

First Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation Final Assessment by the Jury Guangzhou, 14 November 2012

The members of the Jury, gathered in Guangzhou are pleased to announce the award winning cities for the first Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) as follows:

- ***Kocaeli***: After suffering the Marmara earthquake, the City of Kocaeli decided that living with risk cannot be business as usual. The city is not only equipping itself with more detailed information about risk, it is using this information to revisit building codes and fundamental development decisions. Moreover, the city has engaged the community - including youth and disabled persons - in innovative public awareness efforts and is building partnerships with national government, technical institutions and the local chamber of commerce
- ***Lilongwe***: Starting in the 1990s Lilongwe experienced a decade of progressive decline as a result of a difficult transition to democracy characterized by poor governance and equally poor delivery of services. A combination of leadership, the right tools and a unique mentorship programme with the City of Johannesburg, South Africa, led the city to restore its faith in itself. A performance-based management system has allowed the city to improve service delivery and revenue collection and to reward those individuals for their good work. Today the city is investing in improving its infrastructure and living conditions for the poor.
- ***Seoul***: The City of Seoul is tackling two issues that many societies are just paying lip service to. One is the issue of young girls who drop out of school and are at risk of falling into the trap of prostitution. The other is youth addiction to the internet. In both cases, the City of Seoul has transformed age old institutional culture to consider these youth as victims of larger societal trends and not culprits. It is now devising a wide range of actions from counseling to training to help these youth become productive citizens of tomorrow.
- ***Vancouver***: Vancouver is well known for its long-standing commitment to planning for sustainability. This has resulted not only on individual projects or initiatives but in an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to social, economic and environmental problems, using innovative financial mechanisms and innovative urban design. While the city is seeking to achieve new environmental goals for becoming the Greenest City, it is fully aware that it cannot leave anybody behind and engages simultaneously in an affordable housing policy and strategy.
- ***Vienna***: The City of Vienna is growing at a rapid pace compared to many of its neighbors. It is doing so because of immigration. To facilitate the settling in and social insertion of recent migrants, the City of Vienna has devised a one-stop shop of

all of its social services to ensure ease of access to key information in such area as housing, health, education and job opportunities. Information is available in 24 languages and is continuously updated.

The Jury wishes to commend the City of Guangzhou, Metropolis and the United Cities and Local Government for establishing this Award. It is an initiative that is both timely and pertinent to the social, economic, environmental and governance challenges facing a rapidly urbanizing world. It wishes in particular to underline the unique forward-looking dimension of the Guangzhou Award as an important contribution in learning from local responses to global challenges and in shaping global dialogue around innovation.

The members of the Jury wish to thank the City of Guangzhou for having committed substantial resources to the search, appraisal and selection of city initiatives and to organizing an international seminar featuring all fifteen of the shortlisted city initiatives as a significant contribution to the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience.

The annex to the present report contains recommendations for subsequent cycles of the Guangzhou Award.

Members of the Jury

- Mr. Naison Mutizwa Manginza, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, UN-Habitat, replacing Mr. Joan Clos, UN Under Secretary General, Executive Director of the UN-Habitat, and Chair of the Jury
- Mr. Glenn Dolcemascolo, Head of Office, UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction (GETI, replacing Ms. Margaret Wallström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Co-Chair of the Jury
- Professor Yves Cabannes, Development Planning Unit, University College of London
- Mr. Cecil Steward, former Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Nebraska, former president of the American Planners Association and Director of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities

Mr. Nicholas You, Chairman, World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the Technical Committee for the Guangzhou Awards, replacing Mr. Yu Keping, Director of the Center for Chinese Government Innovations (CCGI), Peking University and Chair of the Technical Committee of the Guangzhou Award

Annex I

Recommendations by the Jury for subsequent cycles of the Guangzhou Award

The Jury, fully aware that this is the first cycle of the Guangzhou Award, would like to make the following recommendations in view of enhancing the quality and standard of the award.

1. ***Guidelines, submission format and supporting materials***: The Jury was very grateful for the supporting materials but felt that the quality and quantity of information submitted varied considerably. The Jury therefore recommends the following adjustments to the submission format:
 - That the submitting city provide an overview of the background information, the reason compelling change, the key actors, processes engaged, outcomes, etc., and that projects be submitted using a simplified format in annex to this overview. The idea is to underscore the leadership role of the city while illustrating how innovation has been achieved by the city as well as its partners. The guidelines should specify that projects can be submitted by third parties, but the submission should be coordinated by the city.
 - Oblige all submitters to provide supporting evidence, especially of outcomes, be they in the form of new policies, strategies or projects. Specific reference should be made to press clippings, independent reports and appraisals and interviews.
 - Encourage submitters, through the reporting format, to provide more data where appropriate (e.g. outcomes).

2. ***Assessment process***: The Jury fully agrees with the two-stage process of appraisal, namely a Technical Appraisal Committee and a Jury. It suggests that the time between the two processes be three (3) months in order to:
 - Allow for sufficient time for further evidence gathering and validation of the short-listed submissions. The Jury noted that in several cases, there were differences in quality and quantity of information between the written submissions and the oral presentations made by the short-listed cities. The Jury further recommends that a network of academic institutions and non-governmental organizations be charged with the task of validation.
 - Allow for more time to prepare the oral presentations by the short-listed cities.

This substantive validation of the finalists would play a key role in ensuring the highest possible quality of information and thus the reputation of the Guangzhou Award.

3. ***Exchange seminar***: The Jury wishes to commend the City of Guangzhou for bringing the finalists to the award ceremony to participate in an exchange seminar. It wishes to recommend that the seminar be transformed into a 2.5 day international conference, with one-and-a-half day devoted to the exchange between finalists, half a day devoted to a

mayors' dialogue and half a day for visits. The Conference should, by 2014, become a premier venue focusing on local responses to global challenges.

4. Lessons learned: The Jury would like to encourage the City of Guangzhou to build a worldwide network of academic, professional, non-governmental and media organizations to further analyze and disseminate lessons learned from submissions to the Guangzhou Award and to play a leadership role in shaping global dialogue around urban innovation.