



URBAN CRISIS

Culture and the Sustainability of Cities

Edited by **M. Nadarajah** and **Ann Tomoko Yamamoto**

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Urban crisis

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Urban crisis: Culture and the sustainability of cities

Edited by M. Nadarajah and Ann Tomoko Yamamoto



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Preface

The UNU-IAS has undertaken research on cities as part of the Institute's commitment to generating policy solutions to the most pressing global issues. The Institute's urban programme has taken a cross-disciplinary approach in addressing how information technology and globalized economies are transforming the dynamics of cities. Research has conceptualized urban issues both in terms of an international city system and within localized contexts. This present study expands upon the UNU-IAS's extensive work on the role of environmental issues in sustainability and urban development, tackling the broad theoretical issues of culture and sustainability and also contributing to our understanding of how these concepts operate within local settings.

Both culture and sustainable development are potentially powerful responses to the negative impacts of globalization, as they challenge us to create modes of living that consider the intergenerational consequences of our actions. Culture is the trickier and more slippery concept, and one of the primary aims of this study is to help forge a tool that can be useful in implementing sustainable development at the local level. This volume explores cultural indicators as a means for achieving the sustainable development goals laid out in Local Agenda 21 at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The case studies also provide valuable clues to the many ways that local institutions use culture to mediate between present and future generations through such diverse forms as local policy, festivals, or networks of non-governmental organizations.

Three international conferences on "Culture in Sustainability of Cities"

held in Kanazawa, Japan, and Cheongju, Korea, form the basis of this book. The deliberations during these conferences, the intense side-arguments and discussions of experienced persons coming from many disciplines and cultures, and the post-conference meetings have all gone into writing/editing this book. This volume serves as a collection of ideas, or actually starting points, for a cultural theory of sustainable urbanization. The aim is to engage the reader through the ideas articulated within, and foster debate and serve as a catalyst for further exploration. If, in the end, the importance of culture in the sustainability of cities as conceived in this volume is drawn into one's thoughts and work in some form or the another, an important aim of the book will have been met.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the contributors to this volume. While engaged with their own busy schedules they have made significant contributions. I would also like to give special thanks to Professor Ratna Rana, who guided this project in his capacity as director of the Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (IICRC), and UNU-IAS research fellow Peter Marcotullio, who made critical and substantial contributions to every phase of this project. Needless to say, a project of this scope is a collaborative effort reflecting the efforts and goodwill of numerous individuals and organizations, and it is my greatest hope that everyone involved can share in the satisfaction of seeing this volume through to publication.

A. H. Zakri
Director
UNU-IAS

List of acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAGIN	Canada-ASEAN Governance Innovations Network Program
CAP	Consumers Association of Penang
CBO	citizen body organization
CCN	Cultural Cities' Network
CHT	cultural heritage tourism
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
DEP	Department of Statistical and Prospective Studies (France)
DSR	driving-force-state response
EMR	extended metropolitan region
EU	European Union
FAR	floor area ratio
GNP	gross national product
GUO	Global Urban Observatory programme
HABITAT	UN Centre for Human Settlements
HDI	Human Development Index
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IICRC	Ishikawa International Cooperation Research Centre (Japan)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMT-GT	Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle
IOG	Institute on Governance (Canada)
ITIP	integrated neighbourhood (<i>toles</i>) improvement programme (Nepal)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature (World Conservation Union)
KR	Kanazawa Resolutions
LEG	Leadership Group on Cultural Statistics of the European Union
MCA	Malaysian Chinese Association
MIC	Malaysian Indian Congress
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIE	newly industrialized economy
NPO	non-profit organization
PCDP	Patan Conservation and Development Program
PHT	Penang Heritage Trust
PPCK	Patan, Penang, Cheongju, and Kanazawa
PSDP	Penang Strategic Development Plan
PSR	pressure-state response
PTDO	Patan Tourism Development Organization
RCA	Rent Control Act (Malaysia)
SAM	Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)
SCP	UNCHS Sustainable Cities Programme
SERI	Socio-economic and Environmental Research Institute (Malaysia)
SILA	Sustainable Independent Living and Access (Malaysia)
SMR	Seoul metropolitan region (Korea)
SOS	Save Our Selves (Malaysia)
SPI	Sustainable Penang Initiative
STEP	Sustainable Transport Environment Penang
TDR	transfer of development rights
TUGI	UNDP Urban Governance Initiative
TWN	Third World Network
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHS	UN Centre for Human Settlements
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	UN Economic, Social, and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNMO	United Malay National Organization
UNRISD	UN Research Institute for Social Development
UNU-IAS	United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies
USM	Universiti Sains Malaysia
WCCD	World Commission on Culture and Development
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WMF	World Monuments Fund
WWP	WaterWatch Penang

Part I

Culture in sustainability of cities I

1

Introduction

M. Nadarajah and Ann Tomoko Yamamoto

Our world is becoming more urbanized, and as the World Summit on Sustainable Development underscored, we must make sure that this urbanization is sustainable. Indeed, the success of our collective efforts for economic growth, social justice, biodiversity and climate protection depends in large measure on how well we protect and manage our urban environments.¹

This volume is an enquiry into the nature of urbanization in general and Asian urbanization in particular, not so much to philosophize as to align its course in the direction set by the global agenda of sustainable development, as articulated by the United Nations and observed by Kofi Annan above. It is an effort to make deeper sense of the growing urban crisis in Asia and to address it comprehensively. The effort is animated by the complex vision of a sustainable city, which compellingly proposes a future in which the urban problems confronting us today can be effectively overcome. It is the aim here to explore this complex vision from the perspective of (local) culture, transcending both the economic and environmental viewpoints that dominate popular constructs of sustainability. This volume seeks to build a plausible “narrative order” which captures conceptual schemes, case studies, community participation, and cultural indicators that contribute to and shape a cultural theory of the sustainable city, moving beyond purely techno-economic (or techno-scientific), market-driven urbanization strategies based on Euclidian planning and top-down decision-making.