

Metropolis Activities Report July 2013–October 2013

1. METROPOLIS ANNUAL MEETING

1.1 Sessions of the Metropolis Annual Meeting in Johannesburg 2013

The 2013 Metropolis Annual Meeting, held in Johannesburg, closed to great success on 19 July 2013, having drawn over 400 participants from different cities from around the world.

Over the four days of meetings, the ‘Caring Cities’ theme was present in all of the sessions held. Experts and political representatives acted as the spokespeople for their respective cities to make the meetings a discussion forum for the exchange of knowledge and to give the delegates present a first-hand account of their experiences.

Over the course of the first day of sessions, the South African Cities Network panel discussion started, which analyzed the *Ubuntu* concept related to the meeting’s theme of Caring Cities. The panel analysis kicked off the rest of the meetings that addressed various sub-themes related to these concepts.

Metropolis and UN-Habitat collaborated once again through the Safer Cities Global Network and presented the outcomes of a number of outstanding experiences carried out by different cities on the African continent and in Latin America which apply the “safe cities” concept.

The thematic sessions, organized by the city of Johannesburg, were very well attended by the delegates. Over the six sessions, the *Ubuntu* philosophy linked with the Caring Cities slogan was present with the following themes: food resilience; agile cities; the informal economy; resilience of resources; committed citizens; and social cohesion.

To celebrate International Nelson Mandela Day, the city of Johannesburg organized an activity by which the delegates spent 67 minutes of their time in an altruistic fashion, offering customized toys to the Entokozweni daycare center.

The Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) presented the REolutions campaign as part of the session it led: “Towards Sustainable Funding for Urban Development in Africa: Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities”. The Fund also held its Board meeting.

1.1.2 Meeting of the Metropolis International Women’s Network

For its part, the Metropolis International Women’s Network enjoyed the collaboration of political representatives and gender-issues experts who discussed the role of local authorities in the development of policies that can prevent violence and foster the protection of vulnerable groups, such as women.

Following this discussion, the Network’s Antennae met to elect members to the offices of President and Vice-President. Barcelona was chosen to fill the role of the President (Francina Vila) and the cities of Abidjan and Athens the Vice Presidents (Yaba Catherine Zouzoua and Anna Hatziyiannaki, respectively).

Another of the decisions taken was the approval of Antananarivo as a new Antennae in the Network.

1.1.3 Meeting of the Coordinators of the Metropolis Initiatives

Twelve coordinators of the Initiatives and one representative from a Regional Training Center participated in the meeting.

In addition to getting to know each other and exchanging opinions, ideas, and experiences, the participants particularly addressed the expectations and benefits that come from forming part of a Metropolis Initiative. The participants discussed the difficulties they had come across, their relationship with the Metropolis International Training Institute and its Regional Centers, and the Metropolis Initiatives. They also looked at different forms and channels to improve communication and dissemination regarding the Initiatives and ways to contribute value. Finally, proposals were made on the selection of future Metropolis Initiatives.

***Ask for the detailed “Caring
Cities” Report at
metropolis@metropolis.org***

1.2 Main Outcomes of the 2013 Board of Directors Meeting Held in Johannesburg

The Metropolis Annual Meeting ended with the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting. The main decisions taken were as follows:

1.2.1 Metropolis Members

Metropolis currently has 136 members, of which six formalized their incorporation at the board meeting in Johannesburg: New Taipei City, São Paulo (city), Ahmedabad, NIUA-India, Victoria (Seychelles) and Montevideo.

Three cities dropped out of the Association and stopped paying their fees: Almaty, Kazan, and Kinshasa.

Fee Monitoring Situation at 2013

At 31 October, 74 members had paid their fees, bringing in a total amount of €555,115.

1.2.3 Next Metropolis Annual Meetings

The Metropolis member cities chosen to host the next Metropolis Annual Meetings are:

- 2015 Metropolis Annual Meeting host city: City of Buenos Aires
- 2016 Metropolis Annual Meeting host city: Dakar Region

1.2.4 New Metropolis Initiatives

Two new Metropolis Initiatives were approved: the Cibernarium Technology Training Center (Barcelona) and “Walking Together” – Creation of an Orthotics and Prosthetics Adaptation Center for Victims of Amputation for a duration of one year.

The Cibernarium Technology Training Center joins Metropolis’s vocation of fostering innovation among large cities and promoting the mutual learning of urban experiences. The Cibernarium Center, as an ICT capacity-building space, is a potent tool for social cohesion and enhanced employability, which can help provide economic support to urban areas around the world.

Visit the Cibernarium Initiative page [here](#)

“Walking Together” proposes improving social care for people with a physical, organic or functional disability in Metropolis member cities in a post-disaster situation (e.g., wars and natural disasters) and at a high risk of social exclusion. The first recipient city will be Abidjan, which will harness the knowledge of the Sant Jordi Amputats Association of Barcelona to establish the infrastructure required to develop an orthotics and prosthetics center of its own, which will be a benchmark organization in Africa.

Visit the “Walking Together” Initiative page [here](#)

2 METROPOLIS TREASURY

Following the renunciation of the city of Montreal as a member of the Association’s Board of Directors, the position of Metropolis Treasurer has been vacant since the month of December 2012.

The Brussels-Capital Region has agreed to temporarily cover the position of Association Treasurer through to the Metropolis General Assembly meeting which will take place in Hyderabad from 7 to 10 October 2014 as part of the Association’s World Congress.

The new Treasurer *ad interim* is Mr. Jean-Luc Vanraes, President of the Parliament of the Flemish Community Commission (VGC) and former Minister responsible for finance, budget, and external relations of the Brussels-Capital Region.

3. 11th METROPOLIS WORLD CONGRESS – HYDERABAD, 7 to 10 October 2014

Representatives from the city of Hyderabad announced during the Board meeting in Johannesburg that the theme for the 2014 Metropolis World Congress will be “Cities for All”.

The Congress’s central themes will be developed on the basis of this principal theme and cover areas such as Governance, Finances, Social Equality, and Women and Young People.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) called for the design of a logo among young students, with a cash payment for the winner. The winning logo for the 2014 Congress will be reported soon.

At the same time, Metropolis President Mr. Jean-Paul Huchon and the Mayor of Hyderabad, Mr. Mohammed Majid Hussain, signed a letter to be sent to Metropolis members urging them to keep free the date of the next World Congress.

A promotional brochure to distribute at international events attended by the Association's members has also been made. So far it has been distributed at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders – 4th UCLG Congress in Rabat (1-5 October) and will shortly be republished to promote the 2014 Congress in Barcelona, as part of the Smart City Expo Congress (19 to 21 November 2013).

Furthermore, and as part of our international promotional work, Metropolis is preparing a webpage to present the Congress, which will come out before the Congress's official page.

3.1 First Preparatory Visit

A Metropolis delegation travelled to Hyderabad (India) from 8 to 11 September 2013 to meet leading representatives from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the State of Andhra Pradesh and begin to put together the 11th Metropolis World Congress (7 to 10 October 2014).

The delegation had the opportunity to visit the Hyderabad International Conference Center, which will be the main Congress site, and the hotels where delegates will be able to stay.

The next visit to continue with the preparations for the 11th Metropolis Congress will take place in Hyderabad in February 2014.

Visit the 11th Metropolis World Congress page [here](#)

4. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

4.1 Activities Carried Out by the Metropolis Initiatives

4.1.1 "Planning Partnerships for Solidarity" workshop in New Delhi

The Planning Partnerships for Sustainability workshop, organized as part of the Metropolis Initiative "Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships",

was held in New Delhi on 25 and 26 July. Organized by the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA), the event was the second in a series of workshops of the initiative led by Melbourne.

The target public of the workshop included key decision-makers and heads of public administrations involved in the planning, execution, and maintenance of basic infrastructure. It included the participation of politicians, top-level bureaucrats, city governors, urban development professionals, and representatives from NGOs, universities, and the private sector.

The conclusions of the event will help define a number of key points for the next Metropolis World Congress, to be held in Hyderabad in October 2014.

More information [aquí](#)

4.1.2 6th Kreanta International Congresses on Creative Cities in Buenos Aires

Metropolis collaborated with the Spanish Ministry for Culture and the Interlocal Network of Latin American Cities for Culture at the 6th Kreanta International Congresses on Creative Cities, which took place in Buenos Aires from 22 to 24 August 2013. This was the first *Buenos Aires Creativa* event and was characterized by being a meeting point between the creative economy and social inclusion.

Under the across-the-board theme of creativity and social inclusion, the Buenos Aires congresses focused on the following thematic areas: the experiences of creative districts; public space: building citizenship; new technologies and inclusion; business spirit, and culture and inclusion. A number of different cultural institutions around the city played host to events including conferences, debates, cultural project stands, and activities involving public participation.

The following creative experiences were presented: Ashoka; Socialab; Instedd/ Manas; the Center for Digital Inclusion of the Ministry for Modernization at Buenos Aires City Government; CMD Lab; Carne Hueso; Cartón Lleno; Pisotapitas and Dorkbot Buenos Aires.

More information [aquí](#)

4.1.3 Learning Session on Metropolitan Governance and Public-Private Partnerships in Rabat

The Metropolis Initiative "Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance", led by the State of São Paulo and with the support of UN-Habitat, UCLG and GIZ, organized a learning event on public-private cooperation which was held in Rabat on 30 September 2013 as part of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders at the 4th UCLG World Congress.

The next meeting of the Metropolis Initiative led by the State of São Paulo will take place during the World Urban Forum in Medellin from 5 to 11 April 2014, to build consensus amongst the agents involved in this session (São Paulo , UN-Habitat , GIZ and Metropolis) and specify new action measures.

More information [aquí](#)

4.1.4 “No Regrets Dialogues: Pre-Acting and Adapting to Climate Change in Cities” in Berlin

The Metropolis Initiative “Integrated Urban Governance – Successful Policy Transfer”, which is led by the city of Berlin, carried out two dialogue events to exchange different perspectives and interests in finding ways for cities to adapt to climate change. The first forum, named "No Regrets – Pre-Acting and Adapting to Climate Change in Cities", took place in Berlin on 14 and 15 October 2013.

Senior representatives of local administrations, political organizations, private businesses, and the scientific community and media took part in the dialogues. The central goal of the first meeting was to assess and discuss ways in which metropolises are putting forward stronger impulses for a new acceleration of climate protection activities in four main fields: flood protection and management, water supply and disposal, spatial planning/green areas, and buildings/energy systems rehabilitation.

The second dialogue will take place in Brussels on 10 February 2014. The overall objective is to formulate recommendations and manifest them in the form of a charter.

More information [here](#)

5. METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (MITI)

5.1 Risk Management Seminar Inaugurates MITI Regional Center in Mexico City

The School for Public Administration in the Federal District (EAPDF) in Mexico City organized its first seminar as a Regional Center of the Metropolis International Training Institute. The event was also used as an occasion to sign an agreement between the Federal District government and the Metropolis Secretariat General which marked the official opening of this Regional Center.

For three days (18 to 20 September 2013), the “International Seminar on Disaster Risk Management in Cities” was the first activity that Mexico City ran as an MITI Regional Center.

The workshop assembled authorities from the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Santa Fe in Argentina; Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Guarulhos, Recife, and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil; Bogota and Medellin in Colombia; La Paz in Bolivia; and Guayaquil and Quito in Ecuador.

The seminar was facilitated by experts from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Regional Office for the Americas (UNISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-Mexico), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Network of Social Studies in Disaster Prevention in Latin America, the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), the French Embassy in Mexico and the MERCOCIUDADES network.

More information [here](#)

5.2 Climate Change Program in Seoul

The Seoul Human Resources Development Center (SHRDC), where the MITI central offices is located, successfully concluded a series of workshops on climate change, held from 2 to 6 September.

Government officials from 13 cities in eight different countries participated in the program, which helped administrations deliver on their sustainable development goals.

The experts who facilitated the program applied a methodology called “learning in action” centered on the active exchange of experiences and reflections amongst the group of participants, with the goal of optimizing knowledge transfers and guiding better performance.

More information [here](#)

5.3 Strategic Planning and Smart Cities Workshop in Mashhad

The Metropolis International Training Institute’s Regional Center in Mashhad organized a workshop on strategic planning and smart cities from 10 to 13 October 2013.

More than 25 representatives and managers from the Middle East and West Asia region took part in the workshop, which focused on strategic planning, key performance indicators for urban services, and smart city models in the region.

The training activity brought together world and regional experts from Amsterdam, Amman, Barcelona, Istanbul, Lebanon, Sydney, Teheran, the United Kingdom, and the host city.

The parallel workshops were taught by expert technicians and featured discussions on good practices and case studies to contribute to city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchanges among Metropolis members, cities that do not belong to the Association, and other interested parties. All of the Metropolis member cities and partners from the region attended the [MITI](#) workshop in Mashhad.

More information [here](#)

6. METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S NETWORK

3rd “Dynamic Cities Need Women” Forum in Abidjan

Close to 3,000 people took part in the *3rd Dynamic Cities Need Women World Forum*, run by the Metropolis International Women’s Network and held from 24 to 27 September in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). The forum concluded with the reading of the Abidjan Declaration which is currently being distributed.

Representatives from governments from all over the world, as well as from UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UN-Women, and different ministerial representatives from the consular corps in the Ivory Coast attended to support the forum, which was devoted to the issue of women and armed conflicts.

This was the first world forum of the Metropolis International Women's Network in Africa. Previous forums have been held in Europe (Brussels) and Asia (Seoul).

The next forum is scheduled to be organized in Latin America, in Santiago de Chile, in 2015.

More information [here](#)

7. METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION

7.1 Visit to the City of Bhopal

In its vocation of an international network to support cities in mutual learning through its Initiatives, congresses, thematic meetings, technical assistance programs, training seminars, and awards, Metropolis visited representatives from the city of Bhopal (India) in September for a first-hand look at the concerns they have regarding the Association and its activities.

After the visit, the representatives from the state of Madhya Pradesh and the city of Bhopal showed the delegation around two of the most significant infrastructures in the city: Upper Lake and the MyBus rapid transit system.

The city of Bhopal has now formalized its request to become a new Metropolis member.

7.2 Visit to the City of Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, the Indian city in the state of Gujarat which was ratified as a new Metropolis member in Johannesburg on 19 July 2013, received a Metropolis delegation at the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation offices on 12 September 2013.

The meeting was a chance for Ahmedabad's representatives to present the city and its infrastructures. For its part, Metropolis took advantage of the occasion to give a detailed presentation of the Association and its main areas of action so that Ahmedabad can benefit from them in the future.

It is hoped that the visit will strengthen our collaboration with the city of Ahmedabad and boost knowledge exchanges regarding the Association's international activities with India.

8. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

8.1 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress in Rabat

Metropolis took part in the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders which culminated in Rabat on 5 October with the announcement of the new UCLG President. For three days, over 3,000 participants from 125 countries gathered to discuss issues under the theme "Imagine Society: Build Democracy".

Istanbul mayor Kadir Topbaş was reelected as president of the organization. Jean-Paul Huchon, President of Metropolis, was reelected Vice President representing the Metropolitan Section of UCLG. The new co-presidents are the mayors of Quito, Paris, Guangzhou, Bordeaux, Victoria (Seychelles), Kazan, and Rabat. Berry Vrbanovic, Emeritus Professor of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), a councilor for the city of Kitchener, was nominated Deputy Treasurer.

The list of members of Metropolis chosen to represent the Association on the Executive Council and UCLG World Council can be found [here](#) (page 21 in the document).

A new section of UCLG has been created: "Forum of the Regions". It is lead by ORU - FOGAR with Paul Carrasco, Mayor of Azuay (Ecuador) as President.

The Congress was a good occasion to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the International Municipal Movement (1913-2013) in which Metropolis has played a leading role since the Association was created in 1985. To celebrate the centenary, UCLG prepared an exhibition of 100 panels which gave an illustrated look at the history of the International Municipal Movement. You can see the centenary publication [here](#).

The exhibition will travel around 16 regions in Morocco and can be seen in Medellin as part of the World Urban Forum set to take place there from 5 to 11 April 2014.

As the metropolitan section of UCLG, Metropolis took advantage of its presence at the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders to tighten the bonds with many of its members present in Rabat for the occasion. The Summit also contributed to the

creation of networks and contacts with other Summit participants, through its numerous bilateral meetings.

The city of Bogota will be the site of the 5th UCLG World Congress and 3rd Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, to be held in 2016.

9 2013 INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 2013

3-6	Seoul , South Korea	2013 CITYNET Congress
4-6	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Cities Alliance – Annual Meeting of the Consultative Group, Board of Directors and Executive Committee
11-22	Warsaw, Poland	COP 19: 19th Session of the Conference of the Parties, United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC)
6-9	Kobe, Japan	WHO Expert Consultation on Equality in Urban Health: Impact and Evaluation Instruments (Urban HEART)
15	Barcelona, Spain	Metropolis Initiatives- Medellin Chair- Barcelona “City and Gastronomy”
19-21	Barcelona, Spain	Smart City Expo World Congress
21-22	Johannesburg, South Africa	UN-Habitat: Leading Change in the City
17-20	Beijing, China	Urban Environmental Pollution 2013 Asian Edition. Creating Healthy, Liveable Cities
18-20	Hong Kong, China	Cities Learning Together: Local Communities in the Sustainable and Healthy Learning City PASCAL International

DECEMBER 2013

4-6	Brussels, Belgium	UITP Training Programme on Public Transport Fundamentals
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4-6	Hanoi, Vietnam	<u>INTA37 World Congress</u>
9-13	Paris, France	<u>Metropolis International Training Institute - Seminar of "Observatories and Geographic Information Systems: Monitoring, Evaluation and System Support Tools"</u>
9-13	New York, USA	UCLG – “Open Working Group on SDGs”

FEBRUARY 2014

4-6	Johannesburg, South Africa	<u>C40 Mayors Summit</u>
10	Brussels, Belgium	Metropolis Initiative – Pre-Acting and Adapting to Climate Change in Cities.