SCIENTIFIC LIFE:

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CANADIAN, CHINESE AND AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION (ICCCASU4) VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MONTREAL, CANADA, 28 - 31 JULY 2021

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With a focus on urban world from regions which account more than 2,7 billion of the world population, The International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU) is an important international think-tank which promotes "sustainable and inclusive urban development in a forum based on the diverse but complementary experiences of Canada, China, and African nations" (ICCCASU, 2021). ICCCASU take place every two years and rotates between the three regions, since its inception in 2015. Originally it was a collaboration between UN-Habitat and the University of Ottawa; then ICCCASU has expanded to a consortium of three Canadian universities (Carleton University, McGill University, and University of Ottawa) and Chinese and African universities.

The 2121 conference (ICCCASU4), with more than 200 participants from 39 countries, was organized virtually by David Covo, McGill University, and Tonton Mundele, Global Affairs Canada, under the theme of "Density, Diversity, and Mobility: The City in an Era of Cascading Risks".

The opening ceremony was co-hosted by Mr. Claude Ngomsi, Senior Programme Management Officer at UN-Habitat (Kenya), and ICCCASU's Chair of Latin America & Caribbean Relations, Ms. Luisa Gomez. The speeches were delivered by Canadian politicians and academics, such as Professor Huhua Cao, University of Ottawa & Co-President of ICCCASU, and international guests, such as Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

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The keynote session following the opening ceremony was co-hosted by Professor Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, Mr. Allan Cain, Development Workshop (Angola), and Mr. Rong Yang, UN-Habitat. Keynote speeches were delivered by David Miller, Director of International Diplomacy, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group & Former Mayor of Toronto, Leilani Farha, Global Director of NGO the Shift & Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, and Oumar Sylla, Director of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa.

The second day of the conference hosted two dialogue sessions. First one was co-hosted by Professor David Covo, McGill University, and Professor Denise Piché, Université Laval, and was based on the theme of the Post-Pandemic City. The presenters were Mary Rowe, President & CEO of Canadian Urban Institute, Vikram Bhatt, Professor Emeritus, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture (McGill University), René Joly Assako Assako, Vice-Recteur, Université de Douala, and John Zacharias, Peking University. The second dialogue session was co-hosted by Mr. Allan Cain, Development Workshop (Angola), and Professor Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, and was based on the theme of affordable housing. The presentations were made by Kecia Rust, Executive Director of the Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, Patricia Roset-Zuppa, Vice-President Policy of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Anacláudia Rossbach, Regional Manager for the Latin America and Caribbean Cities Alliance, and Zhi Liu, Director of China program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Peking University.

The second keynote session took place in the third day of the conference, and it was co-hosted by Professor Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, and Professor Olivier Dehoorne, Université des Antilles. The keynote speeches on affordable housing, sustainable policy development in the Caribbean, and Chinese infrastructure development were delivered by Mario Polèse, Professor emeritus at Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Mimi Sheller, Inaugural Dean of the Global School (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and Zhi Liu, Director of China program, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Peking University.

The main activities of the Conference were the presentations included in six thematic areas for the panel discussions, which took place on days two to four:

1. Towards More Resilient Cities Worldwide, coordinated by John Zacharias, Peking University, and Inês Macamo Raimundo, Eduardo Mondlane University.

This thematic area had six panel discussions:

- Metropolisation and Urban Renewal, hosted by Antoine Beaulieu, Université Laval, and Yombi Ouedraogo, UN-Habitat;

- Displacement and Rural-Urban Development, hosted by Liping Yue, Northwest University, and George Onatu, University of Johannesburg;
- Urban Resilience: from Theory to Practice, hosted by Bing Xue, Technische Universität Berlin, and Aly Sada Timera, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar;
- Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure, hosted by John Zacharias, Peking University, and Stephanie Loose, UN-Habitat Burkina Faso;
- Urban Resilience and Coastal Development, hosted by Amy Huangqing Li, Associated research Centers for Urban Underground Space, and Andrea Brown, Wilfrid Laurier University.
- Education for Resilient Cities, hosted by Vincent Kitio, UN-Habitat Kenya, and Laïla Amraoui, Université IBN Zohr.

2. Preparedness and management of COVID 19 and climate change in cities, coordinated by Yangfan Li, Xiamen University, and Tonton Mundele, Global Affairs Canada.

This thematic area had three panel discussions:

- Covid-19 Breakout and Cities Preparedness, hosted by Yangfan Li, Xiamen University, and Lolita Shaila Safaee Chalkasra, University of Ottawa;
- Covid-19 and Climate Change, hosted by Tonton Mundele, Global Affairs Canada, and Douglas Mure-Ravaud Raga, UN-Habitat;
- Covid-19 Breakout and Risk Assessment, hosted by Abimbola Omolabi, Yaba College of Technology, and Dewei Yang, Southwest University.

3. Forecasting and Forward-Looking Urban Risks Management: Managing Increasing Density, Diversity, and Mobility, coordinated by David Covo, McGill University, and Dingping Guo, Fudan University.

This thematic area had four panel discussions:

- Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities, hosted by Philippe Régnier, Université d'Ottawa, and Dingping Guo, Fudan University;
- Urban Complexity and Urban Development, hosted by David Covo, McGill University, and Jerzy Bański, Polish Academy of Science;
- Environment Comfort and Urban Space, hosted by Wang Hong, Shanghai University, and Adiaratou Thiam, Ministère des Affaires foncières de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat Mali ;
- Cities facing Diverse Challenges was hosted by Fachun Du, Yunnan Agricultural University, and Kamyar Razavi, Simon Fraser University.

4. Privacy, Surveillance, Security, Governance and Collective Wellbeing, coordinated by Claude Ngomsi, UN-Habitat, and Yuenan Li, University of Ottawa.

This thematic area had two panel discussions:

- Politics and Urban development, also hosted by Claude Ngomsi, UN-Habitat, and Yuenan Li, University of Ottawa;
- Theoretical and empirical analysis of Urban development, hosted by Abdelhamid Benhmade, University of Ottawa, and Asia Lachir, National School of Architecture.

5. Health Crises in Cities: Learning from the Past and Planning for the Future, coordinated by Ian Cooper, Employment and Social Development Canada, and Haotian Guan, University of Ottawa.

This thematic area had three panel discussions:

- Urban Health in the Era of Covid-19, hosted by Ian Cooper, Employment and Social Development Canada, and Antara Tandon, UN-Habitat India;
- Urban Development in the Post-Covid Eras, hosted by Ruibo Han, University of Maryland, and Emmanuel Takang, University of Yaounde I;
- Health Issue and Urban Pattern, hosted by Ines Raimundo, Eduardo Mondlane University, abd Abdinassir Sagar, UN-Habitat Kenya.

6. Housing: Access, Affordability and Informality, coordinated by Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, and Allan Cain, Development Workshop Angola.

This thematic area had three panel discussions:

- Affordability Housing and Informal Settlement, hosted by Benjamin Gianni, Carleton University, and Atik Mohamed, Université Ibn Zohr;
- Urban Governance and Housing Cost, hosted by Matti Siemiatycki, University of Toronto, and Claude Ngomsi, UN-Habitat Kenya;
- Public Policy and Homelessness, hosted by Allan Cain, Development Workshop Angola, and Benoît Mougoue, Université de Yaoundé 1.

The Conference also had five special panels:

- Human Mobility and Tourism in the Caribbean in the Context of the Socioeconomic Impact of Covid-19: How are Governments Coping? consisted of four panel sessions: Cruise Tourism: Interests and Limits of a Model; Impacts of COVID-19 in Caribbean's Islands: Lessons and

Perspective; Haiti's Dilemma, from One Crisis to Another; The Impact of COVID-19 on Tourism and Mobilities: Comparative Regional Approaches.

- Built-environment in the Post Pandemic Era - Revisiting the Planning Doctrines consisted of two sessions: Community-Based Initiative and Transformational Planning; Planning, Mobility, Built Environment and Real Estate Development.
- Results-Based Local Governance, and Regional Green Economic Growth.
- Industrial Parks, Agro-processing Zones and Urban Transformation had three panels: China-Africa industrialization, urbanization and planning experience and cooperative research; Development and planning of China's overseas industrial parks along the Belt and Road initiative; China and Africa industrial park development experience.
- Are Latin American Cities Inclusive for Migrants? consisted of the sessions: Inclusive Cities in Latin American; Urbanity and Governance in Brazil.

On the third day of the conference, a special event was held: "Impact of the Urban Environment on Health and Wellbeing". It was chaired by Pamela Carbajal, UN-Habitat Kenya, who also presented an academic speech, followed by Zhou Ying, Planner, Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Center, and Kristie Daniel, Director of the Livable Cities program & Head of local office in Ottawa, Health bridge.

A round table chaired by Patricia Zander, Université de Strasbourg, took place on the fourth day of the conference. Its theme was "Towards otherwise resilient cities?", and the presentations and discussions were made by Geraldine Djament, Université de Strasbourg, Kamala Marius, Université de Bordeaux, and also Patricia Zander.

The full programme and the videos of the speeches from the Conference are available on the Conference's website. The next Conference (ICCCASU5) will be held in 2023.

REFERENCES

ICCCASU, 2021. *International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU).* [Online] Available at: https://icccasu2021.org/[Accessed 20 08 2021].