

Association of Pacific Rim Universities Program Report 2020



APRU
Sustainable Cities
& Landscapes



Sustainable Cities and Landscapes



2019 APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Hub Annual Report

About the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Hub

The mission of the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (SCL) Hub is to advance the sustainability of human societies, focusing on the relationship of the cities and landscapes across the Pacific Rim. We seek to enhance landscape-level sustainability and resilience in the face of continued expansion of cities and the stressors of climate change, resource depletion, population growth, human health, and environmental degradation.

In November 2016, the University of Oregon (UO) began to implement the newly approved APRU SCL Hub when we convened an international steering committee with representatives from eight universities in Portland, Oregon. The charge of the international steering committee at that meeting was to develop a set of guiding principles for the work of the hub, and to establish a process for hosting a series of annual conferences that would serve as a focal activity for building the intellectual agenda of the hub. In September 2017, the hub included eleven partner universities from across the Pacific Rim: University of Oregon (UO), University of Washington (UW), University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH), University of Chile, Tsinghua University (THU), National Taiwan University (NTU), University of Hong Kong (HKU), University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia National University (ANU), and University of Auckland (Figure 1). In 2018, four universities joined the Hub and include the University of the Philippines (UP), Korea University (KU), Tec de Monterrey (TEC), and National University of Singapore (NUS). Last year in 2019, Nanjing University joined the APRU SCL Hub network. The APRU SCL Hub is currently guided by sixteen leading research universities from around the Pacific Rim.

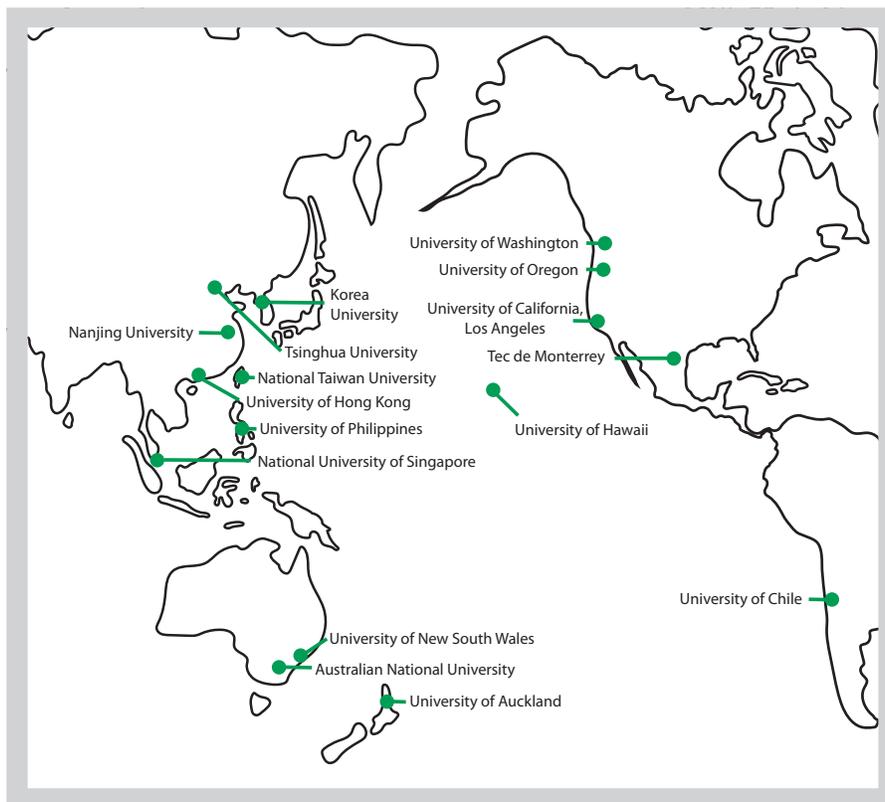


Figure 1. Members of the Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Hub.

At the first meeting, the Hub presented a conceptual model that articulated the defining idea of the Hub – the relationships of cities and their local and regional landscapes across key dimensions of sustainability (Figure 2).

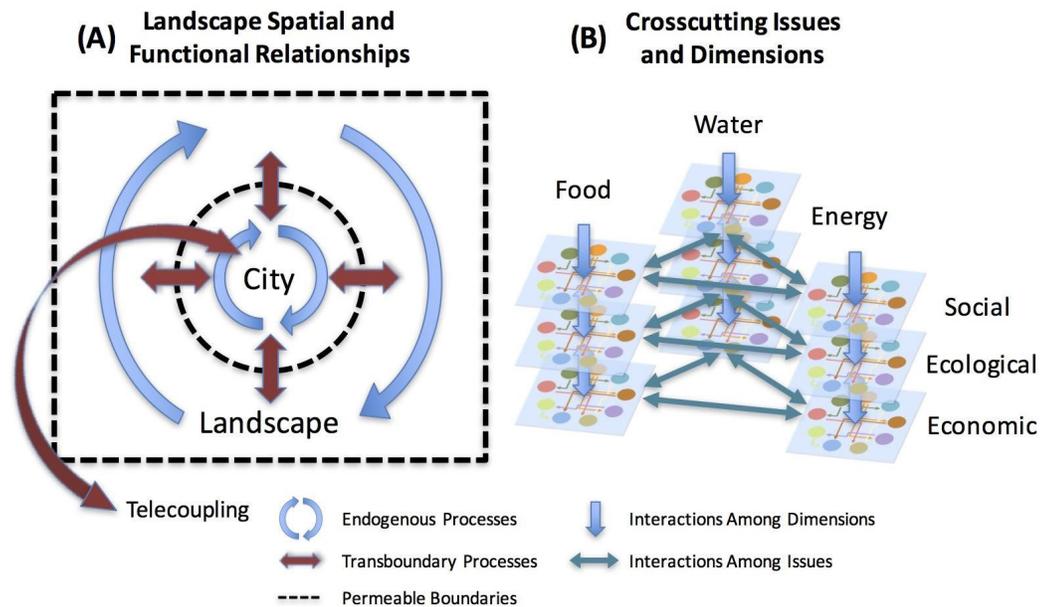


Figure 2. Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conceptual Model. (A) The interactions between cities and their landscapes are characterized by cross-scalar, functional and spatially situated relationships among processes. (B) These processes include interactions among different issues, for example food, water and energy, each with their own topologies of social, ecological and economic networks.

The international steering committee members agreed upon the following four **guiding principles** for the Hub and the annual conferences:

We want our work to be transformative. Despite being a research Hub, our inquiry is intended to lead to on-the-ground changes, which require engagement of researchers, stakeholders, practitioners, businesses, government, and NGOs.

We strive toward broad and diverse understanding of sustainability. The Hub provides an opportunity to explore both the concept of sustainability and the different issues and goals derived from unique geopolitical contexts.

We seek broad geopolitical representation across the Pacific Rim. This representation is geographic, cultural, socioeconomic, and ecological. Sustainability must be achieved globally across cities, nations, and continents.

We will address the needs of underrepresented communities and vulnerable populations. In particular, we will do so to contribute to the alleviation of poverty and inequality within marginalized populations and places.

2019 Goals & Objectives

1. Continue the hub's core activities through the planned series of annual conferences
 - 1.1. Successfully host the 2019 Conference in Sydney, Australia
 - 1.2. Facilitate first APRU SCL Student Conference Competition
 - 1.3. Disseminate the 2018 conference outcomes
 - 1.4. Strengthen working groups, engaging new university members

- 1.5. Update the 2018 SCL Handbook proposal being submitted to Routledge
 - 1.6. Organize abstracts from 2018 conference to prepare for editing
2. Increase Hub awareness, advocacy and policy impacts
 - 2.1. Raise awareness of the SCL Hub through social media and press releases
 - 2.2. Engage with practitioners, policy makers, and professional organizations to assess how to develop hub presence and impacts
 - 2.3. Define position statements from current and past Working Group leaders for use on the web site and outreach.
 - 2.4. Establish sub-committees within the Steering Committee dedicated to building on advocacy, fundraising, and strengthening the core of the working groups
3. Build financial solvency for the Hub
 - 3.1. Initiate an Advocacy Workshop at the APRU SCL Conference in Sydney
 - 3.2. Search for other funding opportunities

Major Activities & Accomplishments

2019 APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference at the University of New South Wales

The third APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes 2019 Conference, hosted by the University of New South Wales from August 29th – September 1st, 2019 provided a forum for seventy-eight researchers, educators, students and practitioners. A third of the conference participants were Ph.D., graduate, and undergraduate students. Twenty-four universities attended the conference and representatives from government and NGO agencies were represented from around the Pacific Rim to explore and develop new understandings and to collaborate on research-based responses to sustainability issues relating to cities and landscapes.

Delegates, who included architects, landscape architects, urban designers, planners, environmental scientists, engineers etc., drew upon their diverse experience from fourteen different regions and cultures. In exploring the pressing sustainability challenges between cities and their surrounding landscapes, discussions were focused around initiatives and likely agents of change that will be required to achieve healthy and vital urban communities and environments. This year Working Groups advanced their research studies and agendas to identify specific actions including research papers, book chapters, and projects. The conference framework included developing greater impact and engagement for establishing a platform for strategic direction for the Hub. New programming included a public-facing opening event, a student ideas competition, strategic Advocacy Workshop, a planning session, and a modest registration fee.



APRU SCL 2019 Conference delegates at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Advocacy Workshop and First Working Group/Steering Committee Meeting

Prior to the main conference opening, the first Steering Committee meeting of the Conference took place in morning at the Red Centre Building. During this meeting the Steering Committee started with welcome and introductions. Yizhao Yang and Anne Taufen gave updates on the editing of the APRU SCL Handbook. The Steering Committee talked about setting the timing and intentions for the conference structure and focus for the upcoming year.

Following the meeting and after a hosted lunch, the Steering Committee reconvened for a four-hour Advocacy Workshop led by Tim Arnold, CEO of the Australian Institute for Landscape Architects. This engaging Workshop invited the Steering Members to think critically about the SCL Hub's identity, the work that we do, the impact we make, and how to share our rich resources and network with the world and other potential partnerships.



The Working Group Leaders and Steering Committee meet on Thursday, September 29th for a first meeting of the conference and to participate in an Advocacy Workshop led by Ted Arnold, CEO of AILA. Yizhao Yang, Professor, University of Oregon gives updates on the timeline of the APRU SCL Handbook she is co-editing (left).

A key outcome of the meeting is the establishment of an SCL Hub Advocacy Committee, which has been meeting quarterly with Adam DeHeer and Sara Padgett Kjarsgaard co-chairing the committee. Members also include Jennifer Amparo, Steering Committee Member, University of the Philippines Los Banos and Hongyang Wang, Steering Committee Member, Nanjing University. They have been working on building capacity for the Hub by developing messaging ideas and developing framework diagrams.

Opening and Cities and Refugees Student Design Ideas Competition

Conference registration opened Thursday, August 29th at the Colombo House at UNSW. Bruce Watson, Deputy Dean, UNSW gave opening remarks for the conference and introduced Brett Moore, Chief, Shelter and Settlements, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moore's lecture, "Cities and Refugees: Complexity and Conflict" presented opportunities for planners and designers to engage with the complex challenges refugees experience in the urban contexts. Moore's lecture tied nicely with the theme of the first global student ideas competition held in parallel with the APRU SCL Conference. The Cities and Refugees Student Design Ideas Competition was presented by Professor David Sanderson. Sanderson shared context and critique for the work and announced the student winners. This opportunity increased student engagement throughout the conference. Twenty-eight entries were received from fifteen different countries. Three competition winners and three honourable mentions were announced at the public event following Brett Moore's presentation. A cocktail reception followed the awards ceremony to welcome to the public, students, and conference delegates. This competition was also hosted by the Rapid Urbanisation Grand Challenge at UNSW, with Australian Red Cross, ARUP International Development, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



Christina Schoenleber, APRU Secretariat; Professor David Sanderson, UNSW; and Linda Corkery, Professor, UNSW meet during the reception following the Global Ideas Student Competition Awards Ceremony (left). Brette Moore, Chief, Shelter and Settlements, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presents on the issues facing refugees in urban environments and room for design (right).

On Friday, August 30th, registration continued and the Opening Session took place in the Roundhouse, the main gathering event space for the Conference. Auntie Maxine Ryan opened the day with a powerful and personal Welcome to Country. APRU Secretariat, Christina Schoenleber, Director of Policy and Programs; Professor Bart Johnson, Steering Committee Chair; and Professor Michael Ostwald, Associate Dean of Research at UNSW all offered warm welcomes that morning.

Plenary Themes: Indigenous History and Current Issues Facing Sydney

Friday morning keynote speakers gave an important context for the indigenous history and current issues relating to social, environmental, and planning issues for Sydney. Professor Emerita Heather Goodall, UTS Sydney talk was “Sydney: Dharug land, transnational city” sharing about Sydney’s transnational and environmental history. Roderick Simpson, Environment Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission and Adjunct Professor, UNSW spoke about conceptual plans for reshaping Sydney’s metropolitan areas into three cities based on their distinctive landscape characteristics. Nicola Pullan, Researcher at UNSW, shared about the context of place in her talk “The Iconic Roundhouse.”



Following Welcome to Country, Auntie Maxine Ryan and Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, APRU SCL Co-organizer and Lecturer, UNSW (left). Roderick Simpson, Adjust Professor, UNSW offers insight to complex planning issues facing Sydney (center). Jacinta McCann, Global Design Advisor for AECOM sharing the importance of tying academic research tied industry (right).

Saturday and Sunday keynote sessions addressed opportunities for research partnership and engagement from industry, non-profit and academic perspectives. Jacinta McCann, Global Design Advisor for AECOM, gave a talk on industry perspectives and encouraged research to practice knowledge transfer. The talk on community-led partnerships between the Dharriwaa Elders Group and groups at UNSW was led by Peta MacGillivray, UNSW and Wendy Spencer, Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) moderated by Sara Padgett

Kjaersgaard, UNSW. The second panel explored themes around building international research links with Professor Dennis Galvan, Vice Provost for International Affairs, UO; Professor Bart Johnson, SCL Steering Committee Chair, UO; Che O'May, UNSW Senior International Research Development Network Manager; Christine Kueh, UNSW, Built Environment Research Unit; and Kate Bishop, UNSW Built Environment / Landscape Architecture. The second panel was moderated by Catherine Evans, UNSW.



Peta MacGillivray, UNSW and Wendy Spencer, Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) moderated by Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, UNSW share about community-led partnership in the local community (left). Afternoon panel discussion on fundraising and student engagement moderated by Catherine Evans, Senior Lecturer, UNSW (right).

Planning Dinner

Friday evening was self-organized for conference delegates to independently experience Sydney. New to the conference this year was a planning dinner hosted by UNSW at the UNSW Staff Lounge. The planning dinner meeting invited past, current, and future conference organizers as well as the APRU Secretariat and APRU SCL Hub team at the University of Oregon. Future conference hosts on the Steering Committee were in attendance from the University of Auckland and University of Hawaii, Mānoa. This meeting served as a time to critique the structure of conferences and strategize for aims, logistics, and support for the next two conferences. Main discussion points included finances, conference framework, best approaches for student engagement and processes for Working Groups.



UNSW hosts a lovely and productive planning meeting for APRU SCL Hub and conference organizers (left). Conference delegates enjoying the entertainment highlight during the Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise Saturday evening (center). Conference delegates meet between sessions for tea time (right).

Conference Entertainment Highlight: Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise

Saturday evening, after the fifth Working Group session in total and the third session of the day, conference delegates gathered to depart on coach busses for the Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise from King Street Wharf in Darling Harbour. It was a magical evening sailing through the harbour with local seafood fair. The dinner cruise brought delegates under the iconic Sydney Bridge and along Bangaroo Park, and the surrounding city in its twinkling lights. Seeing Sydney from the perspective of the harbour was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and truly impressive evening.

Final Day: Concluding Meeting, Reflection, and Cocktail Send-off

The second Steering Committee Meeting took place on Sunday, September 1st. This breakfast meeting brought together Steering Committee Members and Working Group leaders. During the meeting, fundraising strategies, student engagement, the SCL Handbook, Advocacy Sub-Committee, and details were shared for the Auckland Conference for the upcoming year.

The final plenary session took place after a hosted lunch. Professor Errol Haarhoff, University of Auckland announced that the University of Auckland will be hosting the 2020 conference from September 3rd – September 6th, 2020 with the addition of a one-day Ph.D. Student Symposium. UNSW concluded the conference with farewell drinks and an extended toast.



Steering Committee Members and Working Group Leaders met for a breakfast meeting on the final day of the conference to discuss strategies for the year.

Eleven Working Groups

In 2019, the themes of working groups continued to draw upon the research and collaboration from the initial conferences. The Food and Nutrition Security Group was a new addition to the Working Groups this year. The Working Groups continued to investigate a wide range of converging issues such as sustainable urban design, urban agriculture, biodiversity, energy, transportation, water systems, sanitation, urban growth management and waterfront development (see following titles). Sixty percent of Working Group participants were new to the group for this conference. Due to the lower number of delegates at this conference, three Working Groups united: Infrastructural ecologies, Urban biodiversity and Urban-rural linkages. There were six working group sessions across two days of the conference. The back-to-back structure allowed Working Groups to engage in tours if they wished to see relevant project sites around Sydney.

1. Sustainable urban design
2. Vulnerable communities
3. Food and nutrition security
4. Transitions in urban waterfronts
5. Landscape and human health
6. Urban renewable energy
7. Infrastructural ecologies
8. Smart cities
9. Urban biodiversity
10. Water and wastewater
11. Urban-rural linkages

Each group had up to fifteen members. Ten of the groups had met last year, and most were able to reform under the same leadership but with the addition of new Working Group leaders. The Water and Wastewater Working Group was composed of a combination of practitioners working in the field of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) based in Lima, Peru and current students in landscape architecture and international studies. There were exciting connections made from the panel discussions. For example, during one of the Working Group sessions, Peta MacGillivray, UNSW and Wendy Spencer, Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) were able to visit with the Waste and Wastewater Group and share about their work planted on a nearby rooftop and possible future working collaborations.

Working groups met in a series of closed-door sessions across the three days of the conference within and outside of the newly renovated Round House to discuss and develop their ideas. A majority of delegates of the Working Groups gave short presentations during Working Group sessions to exchange ideas and identify alignment on topics for working together. The excursions and site visits were useful ways for people to interact outside of their Working Groups and to understand sustainability issues in Sydney.

Following the morning tea and first Working Group session on the final day of the conference was an optional “Cross-Pollinator Session” which brought interested Working Groups together to collaborate to talk about issues through a facilitated discussion. After lunch, each working group leader presented a summary of their discussions and progress throughout the conference. During the presentations, one of the Working Groups expressed alignment with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which has inspired a shift in Working Groups expressing their focus with the SDGs moving forward with future conferences.



Working Groups met over six sessions throughout the conference to exchange ideas within their topic (left). The cross-pollinator brought several Working Groups together to identify relationship across groups (right).

APRU SCL Handbook

Yizhao Yang, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Oregon and Anne Taufen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Washington, Tacoma have continued to lead as Co-Editors of the APRU SCL Handbook. Yang and Taufen presented their work to the Steering Committee during each planning meeting at the Conference. The SCL Handbook demonstrates the wide-reaching and in-depth work generated from the first three APRU SCL conferences. The Handbook serves to build and expand the knowledge of the Hub over the course of each annual conference with an aim to influence transformative changes. Three main themes have been identified: Cities and Landscape Connections; Equitable Development; and Global Climate Change. Eight topic-based sections have been identified and the chapters of the book link with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Section Editors are following templates to ensure that the Handbook has a clear and consistent structure. Each section contains a framing chapter, conceptual foundation, case studies, and white-paper chapter with six to eight chapters per section. The Handbook contract with Routledge was signed last year and is set to be launched in June of 2021.

Asia - Pacific Mayors Academy

The APRU SCL commenced our partnership with the Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific spearheaded by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and UNESCAP, UN-HABITAT, and United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC). The program launched on October 15th, 2019 at the Asia-Pacific Forum in Penang, Malaysia and ran until December 2020. In February 2020 participating mayors presented proposed work plans at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi.

Jennifer Amparo, Steering Committee Leader and Yizhao Yang, Working Group Leader of the Urban-Rural Linkages Working Group and Co-Editor of the forthcoming APRU SCL Handbook of the APRU SCL Hub went to Bangkok, Thailand earlier in December on behalf of the APRU SCL Hub to lead training workshops at the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy in Bangkok, Thailand. They both served as Resource Speakers working directly with new mayors in the Asia-Pacific region. The training sessions offered new tools, strategies, and models to support leaders committed to sustainable urban development in achieving SDGs in 2030. Through cooperation and team-building generated between city leaders at the Academy, the Academy provides a robust framework for sustainable planning and on short-term and medium-term scales. This uniquely positioned training program and network would not have materialized without the initiative of Christina Schoenleber, Director of Policy and Programs of APRU and Yekang Ko, Program Director of the APRU SCL Hub. Many thanks for their efforts in making this partnership happen.



Jennifer Amparo, Assistant Professor, Social Development Services, University of the Philippines Los Banos, and Yizhao Yang, Associate Professor, Asian Studies, Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon offer training sessions to support sustainable planning for new mayors in the Asia Pacific Region during the Asia - Pacific Mayors Academy in Bangkok, Thailand.

Online Presence: Social Media and Website

Following the APRU SCL 2019 Conference in Sydney and Workshop with Tim Arnold, the SCL Hub saw the need to identify with a stronger sense of branding in our communications. We have established a Mailchimp account which serves as our main communication for reaching our audience and building consistent templates for which emails are disseminated. This helps create visual consistency in our emails and also helps track and organize SCL constituents. The SCL aims to reach greater audiences by publishing original and representative content of the Hub on social media platforms which include Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. During the conference, fifty-three unique pieces of content were shared across various social media platforms which resulted in 344 individual levels of engagement. The APRU SCL Hub website has been updated with a new page dedicated to our Declaration of Climate Emergency and Call to Action, courtesy of Bart Johnson. The statement was set to be delivered during the COP 25 Conference in Chile, however was canceled due to political unrest. The Hub continues to host a main conference page with updated information about the annual conference. This page links to the main conference website hosted by the University of Auckland created in partnership with the Future Cities Research Hub.

2020 Goals & Objectives

1. Continue the Hub's core activities through the planned series of annual conferences
 - 1.1. Successfully host the 2020 conference in Auckland, New Zealand or digitally
 - 1.1.1. Plan the conference with flexibility to accommodate for unprecedented challenges during COVID-19 and other associated challenges
 - 1.2. Facilitate first APRU SCL Ph.D. Student Symposium as part of the annual conference
 - 1.3. Connect and engage members in our network: working groups, steering committee, university members, and students through greater communication methods
 - 1.4. Support to the APRU SCL Handbook development
 - 1.5. Disseminate the 2019 conference outcomes
2. Increase hub awareness, advocacy and policy impacts
 - 2.1. Raise awareness of the SCL hub through social media and press releases
 - 2.2. Engage with the Mayors Academy and with other international programs
 - 2.2. Engage with practitioners, policy makers, and professional organizations to assess how to develop hub presence and impacts
 - 2.3. Show alignment of Working Group themes with Sustainable Development Goals
 - 2.4. Establish sub-committees within the steering committee dedicated to building on advocacy such as the Advocacy Committee, fundraising, and strengthening the core of the working groups
 - 2.5. Support members of our network during periods of unrest.
 - 2.6. Work closely with APRU programs to showcase partnership and shared value
3. Build financial solvency for the hub
 - 3.1. Host a second Advocacy Workshop at the APRU SCL Conference in Auckland
 - 3.2. Search for other funding opportunities

Major Activities Planned for 2020



Errol Haarhoff, Professor of Architecture at the University of Auckland announces the fourth annual APRU SCL Conference set to take place at the University of Auckland, in Auckland, New Zealand in 2020.

2020 APRU SCL Conference and Ph.D. Student Symposium at the University of Auckland in Auckland, New Zealand

The 2020 APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference will be held at the University of Auckland in Auckland, New Zealand. Building on the success of the first three conferences, this conference will continue to be structured around working group sessions, plenary sessions involving eminent international and regional speakers and panelists, while adding and a Ph.D. Student Symposium. The conference continues to be open to the public and will facilitate local excursions book-ending the conference.

The conference will continue the Working Group framework, agendas, and commitment to academic publication, and the Advocacy Workshop. Importantly, the conference will maintain its emphasis on integration across the Working Group themes and show alignment with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. New Working Groups to the conference this year include Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom; Children, Youth, and the Environment, and special consideration will be given to COVID-19 and pandemic. The conference aims to bring people together from diverse geopolitical backgrounds, disciplines, and paradigms from around the Asia-Pacific region.

The Ph.D. Student Symposium will take place on Thursday, September 3rd, 2020. The one-day Symposium will provide Ph.D. students with opportunities to present their research work related to the topics of the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Hub (SCL) and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will receive high quality feedback and will have the opportunity to participate in the broader conversations of the APRU SCL Working Groups during the entire conference. This will enable doctoral candidates to interact and network with eminent researchers from the APRU SCL network.

The University of Oregon's Global Studies Institute aligns the UO Student Travel Award to the preliminary deliverables required for the Ph.D. call for paper submission. This award supports the studies of University of Oregon students and Ph.D. research which exhibit alignment with the Working Group themes and United Nation Sustainable Development Goals.

Due to COVID-19, the SCL Hub is currently in conversation with figuring out how to adapt the conference in alignment with current needs. The APRU SCL Conference will likely be pushed to December and has the potential to be an online, digital conference if COVID-19 continues to interrupt the possibility of large gatherings.

Student Exchange

With increased student engagement during the APRU SCL 2019 Conference, the Steering Committee has been considering a possible student exchange program. The Hub may initially focus on working with the exchange of Ph.D. students as there is more flexibility in the timing of coursework. There are currently many programs in place with students studying abroad and the network of the SCL Hub is interested in exploring this opportunity further as exchange and travel become possible with the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quotes from key leaders and partners

"We are thinking probably not of just one part of a solution for all. That is a how to see a paradigm shift as a holistic approach – how to synergize all the things together." – Hongyang Wang, Professor, School of Architecture and Urban Planning

"From this conference, what is different with the APRU SCL, is it is really concrete what you can bring to the table and bring back to the University as well as the network itself. It is such an exciting, vibrant Hub." - Jennifer Amparo, Assistant Professor, Social Development Services, University of the Philippines, Los Banos

"We're looking to create transformative change across sustainable cities and landscapes within the Asia-Pacific region." -Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard, Lecturer and 2019 Co-Conference Organizer and Host, University of New South Wales

Current Steering Committee



Jennifer Amparo

Assistant Professor, Social
Development Services
University of the Philippines
Los Banos



Chun-Yen Chang

Professor, Horticulture and
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Jinhyung Chon

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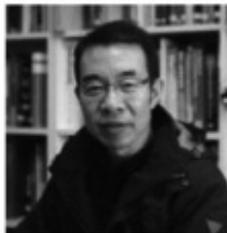
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