

ICCCASU Roundtable was held successfully at WUF-11 in Katowice, Poland

After months of planning and organizing, ICCCASU roundtable "Urban Transformation in Socialist and Post-Socialist Countries in Response to the Pandemic: Lessons Learned" was successfully held at the 11th World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland on June 28, 2022. The international think-tank of ICCCASU (International Council on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization) is a joint initiative between UN-Habitat and the University of Ottawa, and expanded since to a consortium of several Canadian, Chinese, African universities, and NGOs, led by Professor Huhua Cao from Geography Department (for the details, please visit at <https://icccasu2021.org/>).

The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on the spatial-social structure of cities and brought about numerous socio-economic changes. This session focusses on the role and effectiveness of government intervention in socialist and post-socialist countries with respect to addressing health issues, speeding economic recovery, etc. Scholars have observed the adoption of top-down practices including lockdowns, curfews, tax relief, stimulus packages, rent and mortgage relief, etc. Comparing these with bottom-up strategies can provide insights on the nature and effectiveness of governance at various levels.

The opening ceremony was co-hosted by Dr. Claude Ngomsi, Programme Management Officer Regional Representation for Africa at UN-Habitat, and Prof. Cezar Morar, Associate Professor at the University of Oradea, Romania. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Rong Yang, Inter-regional Advisor Regional Programmes Division of UN-Habitat; Olivier Dehoorne, Professor at Université des Antilles, Martinique and Ilies Alexandru, Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Tourism and Sport at the University of Oradea.

The roundtable discussion session following the opening ceremony was delivered by

Chair Professor John Zacharias at Peking University (China), Professor Ewa Korcelli-Olejniczak from Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw (Poland), Professor Aleksandar Valjarević from the University of Belgrade (Serbia), Professor Gyula Nagy from the University of Szeged (Hungary), and Professor Kh Md Nahiduzzaman from University of British Columbia Okanagan (Canada). Professor Benjamin Gianni from Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University and Professor Cezar Morar jointly chaired this discussion session.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the roundtable was a resounding success thanks to our participants (see all details about this roundtable at <https://icccasu2021.org/wuf-icccasu-roundtable/>). The ICCASU organizing committee is welcoming more experts and scholars to join ICCASU5 next year!