

Application Form of EASTS IRG (International Research Group)

IRG-05-2005

Date of Submission: 31/10/2005

<p>1. Name of IRG: Culturally sensitive pedestrian-centric philosophy to advancement of urban form in East Asia</p>
<p>2. List of research members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Upali Vandebona (Representative) Senior Lecturer, School of Civil Engineering, The University of New South Wales, Australia/ Sydney2) Hiroshi Tsukaguchi Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Ritsumeikan University, Japan3) Hun-Young Jung Professor, Department of Urban Engineering, Pusan National University, Korea
<p>3. Purpose and Mission of IRG:</p> <p>Walking is a vital transport mode and plays an indispensable role in a sustainable society. Development of attractive and functional public space consistent with natural tendencies of the community requires an understanding of relevant attributes of the local culture 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.</p> <p>The IRG will be formed to collaborate and provide leadership where necessary with researchers in this field 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 a future EASTS conference, and (c) development of a planning philosophy that allows for that is sympathetic to the cultural attributes.</p>
<p>4. Future research plan including time frame:</p> <p>Year 1: Preliminary contact of international research personal including research students among EASTS members and member countries. Specific objectives are to identify leading researchers, agree on collaborative working arrangements, identify the range of skills and strengths available and identify relevance to current research interests of individual researchers. A draft working paper will be prepared to document the progress.</p> <p>Year 2: (a) Develop a priority list of cooperative research projects and activity leaders. The communication process leading to this will be mainly based on e-mail with some use of telephone where suitable. (b) Attempt to develop a consensus with IRG about the templates suitable for development of planning guidelines. It may be necessary to adopt multiple methods to suit the array of cultural differences envisaged among member countries.</p> <p>Year 3: Bid to hold a special session at the 7th EASTS conference to cover interests of this IRG. Anyhow, the IRG should be in a position to begin development of publications disseminating the progress of selected subtopics. It is also necessary to commence developing a summary of the associated research project works.</p>

Year 4-5: The focus is on dissemination of research findings through publication of series of research documents to demonstrate the ability to plan design and apply with cultural awareness specific to different case studies. There will be opportunities to compare and contrast experience and develop further ongoing research work.