READINGS ON PARTICIPATORY PLANNING: AVAILABLE ONLINE

(The following annotated readings are available online. The list is not comprehensive but only a sampling of what can be found in the web.)

Throughout the readings, the following icons identify the different types of resources:

- 📖 Background Information explaining ideas, processes and terms used at each steps
- 🔨 Tools and Resources which provide a framework for applying the concepts
- 🌟 Real-life Examples in the form of case studies and comments from practitioners
- 🗣️ Suggested Methodologies for undertaking the steps and guidance in applying participatory planning tools
- 📜 Templates that help capture the outputs of the different steps in participatory planning. The templates can be merely suggestions that may be adapted according to the needs by adding or modifying individual element, or by simplifying them.


After the devastating Great Wenchuan Earthquake occurred in May 2008, China responded rapidly to mitigate the losses caused. Post-earthquake reconstruction planning plays a crucial role to the future development of earthquake struck areas. The post-earthquake reconstruction planning work has demonstrated to be an immediate action and tends to be a much more open and participatory. Since the influence of long term planned economy in the past and its centralised administration system, planning in China is comparatively information-close to ordinary people. However, the post-earthquake reconstruction planning turns to be a much wider participatory and more open than before, though it is still immature and there still many obstacles need to be overcome. This paper firstly introduces the Great Wenchuan Earthquake and the quick response of reconstruction planning in China. It depicts the intensive work of the reconstruction planning. Then it reviews the concept of participatory planning and the history of participatory planning in China. Thirdly, it identifies three new trends that a more participatory planning has showed in the reconstruction planning. Lastly, this paper points out some problems still exist in the reconstruction planning.

The participatory methodology was designed to elicit hand-drawn cognitive maps of mobility patterns and access to services in five steps. First, focus group interviews were conducted centered on mapping key destinations, services, and routes (e.g., footpaths and roads) and identifying opportunities and barriers to transport or service access (e.g., cost, time, mode, and seasonal disruption). Sketch maps were developed by a “scribe” from within the group or a member of the fieldwork team based on group responses to interview questions. Second, global positioning system (GPS) points were taken for key destinations and paths, following village mapping interviews. Third, the information from interviews and paper sketch maps was compared and consolidated to allow for team dialogue, and “case study” maps were created; these activities focused on the analysis of key issues, such as emergency transport and school access, raised in the interviews. Fourth, the consolidated participatory sketch maps were incorporated as layers in GIS, extrapolating from GPS points and place names taken in the field. Finally, the layers were set up to be viewed alongside base maps and other layers in the existing MoPWT GIS, thereby integrating the perspectives and issues into the Ministry decision support system.


Because of lack of ownership, development plans for the Appalachian Regional Commission are gathering dusts in the shelves of the University of Tennessee. The University then shifted strategy and employed participatory planning methods to elicit community participation and enhance ownership of the plans. Both the students as well as the participants coming from various counties learned a lot from the process and have merged theories with the needs of the community.


The Queensland government is increasingly using participatory planning as a means to improve infrastructure and service delivery to Indigenous settlements. In addition to technical and economic goals, participatory planning practice seeks also to achieve social development goals,
including empowerment, capacity building, community control and ownership. This article presents the findings of an evaluation of one such planning project, conducted at Old Mapoon in 1995. Despite various efforts to follow participatory processes, the plan had mixed success in achieving stated social development goals. This suggests some misunderstandings between the practice of participatory planning and the workings of local governance. It also presents some opportunities for participatory planning methods to be integrated into more inclusive forms of governance.


This book introduces the methodology of critical discourse analysis (CDA) to the study of participatory planning. CDA uses linguistic analysis to elucidate social issues and processes and is particularly suited to institutional practices and how they are changing in response to changing social conditions. Illustrated by two case studies from Australia, it examines the talk between the various participants in a formal stakeholder committee context over five years, during which time they went through several phases of changing power dynamics, conflict and reconciliation. The book demonstrates the value of CDA to this field of research and develops specific techniques and conceptual tools for applying the methodology to the 'formal talk' context of collaborative planning committees. It also sheds light on the dynamics of interaction between 'stakeholders' and bureaucracies - particularly with respect to inherent communicative barriers, power inequalities, and the development of new discursive practices.


Scholars have identified group learning as both an outcome of effective participatory planning processes and as the means to achieving agreement on planning outputs and to building constituencies for plan implementation. This article examines the challenges of designing empirical studies of group learning in participatory planning processes that have strong internal and external validity and reports the results of a quasiexperimental analysis of how different degrees of participation increase mutual understanding of planning problems and solutions.

This essay describes some of the concepts which guide The Children's Environments Research Group in the design of children's recreational settings. For those who do involve children there is often a tendency to romanticize their creative abilities and to keep children's designs separate from those of adults. This paper argues for collaboration between all ages in community development. It uses examples of work on the participatory design of outdoor play spaces in New York City where, because of a growth in parents' fears for children's safety and municipal funding problems, there is a crisis in public space provision.


This paper is a review of participatory planning and management of HIV/AIDS in 4 districts in Nepal. The aim of the project is to attain a multisectoral and community focussed AIDS prevention program that will minimise the social and economic impact of HIV. The project works through a local development strategy that catalyses District AIDS Coordinating Committees and the local Village Development Committees to plan, implement and monitor their own multisectoral programs in cooperation with NGOs and the private sector. Overall, the review recommends that this approach is very relevant and that in the remaining two years there should be an increased depth of focus on improving prevention and care services delivery that will reduce the impact of HIV on the community as a whole.


In response to the request for appropriate planning approach in the new era of decentralization and regional autonomy in Indonesia. Participatory planning activity had been chiefly carried out at sub-regional or Kota/Kabupaten’s local government level through a series of stakeholder meetings. Major objective of the stakeholder meeting was to identify problems and examine problem-solving measures through participation of various stakeholders in order to build sense of ownership of and commitment to transportation planning.

Participatory planning, scientific priorities, and landscape conservation in Madagascar. Retrieved February 12, 2010, from Cambridge Journals:
Madagascar's biodiversity is of extremely high international significance, yet comprehensive efforts to assess current knowledge and set priorities have been absent until recently. Beginning in April 1995, a major participatory effort to assess the country's scientific and conservation priorities was undertaken in Madagascar. This process laid important groundwork for the revision of Madagascar's National Environmental Action Plan. The first stage of the process was a scientific priority-setting workshop. Over one hundred experts, organized in thematic groups, reached consensus on biodiversity priorities for the island, based on cross-discipline comparisons. A principal finding of the workshop is that many areas of outstanding biodiversity and research importance are located outside protected areas. Participants also agreed that corridors needed to be created between the high-priority protected areas in order to maintain gene flow and exchange of species. The second stage of the process was a stakeholder consultation which integrated scientific findings, national priorities, local stakeholder views, and donor input. The stakeholder consultation concluded that a collaborative, regional approach was needed to augment site-based conservation activities. Participants also emphasized that institutional strengthening in forestry and parks agencies needed much higher priority. The net result of the process was the adoption of a landscape approach to conservation which integrates regional planning, biodiversity monitoring and institutional strengthening.


The paper examines the use of participatory methods in a planning exercise for the future of Perth, Western Australia. After a brief historical overview of the three models for city planning and infrastructure, namely the walking, transit and auto city, the new emerging sustainability concept is analysed through the lenses of the ten Melbourne principles for cities as sustainable ecosystems. The public forum eloquently named ‘Dialogue with the City’ which started in 2003 serves as a case study for applying participatory methods in planning of urban space and infrastructure. The outcomes of the process which involved discussion papers, community survey of 1,700 people, web-based on-line discussions, a school competition, listening sessions with groups which opinion is often left unheard (such as the youth, indigenous people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds), a one day forum with 1,100 participants and continuing workshops, provide a broad and coordinating framework in which citizenry, government and business can tackle the issues of Perth within a long-term vision based on sustainability. The Dialogue also helped reaffirm that the people of Perth have a strong sense of place and are willing to participate in the decision-making process.

This is a handbook on Village Participatory Planning in Tanzania using a simple tool called “Opportunities and Obstacles to Development Methodology”. The government of Tanzania believes that the approach will promote self-help spirit, mobilize material and human resources, and enhance transparency and accountability in the process of:

- Planning
- Decision making
- Implementation and management of development activities.

The methodology has been developed and is being institutionalized in the Local Government Authority structures. It has been developed in line with the government’s aspirations to devolve powers to the communities as declared in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, and implemented in the ongoing Local Government Reforms. In so doing, the government envisages to restore the spirit of self-reliance, local resource mobilization, transparency and accountability, whereby communities participate in planning, decision making, implementation and ownership of their development activities.


This paper offers a framework for delivering on-line resources to assist community participation in decision-making associated with land management. Traditionally, community consultation has involved focus groups and community meetings. Within the last decade the World Wide Web (WWW) has grown prolifically to provide the wider public with spatial knowledge in digital form. Subsequently, the WWW offers a medium for community discussion that transcends traditional communicative boundaries. A range of on-line multimedia and geovisualisation resources are readily available to assist community management. These include discussion forums, electronic documentation and interactive GIS mapping tools. This paper discusses the development of an interactive web based public participatory planning support system applied to the first stage of a community forest management pilot project in the Wombat State Forest, Victoria (Australia). The website provides a record of the activities undertaken May to December 2002 and offers a vehicle for group discussion and feedback, document exploration and interactive mapping. The paper examines the development of the on-line interactive public participatory planning support system and lessons learnt. The research is a basis for developing
a generic framework for democratising information to improve community management decision-making.


The paper presents Social WebGIS, an interactive communication and participation tool, which enables the user/citizen to present his own remarks, ideas and suggestions to the planners and the other users, localising them on the territory. It enables all users not only to input multimedia comments with an exact geographical localisation, but also to gain access to all the contents and comments that have been entered into the geographical database by other users. This tool allows for a continuous enhancing of the soft knowledge, and is useful for fostering participation of citizens and associations within the planning and assessment process.


The community consultations used the participatory problem analysis approach as a useful tool for understanding the root causes or underlying reasons or symptoms behind the problem of waste in Bikenibeu West, Kiribati. This helps break the problem down into a number of components or issues — rather than assumptions — which can be mapped by way of a problem tree. As a visual exercise this is a good method for not only understanding the problem in more detail, but also provides a good basis for identifying solutions and raising awareness regarding common concerns and shared problems. The problem tree also helps identify gaps and information that may be needed to fully understand the causes, symptoms and potential solutions. It is therefore envisaged that a problem tree would form the basis of the subsequent development of the solution tree and a project map.

The problem tree was developed in each community, as part of the process of mapping the results of the community consultations. This also facilitated the development of a monitoring plan and the identification of indicators to measure impacts of the project and identify lessons learned.

This paper outlines how the participatory planning process that is introduced in many project designs can possibly be sustainably integrated into administrative procedures. The paper has identified 10 steps to realize this. These are: (1) Elaborate the identified approach; (2) Pilot the approach in a few villages; (3) Document and systematise the approach; (4) Contract out the approach to other institutions; (5) Evaluate the contract implementation and improve the guidelines; (6) Expand application of the methodology beyond direct project involvement; (7) Evaluate the methodology by provincial and national authorities; (8) Get Provincial People’s Committee approval for the methodology; (9) Determine a dissemination and training strategy; and (10) Facilitate required institutional adjustments.


Worldwide, generally, and in Tanzania, particularly, urban development planning has in the 1990s become participatory and strategic and less technocratic and comprehensive. The shift has involved the preparation and implementation of general planning schemes rather than detail planning schemes. Inability to sustain technocratic and comprehensive urban planning, which is widely published, has prompted the shift to participatory and strategic urban planning. This latest approach to urban development planning also needs to be sustained. Based on the Tanzanian experience, in general, and 2001 Bagamoyo Strategic Urban Development Planning Framework (SUDPF), in particular, there are critical elements in sustaining the participatory and strategic urban development planning process. They include scope of and approach to urban development planning, form of urban development planning team, resource mobilization for SUDPF implementation, problem solving and conflict resolving by the SUDPF process, and SUDPF implementing team and institutional arrangements. These critical elements are examined in detail basing on lessons of experience from Bagamoyo in Tanzania. Sustaining the SUDPF process entails problem solving and conflict resolution by executing bankable projects and operating a flexible land-use regulatory framework. The process of citywide planning has to set a dynamic coordinating framework for executing development decisions that are made each day by city stakeholders, as opposed to a static controlling blueprint of development that is manifest in control planning.

This paper is based on recent experience gained from working on the Huascaran National Park Tourism management Plan, the first tourism plan in a Peruvian protected area. This experience suggested that ecotourism can be an effective conservation mechanism when designed within a participatory framework. This paper presents the context of the planning process including important contextual information about Peruvian protected areas and tourism activity, specific constraints to the process, and planning of tourism management. Special consideration is given to the participatory mechanisms used and the lessons learned during the process.


A step-by-step summary on how to do participatory planning and management.


This Harmonised Participatory Planning Guide for Parishes and Wards has been developed in response to the need for a guiding framework for participatory bottom-up planning by parishes/ward when executing their mandate as provided for in section 50 b) and f of the Local Governments (Amendment) Act 1997. This Guide provides a framework on participatory investment decision making and resource allocation so that Local Councils at Parish/ward and village/cell level are more responsive to the needs of the electorate. The guide encourages participation and involvement of all key stakeholders in development planning and implementation. Among those included in the planning process at parish/ward levels are representatives of livelihood groups, parish councils, village councils, Parish Development Committees, Service Providers, NGOs/CBOs and Private Sector Organisations.

http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=4862

Citizen participation in such complex issues as the quality of the environment, neighborhood housing, urban design, and economic development often brings with it suspicion of government, anger between stakeholders, and power plays by many—as well as appeals to rational argument. Deliberative planning practice in these contexts takes political vision and pragmatic skill. Working from the accounts of practitioners in urban and rural settings, North
and South, John Forester shows how skillful deliberative practices can facilitate practical and timely participatory planning processes. In so doing, he provides a window onto the wider world of democratic governance, participation, and practical decision making. Integrating interpretation and theoretical insight with diverse accounts of practice, Forester draws on political science, law, philosophy, literature, and planning to explore the challenges and possibilities of deliberative practice.


The Kerala experience shows that for social accountability to be realized there is need for intense and continuous citizen education and creation of various fora for public participation.

Creation of organizations of the poor especially through the network of Neighbourhood Groups is a powerful system for bringing about comprehensive social accountability. However, it has to be carefully done as a part of the decentralization process and not as a system parallel to and competing with local governments for political and developmental space.

The existing systems of administration are tailored for centralized governance. They all have to be reshaped to suit the needs of decentralization. Only then can social accountability be real.

Social accountability mechanisms are to be created at different levels and different stages right from identification of needs, through conceptualization of projects, selection of locations/beneficiaries, implementation, monitoring, up to evaluation and feed back for future refinement. Likewise social accountability systems are necessary in regulatory matters, developmental matters, welfare matters, civic services and other kinds of service delivery.


It is increasingly understood that transport infrastructure and services are critical elements to achieving poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable development, but relevant methods to systematically characterize and address differences in mobility and access are lagging. This paper presents a series of maps based on an integrated pilot application of geographical information systems (GIS) and participatory sketch mapping to elicit and evaluate differential mobility and access patterns of villagers in the highlands of rural Lesotho. Fieldwork was carried out in the Senqu and Senqunyane Valleys in southern Lesotho - among the most
isolated areas in the country - to link local - level information and perspectives on transport and other services to the enhanced GIS at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. The resulting cognitive maps and focus group interviews reveal significant gender differences in mobility and access with implications for healthcare, education, and transport planning; they also provide a basis for cross-sectoral participatory decision making through the integrated GIS.


A heartening story about Comunidades Locales de Administración de Salud (CLAS), a local private non-profit associations in Las Moras in Huánuco, Peru, who gives communities a voice in priority-setting and oversight as well as direct control over public health funds, which are now reinvested in infrastructure, equipment, and human resources. As a result, the Las Moras community in Huánuco has significantly reduced chronic childhood malnutrition, won recognition from the Ministry of Health and the National Society of Industries in Peru, and serves as a national demonstration and training center for replicating the CLAS model in other regions of the country and abroad.


This case study tells of a participatory planning program done by Resolute Mining Limited at the end of 2000 in the four communities closest to the mine's perimeter – Isanga, Mwaluzwilo, Bujulu, and Undomo – to encourage communities to develop their own Community Action Plans (CAPs). Community members were delighted to be asked what they lacked, what they needed, and to be assisted to devise their own plans. Once they overcame their initial shyness with the unfamiliar process, each community embraced the opportunity to develop a CAP and put a great deal of effort into ensuring the project was completed.

This handbook is concerned with one specialized form of participation: participatory planning. It is based on several years of experience in participatory planning and is infused with the bias that sees a great deal of potential good in expanded participation in general and in participatory planning in particular. It is also recognized that participatory planning is difficult, time-consuming, and requires skills and methods that may not be present at the moment. The first part of the handbook spells out some arguments for forms of participatory planning. In the second section, the important background considerations relating to participatory planning are discussed. The third section is on organizing and managing a participatory planning process. This section includes a discussion of the relationship between participatory planning activities and the rest of the school system decision-making processes.


This paper describes a multi-level approach to participatory water resources planning. In the multi-level approach, meetings are held with farmers in local communities to get an initial information base and to introduce the planning approach and concepts. Then participants from different local communities within a watershed meet at participatory planning sessions to exchange information about local conditions in different parts of the watershed. The participants use the enlarged information base to prepare water resources development plans for the whole watershed. This approach ensures that all local interests are reflected in the plans.


The case study is about the training of facilitators in participatory planning for officials and staff of LGUs of the province of Nueva Ecija, Philippines, undertaken by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and the Central Luzon State University. The project started in August 1996 and completed in June 1997 with the end goal of broadening the technical knowledge and facilitation skills of municipal and village planners. Anchored on the dialogue-oriented, people-centered planning approach, the project was pilot-tested in three municipalities and three villages in each municipality. It was designed for the heads and junior staff of the different line agencies, the municipal and village council members and other sectorial leaders based in the pilot village it was expected that after the nine-month "action-training" program, said participants would then be able to: 1) identify the value of a participatory planning process in their work; 2) demonstrate skills in facilitating a participatory planning process; 3) facilitate the formulation of a village development plan; and 4) replicate the planning process in the other villages of their respective municipalities.
This article examines what hindered public participation in a particular housing reconstruction project and suggests how planners can better enable public participation in planning after disasters.

The case demonstrates that the World Bank defined the public in public participation narrowly, only seeking participation from project beneficiaries and excluding such relevant local stakeholders as the local government and community-based organizations. This occurred because the World Bank took a project-based approach and had limited knowledge of local capacities. Even the feedback received from project beneficiaries was not incorporated into the housing plans due to World Bank's sense of urgency, concern for cost effectiveness, and inflexible terms and conditions of the loan.

A step-by-step participatory planning consisting of the following: (1) Participatory Planning Activity; (2) Participatory Planning perception; (3) Self Identification; (4) Vision of Community IPM; (5) Problem identification and analysis; (6) Goal analysis; (7) Alternative analysis; (8) Program matrix; (9) Stake holder analysis; (10) Program organization; (11) Necessity analysis; and (12) Time scheduling

Participatory Planning for Sustainable Community Development (PPSCD) is grounded in community organizing and community participation in goal setting, information-gathering, analysis and decision-making, program implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It attempts to answer the challenge of the sustainability movement of the 1990s to find ways to effectively manage growth and plan for the future that will not compromise the quality of life of future generations. It assumes that decisions about growth management and future development are highly complex and embedded in the dynamics of the social, economic, political, and environmental systems. It also assumes that within communities there are complexities of
values, perceptions, and the relative power of the various stakeholder groups affected by these decisions, as well as uncertainties and urgency surrounding growth issues.


This paper examines both the rationale and the process by which consensus was secured for Dharavi’s current redevelopment. It uses this case to examine the prevailing practices and theories of authoritarian development, on one hand, and participatory planning, on the other, and identifies the rise of “negotiational politics” as a political third way. Drawing upon Selznick’s classic study of the Tennessee Valley Authority, this paper argues that “negotiational politics” (similar to what Selznick called cooptation) remain an important, though currently under-theorized, aspect of development. Employing a cadre of Community Development Officers (CDOs), the state government recognized neighborhood-level political support to be a prerequisite for the project’s successful implementation. Utilizing the neighborhood’s institutional infrastructure – including ward-level politicians, social service providers, and professional and worker collectives – CDOs spent more than three years convincing constituents and making side payments to build consensual support for the project. Although a certain amount of resistance remains, the opposition has been marginalized as institutional support expanded.


The report calls for the notion of 'public participation' to be put aside. It is time instead to practice 'participatory planning'. Sometimes that might mean using third party mediation to resolve conflicts and objections to a plan. There is even a call for experiments in using third parties to 'pre-mediate’ the preparation of plans through brokering agreements between a range of stakeholders. Engagement and negotiation are at the heart of the participatory planning process, and the research draws on examples from around the world to show innovative ways to do this.
In the recent past in the Netherlands, there have been lots of experiments to involve citizens and experts in planning processes. In many of these experiments, more traditional means have been used to facilitate this interaction, like community discussions, workshops and hearings. To a growing extent, electronic media are used, like video conferencing, web discussion forums and group decision rooms (electronic meeting rooms). These tools facilitate the interaction, but do not support stakeholders in their need for knowledge of the planning environment, consequences of actions and compliancy with other stakeholder actions. Also, they do not offer an instrument that stimulates experimenting and learning. The next two chapters of this paper describe tools that facilitate, besides interaction and participation, one or more of the above aspects like MapTalk, Games for participatory planning, e.g. NitroGenius & Splash.


Views participatory planning as part of the decentralization process. In this context, participatory planning aims to identify the critical problems, joint priorities, elaboration and adoption of socio-economic development strategies. The purpose of participatory planning is to create a platform for learning rather than plunging directly into problem solving. According to the authors, the planning process should produce two sets of results: (a) in the short term, the tools of participatory planning should generate a two-way learning process, which will shape project interventions to local needs, opportunities and constraints; and (b) in the long term, this learning process should lead to local empowerment and effective support at the institutional level. These are considered preconditions for strengthening both institutional capacity for decentralized planning and local planning capacity.


After three decades of authoritarian rule which discouraged citizen participation, Indonesia is slowly moving towards increased engagement between state and society. This is happening within the framework of decentralization policies; although it is largely being driven by nongovernmental organizations. Although formal political structures have democratized, local level civic engagement is yet to increase significantly. Despite this, the Municipality of Solo in
Central Java has initiated a collaborative development program which has been recognized as an exemplar of good practice by an international consortium for participatory planning. This article describes the background to Indonesian development policies, and examines the problems and successes experienced in the Solo program. Although increasing familiarity with inclusiveness, equity, and good governance is evident, tangible change remains largely elusive at the local level.


This topic pack, which is downloadable from the Logolink website, is a resource for practitioners, students and theorists of participatory planning, and provides an introduction to the literature and contemporary thinking on this theme. It is divided into four sections:

Section One discusses ideas about citizenship, participation, and governance. It traces the development of these concepts and finds that the links between citizen participation and good governance are growing stronger.

Section Two looks at citizen participation in local governance planning. It reviews the context of decentralization, and looks at planning as a 'negotiated social process' (de Roux 1998), in which citizens and local government can interact and build partnerships, though with obstacles and costs, particularly for citizens.

Section Three, 'Making participatory planning happen' deals with the practicalities of who participates, and how capacity for participation can be built, both institutional (responsiveness, transparency) and citizen (knowledge, action). It looks at methods for building such capacity, and what citizens need to know in order to engage successfully in local governance planning processes. This point is illustrated by the case of the implementation of the Philippine Local Government Code.

Section Four contains references and resources, in the form of an annotated bibliography with details of how to access materials.


Jagna in the Province of Bohol (Philippines) stands as one of the leading examples in efforts to “scale-up” participatory planning processes from the village level to the municipal level. Where development plans elsewhere are usually designed according to the political whims of the local executive and political returns override developmental needs, Jagna built upon the
development plans of its barangays and crafted a Municipal Development Plan that truly revealed an active citizenship. These initiatives were supported by the Institute of Politics and Governance.

IPG is a capability-building center that develops and undertakes education and training program for NGOs, POs and local communities to enable them to effect participatory democracy, people-centered development and good local governance. It has been accredited by the Civil Service Commission as a training institute for local governance practitioners.


The adoption of participatory spatial planning (PSP) approaches has been partially supported by developments in participatory-GIS (P-GIS), as seen in applications both in local resource management in developing South countries, and in community neighborhood planning in the urban North. Such applications provide a basis for examining the relationship between the use of geo-information and governance, as many P-GIS initiatives claim to foster accountability, transparency, legitimacy and other dimensions of governance. Examples from recent literature illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of utilizing P-GIS, and in particular, the implications for greater participation, empowerment, and ownership of and access to spatial information, and for governance in general. Some new developments in GIS technology, like ‘mobile-GIS’, have the potential to strengthen these impacts. While P-GIS is not an essential component of PSP, if used with an adequate regard and sensitivity for issues of ownership, legitimacy and local knowledge, it can contribute to the empowerment of communities in solving spatial planning problems.


This document is a Good Governance Brief on Musrenbang. Musrenbang is a deliberative multi-stakeholder forum that identifies and prioritizes community development policies. It aims to be a process for negotiating, reconciling and harmonizing differences between government and nongovernmental stakeholders and reaching collective consensus on development priorities and budgets. There is a hierarchy of these forums for synchronizing between ‘bottom up’ and ‘top down’ planning.

Paper presented at the Pan African Conference of Ministers of Local Government held in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, from August 30th to September 1st, 2006. This paper highlights some of the perspectives related to capacity building that require the attention of policymakers and public managers as well as the community at large if participatory planning and budgeting are to become an integral part of management in decentralized governance. The paper highlights selected cases to illustrate the potential of participatory approaches in establishing sound decentralized governance.


This paper examines the practice of participatory planning in decentralized Indonesia with empirical finding from Solo Municipality which has adopted a participatory planning in 2001. This has been accorded recognition through a ‘participatory award’ from LogoLink, an international network for participatory planning initiatives. In Solo, rethinking the development paradigm was crucial because the city’s diversity has contributed to a high level of conflict social disintegration. This paper argues that the implementation of a participatory planning approach in Solo has reduced the risk of high conflict potential in the city because it positions equality and freedom of expression as an important right for citizens. In general, this covers the issues of partnership and community participation, improving human resources management, economic development, and law enforcement.

This paper concludes that even though the practice of participatory planning in Solo has opened a new track towards a more harmonious society, in fact shifting into a new development paradigm is not an easy job. Participatory planning urges those who held power to share their power with other development stakeholders, which in fact reducing their role in controlling community. Learning from Solo case study, it is important to emphasis the need of local government to change the way they behave and develop new relation with community and other development stakeholders.

This research explores the alternative model of local governance improvement using participatory and strategic planning exercise and analyzes its contribution to democratization process by examining one of the most successful cases in the CDS project. Theoretical background is provided by analyzing theories on decentralization, democracy and transition, planning, social learning, and other relevant fields. Planning exercise has potential as an alternative tool to improve governance and contributes to democratization by creating learning about democracy, democratization process, and local community itself. It builds a network by connecting key persons and exploring untapped resources in communities, which becomes a driving force for democratization from below. This is a case study based on qualitative analysis of seventeen in-depth, open-ended interviews conducted in January 2002 in Bandung.

Brian Wampler. (n.d.) Grafting participatory governance onto representative democracy and existing state institutions: Explaining outcomes via political society and civil society lenses. Department of Political Science, Boise State University. Abstract only: http://www.allacademic.com//meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/2/7/8/6/3/pages278631/p278631-1.php

This paper develops a theoretical framework to better account for why some participatory institutions fail, why some are considered successful, and why many produce both positive and negative outcomes. The theoretical framework developed in this article is anchored in three analytical areas to better account for variations in the quality of participatory governance institutions: (a) Capacity of state and civil society to carry out functions that give support to participatory processes; (b) intervening institutions’ affect on participatory processes; (c) the individuals’ interests and strategic choices within participatory institutions.


This presentation has three Key Messages: 1) Planning must relate to the social and economic realities of the context and not be driven by investor priorities or the technical skills of the professionals alone. These realities are rooted in social and cultural norms, affordability, ability to maintain etc. 2) Planning intended to benefit poor people will also need to create trust and develop skills and match planning to the needs and priorities of the poor. It may need both
plans and facilitation, and include those with less power to influence. 3) Plans cannot be delivered through projects alone, and projects are not a replacement for planning. Understanding and influencing the whole system is the key.


The paper examines the use of participatory methods in a planning exercise for the future of Perth, Western Australia. After a brief historical overview of the three models for city planning and infrastructure, namely the walking, transit and auto city, the new emerging sustainability concept is analysed through the lenses of the ten Melbourne principles for cities as sustainable ecosystems. The public forum eloquently named ‘Dialogue with the City’ which started in 2003 serves as a case study for applying participatory methods in planning of urban space and infrastructure. The outcomes of the process which involved discussion papers, community survey of 1,700 people, web-based on-line discussions, a school competition, listening sessions with groups which opinion is often left unheard (such as the youth, indigenous people and people from non-English speaking backgrounds), a one day forum with 1,100 participants and continuing workshops, provide a broad and coordinating framework in which citizenry, government and business can tackle the issues of Perth within a long-term vision based on sustainability. The Dialogue also helped reaffirm that the people of Perth have a strong sense of place and are willing to participate in the decision-making process.


These guidelines were developed as a result of ESCAP’s initiative to implement participatory planning of rural infrastructure in Lao People's Democratic Republic. This poverty alleviation initiative aimed to heighten the capacity of institutions at the village and district level to participate actively in the planning, operation and maintenance of local and other infrastructure. In addition to providing the background and framework for ESCAP’s action plan in Lao People's Democratic Republic, the publication also explores the themes of supportive policy environments, good governance, integration of the participatory process in the overall planning system as prerequisites for effective partnerships and successful participatory approaches. This publication is intended to guide the ESCAP member countries in the systematic planning of rural infrastructure by creating effective partnerships and adopting participatory approaches. The publication was reviewed at the policy -level "Regional Seminar-
cum-Cluster Country Meeting on Participatory Planning of Rural Infrastructure" held in New Delhi, India, 5 to 8 May 1998.


Concept paper of a workshop organized by the GTZ/PAMD Project - Jordan and the World Bank (WBI/KNA MENA), with the participation of several regional authorities, international organizations such as UN agencies (e.g. UNOPS,) and NGOs such as the Glocal Forum and Jordan River Foundation. The workshop focused particularly on (a) local development planning process and tools, and (b) and empowerment and inclusion of local actors, especially citizens.


This paper aims to present the concept of “Networking” for future city planning in these following issues:

- People and community network involvement and participation as key democratic dimension in foresight strategy.
- Achieving initiatives and ideas for future sustainable city from every decision.
- Developing partnership, sharing responsibility, facilities, utilities and resources in city, urban and rural development.
- Community strengthening and capacity building.
- **Participatory Network Development** approach contributes to learning society in thinking, debating and shaping future.