



International Federation of Landscape Architects  
Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes

# Newsletter

# IFLA

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## Partners, Events & Activities

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From a Tonga-New Zealand partnership: this summer photograph shows members of the Editor's family with their hosts from the Tongan community on Ha'apai, Kingdom of Tonga. Professor Paula Jameson (left) heads the School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. In partnership with others, the School is developing a number of initiatives, including Tongan high school projects on biological and environmental issues relevant to local communities and landscape.

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*IFLA News* No. 81: **Cultural Landscapes**

(March 2009)

*IFLA News* No. 82: **Americas Issue**

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Deadline for articles (500-1250 words and illustrations) last day of the preceding month



# Relations between IFLA and ISOCARP in facing common challenges

**Pierre Laconte**  
President, ISOCARP

## Challenges

The challenges facing landscape architecture and city and regional planning are more than ever largely common:

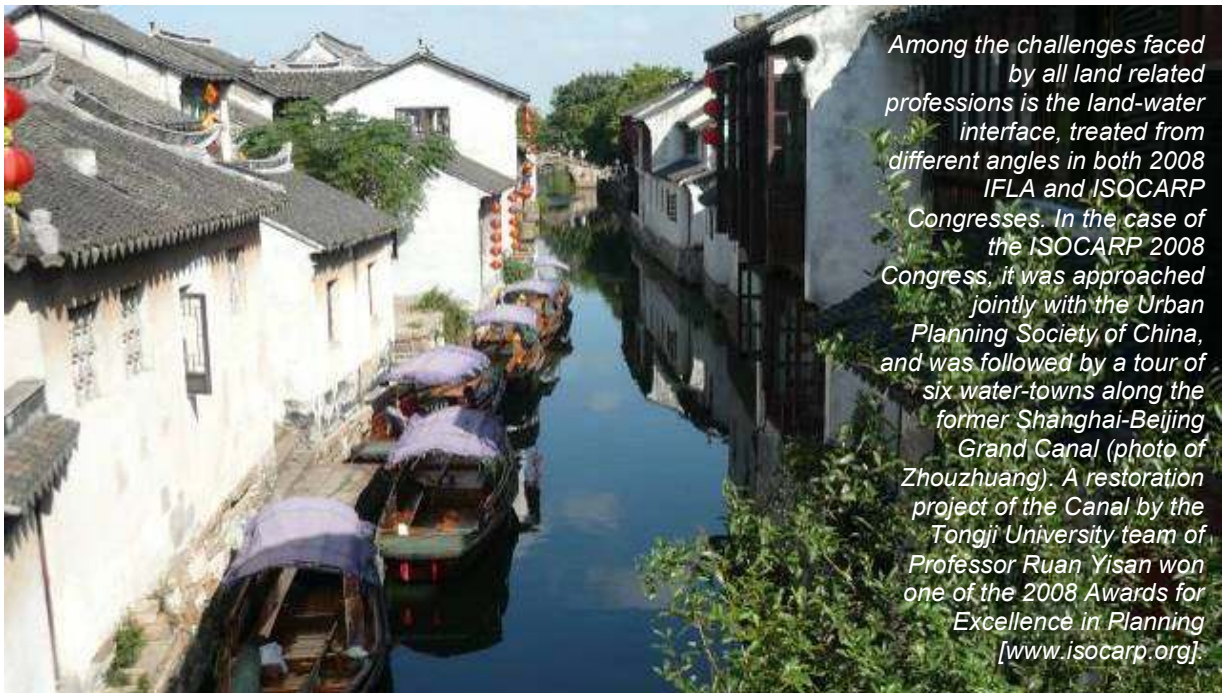
- Urban Sprawl is mixing built space and residual open fields. It is to be addressed by both planners and landscape architects.
- Shorter life-cycle of built space is leading to an oversupply of developed land, what has been called in Germany “Shrinking Cities”, i.e. more supply of urbanised lands than demand for them. They raise a challenge to all land related professions.
- Global warming and climate change are beginning to affect land use, and require new skills to deal with floods, desertification, and changing flora and fauna.

- Globalization of real estate markets poses a challenge of its own to the land-related professions: the need to be able to work in a diversity of climates, professional fields, and cultural backgrounds. These challenges require a trans-disciplinary research approach and a cross-fertilisation of professional training and practice.

## Complementarities and synergies

Land related professions are represented worldwide by a remarkably large number of organisations, ranging from world ones and regional ones down to national organisations with international activities. Many more are representing related professions. ISOCARP [International Society of city and Regional Planners; [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)] has attempted to start an inventory of these with a view to assessing complementarities and developing synergies. This has led to a growing number of Memoranda of Understanding and partnerships. These include the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), for the reasons I mentioned before.

Such memoranda provide exchanges of information and announcements of each other’s activities, as well as mutual invitations to events. In last month’s ISOCARP.NET we were pleased to congratulate IFLA’s President, Commissioner Diane Menzies, on her appointment as Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the environment.



*Among the challenges faced by all land related professions is the land-water interface, treated from different angles in both 2008 IFLA and ISOCARP Congresses. In the case of the ISOCARP 2008 Congress, it was approached jointly with the Urban Planning Society of China, and was followed by a tour of six water-towns along the former Shanghai-Beijing Grand Canal (photo of Zhouzhuang). A restoration project of the Canal by the Tongji University team of Professor Ruan Yisan won one of the 2008 Awards for Excellence in Planning [[www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)].*



### **Synchronised calendars**

A further stage in collaboration would be to have a general draft calendar of future space-related international events, so as to avoid, inasmuch as possible, an overlapping of their dates. For the first time this year, this will be the case between the International Federation for Housing and Planning, which will hold its congress in September, while ours will be on 19-23 October in Porto (Low Carbon Cities). In previous years, our congresses usually overlapped. We are now considering moving to a common address. We will be very glad to announce IFLA's 2009 events as soon as details are available.

### **International collaborative research**

Among the areas of collaboration between members of both IFLA and EFLA and our members we see the development of research projects in collaboration with international organisations such as WHO or with European institutions. Our Brussels Liaison Office has been selected to participate in different EU-projects (by no means limited to EU countries!): research on urban planning and management, exchange of experiences at the local and regional level, expertise on urban planning, development and environment, peer reviews, invitations to potential experts for participating in EU workshops and working groups.

For example, the project called "Plan4All" aims to build a network of local, regional and national authorities, stakeholders and organizations to harmonize Spatial Data Infrastructure (Budget of 4.5 million Euros), and the project called "Fighting Urban Sprawl in Europe" (Budget of 1 million Euros). Our office is managed by Didier Van Cutsem, Stadtplaner und Landschaftsarchitekt, Munich.

### **Conclusion**

Networking between professional organisations has a large potential to meet the common challenges to professionals. It includes education and training, complementarities in programmes of events, and common international projects. This is first and foremost the case with IFLA and ISOCARP.

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## **International Federation of Parks & Recreation Administration**

**Alan Smith**  
Chief Executive

Members of Ifpra and IFLA have many values and objectives in common. The relationship between the two organisations was taken forward through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the recent Ifpra Asia Pacific Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand.



### **Early developments**

Ifpra was formed in 1957, following a meeting in Brighton, UK, of Parks Managers drawn mainly from the public sector and mainly from the UK and the northern areas of mainland Europe, in particular The Netherlands. This group of park enthusiasts decided to form Ifpra to formalise a network through which best practice could be exchanged. This objective was achieved through annual conferences, exchange of correspondence detailing experiences, and numerous exchange visits.

The initial number in Ifpra was small – between 50 and 100 – and was dominated by members from the UK and The Netherlands. The emphasis of interest of the early Ifpra members was horticultural excellence, although "recreation" was, and remains, in the organisation's title.

For the next four decades, the focus of Ifpra varied little from technical horticultural excellence, particularly civic horticulture. This was an era of great civic pride in local parks and floral displays, and Ifpra members during that time played a major role in the development of the relevant best practice within the UK and across mainland Europe.