

Memorandum of Agreement

Introduction

We, the representatives of three respected and renowned organisations in the field of planning, urban development and housing:

- the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP),
- the International Urban Development Association (INTA), and
- the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)

(hereafter “our three organisations”) agree to intensify cooperation, whilst retaining our respective identities and strategies.

This Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) represents the results of a collaborative process and forms the basis on which our three organisations intend to organise their common activity and achieve a greater effectiveness in their operations. It sets the conditions for our three organisations to generate better understanding of the solutions needed to make cities and territories more sustainable, whilst delivering more value and better services to their respective membership and stakeholders.

This process has been encouraged and supported by the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and the City of The Hague for which our three organisations express their sincere appreciation.

Objective: towards an International Knowledge Centre for the Sustainable Future of Cities and Territories¹

The objective of the three organisations is to create an “*international knowledge centre*” – a cluster or pole of competences – that aims to provide the intellectual leadership, analytical rigor and international scope necessary to find answers to the many and complex challenges of a sustainable urban future.

¹ Provisional title; a suitable name will be determined after further reflection

Based in The Hague, such an "*international knowledge centre*" will be open to, and seek linkages with, other international organisations, academic institutions and centres of expertise, whose activities are directed towards the generation and exchange of the wide range of knowledge and experience necessary to ensure a sustainable future (in all its facets) for the world's cities and territories. The three organisations believe that an international, inter-disciplinary, multi-level and cross-sector approach will better serve the knowledge needs of urban and regional actors.

The "*international knowledge centre*" intends to implement activities that are conceptual and operational, innovative and practical. These activities are meant for the benefit of all urban actors, including policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, and community groups, from qualified leaders to future professionals. Activities could include:

- Comparative studies, policy analyses, field studies and evaluations, case studies, position papers and special programmes,
- Capacity Development, advanced education programmes, summer schools, training modules, workshops, lectures and master class series, student and young professional competitions,
- Dissemination, summits, conferences, forums, seminars, expert meetings and other events; open days, exhibitions, publications, knowledge management platforms.

The three organisations have a rich and to a large extent complementary wealth of experience in implementing such activities and engaging international networks of professionals.

The foundation for this "*international knowledge centre*" will be laid during an initial period of 3 years during which the strategy and right conditions to establish such a centre will be developed. It is our conviction that, if that experience is brought together in a common programme of activities supported by an appropriate and effective use of the same facilities, the basis can be laid for further growth and development of these and other activities beyond the initial period.

A Common Programme: "Towards tomorrow's sustainable cities" ²

A common programme, currently being prepared, will shape the cooperation process that should lead to cross-fertilisation and a better coordination of activities that the three organisations organise individually. The common programme, that goes under the general title of "**Towards tomorrow's sustainable cities**", will address major contemporary urban and territorial development issues and is closely aligned to the policy priorities of our three organisations.

² Provisional title; a suitable name will be determined after further reflection

Each element of the common programme will encompass comparative analyses, capacity development and dissemination activities. The activities and competencies developed in this programme form a basis for the future activities of the “*international knowledge centre*”.

Resources

Facilities

To facilitate the implementation of the common programme, and to assist all three organisations in achieving durable economies of day-to-day operation, IFHP offers to INTA and ISOCARP the use of its present premises in The Hague.³

As the process of collaboration and further development of our activities evolve, our organisations will explore with the host city and interested parties, facilities that best support the objectives of the future “*international knowledge centre*”.

Funding

The three organisations will together pursue with resolve the acquisition of funding, from various national, European and international sources to support activities within the framework of the common programme.

Management

During this process, our three organisations commit themselves to a full and open exchange of information on other activity initiatives that fall outside the common programme.

The three organisations agree to a practical and transparent management structure. The executive heads of the three organisations form a Management Team, which would together manage the programme and be responsible for coordinating the activities of their respective organisations, and review the progress towards the establishment of the “*international knowledge centre*” and that of the cooperative programme.

Time

By signing this Memorandum, the three organisations confirm their intention to initiate a cooperation process to be evaluated after three years.⁴

³ the parties will work out the conditions for the implementation before 1st January 2010 of the generous offer of IFHP

⁴ the MoA must be ratified by Governing Bodies of the respective organisations

We, the undersigned representatives of our three organisations, hereby confirm our agreement on the above.

Date

Date

Date

Signature

Signature

Signature

IFHP

President

INTA



President

ISOCARP



President

Secretary General

Secretary General

Secretary General

