

ForUm Newsletter

Southeast Asian – German Network for Urban Futures
Cologne, December 2006



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1. EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues and friends,

Great news at the end of the year: We just received the – intensively hoped for – letter of approval from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): Concept and application for our “ForUm – Southeast Asian Network for Urban Futures” were positively evaluated! Our visions for which we so intensively worked for during the first Summer School in Cologne and our recent seminar in Yogyakarta will receive the chance to be further elaborated and discussed at during two Summer Schools per year for the coming three years from 2007 to 2009! Since our proposal (contents in detail: mail from 16 Oct 2006) is approved – with a few very useful hints for further upgrading of our ideas – we will have the great opportunity to realise our ideas and to strengthen our cooperation! Our sincere thanks to the DAAD for the trust in our plans and the encouragement to further widen and deepen our network!

„ForUm – Southeast Asian Network for Urban Futures“ – the new name and particular our ideas and concept shall briefly be summarized again:

1. **Forum:** The network and regular Summer Schools will intensify collaboration and provide a forum for exchange on concepts, research and application of Southeast Asian and German universities, institutions, the private sector, practitioners and civil society's groups, including local partners or non-university partners (e.g. local authorities, Ministries, multilateral development cooperation organisations, local NGOs). Within the framework of continuous North-South-South dialogue, the partners with different socio-economic, cultural, religious and political preconditions will be brought together regularly for three years.
2. **Focus:** The overall thematic focus of our network – urban challenges and conflicts – aims at contributing both to the global discussion concerning complex and manifold urban and peri-urban development, key challenges, conflict structures and potential solutions in general as well as within Southeast Asia in particular. The comparative analysis of examples will lead to an exchange of different experiences and a joint elaboration of possible methods and means of transfer of main experiences of single Southeast Asian countries' examples to other states. The specific national and cultural contexts have to be taken into account, discussed and documented.
3. **Cooperation:** The joint development and substantiation of ongoing cooperation will be a continuous main part of the agenda, side-backed by presentations and discussions of proposals and the development of future integrated teaching and research projects. Concrete agreements of mutual support and academic exchange, e.g. visiting lecturers, joint curricula development /e-learning, joint supervision of scientific research, in combination with project-based cooperation with non-academic partners from the private sector and civil society, will be carried out by all network partners.

In the coming year 2007, two Summer Schools will focus on the key issue and questions of the driving forces of urbanisation; they will take place in spring 2007 in the Philippines and in the late summer in Cambodia. More details will be provided soon.

In this fifth newsletter of our young, dynamic, active and multilateral network, you will find a short review of our recent seminar in Yogyakarta where we worked on the proposal and discussed the vision and content of our network. You will, moreover, find a schedule of past and proposed future networking activities of ForUm, an overview of interests as well as concrete topics for presentations in the coming Summer Schools that we collected already during the seminar. All additional ideas and contributions, especially by those who were not able to join the workshop in Yogyakarta, are warmly welcome.

Furthermore, you will find information and reviews of the recent guest lectures and study visits of the past year, information on the new, revised homepage, and insights in international initiatives on megacity research. With season's greetings we closed the newsletter. Referring to our newsletter discussions during the seminar in Yogyakarta, we tried to make a newsletter that provides information for all network members in a short and attractive way. Please feel encouraged to send us your comments and suggestions.

From our side, we would be glad to come to know more about, for instance, proposed and planned publications, ongoing projects and topic-oriented conference information as well as summary information on topic-related ongoing dissertations, public and private initiatives of literature hints or reviews.

Looking very much forward to our future cooperation and the upcoming activities we wish all of you a happy and successful new year.

Frauke Kraas and Christine Knie

2. SEMINAR YOGYAKARTA 2006

(detailed information about the seminar on our new homepage: <http://www.geographie.uni-koeln.de/projects/urban-futures/>)



Programme:

The international “Alumni Expert Seminar” took place at the Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta, Indonesia, under the supervision of Dr. Hartono, Dean of the Faculty of Geography, and Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas from the Department of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany. The event was developed to continue the scientific exchange on urbanisation processes in Southeast Asia and to concretise the programme of the network in the years 2007-2009. Additionally, a closer insight in the situation of the people in the southern part of Yogyakarta after the terrible earthquake of May 2006 was given. The actual problems and aid activities have been dealt with and acknowledged additionally in the programme.

Aims:

Special emphasis of the seminar was put on the following aims and programme topics:

- North-South-South networking
- Concrete concept of networking 2007-2009
- Contributions towards challenges of urbanisation and decentralisation
- Earthquake disaster in Yogyakarta

Approach:

Intensive discussions and presentations were included in the programme and continued during scientific excursions.

The event was seen as a next step towards further intense multilateral cooperation. More than 35 participants from 8 different countries (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Germany) and 15 different institutions shared their knowledge, exchanged experiences and ideas.

Benefits:

The seminar turned out to be a highly successful platform for the discussion of urbanization-related subjects from different thematic, cultural, social and political viewpoints. Furthermore, the participants developed proposals and concepts for future activities, concretised potentials and expectations of their future work and agreed upon the main thematic foci of the upcoming events. A new 3-years-networking-proposal has been submitted to the DAAD in October 2006.

Outlook:

In the envisaged long-term cooperation the alumni network is to be used as a forum for the planning, implementation and supervision of not only bilateral but preferably multilateral activities. Focal points will be guest lectureships, common supervision of scientific activities, development of joint curricula/E-Learning programmes as well as concrete project cooperation with extra-university institutions.

Field of interest for the upcoming cooperation*

	training/E-learning	Joint Research Projects	Student/staff Exchange	PhD Supervision	Guest Lecturing	Curriculum Development	Summer School	Newsletter	Publications	Journal Review	Website
Name											
Hartono		T/P		T	T/P	P	T/P		T/P		
Sukamdi	P	T/P	P		P	T/P	P		T/P	P	
Baiquni	P		P		P	T/P	P				
Rini Rachmawati	T/P	T/P	P				P				
Joko Pitoyo		P	T/P								
Adiyanto S. Buchholz	P	P		T	P			T/P	P		
Rony Primanto Hari											
Phann Sithan	P	T/P	P			P	T/P	T	P		
Sy Rathmony	P	P	T		T	P		P	P	P	
Lor Chunn Pau	P	P	P			P	P				
Imelda Baleta	T/P	T/P			P		T	T	P	P	P
Anselmo B. Mercado	T/P	P	T/P		T	P	T/P	P	P	P	P
Yvette Guazon	T/P	T/P	P		P	T/P	T		P		P
Ngyuen Thi Thu	P	T/P	T/P				T/P	P		P	T/P
Lee Boon Thong		T/P	T/P	T	T/P			T	T	T	
Sekson Yongvanit	T/P	T	T	T	T	P	T	T/P	T	P	P
Monsicha Bejrananda	T/P	P	T	T		P	T	P	T/P		P
Khan Hung Duong		T/P	P		P						T/P
Johannes Hamhaber	P	T/P	P	P	T/P	P			P		
Christine Knie	T/P	T/P			P		T/P	T/P	P		T/P
Frauke Kraas	P	T	P	T	T	P	T		T	T	

T= take (partly) over / P= participate in

* Evaluation during the network seminar in Yogyakarta, protocol by C. Knie, Sept. 2006

Proposed presentations for the next Summer Schools (update November 2006)

- Prof. Dr. Sekson Yongvanit: East-West Corridor Thailand
- Prof. Dr. Lee Boon Thong: Growth triangle IMT (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand)
- Mr. Sy Rathmony: Open sky policy investment (globalisation) and its impact on land prices in Phnom Penh
- Dr. Adiyanti Buchholz: Impact on peri-urban change on local communities (gender and children) in Jakarta
- Mr. Joko Pitoyo: Peri-urban activities on informal sector / employment structure transformation in Yogyakarta (focus: small-scale/home industries, from agriculture to non-agriculture)
- Mrs. Rini Rachmawati: Influence of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in big cities
- Mr. Bayudono: Dynamics of urbanisation in archipelago countries, island drivers/differences to mainland
- Mr. Khan Hung Duong: Socio-economic disparities in urban areas
- Dr. Hartono: Private sector's and government's role as actors in earthquake prone areas in urban land use reconstruction (by using GIS) in Indonesia
- Mrs. Imelda Baleta: Impact of National urban policy agenda (1992) on urbanisation in the Philippines
- Dr. Anselmo B. Mercado: The "ABCD" (Asset-Based Community Development): A Tool and Approach for Urban Planning
- Dr. Monsicha Bejrananda: Housing for urban poor and impact on land use transformation in Thailand
- Mr. Phann Sithan: Impact of helmet use on medical care systems – or: Private sector influence on urban land use changes in Cambodia
- Mrs. Ngyuen Thi Thu: Economic changes impact of economic transformation on city development of Hanoi
- Mr. Rony Primanto Hari: Drivers of solid waste and waste water management in Indonesia
- Mrs. Yvette Guazon: Assessing urban policies development impacts in urban waste management in Cagayan de Oro
- Mr. Pau: Land Law Policy impacts on changes of land ownership in Phnom Penh
- Dr. Zin Nwe Myint: Drivers of urban energy change in Yangon/Myanmar
- Dr. Zaw Latt: Impacts of transportation transformation on Yangon/Myanmar
- Dr. Aung Kyaw: Peri-urban structural transformation: drivers of change in areas of urban sprawl
- Mr. Thein Shwe: Urban land use changes in Bago and Taunggo
- Dr. Soe Win: Peri-urban changes in Yangon/ Myanmar
- Mrs. Christine Knie: Driving forces of land use changes in Yogyakarta
- Dr. Johannes Hamhaber: Global determinants and local resource bases: the concept of scaling in urban water supply systems research
- Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas: Drivers of mega-urban transformation since 1988 in Yangon/Myanmar

3. GUEST LECTURES and STUDY VISITS

3.1 November – December 2006

THINKING SOUTHEAST ASIAN CITIES

Prof. Dr. Lee Boon Thong from the University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur gave guest lectures and seminars at the Department of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

The urban population in Southeast Asia tends to concentrate in highly industrialised capital cities. The high urban growth rates force the cities to struggle to provide basic services, shelter, and employment opportunities. The objective of this course is to underline the contextual basis and the need to go beyond the statistics to better appreciate the problems while offering critical discussions and introspections on the dilemmas in the cities of Southeast Asia.

Topics discussed:

- Urban dilemmas in Southeast Asian cities: spatial issues, urban bias, informal sector development, fiscal capacity and access to urban facilities.
- Problems of urban public transportation.
- The role of the food vendors: should the soul of cities be formalised?
- Migrants and the city: a life of higher incomes but poorer living conditions? The role of precarious settlements and their ecological dimensions in Southeast Asian cities.
- Who are the poor? Planning for the poor or by the poor in Southeast Asian cities?
- Forced evictions: the road to achieve model city development in Southeast Asia?
- Capitalist urbanisation versus socialist urbanisation.
- Urban governance and best practices for Southeast Asian cities.
- Sites and services: an answer to housing and slum clearance?
- Reflecting old arguments on Southeast Asian cities: The 'fragment hypothesis' of the 1970s, the concept of 'over-urbanisation' of the 1960s, 'pseudo-urbanisation', primacy, core-urban regions, dualism, and 'urban involution', etc.
- Urban residential segregation: Chinatowns, ethnic enclaves, gated communities in Southeast Asian cities.

Topics for workshop seminar/presentation:

- Assuming uncontrolled urbanisation in Southeast Asian cities, what is the worst case scenario? Counter the 'prophet of doom'.
- The more you improve the urban living conditions of the poor in Southeast Asia, the more serious the urban poverty situation

Comment by Gerrit Peters (Student):



During Prof. Lee Boon Thongs visit to the Department of Geography at the University of Cologne, four weekends were dedicated to Urban Development in Southeast Asia. In this so called „block seminar“, between 9am and 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, the students were introduced to Southeast Asian Cities and the Urbanization processes that nourish their development.

The exciting way in which Prof. Lee made the topic tangible and vivid, was highly appreciated by the students. For them it was very valuable to get state-of-the-art insights from the Asian perspective. In addition to that, everybody enjoyed the little stories Prof. Lee could tell, reaching from „teh tarik“ in space to Pyranjas in Bangkoks Khlongs. The students would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Lee for all his effort and his great dedication!

Review of Prof. Lee Boon Thong:



„It is a privilege to be invited as a Guest Professor to the Department of Geography, University of Köln for 2 months in November/December 2006 for which I am very thankful for the opportunity.

My initial response was that it is good to be back in Cologne where we had our Summer School just a year ealier and to be able

recollect all the wonderful things about this dynamic city that we were exposed to previously. As I trod through the campus grounds and the city, I could not help but to feel a little bit "lonely" without the Summer School participants around!!! Nonetheless, it is simply great to be able to walk along the esplanade of the River Rhine again. Surprisingly, it was quite a "warm" winter with



November being the warmest November month in the last 100 years!! It is a pleasure to see blue skies compared to the raining days during our summer school last year.

This link with the Department of Geography in Köln is an exhilarating experience especially to interact with a committed group of scholars who "think megacities in their walking, in their eating, in their sleeping" (if you know what I mean!). It is certainly humbling to be in a place where the university under Professor Dr. Frauke Kraas is spearheading the national German academia into megacity research into China, India, Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. I am also very happy to be able to share my 30 years experience on Southeast Asian urbanisation through a series of seminars to a group of students."

Cheers.

3.2 September 2006

SEARSOLIN STORY & WHAT IS AN ECOSAN TOILET

Prof. Dr. Anselmo Mercado and Mrs. Yvette Guazon from the SEARSOLIN - Institute of the University of Cagayan de Oro gave a short term lecture, 1 September 2006, Indonesian Technical Institute (ITI), Jakarta, Indonesia.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

- 09.00-11.30 Seminar and Discussion
- 09.00-09.20: Welcoming speech by the coordinator of the LAPAK (Community Development Laboratory)
- 09.20-10.05: Seminar about "SEARSOLIN Story", by Prof. Dr. Mercado
- 10.05-10.20: Discussion
- 10.20-10.30: Short break
- 10.30-11.15: Seminar: "Use of GIS in mapping open spaces for the identification of potential allotment garden sites and "What is an ecosan toilet?", by Yvette Guazon
- 11.15-11.30: Discussion
- Type of audiences: general seminar for students, lecturers, and campus staff
- 11.30-13.30: Friday prayer and Lunch
- 13.30-16.00: Excursion
- 13.30-14.00: "Internal tour" in our Department of Urban and Regional Planning
- 14.00-16.00: Excursion to the "two faces of the Periurban Areas of Jakarta"
- 16.00-17.30: Discussion about possibilities of co-operation activities



Review by Dr. Adiyanti S. Bucholz:

The visit of Prof. Mercado and Ms. Yvette Guazon at ITI was an important step for the further development of our university. Their seminars and our discussion were very fruitful. The story of SEARSOLIN and the information about GIS and Ecosan Toilet "roused" our inquisitiveness, both students and lecturers, for learning more about the curricula's concept of SEARSOLIN and the other methods to find a solution in developing periurban areas.

Since ITI is a small and relative young university (founded in 1984), this kind of presentations from other countries and sharing knowledge with us is necessary for our development. I hope, there will be more cooperation with the other participant countries of our network.

3.3 August 2006

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND GIS APPLICATION OF URBANIZED AREAS

Dr. Johannes Hamhaber and Christine Knie gave short term guest lectures on five days at the Faculty of Geography, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

28 August 2006

- 09.00-10.00 Meeting with the faculty members
- 10.00-12.00 Urban system in Germany and recent urban planning issues
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch (Dr. Hamhaber)
- 13.00-14.00 Dr. Hamhaber: Urban system in Germany and recent urban planning issues

29 August 2006

- 09.30-12.00 C. Knie: Planning system in Germany: Hierarchy Goals and Examples
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-15.00 C. Knie: New planning trends: Agenda 21, GIS examples
- 15.30-17.00 Hamhaber: Transboundary planning

30 August 2006

- 09.00-15.00 City Excursion: Yogyakarta/ Maliboro Street, Code River Project

31 August 2006

- 09.30-12.00 C. Knie: GIS and Mapping Examples
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-15.00 Dr. Hamhaber: Empirical socio-economic research

01 September 2006

- 9.30 – 12.00 Hamhaber/Knie: Student research, analyses and thesis supervision

Review by Hannes and Christine:

Shortly before our network's meeting in Yogyakarta, we have thankfully been invited by the Faculty of Geography of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. The guest lecture on "Regional Development Planning and GIS Application in Urbanized Areas" included a combination of field trips, lab work, discussions and presentations. With a fully dedicated group of scholars, from both staff and students, and with the intense interaction in teaching and learning we, the two lecturers, have gained and learned of the experience at least as much as the participants, as we worked on new urban developments and possible planning responses in Europe and Asia. The warm hearted welcome, the boundless Javanese hospitality, the continuing support in organisation and set up of the lecture and the experience of culture and traditional food (thank you for all the manifold different tastes) have made the stay for Christine to feel like coming home again and for Hannes into a new and exciting experience (onde onde). For both of us, the lecture will remain a rewarding event and a lasting memory.



3.4 July 2006

RESEARCH and STUDY / FUTURE COOPERATION

A research and study visit of Dr. Suratman Woro, Mr. Andri Kurniawan, Mr. Eko Prakoso and Mrs. Rini Rachawati from the Faculty of Geography at the Gadjah Mada University of Yogyakarta took place in July 2006 at the Department of Geography, Cologne University, Germany

Schedule

Wednesday 12.07.2006

Welcome of Mr. Prakoso and Mr. Kurniawan

Lunch with Prof. Kraas

Introduction of the Department

Welcome by the Director of the Department

Meeting with Prof. Kraas

Interests of exchange and research

Thursday 13.07.2006

Introduction of the Library

Research and study, selection of literature

Friday 14.07.2006

Arrival of Dr. Suratman and Mrs.

Rachmawati

Meeting with PD Dr. Zehner

Small excursion to the Triangle Tower, overview of Cologne City

City Excursion, history and development of Cologne

Saturday 15.07.2006

Meeting with Prof. Kraas, excursion to the outer area of Cologne

Monday 17.07.2006

Research and study, selection of literature

Meeting with Prof. Kraas, discussion about future cooperation and research interests

Meeting with Dr. Wille of the International Office of the University, discussion of funding opportunities

Tuesday 18.07.2006

Research and study, selection of literature

Meeting with Prof. Kraas, discussion about future cooperation



3.5 November 2006

WORKSHOP AND COLLABORATION IN MYANMAR

During a multi-disciplinary workshop on “Computational science” at Yangon University, Myanmar, Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas from the Department of Geography, University of Cologne, presented a paper and continued cooperation and supervision work at the Department of Geography, Yangon University, Myanmar.

Since more than ten years, fruitful and growing cooperation between the Departments of Geography, Yangon University and Cologne University, strengthened the mutual exchange in the fields of Human, particularly Urban and Development Geography, and Geographic Information Systems. More than 25 jointly supervised PhD candidates have either already successfully passed their PhD thesis and oral defences or are presently in the stage of finishing their work.



In November 2006, an international, interdisciplinary workshop on “Computational science” brought together colleagues from various disciplines for intensive exchange. Prof. Kraas presented a paper on “Integrated Approaches of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing and Qualitative Social Analysis for Research and Planning Processes in Asian Megacities”. Directly before this workshop, a book publication based on a previous German-Myanmar workshop in July 2005, was issued; it was the second in a series:

- Gaese, H., F. Kraas, Mi Mi Kyi (eds.) (2005): Sustainability in Rural and Urban Environments. Proceedings of the First German-Myanmar Workshop in Yangon/Myanmar, 17-21 November 2003. Cologne. (190 pages)
- Kraas, F., H. Gaese, Mi Mi Kyi (2006): Megacity Yangon: Transformation processes and modern developments. Southeast Asian Modernities 7. Berlin. (348 pages)



4. OVERVIEW: Past and proposed future activities

Activities 2005-2006*

Activities and Deliverables	2005			2006											
Date	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Exchange and discussion by e-mail															
DAAD Summer School															
DAAD seminar															
Elaboration and updating of alumni database															
Report															
CD															
Elaboration and updating of homepage															
Newsletter															
Publications, scientific articles															
Student and lecturer exchange															
Preparation of future activities															
Presentation of networking ideas to other networks and organisations															
Elaboration of new network proposal															
Delivery of proposals for new activities															

Proposed activities 2007-2009*

Activities and Deliverables	2007				2008				2009			
Date	Jan-Mrch	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mrch	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mrch	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
Coordination of the network												
Exchange and discussion by e-mail												
Meeting of country coordinators												
Updating of Alumni Database												
Preparation of upcoming Summer Schools												
Delivery of proposals for new activities												
Summer school												
Report and CD												
Homepage												
Newsletter												
Publications, scientific articles												
Student and lecturer exchange												
Preparation of future activities												

* Responsible partner countries:

Philippines all partners Thailand not fixed yet Vietnam planned activities Cambodia Myanmar Malaysia Indonesia Germany realised activities

5. NEW HOMEPAGE

We are happy to inform you that our homepage has been revised and will continuously be updated. The new website for our “ForUm for Urban Futures” with information about the past Summer School in Cologne, the Seminar in Yogyakarta, planned future activities, the past newsletters as well as papers, participants, etc. you can find under the following internet address: <http://www.geographie.uni-koeln.de/projects/urban-futures/>



An interactive CD of the homepage will be sent in January 2007.

6. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES ON MEGACITY RESEARCH

Frauke Kraas

A number of international initiatives and research programmes on the megacity issue have recently been established which aim at addressing key challenges and research deficits. The international discussions and following overview over initiatives and programmes are deemed to be important also for our Southeast Asian Network on Urbanisation (ForUm).

In addition to two internationally operating networks and activities – the MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union and the International Year of Planet Earth – three interdisciplinary research programmes have been approved and started to work in 2005: They were developed to complement each other and were in close cooperation during the phase of project definition. The three programmes are funded by different funding agencies: (1) The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) focuses on research on sustainable development of selected emerging megacities worldwide. (2) The German Research Foundation (DFG) aims at developing theoretical approaches and models for a deeper understanding of informal processes and structures in megacities, with regional focus on Dhaka/Bangladesh and Pearl River Delta/China. (3) The Helmholtz Association focuses on the multiple risks of and in megacities, with regional focus on Santiago de Chile and, in a later stage, other Latin American megacities. The three programmes convene regularly in order to encourage research on key questions concerning megacities, to include ecological, economic and social aspects, to bundle multidisciplinary competences, to enhance exchange among (inter)national research partners, to strengthen the dialogue between science, politics and civil society for megacities and to support the dissemination of information on megacities.

- ***MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union (IGU)***

Since its inception in 2000, the MegaCity TaskForce focuses on applying geographic expertise to megacity issues of continental and global scale, with particular reference to global change in environmental systems and the globalisation of economy, politics, and society. The major achievements are: Establishment of an international research network (with more than 320 researchers in a mailing-list), international conferences and round tables, conference sessions, newsletters, participation in international megacities initiatives, publications and poster exhibitions. Website platform: www.megacities.uni-koeln.de.

- ***International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009: Key topic: “Megacities: Our global urban future”***

Within the frame of the International Year of Planet Earth “Megacities: Our global urban future” was selected as one of the key topics. The major aim is to contribute to a better understanding of megacities, with a view to improving their management and hence attain a greater degree of sustainable development. In detail, it is envisaged to identify and promote examples of balanced and safe urban management in association with local administrations, organisations and residents in major, though contrasting, megacities worldwide. The understanding of socio-economic issues and known constraints upon development obtained will be shared with urban authorities and other stakeholders, planning and management systems will be critically reviewed to assess their ability

to support or hinder sustainable megacities. Existing surface and underground landuse practices and future aspirations will have to take into account a range of potential constraints; these might include re-locating or deferring urban construction so as to avoid rendering inaccessible valuable assets including, for example, high quality aggregates or mineral resources. The identification of good practices, pitfalls to avoid, and pragmatic compromises between social and economic needs is in the focus. More information can be obtained under: www.esfs.org/

- ***"Research for Sustainable Development of the Megacities of Tomorrow"***

The fast growing "megacities of tomorrow" are of special interest in this programme as there is still an opportunity for precautionary action and targeted urban development. A characteristic of this focal point of support is that it is firmly embedded in the concept of sustainable development. Environmental, economical and social aspects of urban development are incorporated into this single concept. This means that the envisaged project themes are not oriented towards individual issues (e.g. hydrological cycles) but towards concrete areas of need (e.g. water supply) that encompass all three aspects of the sustainability principle and are inevitably researched in a multi-dimensional and preferably trans-disciplinary way. "Megacities of Tomorrow" targets the development and implementation of planning and management strategies for future megacities. Presently, 14 bilateral teams with partners from Germany and emerging megacities are funded. The projects are located in Brazil (Recife), China (Jiading, Urumqi and Pearl River Delta), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), India (Hyderabad, Pune), Iran (Karaj-Hashtgerd), Mexico (Guadalajara), Morocco (Casablanca), Peru (Lima), South Africa (Johannesburg), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), and Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City). The members of the consortia come from science, industry, governing bodies and civil society. Their research is demand-driven. It addresses specific practical needs of urban living. Topics include: housing and construction, nutrition and urban agriculture, public health and quality of life, urban planning and governance, energy supply and consumption, mobility and transport, water supply, waste treatment, and environmental management. Main web page: www.emerging-megacities.org

- ***"Megacities - Megachallenge: Informal Dynamics of Global Change"***

In May 2005, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - DFG) approved this new priority programme which aims at examining the increasingly significant connection between highly complex, informal mega-urban processes and the forms and products of global change as it affects the development and reorganisation of spatial, social and institutional relations in megacities. It addresses the fact that megacities are increasingly subject to an unprecedented loss of governability - with the consequence that a growing number of processes are unregulated, informal or illegal, and their forms, functions and interactions are little researched. Theoretical approaches and models will be developed that are suitable for a general explanation of informal processes and structures in megacities and can describe them in the form of models, based on the integration of knowledge from the natural sciences and the social sciences. This implies (1) a reorientation away from the description of isolated objects and conditions and towards the analysis of complex processes, (2) orientation towards the interaction between different sub-processes which have been examined separately by different disciplines in the past, (3) orientation towards the process-oriented development of theories, models und scenarios relating to the current urbanisation phenomenon of megacities. This excludes isolated mono-disciplinary studies,

which merely generate case-specific or area-specific knowledge without applying this to the conditions of integrated approaches. Processes and interactions in four problem areas with an extreme dynamism of development and major social relevance are central to this project: (1) The loss of planning control and governability and the influence of new forms of direction, (2) The dominance and differentiation of urban economies, (3) The complexity and dynamics of material and resource flows, (4) The multilayered dynamics of settlement development. The mega-urban regions of Dhaka in Bangladesh and the Pearl River Delta in China (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong) were chosen. Detailed information under: www.geographie.uni-koeln.de/megacities-spp.

- ***"Risk Habitat Megacities: Strategies for sustainable development of megacities and urban agglomerations"***

Four questions are the focus of the research initiative, in which scientists from currently five research centres within the Helmholtz Association and their partner organisations from Latin America seek to generate orientation and decision making knowledge: What risks, but also opportunities, are associated with this trend towards mega-urbanisation? How can we predict and describe the transformation of the complex risk habitat megacity? What strategies can steer the urban system towards sustainable development? What institutional and organisational preconditions must be in place for their effective implementation? - The research adopts governance, risk concepts and sustainable urban development as three crosscutting research themes and integrating framework. It applies these themes to a set of megacity-typical problem areas such as socio-spatial polarisation, deficits in water supply, air pollution and associated health risks, landuse conflicts and energy supply. Based on an interdisciplinary analysis, the initiative aims to provide strategies for sustainable urban development by overcoming the ecological, social and economic risks of mega-urbanisation. Geographically, the research concentrates on Latin American megacities and large agglomerations. Santiago de Chile has a central function as anchor city. With the establishment of a Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, the location will serve as a platform for coordination of research and dissemination of results. Webpage: www.ufz.de/index.php?en=6143.

7. SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear all!



As to season's occasion ...:

May lovely, happy times decorate your holiday season, may warm, special memories brighten your new year, may you be blessed with health and good luck in your endeavours!

Keep fingers crossed for hopefully good news to come for our group soon.

Merry Christmas and a Good New Year to you and your families.

Frauke Kraas

Dear friends and colleagues,



The time goes by fast and the end of this year is just around the corner. I hope, you have reached much of what you planned during the year 2006. On behalf of the Summer School participants let me wish all of you Happy Christmas, joyfulness and peace. Have a nice (christmas) holiday and a happy new year.

I wish that you have new energy, spirit and health for the year 2007. Same as last year, this year we also get a nice last-year-gift, namely the Newsletter of the December-Edition. This time, our German friends will anchor it.

After our worthy September meeting in Yogyakarta, we are coming back to our own busy-bee-activities. Today at the end of this year we have a some time to turn our head to our Summer-School Networking "ForUm". It is surely exciting to find out: "What's up..., what's going on with our Networking?" through the December-Edition of our Newsletter. So, let us wait in high curiosity for the presentation of the upcoming Newsletter prepared by the German team. Last but not at least: The time is coming soon (in March or April) that we will see each other again in Cagayan de Oro (Philippines)! Warm regards,
(Adi)yanti Sutandyo-Buchholz

Dear friends,



as the year turns to its end, we all look back to a multitude of events, both good and bad, and my year has been full of them. Among the most cherished ones certainly is our stay together in Yogyakarta, meeting you again, having a lot of academic and personal exchanges and mutual experiences.

The not so nice ones, unluckily, have taken quite some space also, and therefore I will take a few days off and revisit Italy. With New Year's Eve in Rome, I promise you to take small change from all Southeast Asian countries to follow a cute Roman tradition: throwing some coins over my back into Trevi fountain, I try to ensure for all of you to return soon to Europe...

With Season's Greetings and my best Wishes for the New Year, Johannes



23 December. I am sitting in a train heading back from Switzerland to Northern Germany. It is 3:10 pm but nearly dark outside. Every year during the Christmas season the compartment is totally overcrowded. Christmas time is family time, and I guess most of the people here around me are travelling to their families. So do I. I am looking forward to my family reunion, to meeting my parents, my brothers and sisters, the nephews and nieces. Meeting the whole family is only possible during Christmas time. – *“Dear passengers, we will shortly arrive in Cologne ...”* I am looking through the left window. Oh ya, I can see the beautiful Cologne Cathedral. The train cross’ the Rhine river, we approach the right side of Cologne. I do remember our wonderful summer school in Cologne 2005. Yes, this reminds me to keep my fingers crossed for our coming group activities.

Parents in the compartment are talking to their children who need to be calmed down, obviously excited because Santa Claus is coming soon to town (in general, not only to megacities and metropolises)! Surely whether the kids have been good or not is highly relevant for Santa Claus’ distribution of presents. I think about inequalities. Anyway, the kind Christmas atmosphere makes me feel good. More and more people are joining the compartment, and I am ready to defend my comfortable soft seat. The train is moving. We cross again the Rhine, again back to the wrong side of Cologne. Only three hours left, and I will reach Hamburg, my final destination. The last metropolis in 2006 for me, and by the way, the most beautiful metropolis in the world (any complaints may be sent to: hung.duong@unibas.ch) as I was taught by my former professor. Family and friends are waiting, the Vietnamese haute cuisine as well, and hopefully Santa Claus.

Dear friends and colleagues,

I wish you the spirit of Christmas. Have a lovely time with your families, relatives and friends. All the best for the new year,

Hung

Dear “Summer School” friends,

still in the atmosphere of wonderful Christmas time and with a smile on my face I am looking forward to the next year. I am very thankful for all the friendship and commitment in the last year,

by all the “summer school” friends in Southeast Asia as well as Hannes in Cologne, Hung in Basel, Adi in Stuttgart and especially by Mr. Etzold and Mrs. Kuhl of the DAAD and Prof. Kraas for all their support of our ideas and trust in our networking vision. Let’s take the great opportunities we have got and work together to realise our ideas. All the best for the new year! Christine

