but also a chance to remind our citizens of a challenge for themselves as well. It is not only the elected officials. It is about our citizens being challenged, giving them the opportunity to engage in a meaningful way. And it's all those small components that we have embedded into the Green City 2020 Action Plan which helped us to win the Guangzhou Award back in 2012, the first year that the award was conceived. The plan has been quite successful. And after three years and four years with our efforts, we have completed 80% of our objectives in the Greener City 2020 Action Plan. Where we have greater successes in some areas and others and I won't go into detail with you, but it is enough to say that we need to continue to challenge ourselves. That is why this year, just last month in November, we have taken on the task of becoming 100 percent renewable energy by the year 2050 or earlier. This is a very challenging task and as Mayor Ferguson mentioned, some cities and jurisdictions have benefited from electricity. We do have significant advantage by having that available, but now we still have only 35% of renewable energy. It is still a tremendous work to grow new energy and reduce energy consumption through the use of renewable energy in our city. That is the challenge that we are about to face, and we have already started with.

From the perspective of a city, we are doing well. Our citizens are engaged. Thirty-five thousand of our citizens at the front end are creating our sustainable plan. These citizens have helped us both to engage in terms of the activation of these initiatives but also to provide us political support. In Canadian democracy, we must get us elected, so we have the pleasure now of serving as a majority in the Council in Vancouver through three elections with the objective of building a greener city and citizens believe in that goal to be a green city. I think it helps us to be reelected. It is an essential component being a citizen of Vancouver to look for those opportunities to become a green city. When I spoke earlier both in being the President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities, I spoke on that frankly because we are not at the national governmental level. Our resources are limited. There are perhaps some barriers on the provincial and state levels that are hard to become primarily the financial point.

By trying to become the leader in our country on greenest initiatives, we hope it can inspire other cities to do the same and that is exactly what happened. We have a coordinated campaign with coordinated efforts at a mechanism to bring us the Green Municipal Fund, where we fund to federal government money green initiatives among our cities. We also, I think, have been quite successful in Canada, having just recently elected a new government, a new federal government that is committed to green economy as well. Those things need to be connected to the economy, but also the social priority as well. Had we not put our efforts at the national level around testing each of the party platforms of the political parties, this government would not have been successful. They have made commitment and they continue to speak on their commitment to becoming a more green economy as well. So if we have a role to play at the local government, it is not only to take care of business inside our worlds, but to influence as much as we can, as we are trying to influence each other at the local government level around the world. It is also our role to influence our state and federal governments as well.

Innovation Provides Solutions, Reform Addresses Challenges



Henri-Paul Normandin
Director of International Relations of
the City of Montreal

First of all, greetings from Mayor Denis Coderre of Montreal, the new President of METROPOLIS. Mr. Coderre was hoping to join us tonight, but unfortunately with the busy schedule as everyone has this week here in Paris, he has to change his schedule and send his apology and best wishes to everyone here. Mayor Coderre would have been pleased to join us, and I am pleased to replace him here today to the opening of this roundtable.

We would like to congratulate the City of Guangzhou for all the initiatives that you are taking with respect to innovation and in urban areas, including the Urban Innovation Award. Last month, we were in Guangzhou with Mayor Coderre. It was a very good trip. It was Mayor Coderre's first visit to Guangzhou. He was very impressed with what he saw. In my case, I have seen the evolution of Guangzhou over years and I could also see how Guangzhou has evolved into a very modern and efficient city. Mayor Coderre had a very good meetings with Mayor Chen and sent his regards. They talked about many subjects including the future of METROPOLIS as Mayor Chen is also the Co-President of Metropolis. I think no one here in this room needs to be convinced that today international relations are not only based on the relations between states but they are also based on the relations between cities. Cities have a role to play both at the global level and of course, at the local level, since we are very close to citizens. We had a very good example of this recently of the importance of urban issues when the United Nations adopted just a few months ago the Sustainable Development Goals.

As you probably know, one of these goals, specifically Goal Eleven, is specifically directed to urban issues, and it says that "we need to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". In relation to Goal Eleven, there are many issues in Sustainable Development Goals are relate in one way or another to urban issues. In that context, it is very clear that urban innovation has an acute role to play in the achievements of SDGs. Of course, making cities sustainable couldn't be more relevant today as we gather here in Paris around COP 21. We all know that cities are part of the problem in the sense that they produce a large part of greenhouse gas emissions, but at the same time they are part of the solution. In particular, because cities can stimulate innovation, so that we can collectively address the challenge of climate change. As we work together in networks such as METROPOLIS, we take commitments together and we can put together our strengths. METROPOLIS actually recently adopted a declaration on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As we assure the practice on innovation between our members, we can improve the environment, the quality of life, economy, security, and we can build more inclusive cities.

Innovation and technologies, of course, play a particularly important role. Strategies, smart cities' strategies and policies as well. We can take the example of transportation where intelligent transportation systems can help build more efficient

public transport force and have concrete effects on reducing pollution. Several cities have smart city polices. Montreal is one of them and there are some others like Barcelona. But more generally, when we share those practices with respect to policies, technologies, urban planning, housing and social inclusion, we can build innovative cities and help achieve the SDGs. The partnership between METROPOLIS and Guangzhou in years has been in innovation. It is a very good example of the spirit of sharing best practices. METROPOLIS will happily participate in the next edition of the Guangzhou Urban Innovation Award in November 2016. We are pleased to be part of this partnership, and pleased to participate today in this roundtable. I am sure the discussions will be very productive and wish everyone enjoy the roundtable. Let's be innovative.

Meeting Complex Challenges Requires Coordinated Actions in Different Domains



Barbara Berninger
***Head of Division for UE and International
Affairs, Berlin***

The Sustainable Development Goals have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Nevertheless, as we are in these goals, we are even more interested in implementation. We are member states. We got to focus in and implement these goals. They are centrally talking about the search for suitable indicators as Nicholas mentioned, which will make it possible to measure implementations for cities to my mind. What is important is not so much the issue of monitoring as the actual core work involve implementing these goals openly.

*We are in Paris and from all around the world, thousands and thousands of people have come together to COP21 in Paris. Fear of terrorism and the tragedy of 30th of November in the city have not kept us away, because I guess how we respond to climate change will be the defining condition of the future of humanity. The world is watching as we gather here in Paris and many of those watching have strong messages to send. Pope Francis has sent a message which subtitle is *Uncared for Coming Home* and he calls on the world to take swift and unified action. This injunction has sent for the no regrets charter that we in Berlin together with our colleagues from all over the world have been part of the developing. The no regrets charter focuses on first climate adaption for cities. There are four basic principles in the no regrets charter. First, climate adaption needs to start here now. Second, it needs a no regrets or precautionary approach. Third, climate adaption needs an integrated approach, and fourth, climate adaption needs a holistic sustainable approach. The fourth of these principle states that to adapting actively to climate change, cities should consider action across all the means of social life, ecology, economy, politics and culture.*

Climate change is life-changing. It's changing everything across every aspect of social life. It may be more intense for the people of the global south. But across every part of the world, life will change. Responding to these complexities requires principles for action across all the domains of social life, which means that we take care of our ecology. This is a principle emphasizing moving away from the dominion over nature. The second domain is economy. In this domain the emphasis is on social needs. The third is politics. We say in adapting to climate change, cities should begin now to develop a clear vision and an integrated adoption plan for dialogue between each and every generation and civic involvement, and the strategy should be embedded across the world. The fourth domain is culture. The fourth domain is often left out of consideration. However it's vital. Culture is the ground of social life and we ignore at our peril. This is why there is emphasis on it. The no regrets charter for climate change adaptation goes deeper, providing guidance for action at local city level. The no regrets charter works hand in hand with our policy transfer platform, which, compared to the Guangzhou Innovation Award platform, I guess, is very a small and growing baby, but it is another way of learning and for experts and researchers to document innovative projects, and policies cities can take as an integration of our environment.

So we invite all of you to become an active member of our knowledge community. We are very excited to form a partnership with the City of Guangzhou to include material of the winners and nominees for the Guangzhou Innovation Award and Policy Transfer Platform. This platform like the charter of no regrets is practical, useful, and provides guidance for best practices. So we look forward to working together into the future, to extend the usefulness of such initiatives and to put into practice principles and proposals that have emerged from them.

People Create Changes



Jorge Perez
Director of Planning of Medellin

Thank you so much in the name of our mayor and our people. Thank you for this kind invitation. Hello to all the authorities from Guangzhou, from Bristol and all the cities that are here at the Urban Innovation Community.

As you might know, Medellin is located in north-west of South America. It's a very important city in Colombia, the second largest one. During the last 25 years, we have been working so hard to overcome the strong crisis that we had. Based not only on the critical moments of mega traffic, environment, but also the decline of our economy and the coffee production of our country. So, during the last 25 years, we've been working a lot to develop the city, working closely with academics, corporations and civic society. We have a tradition for associated cooperation. We have also used social and territorial planning for development and as tools to transform our reality.

In the last 60 year, the cities of Colombia transformed its population structure from 35% of urban population in the 1950s to 78% of urban population now. So you can imagine the challenge to develop the city if you have 350,000 people in the 1950s and now we have a metropolitan integrated region of around 3.6 million people. So only in 60 years, we have multiplied almost 10 times of the population. It's a huge challenge. It deals with poverty, social exclusion and many others. So Medellin is a good example that if any city and community work together, then it's able to promote a long-term view that strategic and participatory planning can transform any critical situation into positive opportunities. So it's a resilient, inclusive and sustainable society now. And during those years in the last 25 years, we have been able to deal with all those critical moments.

I would like to conclude that when you have, from a point of view, equity, social innovation, sound and strong investment with participatory planning, you can build meaningful life for our cities. It's a meaningful thing. It's a very very powerful thing. We have recently approved the long-term plan in Medellin until 2027. As you might know, we have a strong transportation, and other facilities like metros, BRTs, trams, and public bikes systems. We are working to understand that transportation can hugely influence people. It's a way to be included, to be part of community, to be part of society, so the infrastructure is social infrastructure, not only infrastructure as it is. That means social access to the city because the only thing our people have is the city itself. So building public life and building city life are the main objective for us. In the end, we have been actively bringing in the opportunity for all to have full communication, access for the culture, public spaces and that means people create changes.

Seeing is Believing: Guangzhou's Story of Innovation --Guangzhou Encyclopedia



Nicholas You
Adviser to the Guangzhou Award

I am of Chinese ethnic origin and one of the problems with being Chinese is that we're too modest. I have, since the inception of the Guangzhou Award, told Guangzhou you have to submit your own stories. The city is sponsoring this fantastic award, and it has almost a moral obligation to show what it is doing in terms of innovation. Nothing to date. So I have taken on the task of telling one of their stories for them. I am telling a very special story because it's one that I think underscores a lot of things we have said around this table.

Guangzhou produced at the end of 2014 the Guangzhou Encyclopedia. You have to see it to believe it. It's some 500 volumes, each volume some 500 pages. It is the dictionary of Cantonese culture or what we call in China Lingnan culture which prevails throughout most of southern China and during certain periods of history quite present throughout Southeast Asia. The reasons why the City of Guangzhou undertook this gargantuan task are as diverse as they are honorable. First, owing to historical reasons of trade and emigration, the Lingnan culture and group of languages is found not just in Guangdong Province and its neighboring regions but also in many parts of the world. At the turn of the last century Cantonese and its closely related dialects constituted one of the biggest sub-language groups in human history. To date, traces of Lingnan culture can be found all over Southeast Asia, in parts South Asia, East and Southern Africa, Latin America and, of course, in the so-called Chinatowns in North America and Europe.

But what is happening today, which is very relevant to what we are saying, is that rapid urbanization is changing many things. One major change is the ethnic and cultural configuration of Guangdong Province itself. People from many other parts of China and from abroad have migrated and continue to migrate to Guangzhou. Thus the anchor or the heart of Lingnan Culture is undergoing rapid change. The second major change is that Chinese emigration abroad is no longer from the Lingnan region. Recent emigration from China abroad is coming from other regions of China. People emigrate; they emigrate with their attitudes, with their belief systems, and their customs of the day they left home. So if you really want to know what Sicilian culture back in 1800 or Cantonese culture back in 1850, the most likely places to find what you are looking for is not in Sicily or in Guangzhou, but in the communities of the diaspora. The third reason is that many of the historical documents pertaining to the Lingnan culture are stored in archives and are at risk. If they are not digitized now, they might no longer exist in legible form in the coming decades.

So the City of Guangzhou undertook this tremendous effort of collecting all forms of documentation of Lingnan Culture for ten years, involving ten people, to compile this encyclopedia.

While we focus our attention on climate change and the SDGs, let us not forget the cultural agenda. It is such an important element of what constitutes a sense of place; it is so important for making sense of all the other stories we tell. And of course Guangzhou will evolve and maybe in 100 years time it will decide to revise its encyclopedia as a result of our rapidly urbanizing and changing world.

5 / *Urban Experts' Viewpoints*

*Putting SDGs into the Future Development
Framework of Guangzhou Award*
/ *Nicholas You*

*The Necessity of Good Practices Exchange
to the City as a Project*
/ *Anne-Marie Chavanon*

Sharing: the Source of Cities' Inspiration
/ *Thierry Lafont*

Guangzhou Award: A Journey, A Belief
/ *Sunil Dubey*

Putting SDGs into the Future Development Framework of Guangzhou Award

Nicholas You

Adviser to the Guangzhou Award

My dear friend Emilia here, said something a few weeks ago, when we were together in New York, saying that 65% of all the sustainable development goals would require local authority and local community engagement in order to be attained. When she said that I went back to the study board, to analyze those SDGs one-by-one. I would add that at least 65% of the SDGs would require local government and community engagement in order to be attained.

I am convinced after having run two cycles of the award, and seen what numerous cities have achieved including those that are with us today - Medellin and Vancouver – that the driver of sustainable urban development lies first and foremost by the driving force of a vision. We felt that in order for this award to continue to have legitimacy and for this award to serve its primary purpose, which is to serve this community and the community of cities around the world, we also have been driven by a vision. The vision I am proposing to you today is that this award to become a primary source of qualitative indicators of how the SDGs are being implemented at the local level. There are 17 goals, 169 targets; we know that in the course of 2016, the United Nations will come up with the indicators for those targets. They are talking about one and not more than two indicators per target. And because this task has been given to the Statistical Commission of the UN which is made up of National Statistical Offices, I think it would be pretty safe to say that most if not all of these indicators will be quantitative.

Because I have been part of this whole process, I was really puzzled to look at one of the targets that we have. One of the SDGs is Goal Eleven for cities and human settlements, and one of its targets is to ensure safe, green and accessible public space. For the first time in history, we are putting public space on par with poverty, health, nutrition and other key indicators of a healthy society. And are we going to measure public space with two quantitative indicators? Impossible.

But what I would like to underscore is that since my involvement in the first UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio 1992 and other major conferences that followed, what is of equal importance to statistics and quantitative indicators in reporting on progress is the story. By the story I mean how did we manage, how did you manage, how did the others manage, to meet the targets that were set . What were the challenges that were encountered? How were they and other obstacles overcome? What were the new policies, strategies, partnerships, technologies and governance structures that were put in place?

What we are proposing tonight is that for at least the next two cycles we focus the Guangzhou Award on innovation in the local implementation of the SDGs. We have already started by adjusting the reporting format and the criteria for the award, so that we can have by 2018 a few hundred stories showing what local authorities and communities around the world are doing – and how they are doing so - to meet the SDGs. These stories will be important because we know that member States will have to report on what they have done to achieve the SDGs in 2019!

My appeal to you is that this urban community engage in this is an experiment. Let's do it together. We will report back to you regularly on how this has been received, and how we progress. We are going to ask a few of the previous submitters to the award cycles such as Bristol, Vancouver and Medellin here today, to look back at your previous report, give us an updated one using the new reporting format so that we can begin as a community to draw out the lessons learnt to share. The beauty of cities, as opposed to industry or commerce, is that while we are intensely competitive with one another; we are perfectly willing to share the secrets behind our successes!

This is the essence of what we hope to be able to achieve together with you for the coming two years, at least until the next cycle is finished, and to re-evaluate together the outcome, so that we can by 2018 have a robust platform that will accompany national reporting on the achievement of the SDGs. We already know that without the stories behind the achievements, any reporting will be very dry. Let us be bold in our vision and strive to become a source of , an input, to national and global reports. We can say “Hey, this is what your local authorities, or local communities are doing on the ground; this is how they did it, this what they have achieved, and this is what we need from you – central governments - to enable us to go further, faster and go to scale!

So that is the vision that we are proposing today. And I want to thank all of you around the table that give your inputs. I invite you to submit for the next cycle, I request that Medellin, Vancouver and Bristol who shared their innovations with you tonight, to partake in this bold experiment to see that we can report differently on international goals and targets and tell the world how we can make a real difference on the ground.

The Necessity of Good Practices Exchange to the City as a Project



Anne-Marie Chavanon

***Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Social Coesion and
Global Challenges, Council of Europe, Technical Committee
Member of 2012 Guangzhou Award***

Let me first thank you for giving me this opportunity to be a part of the Urban Innovation Community event, and allow me to express my opinion on the Guangzhou Award experience

Considering SDGs and the Climate Summit currently held in Paris, I would like to congratulate the forum organizers for the exceptional relevance of the speakers and the topics.

I feel all the more committed tonight with you that yesterday I attended a meeting on the reliability of policy makers on climate issues in Le Bourget. The title was: "Should we entrust politics with the climate?" Among the speakers, a former French Minister, the personal counselor of the French president on climate, and two NGOs. All of them agreed on the challenge or even for some of them the virtual impossibility of reconciling the long-term climate objectives and the urgent measures to be taken during the short duration of a political mandate.

Our meeting, this evening, in the town hall of Paris, provides evidence of the contrary. It also makes it clear that collaboration between citizens and local authorities is possible and needed for a smart and efficient long term urban agenda on the SDGs as well as climate goals. In my view, the words we've first heard from Mr. Su, and just now from the Mayor of Bristol, and from the representatives of Vancouver, and Medellin illustrate quite well the motto of the COP21: "All united for climate action".

In all fields, indeed, successful cities are collaborative cities driven by a strong political will. Both are needed. There is no other solution. There is no other way. I have in mind the outstanding examples of Christchurch, Bristol, Antioquia, Gwangju, Boston and many other winners and short listed projects of the 2012 and 2014 Guangzhou awards .

On December 9th, we are all aware of the crisis which appears in many democratic countries: in countries where the vote is a right, and where citizens don't see the need of exercising such right, convinced that their vote will have little impact on political guidance. It might be so, tomorrow in France, for the first round of the regional elections.

However, we all see that when there are dramatic events like those we had in January and November 2015 in Paris, like natural disasters such as the earthquake occurred in Christchurch, or Fukushima events, people gather and join immediately politicians for efficiency. And we welcome voices like yours, Mayor Ferguson. We need elected people able to walk hand in hand with the people. Away from political considerations and strategies.

A tremendous power can rise from the people and improve governance efficiency. At the Council of Europe, the ministers asked the NGOs to elaborate a code of good practices in the decision process. The matrix issued goes from dialogue to cooperation but where to stand? It depends on the background of each city and territory. Yet procedures must always be very clear. Yet, two words are key : TRUST and LEGITIMACY among and for all players sitting around the table where the 21st century is being built.

Last, if you allow me to do so, I would like to invite participants who would be at Le Bourget venues next December 9 to the meeting organized by my committee and COFHUAT on the theme: "Citizens and local authorities, a common agenda for climate".

We are here after the first two editions of the Guangzhou Award.

Again, thank you, Dear Nicholas YOU, for this invitation. Thank you to the City of Guangzhou and UCLG for this award, thank you for all the inspiring practices being brought out and put within local authorities and citizens reach. I do hope the award will go on paving the path to efficiency and good governance so that step by step "Dreams do come true"!

Sharing: the Source of Cities' Inspiration



Thierry Lafont
Chairman of the Board of the National Superior
School of Architecture of Nantes City | Technical Committee
Member of 2012 Guangzhou Award

Good evening, everybody. My name is Thierry Lafont. I've been invited as the Technical Committee member of the first Guangzhou Award in 2012. I'm very pleased to be here, because I see that two years later, or four years later, the Guangzhou Award still exists and continues its target. I just want to emphasize today that among all the targets that have to be emphasized, I mean the 17 targets of SDGs, I think now what is very at stake is mainly the climate change and the energetic issues of the cities. It's important to emphasize those two targets. Even the main goal of these two targets, as Mr. Ferguson said, is to bring health and friendly cities to the people, which is our main target.

But I think the painful diagnostic is finished. We need now to find solutions. Even if the solutions among everybody can be different, because we are a big world. Solutions for Vancouver is not the same for Bristol, and of course different for Sub-Saharan cities. I've noticed that Mr. Ferguson said that if it works in a complex city like ours, it works anywhere. I'm not sure if you are completely right about that. I think it's the main target of the Guangzhou Award to share. I think sharing is the master word of this urban community, to share inspirations.

First of all, in order to understand what is good practice, thanks to numerous research, it seems now possible to identify the very few quantitative indicators that can be easily measured and compared without any discussion. What are the good indicators? What are the right indicators for all of us? This is the first question. Those indicators should enhance the correct diagnostic according to identified criteria such as the SDG's. Secondly, in terms of governance, when we talk about city, we don't really all know what we are talking about. What is the city, in fact? In France, the city may be France itself. Could we compare Paris city with Atlanta, for example? Everything is different. So maybe it's important to identify the appropriate governance. It is now possible to identify consistent urban policy for land use, real estate, and more generally economic levers. Of course, these policies may vary according to the city scale and according to legal and cultural specificities. Nonetheless, we may hope to find some common rules that can be applied almost everywhere. Thirdly, in terms of solutions, it is important to share solutions. It is not quite sure that what works in Bristol should work everywhere. But however, sharing good practice is definitely a tremendous way to stimulate innovation. In this regard, correct articulation between mobility and urban morphology can lead to build a smart sustainable city model and maybe, hopefully, independently of any geographical consideration.

I'm sure the Guangzhou Award and the Urban Innovation community will emphasize and will find some good organizations to make everybody work together, and to carry out a sort of scientific database concerning the urban reality within a worldwide approach.

Guangzhou Award: A Journey, A Belief



Sunil Dubey

Senior Advisor to METROPOLIS

By 2030 the world's urban population is set to increase to 4.9 billion people, roughly about 60% of world's population. After extensive global consultation, during September 2015, the United Nation adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 'Transforming our World'. The 2030 Agenda is a plan for action for People, Planet and Prosperity. The 2030 Agenda or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. The seventeen (17) SDGs with one hundred and sixty nine (169) associated targets are considered integrated and indivisible. Although the 17 targets are largely set at national level agendas and policies, the success and achievements of 2030 Agenda would largely rely on active engagement of cities and urban regions. Post 1945, this is the first time, where global agendas for People, Planet and Prosperity would shift its focus from network of nations to network of cities. With respect to this notion of cities, Metropolis Cities, members and partners have taken the first steps of engagement over the journey of next fifteen years to ensure the 2030 Agenda is met by cities and urban regions of the world.

In transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the five areas of critical importance include People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. In cities and urban regions, the interlinkage of these critical areas rely on two fundamental aspects – Urban Innovation and Urban Community. From learnings and knowledge of last few decades, it is quite evident that we can't continue to build our cities in traditional way, resulting in disproportional usage of natural resources, greater strain on the eco system and importantly, keeping the balance of social equity in unprecedented growth of cities. Metropolis Cities, led by City of Guangzhou with partners including UCLG, UN Habitat, Urban Research Institutes and Private Sector stakeholders, are bringing a collective dialogue and programed structure to discuss, debate and develop a framework to meet the objectives of 2030 Agenda. The aim of this collective global dialogue is to take the 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets under the scanner of Urban Innovation and Urban Community to redefine the role of cities, their potentials and challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Each city has its own journey and what we are going to see by 2030. A very different world, a different world in many sense and what seems to be important for all of us is the journey, not the indicators, not the get-out at the end of it. And I want to quote something which once Former Mayor Bloomberg shared very passionately, and his comments were very strong but he was very passionate. So our institution has fate. And we should have generosity to accept where we have fate and work together how we can improve. And the result of last four to five years of his work and his team's work is now beginning to reflect that how different institutions, different cities are working together towards the common challenges in this common world.

METROPOLIS is on the very small part of this long journey and the long family, but an important one. Our new Secretary General Felipe Roca who has timed enormous amount of his work in the social sector, is to bring in some of the key thinkings which is an ultimate approach. How we bring people right from the ground level, and make the change in our cities. I want to take some words in my quote, Mayor Ferguson. You've said something very important. And this is in connection with the Guangzhou Award. Prize has a purpose. Prize has a genuine effect and of a project what we are demonstrating in the Guangzhou Award is the beginning of learning. That's something to appreciate this award, this journey and learning. METROPOLIS as a partner, as a host, as an institution has got a challenge, but also we are fortunate to have many strong partners.



6 / *Voices from International Organizations*

*Intentions from Practices, Learnings
from Processes*
/ *Monika Zimmermann*

*Examples in the Past Promoting
Changes for the Future*
/ *Emilia Saiz*

*Telling Your Wonderful Stories,
Stimulating the Best Practices*
/ *Felip Roca*

Intentions from Practices, Learnings from Processes



Monika Zimmermann
Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI

I am happy that I can be here. At the Le Bourget we will have another day of intensive sessions on many of the issues we're discussing here as well. I just want to support one specific aspect Nicholas mentioned. This is coming back to examples again and I would very much like it and I want to support it, because we have seen so many collections of good practices, database, books whatever coming into existence. Some money was pumped in at the beginning and then they are sitting on the shelves and so the collections are great and helpful. There is so much we wish what would happen in the years after. The good intentions and first commitment that we are taking together.

And very honestly, I also have been that part of that often. Even the good practice examples do exist do a good part of intentions and not yet the same result. And the more I think it is a very good idea that we will look into the cases at specifically in the very ambitious and advanced cases to look after five years. What did they achieve? How did they achieve it? Maybe also why something was not achieved and to learn not only from this lecture of moment but to learn from these processes. I just want to highlight this specifically. And we are certainly happy to be with it and we are not only supporting that, but also because of course among the cities which are offering their initiatives and among those who are shortlisted in the Guangzhou Award are many of ICLEI members. And of course we are happy to see the efforts over so many years can be rewarded, and be the finalist or the shortlisted.

Examples in the Past Promoting Changes for the Future



Emilia Saiz
Deputy Secretary General of UCLG

I want to introduce to you three ideas. A researcher has done very detailed work on how much of the SDGs is local. His conclusion was actually 65 percent was what you need to do with that and other part you should do. But you might not want to; but you should be doing it.

I think we are starting to understand that these are not technical agendas. What we are dealing with are not technical agendas. We have probably got the solutions, but you have to get involved to get used to those solutions. So it's not about what we've learned in the nineties. It is not about the use of the tools that we got, but it is actually changing mentalities. It's about political will. It's about changing the way we live and the type of society that we want to create. That's also what the implementations of SDGs is going to be about.

When we talk about localizing SDGs, we are not talking about this aggregating data. We are talking about giving local and regional authorities the territories, different tasks, different competences, adequate financing and many other things. It's actually about changing the way we do citizenship and we understand citizenship, and probably it will do no change to that first. We will not achieve the SDGs; we will not achieve that. So I think this award, and this work that you are doing is a great vehicle to actually showcase some of that.

We feel in UCLG and our colleagues of METROPOLIS coming back to what Monica was saying, you need to live it to actually implement it. You need to learn the good and the bad of the experience. It is a type of action learning. And this is why in UCLG we are giving so much importance to this community. The last edition of the Award is probably one of the most interesting experiences that I've had professionally. I learned really a lot and I hope that we can continue promoting that type of change, but making it grow a little bit and not lose those of you that have been the example in the last one by promoting change for future editions.

Telling Your Wonderful Stories, Stimulating the Best Practices



Felip Roca
Secretary General of METROPOLIS

Being able to hear from all of you, I feel there is a lot of knowledge here. This is something very good. I have this feeling that we would like to continue no matter which dinner is waiting for me. After that, or my friends or whatever. So I really appreciate your presence here, I really thank Montreal, Berlin, Bristol, Vancouver and Medellin for being here and all the cities and institutions that are representing here.

I will introduce two very short ideas. The first one is that I think METROPOLIS has to be the eyes and ears, not so much as the mouth. The mouth is yours, our members. We have to use our mouth to explain what you are doing, especially the eyes and ears of what you are doing, so we have to take all these information and share it, so we can listen better. And to do this, I think it's very important also the role of the university. I've learned this together with Medellin and with Guangzhou. They work together with universities so I think knowledge in the way we are working is fundamental, and we have to open to other institutions the ways of working. The second thing is the METROPOLIS approach. I think it is very important when we think about working together and coordinately with our friends from the other side of the world. But if we don't do these with our neighbors, it doesn't make much sense. So I think METROPOLIS is very important because METROPOLIS is to stimulate these good practices on metropolitan areas all around the world. Those are the two ideas that I want to share with you.



