

# Activity Report of EASTS IRG (International Research Group)

Date of Submission:   1   /   8   /2008

## 1. IRG code and Name of IRG

- 1) IRG code: **IRG -05 - 2005**
- 2) Name of IRG: **Culturally sensitive pedestrian-centric philosophy to advancement of urban form in East Asia**

## 2. List of research members:

- 1) Upali Vandebona  
Senior Lecturer, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2) Hiroshi Tsukaguchi  
Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- 3) Hun-Young Jung  
Professor, Department of Urban Engineering, Pusan National University, Korea
- 4) Kuang-Yih Yeh  
Professor, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
- 5) Keiichi Ogawa  
Associate Professor, Ritsumeikan University, Japan
- 6) Hao-Ching Hsia,  
PhD Candidate, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
- 7) Shinji Sugihara,  
Chuo Consultants Co. Ltd., Japan
- 8) Kardi Teknomo,  
Hertha Firnberg Fellow, Austria
- 9) Iderlina Mateo-Babiano,  
Bandung, Indonesia
- 10) Yuya Tanaka,  
Ritsumeikan University, Japan

## 3. Purpose and Mission of IRG:

Walking is a transport mode of vital importance that plays an indispensable role in sustainable progress of the society. Development of attractive and functional public space consistent with natural tendencies of the local community requires an understanding of relevant cultural attributes of the population and the range of applicable planning concepts. This IRG is ambitious in its aim to attempt to supplement the research and planning community with guidelines specific to different East Asian cities to improve socio-cultural acceptance of urban change.

The IRG is formed to collaborate and provide leadership where necessary with researchers in this field of pedestrian transport in member countries to analyze and disseminate the cultural significance of natural pedestrian behavior with the view of developing meaningful planning guidelines. The inclusion of unique features of the heritage is important to ensure the long term sustainability and efficiency of urban developments. Specific outcomes of the IRG would be (a) the development of the research personal network, (b) holding a dedicated session in EASTS conferences, and (c) development of a planning philosophy that is sympathetic to cultural attributes of the local society.

#### **4. Past Achievements**

1) Paper, Report or Book: (Title, Authors, Year, Name of journal etc.)

Hiroshi Tsukaguchi, Upali Vandebona, Shinji Sugihara, and Kuang-Yih Yeh (2007) Comparison of Attitudes toward Walking in Japanese Cities, Journal of EASTS, Vol.7.

Iderlina Bueno Mateo-Babiano and Hitoshi Ieda: Street Space Sustainability in Asia (2007) The Role of the Asian Pedestrian and Street Culture, EASTS 2007. Dalian, China.

Hsia, H.C., and Yeh, K.Y. (2006) Comparative study on awareness of walking behaviour in Taiwanese cities, International conference organized by Ritsumeikan University and National Cheng Kung University (in Chinese).

Sugihara, S., and Tsukaguchi, H. (2005) Comparative study on awareness of walking behaviour in major Japanese cities, Paper presented at the annual conference of JSCE (in Japanese).

2) Seminar, Symposium or Special Session: (Title, Date, Venue & abstract)

A Special Technical Session was held during the EASTS 2007 Conference, 1-2.30 pm on 26 September 2007 at Dalian Maritime University.

3) Group meeting: (Date, Venue & abstract)

Group meetings were held in August 2007 in Taiwan to formulate a major research initiative. These meetings allowed the team to prepare a detailed research plan and design details of questionnaire surveys to be conducted in cities of Taichung and Chiai in Taiwan. Also, a significant amount of e-mail exchange was required between Professors Tsukaguchi and Jung to formulate and carry out a field survey in Pusan and Daegu in South Korea. These meetings and communication efforts of research team activities at different venues have ensured meaningful coordination of activities that relate to this IRG. As a result the design of field work carried out in the three countries has substantial similarities to enable ready comparison of field observations among countries. Preliminary analysis of field work is currently being carried out. Comparison of field observations has shown scope for noteworthy research findings.

4) Result of Application to other research funds: (Name & result)

No research grants specific to this theme at the moment. There are research grants achieved for pedestrian research lead by the Professors Yeh at National Cheng Kung University that allows team members from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Australia to actively collaborate.

5) Promotional activities of your IRG: (Home page, Newsletter, Mailing list etc.)

Two English language publications of group members have been sent to the EASTS website to be posted as 'information from IRG'. Currently group communications are carried out using email among the small group of active researchers with occasional meetings as opportunities arise.

**Will you continue your IRG activity in next term (after August 2008) ? [ YES ]**

→ If "YES", please answer the following questions.

**5. Future research plan including time frame with the following items:**

- Planned seminar, symposium etc. (Date & Venue)

A one day workshop seminar is planned for end of 2008 to review the progress for this year. The host university department has begun preliminary planning for the seminar.

Title: Seminar on pedestrian traffic planning based on culturally sensitive pedestrian-centric philosophy.

Date: December 2008 (Exact date to be determined)

Venue: Department of Urban planning, National Cheng-Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Addition to this, two further seminars on planning for pedestrian traffic based on the theme of "Culturally sensitive pedestrian-centric philosophy" are planned in Japan (host- Department of Civil Engineering, Ritsumeikan University) and Korea (host -Department of Urban Engineering, Pusan National University) in first part of 2009. Planning for these seminars are currently in progress.

- Possibility of Special Session at the next EASTS conference in 2009

One of the objectives of the end of 2008 seminar mentioned above is to channel appropriate research material to report at the EASTS conference. Members of this IRG would like to report their work at a special session at the EASTS conference in 2009.

- Special considerations to young researchers

A candidate of doctor thesis and number of graduate students under the supervision of members of this IRG in Japan, Taiwan and South Korea are currently engaged in research field work and analysis activities related to the theme of our IRG. These young researchers are actively encouraged to present their work at the seminar at the end of 2008 (mentioned above) and EASTS conference in 2009.

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