



Event Details

Title of Event

Beyond informality: Informal settlements as contemporaneous urban heritage

Organization Details

Organization: Universidade de Aveiro

Organization Country: Portugal

Summary

It is known the impact that informal urbanization has in the urban world, representing the housing supply for a significant part of the world's population. This is a global phenomenon, composed by many regional and national declinations, as the result of the combination of different locations, typologies, housing standards and governance arrangements. In this variety of settings, emerge two types of settlements to which we would like to draw our attention. The first type corresponds to those settlements which, despite of being recently created, are the result of built codes that residents carry from their rural origins. The second type regards rural villages that were recently absorbed by urban sprawl. In both cases, they are rooted in strong unwritten codes, which are in risk. In fact, those informal settlements risk eviction with which governments try to deal with informality. However, by doing so, several social rules embodied in these unwritten codes risk to disappear, affecting a relevant segment of our cities' cultural heritage. Research presentations regarding examples in Indonesia, Malaysia and India will focus on social values and urban codes on informal settlements. Urban heritage currently faces intensified urban problems as a result of rapid population growth, economic development and population growth. The introduction of new townships at the edge of many historic cities has exposed them to severe pressure of commercialization, poor design and cultural uniformity that has faded away their place identity. Thus, regeneration initiatives should be introduced to restore the wealth of the prestigious past of the historic cities and to improve the lifestyle of its population, as the vibrancy of a heritage site is only significant when its original community remains. Cases in south and southeast Asia will be discussed, underlying the contribution of informal settlements for the urban fabric. By developing this line of thinking we are one step away from recognising the cultural value of some informal settlements as one of the urban features of globalised economies in the XX/XXI centuries – the same way we recognise nowadays the heritage value of working-class neighborhoods of the industrial revolution – the kampongs in Bandung, Indonesia and Penang, Malaysia and urban sites chosen under the pilot Inclusive City Development Programs in India, supported by World Bank and Ministry of Urban Development in India.

Other Organization name

Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)

	First Name	Last Name	Role	Organization
1	Sri	Maryati	Presenter / speaker	Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
2	Narimah	Samat	Speaker	Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
3	Mohammad Javad	Maghsoodi Tilaki	Speaker	Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
4	Saswat	Bandyopadhyay	Speaker	CEPT University, India
5	Paulo	Silva	Speaker	University of Aveiro, Portugal
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