

Capital Cities, Wicked Problems: Best Practices in Planning and Policy Response Mechanisms

Organized by
The Sharjah Directorate of Public Works,
The American University of Sharjah, and
University of Sharjah
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Worldwide, capital cities, and indeed mega cities, deal routinely with intractable problems that are called ‘wicked problems.’ These problems are not easily defined, have no obvious solutions, and attempts to solve them will trigger or exacerbate other wicked problems. As cities grow, so do the wicked problems, with which government and all urban stakeholders must contend. Through presentations and discussions at its 10th Urban Planning Symposium, Sharjah, the capital of the Sharjah Emirate, aims to learn from, and share its own experiences with, planners and policy makers from other parts of the world, about planning and policy mechanisms that have proven to be effective in addressing wicked problems. Papers should be prescriptive in terms of, first, the specific mechanisms discussed, second, the political, legal, cultural, technological, environmental and other implications of the mechanisms, and, third, lessons for cities desiring to adopt or adapt the mechanisms. Papers that examine wicked problems and effective response mechanisms, in the following sub-areas, are invited:

1. Urban economy and industry (*production and distribution systems, knowledge economy, tourism, etc.*).
2. Urban infrastructure and technology (*capital facilities, information and communications technology, public amenities, etc.*).
3. Energy and transportation (*multi-modal transportation, alternative transportation, industrial and domestic energy sources, clean energy, etc.*).
4. Urban environment (*land use, waste management, green development, eco-system resource management, open space, etc.*).
5. Urban enlightenment (*education, capacity building, social capital, culture, tradition, etc.*).
6. Equity and social justice in the city (*the underclass, elderly, youth, people with special needs, feminism, social justice, etc.*).
7. Empowerment and politics (*civic engagement/activism, non-governmental organizations, advocacy, etc.*).
8. Human welfare and safety in the city (*traditional policing, crime prevention through environmental design, social welfare, health and wellness, spirituality, etc.*).
9. Regionalism and public-private partnerships (*intergovernmental collaborations, regional alliances, public-private initiatives, etc.*).
10. Institutional structure and legislation (*institutional planning frameworks, policy and legislation, contract governance, etc.*)

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstracts (maximum of 500 words)*	April 25, 2008
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	May 05, 2008
Full Paper Submission	July 10, 2008
Notification of Paper Acceptance	August 30, 2008
Final Paper Submission	September 25, 2008

* For abstract submission, please visit the website www.aus.edu/conferences/sups10