WUF 10 NETWORKING EVENT NE 104
REGISTRATION CODES: PUZERTC-1 PUZPMFE-1

PUBLIC SPACE IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA:
New Research Findings, Strategies, and Tools;
New Research into Practice for Pilot Projects

TIME: Tuesday, 11 February, 16:30-18:30; PLACE: Hall 2, Room 4

This session will explore new research findings, strategies, and tools on the importance of public space, its creation and maintenance, and current threats and opportunities. It will then examine research into practice for pilot projects, tapping into extensive partnership networks in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

"Cities of opportunity" - this year’s theme of the World Urban Forum - reminds us how cities facilitate connections between diverse people and resources, and thereby generate opportunities for all to develop and prosper in economic, health and cultural dimensions. Public spaces are emerging as the essential urban platform on which these connections between people and resources develop.

New research shows that public spaces are supplemented by, but not replaced by, other more private forms of contact, which tend to reinforce already existing connections. By contrast, public spaces play a role in “propinquity and serendipity” which are emerging as key drivers of innovation and opportunity. Cities for all, by definition, must offer public space (including streets and other spaces) for all. In this session we will ask, what is the role of public space in fostering innovation, creativity, and opportunity for all? What is its role in promoting resilience and climate adaptation, and delivering on the other goals of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals? What are the tools and resources that are available to achieve these goals, and how can they be advanced (and further developed) through pilot projects?

First Roundtable on “New Tools and Strategies for Public Space” (moderated by Michael Mehaffy, Ax:son Johnson Foundation and Centre for the Future of Places, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden):
Andrew Rudd, Urban Environment Officer, UN-Habitat, New York, USA
Luis Bettencourt, Pritzker Director, Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago, USA
Luisa Bravo, Founder and Editor in Chief, The Journal of Public Space, City Space Architecture, Italy
Setha Low, Distinguished Professor, Public Space Research Group, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, USA

Second Roundtable on “New Public Space Pilot Projects” (moderated by Kyle Farrell, Board Member, Block By Block, Seoul, South Korea):
Hai Dinh Dang, Senior Project Officer, Livable Cities Project, HealthBridge (Vietnam/Asia)
Jon Kher Kaw, Leader, Urbanscapes Community-of-Practice Group, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA
Ayanda Roji, General Manager, Research, Policy and Knowledge Management, Johannesburg Parks, Johannesburg SA (South Africa/Africa)