

## Sustainable Cities

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### *Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network*

October 2005

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*PLUS is a Network of 30 or more cities and communities sharing learning on integrated planning for long-term urban sustainability.*

*Its purpose is to catalyze action on urban sustainability through promoting and supporting integrated long-term planning and demonstration projects in cities around the world.*

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#### ***Name Change - PLUS Network***

*Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network* where PLUS is an acronym for Partners for Long-term Urban Sustainability recently changed its name from the *+30 Network* to resolve confusion around the number 30 and the confusion with the Habitat +30 events taking place in Vancouver next year.

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#### ***What we do***

The major activities of the Network include web based dialogues, peer consultations and high-profile events.

#### ***Peer Consultations***

The peer to peer city consultations exemplify the model of distributed learning that the Network is striving to establish. Ideally, on each peer consultation there is a *PLUS Network* staff person, a technical consultant and a planner from another *PLUS Network* city. The technical consultant and the city planner are chosen based on the recipient city's needs and their respective areas of expertise. The peer to peer consultations have proven to be one of the most beneficial aspects of the Network, particularly for the developing county cities.

The *PLUS Network* has conducted a range of peer to peer city consultations. These have taken place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Calgary, Canada; San Jose, Costa Rica; Bucharest, Romania; Durban, South Africa; and Dakar, Senegal.

#### ***High Profile Events***

The *PLUS Network* held a three-hour Networking Session as part of the World Urban Forum 2004 program in Barcelona.

Network members commit to meeting face-to-face every two years to report on their progress and share successes and setbacks with their peers. The first such occasion will be during a pre-event, to be held in conjunction with the 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver in June. The idea is to distill the lessons learned to feed into a networking session at WUF III.

#### ***Web Dialogues***

The *PLUS Network* has hosted four web dialogues over the past year. The topics thus far have been: Integrating Sustainability Principles into the Development of a Work Plan, Stakeholder and Public Participation, Transportation and Long-Term Planning, and Green Buildings and

Sustainable Housing. The upcoming web dialogue in November will be on Planning for Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation. They are generally guest facilitated by a member of the International Panel of Advisors or another expert in the topic area.

### ***Newsletters***

e-Newsletters are produced quarterly and are intended to update Network members and the wider public on Network events and activities, website features, and sustainability highlights of member cities. If you wish to be placed on the newsletter mailing list please e-mail [webadmin@icsc.ca](mailto:webadmin@icsc.ca).

### ***International Panel of Advisors***

The International Panel of Advisors (IPA) was formed to serve in an advisory capacity to the Network, contributing subject matter expertise and promoting the Network and its results. It is co-chaired by Michael Harcourt and Elizabeth Dowdswell.

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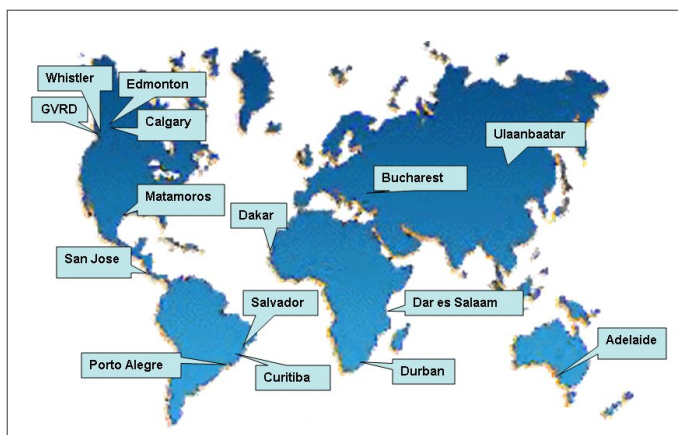
## ***Major Accomplishments in 2004 - 2005***

The *PLUS Network* has entered its second year of operations. The major accomplishments of the past year include recruiting 15 member cities, conducting peer consultation sessions in eight cities, hosting four web dialogues and establishing an International Panel of Advisors.

### ***Membership Recruitment***

There are currently 15 members in the Network:

- Adelaide, Australia
- Bucharest, Romania
- Calgary, Canada
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Dakar, Senegal
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Edmonton, Canada
- eThekweni (Durban), South Africa
- Matamoros, Mexico
- Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Salvador, Brazil
- San José, Costa Rica
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- The Greater Vancouver Regional District, Canada
- Whistler, Canada



Recruitment continues and there are approximately 10 other cities we are currently in discussion with concerning membership. This year we are concentrating on Canadian city recruitment.

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