

Editorial

Mediterranean cities

The global financial crisis and its economic and social impacts affects in particular Mediterranean and Near-East countries.

In this context, the cities that host an important part of an increasing population, cannot avoid a triple crisis due to their vulnerability to climate change, to scarcity of natural resources, mainly fresh water, and to energetic constraint even though the decrease, temporary of sure, in the market of oil and gas products.

The impacts on financial resources and models of urban and local governance are significant and need an elaboration of new political and practical responses.

In line with the World Symposium on urban researches, "la Caisse des dépôts et consignations", supported by the World Bank and both the City of Marseilles and the Etablissement public Euroméditerranée, decided to put in place a workshop for research and exchange on 27-28 June 2009, a first step for the creation of an exchange network at a regional dimension.

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Programmes and activities

ISTED in Era-Net Road

The objective of ERA-NET ROAD is to coordinate national road research policies in Europe, as ERA-NET TRANSPORT does for transport research. Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées (LCPC) is the leader of the consortium. ISTED becomes a partner in ERA-NET ROAD II and supports LCPC in the coordination and the management of the programme.

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5th Global Water Forum

ISTED will take part at the fifth world Forum of the water which will be held 16-21 March, 2009 in Istanbul. This event will be an opportunity to cross the questions Water / City and to tie new contacts with French and foreign partners in particular within the Mediterranean Area. Many topics retain our attention: The access to drinking water and sanitation in the cities of the South, the risks and the urban transformations due to the climatic change, for those which are most exposed, the local governance and the transborder co-operation.

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Twinning with Israel

The contract "Institutional twinning for strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Transport to provide quality public transport for urban regions in Israel" has been signed on February 18th 2009. The signature constitutes the beginning of activities of this 1 M€ project that will last over 18 months.

A first mission with the Project leader from the MEEDDAT C. Bourget, the Resident twinning adviser J. Goldberg from ISTED and the Special Adviser G. Benattar will take place beginning of march to launch the works.

The RTA will then settle in Israel in April the short-term experts' missions will follow. The project's objectives are: implementation of a national transport authority, draft of a pilot regional authority in Haifa and subsequent reorganisation of the Ministry of Transport.
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National forum on urban development

The Ministries of Interior and housing, environment and spatial planning of Morocco, organised on January 22-23, 2009 at Skhirat, a national forum on urban development which tackled "Challenges in urban development".

Four workshops were set up dealing with: sustainable development of cities, economic challenges of the metropolis of Casablanca in the context of globalization, actions of public authorities for cities and local integrated strategies for urban development. Hundreds of responsible of cities and local authorities debated on these themes that are part of the national strategy of urban development, established by Morocco authorities with the support of the World Bank. During this event, ISTED has presented and disseminated the Arab version of the book "Emerging cities".

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International winter road congress

World Road Association (AIPCR) will organise from 8th to 11th February 2010 the international winter road congress in the city of Quebec (Canada). The French committee of PIARC charged ISTED of the organisation of a French booth gathering different French key actors, government, local authorities, companies and concerned public institutions. The main congress theme is "Sustainable winter service for road users", a particular attention will be paid to the themes: sustainable development and users involvement. This French booth will enable participants to express synergies and will offer an area and a communication support for each partner.

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Forum "Habitat Business"

United Nations Habitat agency will organise 7-9 July 2009 in New Delhi, in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and the China Real Estate Chamber of Commerce (CRECC), a habitat business forum for private sector.

The theme of this event "Innovative cities" that will provide a platform to debate Urban Challenges and Solutions on urban development.

Intended particularly to professional and private sector, participants will debate housing and affordable lands, water, sanitation and waste management for healthy urban living, green technologies for cities, digital cities and disasters prevention, management and reconstruction.

It is to note the organisation of an open competition to award companies with outstanding achievements in sustainable urbanization in the private sector (on the different topics of the forum).

Dead line for submissions of best practices for the business award is April 30th 2009.

Many French companies will take part to this event in the framework of the French partnership and will contribute to think-tanks related to the market of population with low incomes and the rôle of the private sector in the urban development, The first sessions will be attended during the forum.

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Annual meeting of Cities Alliance

The mayor of Barcelona Jordi Hereu, hosted the 9th Public Policy Forum (FP) of Cities Alliance (CA), organised by the City of Barcelona and the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (CGLU) on January 21st -23rd 2009. Elisabeth Gateau, general secretary of CGLU, and William Cobbett, director of CA, presented the topic of the FP "local government and effectiveness of development aid" from the Declaration of Paris to Accra and the recent action plan stating the role of local authorities within the process of urban development.

The annual meeting of the consultative group (GC) of the alliance, reserved only for members, was held on January 22-23. France was represented by MAEE, AFD and ISTED. On this occasion, ISTED renewed the term of references of its new partnership with CA for 2009.

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Current events

Information and documentation centre

The stock of information and documentation centre "Villes en développement", specialized in urban development, housing, spatial planning, construction and access to essential services, mainly for developing and emerging countries (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe), is available for consultation at the centre in our rooms where a personalised assistance is possible.

On the website, the access to the data base Urbamet is free for the two last years (www.urbamet.com). It is also possible to get the resources by subscribing to the Urbadoc portal (www.urbadoc.com), a federator portal for European producers of databases on the following thematics: urbanism, housing, urban and regional planning.

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Internet: www.isted.com/villes-developpement/accueil_documentation.htm

Internet

• Bulletin Villes en Développement "Land in urban area", n°83, December 2008

www.isted.com/periodiques/villes-developpement/issue.htm

• References

www.isted.com/organisation/references.htm

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Villes en développement

• New acquisitions

Harmonious cities China and India focus – In Urban World No1 November 2008

New publication of UN-Habitat that has been presented during the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, this issue focused on harmonious cities.

Internet: www.unhabitat.org

Slum Upgrading Up Close Experiences of six cities – Cities Alliance – Washington: Cities Alliance, 2008

This work is the fruit of a meeting organised by Cities Alliance and the City of de Sao Paulo in March 2008 on exchanges of experiences led for the rehabilitation of slums in six important metropolis: Cairo, Ekurhuleni, Lagos, Manila, Mumbai and Sao Paulo.

Internet: www.citiesalliance.org/publications/pubs/su-up-close-6-cities.html

Réchauffement climatique : que vont faire les pays émergents ? – In Alternatives internationales n°41, décembre 2008

This paper deals particularly with engagements and efforts of emerging countries: China, Brazil, India and South Africa.

Internet: www.alternatives-internationales.fr

Sustainable development at risk ignoring the past – Ottawa: Research centre for international development, Quebec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2008

It reviews recommendations from international commissions and conferences, from World Bank and UNDP Human Development Reports.

It comments on governmental policies, human and industrial actions detrimental to the planet's environment and natural resources

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