



**Regional Studies Association China Conference 2015**  
**'Harmonious Development, Common Prosperity and the Transformation of Cities and Regions'**



**25th – 27th November 2015, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China**

The world in which we live is still riven by the effects of the economic crisis that started in 2007 and by a range of unresolved conflicts. The world has however started to change in many ways with in particular the economic rise and/or social progress in emerging economies. A new international architecture for political and economic cooperation is starting to take shape (not without disagreement and conflict in some cases) as new development banks are established by the BRICs and in East Asia, as the European Union expands eastwards, as regional cooperation arrangements evolve and as the United States embarks on a pivot to Asia.

These trends are underpinned by trends in comparative global regional and urban development, and are themselves changing the context in which urban and regional development occurs, posing a set of challenges to which cities and regions must respond. The rise of China is one of the main drivers of the reshaping of the world, although it faces challenges as it seeks to reform its model of development by promoting sustainable and more regionally balanced urbanization. This conference will take place in Hangzhou in eastern China which faces challenges of upgrading although it is already one of the leading centres for e-commerce in China.

The aim of this conference is to consider the ways in which (1) cities and regions throughout the world are facing up to and can adapt to these challenges, (2) cities and regions can help create an architecture and construct relationships that can contribute to the development of a world that is more harmonious (people-people and people nature) and capable of promoting common prosperity and (3) the map of economic and social development is consequently changing. Suggested submission themes are:

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| <i>International co-operation, infrastructure investment, finance and cross-border relationships (including the Silk Road Economic Belt' and the '21st Century Maritime Silk Road', internal and external EU borders)</i>  | <i>The role of universities, public research and technology diffusion and transfer in economic development</i> |
| <i>Sustainable urbanization and regional development</i>   | <i>Innovation and entrepreneurship</i>   |
| <i>Nature, resource scarcity climate change and regional development</i>   | <i>Methods of urban and regional analysis and data including open &amp; big data</i>                           |
| <i>Industrial policy, industrial structure, clusters, global value chains and production networks, smart specialization and spatial shift</i>  | <i>Regional and urban planning</i>   |
| <i>Trade, E-commerce, intellectual property and regional development</i>   | <i>Finance, financialization and regional and urban development</i>  |
| <i>Employment, labour markets and social inclusion</i>   | <i>Regional planning and policy</i>  |
| <i>Population dynamics, migration and urban and regional development</i>   | <i>Global production networks and international relations</i>  |
| <i>The social, institutional and ethical foundations of global development (including for example western Enlightenment ideas and ways of seeing urban and regional development, Confucian thought and East Asian models, developmental versus liberal states). Mutual respect, national independence, and urban and regional development. Universal theory versus the social and geographical specificity of development.</i> |  |

**Workshops in Mandarin**

The RSA is pleased to announce that there will be a limited number of workshops in Mandarin. We also encourage the submission of proposals for Special Sessions to be presented in Mandarin. RSA很高兴地宣布·大会将设有一定数量的普通话分会场·欢迎踊跃提交开设普通话分会场的提案·

**Confirmed Plenary Speakers include:**

- Professor George Lin, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, China
- Professor Ivan Turok, Human Science Research Council, South Africa
- Professor Henry Yeung, National University of Singapore, Singapore
- Professor Weidong Liu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- Professor Dadao Lu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

**Area Development and Policy**



*Area Development and Policy (ADP)*, a forthcoming RSA journal, is aimed at those writing in and on Greater BRICs territories and emerging economies and will be a world-class journal publishing original academic research examining the multi-scalar and geographically differentiated relationships between economic and political organisation, ways of life and work and their context, as they shape regions, cities, rural areas and their inter-relationships. For more details on the journal, please go to <http://bit.ly/1MTeP1B>

As part of the conference, *ADP* will be launched and the Editors Professors Weidong Liu and Michael Dunford will be present at the conference to discuss potential contributions to the journal.

**Conference organisation**

- Professor Mick Dunford, Chinese Academy of Science, China
- Professor Weidong Liu, Chinese Academy of Science, China