

International Council on Canadian, Chinese & African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU)

ICCCASU at 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE February 8- 13, 2020

1) WORKSHOP-SIDE EVENT

ICCCASU (*International Council on Canadian, Chinese & African Sustainable Urbanization*) was one of a number of organizations selected to mount workshops/side sessions at the 10th World Urban Forum (WUF10) on February 10th, 2020 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. We are pleased to have had very productive exchanges on the topic of culture and innovation in city building -- from different perspectives and based on case studies from different regions.



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

WUF10 The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum
Cities of Opportunities Connecting Culture and Innovation

ICCCASU

Workshop Agenda (Side Event 28)
CULTURE AND INNOVATION IN CITY BUILDING IN CANADA, CHINA AND AFRICA
Culture et Innovation dans la Construction de Villes au Canada, en Chine et en Afrique
中国，加拿大与非洲城市建设中的文化与创新

February 10, 2020 12:30 - 13:30 Hall 2, Room 8
Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Coordinators: Amy Li, Jean-Marie Cishahayo

Chair:
Rong Yang
Inter-Regional Advisor
UN-Habitat

Moderator:
Claude Ngoms
Senior Programme Management Officer
UN-Habitat

Session 1: Opening Remarks

Hon. Célestine Ketcha Courtes
Minister of Housing and Urban Development
Cameroon

Rafael Tuts
Director
Global Solutions Division
UN-Habitat

Aijun Qiu
Deputy Director General
China Center for Urban Development

Matti Siemiatycki
Director
School of Cities
University of Toronto, Canada

Jiannan Wu
Executive Vice Director
China Institute for Urban Governance
Shanghai Jiaotong University

Session 2: International Joint Panel

Badiane Ailoune
President
Urban ThinkTank Africa-TUTTA, Senegal
"Build up innovative collaboration between universities and cities in Africa: the case of RESEAUD Network"

Dimitris Kaliampakos
President
Associated Research Center for the Urban Underground Space, Greece
"The metro systems as valuable channels of modern cities' cultural life"

Allan Cain
Director
Development Workshop, Angola
"Participatory budgeting as an innovation for municipal planning in Africa using lessons from Chengdu"

Huhua Cao
Professor
University of Ottawa, Canada
"Mobilizing ethnic minorities to support culture and innovation in city building: a case study of Bai people in Dali, China"

Session 3: Global Talks between Canada, China and Africa
(Q&A with Participants of WUF10)

Jian Cheng, Director, Shanghai Coordination Center of World Cities Day
Anne Fouda, Head of Studies, Planning and Invited Cooperation Division, Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon
Yiqun Fan, Chair of Associated Research Center for the Urban Underground Space - URBAN
Xiaokun Gu, Vice Director of International Cooperation and Research Department, China Institute for Urban Governance
Meng Wang, Chairman, YES Network

Summary: City building scholarship and policymaking are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of culture in urbanization. China and Africa have a long history of civilization while Canada has a relative short history but with rich indigenous culture; the nations share the reality of the multiplicity of ethnic groups enriching each nation's culture and identity. These unique new urban identities are shaping city building. Habitat III recognized the importance of culture and therefore emphasized for an inclusive urban development approach. Innovation is the path to creating new urban identities effectively.

Side Events

Programme of ICCASU Workshop



ICCCASU Workshop Main Conference Room

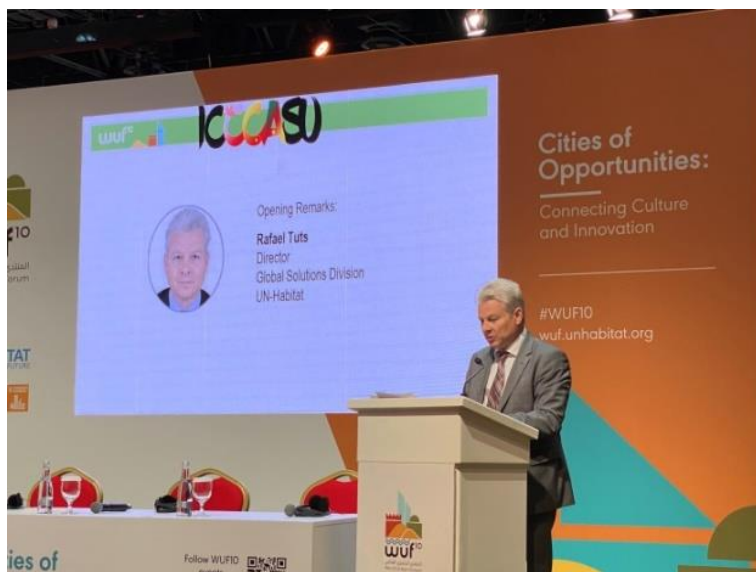
○ Session 1: Opening Remarks

Rong Yang, Interregional Advisor for UN-Habitat and Vice-President of ICCASU, presided over the first session. Introducing ICCASU's development path, he emphasized the organization's increasing role as an international platform/think tank on urbanization in Canada, China and Africa.



Workshop Chair: Rong Yang, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat/ Vice-President of ICCASU

Rafael Tuts, Director of UN-Habitat’s Global Solutions Division and Co-President of ICCASU, was the first to deliver opening remarks. Emphasizing the ongoing relationship between UN-Habitat and ICCASU, Mr. Tuts highlighted the importance of innovation as a driving force in sustainable urban development.



Opening Remarks: Rafael Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat

The next to speak was Professor Matti Siemiatycki, Director of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto. Recognizing that cities are complex systems that merit study from multiple points of view, Uof T’s School of Cities was recently created to facilitate dialogue and collaboration between the multiple faculties and disciplines with an interest in things urban.

Professor Siemiatycki emphasized the importance of innovation in city building, especially in the current era of transformational technology. That said, he also encouraged us to think about the meaning of innovation in contexts other than Canada, China and Africa, and to think of ways to address innovation in these different contexts respectively. Using Toronto as an example, Professor Siemiatycki also highlighted the role of culture in creating the identity of a city.



Opening Remarks: Matti Siemiatycki, Director, School of Cities, University of Toronto, Canada

○ Session 2: International Joint Panel

Following the opening remarks, Claude Ngoms, Senior Programme Management Officer for UN-Habitat, moderated an international joint panel comprised of four keynote speeches.

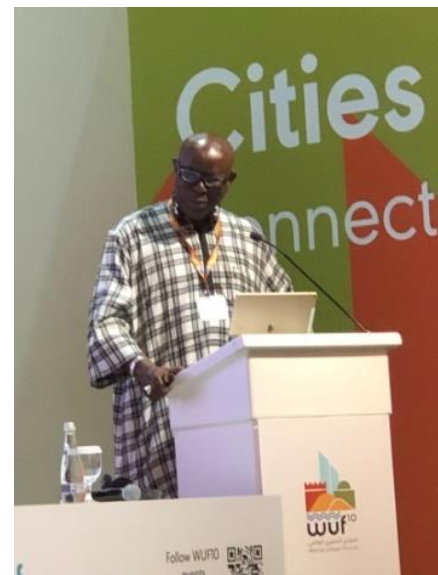


Workshop Moderator: Claude Ngoms, Senior Programme Management Officer (a.i), UN-Habitat

First Keynote Speech:

The first keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Alioune Badiane, President of the Senegal-based urban think tank *Africa-TUTTA* and past president of ICCCASU. Dr. Badiane discussed the need to foster innovative collaboration between universities and cities in Africa using the RESAUD Network as a case study.

He argued that it is important for universities to work with local, national and international authorities to transfer knowledge to stakeholders, build their capacity for innovation, and translate ideas into concrete action in support of communities and better governance.



Keynote speaker: TUTTA President/ ICCCASU honorable President Dr. Alioune Badiane

Second Keynote Speech:

Professor Dimitris Kaliampakos, President of the Associated Research Centers for the Urban Underground Space (ACUUS), shared his experience with metro systems as valuable channels of cultural life in modern cities. Prof. Kaliampakos observed that African countries will see more development of underground transport systems in coming decades than either China or Canada. He identified ICCCASU as an ideal partner with which to work with since it is able to bring together different stakeholders in these critical regions of the world.



Keynote speaker: President of ACUUS, Professor Dimitris Kaliampakos

Third Keynote Speech:

The third presentation, entitled “Participatory Budgeting: Learning from the Global South,” was made by Allan Cain, the Director of Development Workshop in Luanda, Angola and former Vice-President of ICCASU.

Using case studies in Canada, China and Angola, Mr. Cain described how ordinary urban residents have been involved in the process of participatory budgeting from a “right to the city” perspective. He believes that participatory budgeting will be gradually accepted across developing countries.



Keynote speaker: Director of Development Workshop, Allan Cain

Fourth Keynote Speech:

Professor Huhua Cao, co-president of ICCASU, highlighted challenges facing the Bai people, a visible minority in Southwestern China, in adopting an inclusive urbanization. These include the increasing assimilation of Bai culture (language, religion, and even architecture), and the need to manage differences between urban-rural areas, between traditional and modern lifestyles, and to address varied perceptions of Bai local traditional knowledge.

Professor Cao suggested two new strategies to face these challenges. The first was to redefine Bai culture in order to more effectively protect traditional values. He reinforced the importance of promoting bilingual teaching, i.e., the inclusion of Bai language in schools, and of encouraging the creation of a new identity to adapt to realities. The second strategy was to adopt innovative urban governance by moving from top-down to bottom-up approaches, recognizing the “Right to the City” for each resident, and building an inclusive decision-making process for empowering the voices of ethnic minorities.



Keynote speaker: Professor Huhua Cao, University of Ottawa, Canada

Following the keynote speeches, Dr. Ngomsii concluded the workshop and invited the audience to join ICCASU4 in Montreal in May 2021.



Global Talks between Canada, China and Africa

○ Workshop Highlights



2) ICCASU AT THE URBAN EXPO OF WUF10

The Urban Expo at WUF10 promotes innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges facing cities and communities from the perspectives of national and sub-national governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, the private sector, international organizations, academia and other stakeholders. Thanks to our Chinese partners, notably the Center of Shanghai World Cities Day, ICCASU was able to display its development path at the China Pavilion, which was interesting to many.



ICCCASU in China Pavilion

ICCCASU Development Path



中加非城市论坛 发展历程

- 2015**
ICCCASU1
Ottawa
 A CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
- 2017**
ICCCASU2
Yaounde
 SMART URBAN DEVELOPMENT - FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACTIONS
- 2019**
ICCCASU3
Chengdu
 THE BELT AND ROAD & NODE: NEW INFLUENCES AND PARADIGMS IN CITY BUILDING
- 2020**
ICCCASU Workshop
Abu Dhabi
 CULTURE AND INNOVATION IN CITY BUILDING IN CANADA, CHINA AND AFRICA
- 2021**
ICCCASU4
Montreal
 LIVABLE CITIES

Report 2016 Collaboration for Sustainable Urbanization in China and Africa	Report 2017 Recommendations on Areas of Possible Collaboration between Canada and China in Africa	Report 2018 Smart Urban Development: From Local to Global Actions

Join Us!

ICCCASU Development Path

中加非城市论坛 发展历程

The International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU) is an international Think-Tank for exchange and cooperation on issues relating to sustainable urban development. Focusing on Canada, China and Africa, occurring every two years and rotating between the three regions, ICCASU brings together politicians, policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and others to share research and best practices on sustainable urbanisation through a series of conferences and training workshops. Founded in 2014 as a joint initiative of UN-Habitat and the University of Ottawa, it has since expanded to include a consortium of Canadian universities (University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Université de Montréal and McGill University).

ICCCASU I: A CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
Ottawa, Canada 2015

On the 24th and 25th of October, 2015, UN-HABITAT and the University of Ottawa collaborated for the success of the ICCASU I on the University of Ottawa campus. Over 100 scholars, practitioners and policy-makers from 64 institutions, 18 countries, and across multiple disciplines were in attendance. The conference focused on sustainable urbanization issues between China and Africa, and also presented a meaningful and international perspective from Canada, and its important global role.

ICCCASU II: SMART URBAN DEVELOPMENT - FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL ACTIONS
Yaoundé, Cameroon 2017

We welcome the participation of the anticipated 500 audience members who contributed in making ICCASU II a shared and inclusive experience. Over the course of ICCASU II, we probed the notion of Smart Urban Development, both broadly and deeply. We explored the principles and key recommendations of the New Urban Agenda and its implementation framework in various contexts, particularly in Africa. We formed new connections, strengthened relationships and engaged differing perspectives. We shared knowledge, experiences and practices to emerge with an improved understanding of our common challenges and promising solutions, including new and actionable possibilities for local and global cooperation.

ICCCASU III: BELT, ROAD & NODE - NEW INFLUENCES AND PARADIGMS IN CITY BUILDING
Chengdu, China 2019

ICCCASU III recognizes the crucial relationship between investment, infrastructure and urbanization, and acknowledges China's expanding role in the world in the realm of citybuilding in the 21st century. Home to approximately 9 million people, our host city, Chengdu, doubled in size from 2 to 4 million between 1980 and 2000; then doubled again in the last two decades, making our third conference here provides us with a first-hand opportunity to admire, review, debate and otherwise learn from the ways in which the city has managed rapid growth and sustainable urbanization. Over the two days of ICCASU III participants from more than 22 countries and around 100 institutions have shared knowledge and best practices to help us tackle common challenges to effective and prosperous urbanization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.ICCCASU.ORG

3) ICCASU IN WUF FOR WUHAN SESSION

As we all know, Chinese cities, particularly Wuhan, are fighting the Coronavirus. To show our support, ICCASU created a poster and presented it in the *WUF for Wuhan* session. Although the outbreak appeared first in China, its impact is being felt globally.



Poster for Wuhan



ICCCASU in WUF for Wuhan session

4) MEETING WITH ICCASC2 CHAIR AT WUF10

We were very pleased to meet the former Minister of Housing and Urban Development of Cameroon, the Hon. Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, at WUF10 in Abu Dhabi. As the chair of ICCASU2 in 2017, Mr. Mbwentchou was in great part responsible for its success. ICCASU welcomes his ongoing input as the organization grows and develops.



Meeting with the Hon. Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, Chair of ICCASC2

5) MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LAND USE PLANNING FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

We had a very productive meeting with the Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning for the Republic of Mauritius, at which we introduced him to ICCASU's mission and development. Impressed with the organization, he expressed interest in working with us to stage ICCASU4 in Montreal in 2021 and plan for ICCASU5 in 2023 in Africa. The Hon. Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, former Minister of Housing and Development for Cameroon, made an excellent testimony on behalf of ICCASU during the meeting.



Meeting with the Minister of Housing and Land Use Planning for the Republic of Mauritius

6) MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN KENYA AND AMBASSADOR TO UN-HABITAT

We also had the opportunity to meet the Canadian High Commissioner in Kenya and Ambassador to UN-Habitat, the Hon. Lisa Stadelbauer. We briefed her on ICCCASU's development path over the last 6 years. She was very happy to learn about ICCCASU and is looking forward to ICCCASU4 in Montreal in 2021.



Meeting with Canadian Ambassador of UN-Habitat Hon. Lisa Stadelbauer

7) NEXT STEPS FOR ICCCASU

As an international think-tank run entirely by volunteers, ICCCASU's development path since 2015 has been remarkable. ICCCASU's mission is important because the triangular relationship between Canada, China and Africa is so unique. Each of these three regions is facing different challenges on urban development. ICCCASU4, which is planned for Montreal in 2021, will enable us to continue to address these challenges by applying research and best practices.

- **Summary of ICCCASU4**

The *International Council on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization* (ICCCASU) is an international think-tank for exchange and cooperation on issues relating to sustainable urban development. Moving beyond the conventional practice of North-South or South-South cooperation, ICCCASU fosters a triangular dialogue between Canada, China and African countries. Every two years -- and rotating between the three regions -- ICCCASU brings together politicians, policymakers, scholars, practitioners, and others to share research and best practices on sustainable urbanization through its conferences and training workshops.

Founded in 2014 as a joint initiative of UN-Habitat and the University of Ottawa, it has since expanded to include a consortium of Canadian universities (University of Ottawa, Carleton University, McGill University and Université de Montréal), as well as several Chinese and African universities.

To date, ICCCASU has staged three conferences. ICCCASU I, which attracted 200 attendees, was held in Ottawa, Canada in 2015 while ICCCASU II, a 500-person forum staged in conjunction with the government of Cameroon, was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 2017. In the summer of 2019, ICCCASU III was held in Chengdu, China in partnership with the China Center for Urban Development. It included over 100 presentations from some 150 experts representing 23 countries (see the details at www.icccasu.org).

ICCCASU conferences bring together researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers from the public, private and civil-society sectors to explore challenges of urban development in Canada, China and Africa – with a focus on city-building in the so-called Asian Century. The term “Asian Century” acknowledges the volume and rate of contemporary urbanization in Asia coupled with increasing economic and political influence of Asia in the 21st century.

ICCCASU conferences examine current urban development models in Canada, China and African countries in order to identify how best to address fragility, reduce vulnerability and to promote efficiency, prosperity and smart urban development across a range of geographic, historical, political and economic contexts. The countries/continents on which the organization focuses represent different perspectives/experiences in this transition of influence. In tandem

with the New Urban Agenda (NUA), ICCCASU also focuses on urbanization within and driven by Asian actors, including China's Belt and Road Initiative. Among a range of topics, conferences examine ways in which local and global issues place limits on sustainable urban development, and identify mechanisms to improve the local and global governance of urban spaces.

Returning to Canada, ICCCASU 4 will capitalize on Canada's reputation for livable and diverse cities to promote Canadian expertise and to facilitate collaboration with Chinese and African organizations to build stronger, more sustainable and inclusive cities. As the conference will be held in Montreal, we'd like to highlight Quebec and emphasize opportunities for collaboration on projects with French-speaking countries in Africa.

- ICCCASU4 Logo



- ICCCASU4 Posters



LIVABLE CITIES 2021
iCCCASU



ICCCASU

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
CANADIAN, CHINESE & AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION
第四届中国、非洲和加拿大可持续发展国际会议

Join us in Montreal, Canada in May 2021
二零二一年五月相聚加拿大蒙特利尔

Organizers / 主办单位:

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ICCCASU

www.icccasu.org

- **ICCCASU4 Venue:** McGill University, Montreal, Canada
- **ICCCASU4 Dates:** May 19-22, 2021
- **Conference Languages:** English and French

The Newsletter prepared by ICCCASU Secretariat and edited by Prof. Benjamin Gianni, ICCCASU Vice-President; Visiting PhD student Chan Xiao, Special Assistant of President.

For more information about ICCCASU, please
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