

WIDENING THE SCOPE

& MISSION OF CONGRESSES

By today, the time has come to rethink what one should expect from international congresses. Regarding contemporaneous shifts, Corbin Ball put forth the seven predictions about the future of the meetings industry (ICCA Intelligence vol. 02, Nov. 2003), mentioning the extraordinary tsunami of transformation that terrorism, travel cutback and belt-tightening economic trends are creating. There are no doubts about the rise in virtual meetings; but there are also no doubts as to their incapacity to replace face-to-face meetings.

An International Congress is an arena and channel for communication both before and after the event, imbued with inspiration and creativity, learning from previous events, shared failures and success, bringing together experts in an international network. Nevertheless, Congresses today should be more ambitious - a wider mission should be pursued regarding current universal concerns such as treats to the human environment and future hopes. Given the vast array of critical threats that mankind is facing today, International Congresses have the duty to urgently contribute to building safe and trustworthy solutions, sharing in the main purposes of the intergovernmental panel.

That is exactly what we are expecting from the next 45th ISOCARP Congress, to be held in Porto, in October 2009 - to foster debate and research on the environmental effects of man's activities, promoting consistent international cooperation among scientists, practitioners and politicians, increasing innovative thinking and communication efficiency, confronting knowledge, resources and systems with real life applications.

F. Brandão Alves - Executive President (Chair) LOC

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

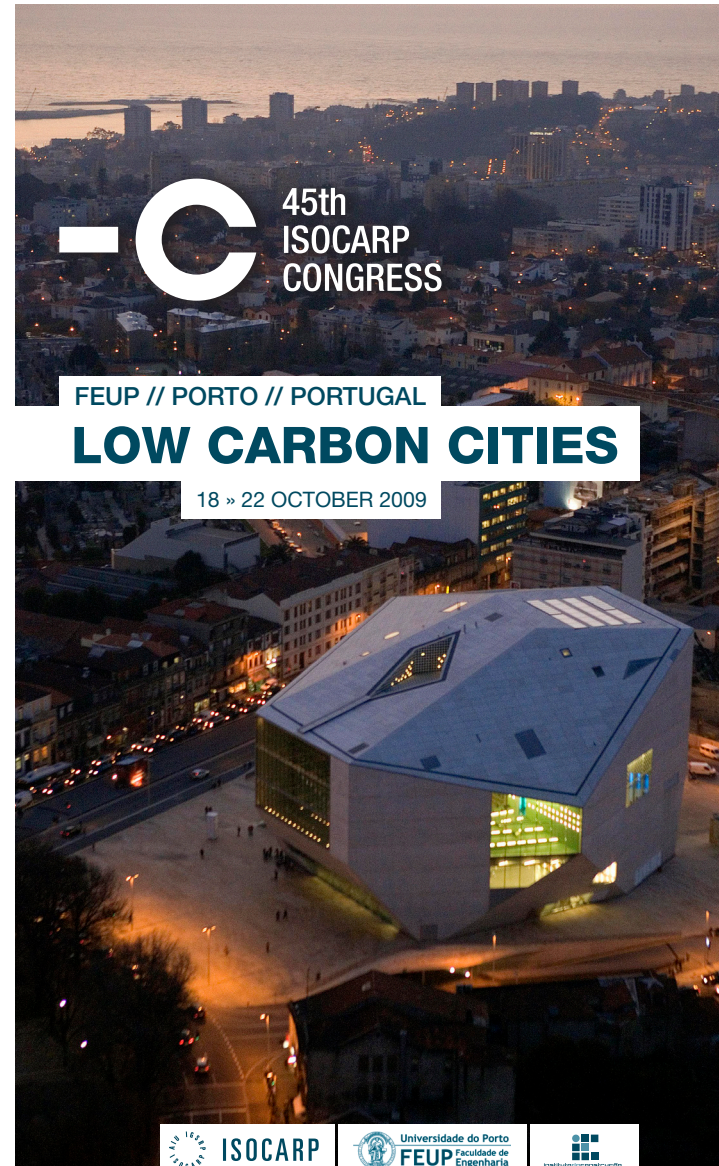
Luís Valente de Oliveira – Honorary President
Paulo Pinho – President
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Álvaro Costa
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Vitor Oliveira

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pablo Vaggione – Secretary General ISOCARP and Chair
Jim Reilly
Peter Robinson
Bernd Scholl
Marcella Villa Luna
Wang Rusong
Jeanne Wolfe

CO-OPTED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Manuel da Costa Lobo
Nuno Portas



45th ISOCARP CONGRESS

FEUP // PORTO // PORTUGAL

LOW CARBON CITIES

18 » 22 OCTOBER 2009

ISOCARP

Universidade do Porto
Faculdade de Engenharia

FEUP

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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

At the invitation of the Porto Local Organising Committee, ISOCARP will hold its next congress in the city of Porto, Portugal, in October 2009. The theme, proposed by our hosts - "Low Carbon Cities"-, is particularly timely, as reduction in carbon emissions and energy are key concerns of planning for future urban growth worldwide, not least in Europe.

For decision-makers and their planning advisors, it raises the challenge of making compact and liveable places, caring for people and nature and favouring social inclusion.

Considering the wide experience of Portugal in the use of European regional funds, the findings of the congress might be of consequence for the new policies presently being considered towards a more sustainable regional development.

It also raises professional issues about assessing carbon emissions and energy production and consumption generated by buildings and neighbourhoods and how to make the best use of carbon trading schemes.

This in turn opens the field to a new profile of participants, interested in exhibiting and explaining the latest technologies related to planning for low carbon urban development, as the German pavilion in Saragossa 2008 successfully did in the field of water resources.

We have high expectations for this congress and look forward to welcoming many of you in Porto.

Pierre Laconte - President of ISOCARP

THEME OF THE CONGRESS

For our 2009 congress in Porto, we focus upon the environmental effects of man's activities, in the context of the world's expanding cities and city regions.

It is those cities and agglomerations that are undoubtedly the source of a large share of the greenhouse gas emissions that underlie climate change; at the same time, these are the places that are often the most vulnerable to its effects.

Time is short and if we are to avoid the worst effects of anthropogenic climate change, we must act and act quickly.

The challenge is to use (and reuse) our resources, including land, far more efficiently and, in particular, to move towards low carbon cities.

Chris Gossop - General Rapporteur

WELCOME TO PORTO

The city of Porto provides a wonderful and stimulating environment to approach and discuss the multiple perspectives in which this topic of low carbon cities can be analysed.

Indeed, it is a typical example of an old and dense European city, rich in history and built heritage, with an urban form and structure close to the energy efficient compact city paradigm.

Bearing in mind the innovative urban and transport policies towards urban sustainability and a low carbon society that are currently being pursued by the local and the metropolitan environment and planning agencies, the ambitious projects recently concluded or under way, the strong character of the city and the warm hospitality of the local people, we firmly believe that the city of Porto offers an ideal setting to host the ISOCARP 2009 conference on low carbon cities.

Paulo Pinho - President LOC

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME

Prior to the Congress
15 to 17 October 2009

TECHNICAL TOURS

1. The light rail system in Porto Metropolitan Area
– the Metro project
2. Urban rehabilitation in the City of Porto
3. Contemporary architecture and cultural events
4. Environmental perspective of the Porto waterfronts

POST CONGRESS TOURS

A variety of optional tours will be available after the Congress in the Douro region and other destinations

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 2009 – Call for Papers / Congress Registration Brochure
30 April 2009 – Abstract deadline submission
31 July 2009 – Deadline full paper submission

CONTACT

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