



The South African  
Council *for* Planners  
S A C P L A N

# SACPLAN Bulletin

e-Newsletter for the South African Council for Planners

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- ◆ SACPLAN Celebrates World Town Planning Day
- ◆ World Town Planning Day Online Conference 2011— Going Public: Spaces in our Communities
- ◆ SACPLAN LinkedIn Group is growing
- ◆ Standards and Competency Generating for the Planning Profession
- ◆ Professional Designation changed
- ◆ Information on Municipal Boundaries

## SACPLAN's VISION

To pioneer the founding spirit of innovation in the facilitation of sustainable and inclusive development in the planning profession.



## SACPLAN Celebrates World Town Planning Day

8 November

World Town Planning Day is celebrated around the world each November 8. It is a special day to recognise and promote the role of planning in creating livable communities. It is on this day that SACPLAN wants to invite you to join hands to celebrate this day and to reiterate it's Motto: Reinvent Planning, Changing Lives.

The international organization for World Town Planning Day (WTPD) was founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires to advance public and professional interest in planning, both locally and abroad. WTPD began to be observed in many countries 30 to 40 years ago.

SACPLAN would like to wish all Planners a wonderful and fruitful World Town Planning Day.

**SACPLAN Motto:**  
*Reinvent Planning, Changing Lives*

# World Town Planning Day Online Conference 2011

## Going Public: Spaces in our Communities



This year's World Town Planning Online Conference 2011 was held on 1—2 November 2011.

The theme for the Conference was "Going Public: Spaces in our Communities".

Around the world, across all parts of society, both population growth and decline are increasing the pressure on public spaces to serve more roles and functions than ever before. Historically, the public plaza was to be a place where people could meet, hear from their leaders, share ideas, and trade. The basic premise is still the same; however, we are placing more and more pressure on these types of public spaces by increasing the intensity of these uses. Not only that, but these types of uses and activities are starting to be accommodated in areas such as footpaths, school playgrounds, roadsides, and parks. Where once each of these types of spaces served a specific purpose, they are now required to be multi-purpose, hence we need to design them differently, and we have far more people activities we have to consider. In addition, public spaces are also being used as economic development tools to bring positive change to areas beyond their boundaries and revitalize urban areas in which population and economic activity have declined.

The purpose of this conference was to bring together ideas from around the world, about how we are planning for, and designing our public spaces to be even more public, as well as supplement for less private space.

Some of the issues and themes that came up from the keynote address by Alison Brown were the following:

- Shaping public space is a **right**. Decisions on public space must respond to local **need** and derive from local **negotiation** – the public should have a say in the use of space, a '**place at the table**' in the negotiations, and a say in budgeting.
- Countries like Brazil which have incorporated the Right to the City into national law are *streets ahead* of the rest of us.
- The boundaries of public space are sometimes soft or **fuzzy**.
- Those who regulate public space planners among them) are a crucial **bridge** between users and politicians.
- People using public space for trading add **vitality** as well as generating income; they can make places feel safe - and be safe.
- People don't set out to flout the rules: they find themselves in a position where the only way they can earn a living involves breaking the law. Planners can help by to designing systems where people can operate legally in a particular regulatory

context, whether that is tight or loose regulation.

This was the third year the Planning Fraternity have worked together on this initiative and the first time that SACPLAN participated internationally.

The Partner Organizations were:

- American Planning Association's International Division
- Canadian Institute of Planners
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Commonwealth Association of Planners
- European Council of Spatial Planners-*Conseil européen des urbanistes*
- Federación Iberoamericana de Urbanistas
- Hong Kong Institute of Planners
- Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
- International Federation for Housing and Planning
- New Zealand Planning Institute
- Planning Institute of Australia
- Royal Town Planning Institute
- South African Council for Planners



## SACPLAN LinkedIn Group is growing

A SACPLAN LinkedIn group was established aimed at professional networking among registered planners, to serve as a discussion forum, to facilitate the sharing of experiences, views and opinions between young and mature professionals, and a platform for the seeking of advice.

### Current discussions include:

- Ten Tips for New Planners (Planetizen posting)
- "Important Legal Issues for Provincial Legislation Dealing with Spatial Planning and Land Use" - a SACN's discussion document.
- KZN Planning and Development Act (PDA) Amendment Bill now available
- Geographical Name Changes Gazetted
- SDF Guidelines Draft Version 8 Now Available
- The KZN Provincial Growth and Development Strategy

This LinkedIn group is open to Professional, Technical and Candidate Planners registered with SACPLAN. This is a place where Planners can link up with possible mentors.

Invitations have been sent out to all members that have returned their Schedule of Personal forms. If you have received such an invitation please accept to become part of this interactive professional network.

The group has grown in membership and currently has 161 members.

If you are not a member yet please use the link provided and submit a request. When submitting your request please include your registration number and email address as this will assist in approving your request.

The link to the SACPLAN LinkedIn Group is [http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3851414&trk=myg\\_ugrp\\_ovr](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3851414&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr)

# STANDARDS AND COMPETENCY GENERATING FOR THE PLANNING PROFESSION

## The SACPLAN initiated a process to develop Standards and Competencies for the Planning Profession.

The purpose of the process is to make sure that practices, skills, knowledge and related policies in the country respond effectively to the planning needs of the profession.

Competency standards are essential for the following:

- To describe knowledge, skills and attributes required for practice by an individual planner.
- To assess of the knowledge, expertise and capacities of an individual practitioner required for regulating entry and ongoing membership within the profession.
- To provide a valuable source of information to the "consumers" of the professional planning services.
- To assure the public of professional, accountable and ethical practice.
- To provide guidance to the design and delivery of appropriate educational curricula, practice and continuous professional learning programmes for the planning profession.
- To facilitate the establishment of minimum for education and experience on all categories of Planning (from entry level to the professional level of practice and the profession for those considering / having a career in planning).
- To inform the process of evaluation of educational programming for accreditation purposes.
- To provide a basis for the mutual recognition of competency across borders (for the SADC region, or the whole of Africa) and the development of international reciprocal arrangements, and the

transportability of professional credentials.

## Professional Designation changed

It has been found that a number of Registered Professional Planners are still using the designation TRP(SA).

Please note that the Council on its meeting of 12 November 2010 resolved as follows:

- That the title/designation for **Professional Planners** be **Pr. Pln** with the registration number e.g. **Pr. Pln A/12/2011**
- That the title/designation for **Technical Planners** be **Tch. Pln** with the registration number e.g. **Tch. Pln B/123/2011**

All Registered persons are reminded to take note of the new designation that must be used.

## Information on Municipal Boundaries

If you require information on municipal boundaries and /or ward boundaries, this information can be downloaded from the Municipal Demarcation Board's website at [www.demarcation.org.za](http://www.demarcation.org.za). Alternatively an email can be forwarded to [info@demarcation.org.za](mailto:info@demarcation.org.za).

**The individual opinions raised in the newsletter is not that of SACPLAN or its Council Members**

## Call for Articles

SACPLAN Bulletin urge all registered persons to contribute to this newsletter and to share interesting news, dates, facts, happenings, projects, etc. regarding planning and development issues.



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**For Contributions to the SACPLAN Bulletin**

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