



NOTES OF FIRST PLANNING MEETING

PACIFIC RIM CITIES: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES (CMAS)

OCTOBER 13-14, 2007, TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

1. The organizing committee of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) World Institute (AWI) Climate and Sustainability Project held its first meeting on October 14, 2007 at Tsinghua University, hosted by Prof Qi Ye on behalf of the Center for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance (CIDEG). The founding charter members of this AWI research project are: **University of Melbourne, University of California at San Diego, University of Malaya, National University of Singapore, ETH (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology), Kyoto University, Tsinghua University, and the Development Research Center of the State Council of China.** The list of meeting participants is provided in **ANNEX A**.

BACKGROUND

2. The Tsinghua meeting grew out of the April 2007 workshop hosted by UC San Diego on "Climate Change and Sustainable Cities – Challenges and Opportunities." Following that meeting, the AWI Board endorsed a proposal from the University of Melbourne to develop a Pacific Rim city research project, co-directed by Prof. Jim Falk at Melbourne and Dr. Lisa Shaffer at UCSD. Working with AWI Managing Director, Richard Drobnick, representatives of AWI members were invited to join an organizing committee and develop a Pacific Rim Cities research project.

OBJECTIVES OF MEETING

3. Specific objectives for the first project meeting were to:
 - Define research questions and approach
 - Identify participating city/region teams
 - Agree on milestones for the next year, and
 - Develop initial budget approach and strategy
4. The co-directors asked participants to provide information ahead of time, describing their research capabilities and programs related to climate

change and sustainable cities. The responses to this survey are provided as an attachment. It was clear that there was enormous experience, a rich diversity of expertise, and strong interdisciplinary programs in place at each of the participating institutions. The challenge was to define a focus for this project that would be unique, meaningful, and achievable. In the end, the organizing committee agreed to begin by focusing on water, specifically to evaluate the following two research questions:

- A. What is the impact of climate change on water resources in Pacific Rim Cities?
- B. What leverage do cities have to adapt to and, possibly mitigate, water stresses from climate change (e.g., floods, droughts, sea level rise) and other sources (especially urban growth)?

CITY TEAMS

5. City teams will be formed, each led by an AWI member institution, looking at the cities listed below. We hope to include at least one participant in each team, who is from a different AWI institution than the lead university, and we anticipate that university team leaders will also include representatives of government, business, and civil society on their teams. **Each lead university is asked to provide a list of key team members by December 1, 2007.**

- San Diego/Southern California : University of California, San Diego
- Melbourne : University of Melbourne
- Tianjin or Shenzhen : Tsinghua University
- Singapore : National University of Singapore
- Kyoto : Kyoto University
- Kuala Lumpur : University of Malaya

6. Teams will use a common approach to characterize their city/region. In the first phase of the project, our goal is to understand the state of our cities with respect to water and to identify key knowledge gaps, existing programs, and best practices. The next step will be to develop a more ambitious research program to address the knowledge gaps, share best practices, and help develop adaptation strategies for Pacific Rim city/regions. With AWI support, we will seek substantial funding for the second phase of the research project.

AUDIENCE FOR RESEARCH RESULTS

7. There are two audiences for the research results. The first audience is decision-makers in all sectors, whose involvement will be necessary to implement change. For this audience, our goal is to produce easily

accessible information, integrating science with urban planning, economics, and other relevant perspectives, to support decision-making. We anticipate both written summary reports and workshops/conferences for public and private sector officials to share knowledge and develop action plans.

8. The second audience is the academic research community. In this regard, we will establish an electronic capability to make data and analyses available and envision publications in a variety of forms, possibly following the IPCC approach of a detailed technical volume and a summary for policy-makers, perhaps a special volume of a peer-reviewed journal, perhaps a book intended for use in interdisciplinary education programs. As steps towards these goals we envisage producing working papers in print or electronic form to assist in attracting expert feedback and inputs from policy makers as we develop the research. We see our project as contributing to the growing development of interdisciplinary education and research efforts among universities.

THE WAY FORWARD

Template for City/Region

9. **By December 1, the designated lead organizations will propose a template for each city team to follow to collect baseline information about their city/region.**

Assignment of methodological tasks

10. In relation to the two research questions, the methodological tasks to be undertaken by the respective participating institutions are tabled below.
 - A. What is the impact of climate change on water resources in Pacific Rim Cities?
 - B. What leverage do cities have to adapt to and, possibly mitigate, water stresses from climate change (e.g., floods, droughts, sea level rise) and other sources (especially urban growth)?

S/n	Tasks	Institution
1.	How do we characterize the city/region level? What are the important things to know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETH • UCSD • U of Melbourne
2.	What aspects of energy use and intensity should we study?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyoto University • NUS
3.	What do we need to know about how governance is or could be exercised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsinghua University • U of Melbourne

4.	What is the best way to describe the built environment in each city/region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyoto University • UCSD • NUS
5.	How can we characterize urban form and smart growth strategies in each city/region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U of Malaya • Tsinghua • USC
6.	What should we evaluate with respect to the coastal ecosystem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U of Malaya
7.	What scenarios and models are available to inform each team of likely climate impacts and vulnerabilities at relevant scales?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETH • Kyoto University

Common Format for Comparison

11. Because we are tackling an interdisciplinary problem for which none of us is expert in all aspects, we see the first phase of our project as an assessment of the state of knowledge and an opportunity for all the participants to learn from each other and expand our awareness. We also want to ensure that the results from each city team can be compared to those of the other city teams, so we want to use a common approach, while recognizing the uniqueness of each city/region. Using a common format for data collection will make it easier to discover and appreciate our commonalities and differences.
12. For each of these questions, the lead organization is asked to provide the following:
 - What are the most important data and information needed to address the research questions?
 - What programs, databases, and standards already exist that could be useful to our project – we want to make sure we take advantage of ongoing efforts where it makes sense to do so?
 - If there are recognized experts, either individuals or organizations, who should be invited to join the project or could serve as advisors, these should be identified?
 - What are the challenges and areas of uncertainty where no established approaches exist? Why is this the case, and how should we address this in the context of our project?

Shared Repository

13. The AWI Secretariat will work with the Project Co-Directors to develop a technology interface and repository for data and results. **We will endeavor to provide an initial information technology approach for consideration by participants by December 1.**

Agreed Data Collection Structure

14. All the project teams should review the proposed templates and provide feedback promptly, so that we can have an **agreed data collection structure by January 15, 2008.** Participating organizations should also **identify experts from their institution who might be appropriate members of other city teams by January 15.**

Collection & Analysis of Data of City/Regions

15. From January to April/May 2008, the city teams will work to collect data and characterize their city/regions. We want to collect and analyze data to understand current characteristics and trends; evaluate existing policies; and ultimately identify best practices and work to reduce vulnerabilities and develop improved adaptation strategies for decision-makers.

NEXT MEETING

16. The organizing committee plans to meet again in April/May 2008, tentatively at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. At that meeting, we will review the status of our research, what have we learned so far, what should be the basis for a major proposal for outside funding. This will enable us to prepare a report to the AWI Board for its meeting on June 26, 2008, in Tokyo. Finally, we plan to report to the next AWI Climate Project Workshop to be held in Zurich, hosted by ETH on September 6-8, 2008.

Recorded by:

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Date:

October 22, 2007

PARTICIPANTS AT THE 1ST CMAS PLANNING MEETING

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