

Global Planners' Network  
International Assessment of the Capacity for Planning

I write to tell you of an important initiative by the RTPI and Commonwealth Association of Planners for the Global Planners Network (GPN) with the generous support of the Lincoln Institute ([www.lincolnst.edu](http://www.lincolnst.edu)). As part of the GPN's mission to build global planning capacity to manage the challenges confronting our towns and cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have developed a web-based self-diagnostic tool. This will help planning organisations and planners around the world to:

- assess their capacity to respond to the challenges of urbanisation,
- identify where they think the most strategic gaps in capacity are, and
- establish support networks that can help fill those gaps.

The tool will help us all to learn how different countries plan and manage human settlements, and find out their priorities in planning these settlements. It will also help the GPN develop its network of planning contacts.

The target respondents for the project are organisations or individuals involved in planning human settlements. The diagnostic tool is available in English, French, Spanish and Chinese and modules have been developed for different sectors:

1. Organisations representing planners
2. Central Government Ministries and Local Government
3. NGOs and Community Groups
4. Planner training organisations and academics
5. The private sector

We want to reach as many planning contacts as possible and shall do this:

- through the RTPI database of 80 national planning associations around the world
- by contacting everyone registered on our larger database of individuals involved in planning. Respondents from this group are expected to provide a greater breadth of opinion that will enrich the responses of the first group
- by encouraging our partners through a process of 'viral marketing' to encourage their own contacts to complete the diagnostic tool and to encourage their contacts in turn to do the same.

The tool can be reached in several ways. You can click [here](#) to go straight to it, navigate via its full internet address <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BVoAHze7i6IVKGrpW/zgdA==>, visit the International page of the RTPI website [www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi\\_international](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/rtpi_international) where there is a link, or use the short address <http://tinyurl.com/2u2ovm>. Any of these routes will take you the introductory page, the language options, a full description of the work, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about it and news of how to keep in touch with the research.

Success in this project will depend on reaching as many planners around the world as possible. I hope you can help us in this by:

- completing the tool yourself for the country that you know best
- advertising the tool on your own website if you have one (using the link above)
- forwarding this email to your own planning contacts and inviting them to complete it.