

2014 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation
Final Assessment by the Jury
Guangzhou, 28 November 2014

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

Antioquia Province, Colombia: Educational Parks for Youth

The province of Antioquia is setting up a network of 80 educational parks to supplement traditional education. The programs are designed to promote science and technology; research and innovation; as well as arts and culture. Each of the parks is subject to an architectural competition to promote local identity. The parks aim to strengthen local talent, capacities and skills among youth and to promote a culture for peace, civic values and social cohesion.

Bristol, UK: Smart City Bristol

An historic city beset by problems of congestion, an aging population and climate change, Bristol is determined to mainstream innovation. It decided to become one of the few cities in England to adopt a strong mayor form of government. It is committed to reducing energy use and emissions. The City was awarded European ‘Green Capital’ status for 2015. Bristol’s innovative approach to becoming a smart city is based on people and not just on technology by engaging its citizens in establishing priorities and in designing solutions.

Christchurch, New Zealand: Our Ever Evolving City

From 2010, a series of earthquakes and aftershocks caused loss of life and the destruction of 1,200 commercial buildings and damage to 90% of residential properties. The city is using the recovery process to rebuild the social fabric and to enhance resilience. Extensive engagement with citizens was launched through “share an idea” campaigns. A transitional city programme supports recovery in healing and wellbeing; sense of place; and business. These building blocks of the transitional programme provide for long-term recovery and create a new identity through a highly creative and participatory processes.

Dakar, Senegal: Accessing Capital Markets

With rapid growth, a large portion of Dakar’s population works in the informal sector. There is a pressing need for infrastructure investment including a central market place to accommodate street vendors and to provide more convenient and hygienic conditions for consumers. Dakar decided to access the financial market to fund the project - the first city in sub-Saharan Africa

(outside South Africa) to fulfill the stringent governance conditions to do so. This initiative sets a precedent for other cities across Africa and beyond. Apart from more favorable financial terms Dakar is leveraging its experience to improve public accountability and transparency and to develop its human capital.

Hangzhou, China: Public Bike Sharing

Eighty percent of residents and commuters identified traffic congestion as a serious problem in Hangzhou. Having identified the “last mile” as a major challenge to the use of public transport, the city launched a large scale bicycle sharing project. Serving some 300,000 users daily, the system complements the public transit system. The project does not require government subsidies beyond initial capital. The business model consists of selling advertising space and providing mini-mart services at bike docking stations. A key feature is partnerships with universities to monitor use and a unique management system to ensure efficiency and customer satisfaction.

The Jury wishes to commend the City of Guangzhou, the United Cities and Local Governments and Metropolis for their continued support for 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.

Within the short span of two years, the Award has proved its value as a platform for learning and exchange. The Jury notes that the City of Guangzhou has already undertaken learning missions to the cities shortlisted in the first cycle. The Jury further notes the efforts of the City of Guangzhou in widely disseminating the shortlisted city initiatives in partnership with, inter alia, media and publishing houses, universities and the Inter-American Development Bank.

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 once more a creative and exemplary international conference featuring all fifteen of the shortlisted city initiatives. This conference is a significant contribution to the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience.

Members of the Jury

Co-Chairs:

1. Mr. Lin Yifu
Economist, former Senior Vice President of the World Bank, former Director of the China Center for Economic Research and Professor of Peking University

2. Mr. Marcelo Ebrard
Former Chairman of the Global Network of Safer Cities, UN-Habitat; Former Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico

Members (in alphabetical order):

3. Ms. Thelma Awori
Former Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations; Former Director of Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
4. Mr. Jordi Hereu
External Advisor of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on Emerging Sustainable Cities Initiative; Former Mayor of Barcelona, Spain
5. Dr. Jatin Modi
President of All India Institute of Local Self Government; Former President of UCLG ASPAC; Former Mayor of Baroda, India
6. Ms. Ana Maria Rodriguez
Manager of Institutions for Development Department, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
7. Mr. John So
Former Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Australia; Officer of the Order of Australia