

Quarterly Journal of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation (April-June,2020)

Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation (GIUI)



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# I. Updates & Events Highlights of major activities



#### Early April

The classification of all cases was completed according to "GOLD V" regional classification standards.

#### Mid-April

Collected the Chinese Urban Innovation Index Model from the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences.



#### **May 26**

The Online Release of the Research Reports on 15 Shortlisted Cities from the 4th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation was successfully held.



#### June 10

Organized an online seminar "COVID-19 International Experience: A Global Cities Exchange" jointly with the Intellisia Institute.

#### Late June

- $\cdot$  Submission deadline of Guangzhou Award was extended.
- · A cooperative partnership with Intellisia Institute has been achieved and a cooperation memorandum was signed.

## Online Release of the Research Reports on 15 Shortlisted Cities from the 4th Guangzhou International **Award for Urban Innovation**

#### [ Editor's Note ]

On May 26, 2020, the online release of the Research Reports on 15 Shortlisted Cities from the 4th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation was held as scheduled. The online release was jointly organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolis (Metropolis), Southern Finance Omnimedia Corporation and GIUI. A total of 12 guests from all over the world attended the conference and shared their inspirational research insights with the audience. The release reviewed and presented the research reports of the 15 shortlisted cities from the Guangzhou Award, enabling the audience to have a letter understanding of the innovative practice and lessons learned from the shortlisted cities.



## COVID-19 Experience Exchange among Global Cities



#### [Editor's Note]

In order to share the latest experience and effctive measures for cities to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and promote exchanges between cities globally, GIUI and the Intellisia Institute held a webinar on COVID-19 response on June 10. Representatives from cities such as Barcelona, Moscow, New York, Daegu, New Delhi, Mumbai and Rio de Janeiro and experts on urban management and international issues have discussed topics related to the comprehensive urban governance, emergency management, and economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## II. Research & Exchanges

## Summary of the Online Release of the Research Reports on 15 Shortlisted Cities from the 4th Guangzhou Award

The Online Release of the Researh Report on the 15 Shortlisted Cities from the 4th Guangzhou Award was held on May 26. Representatives from cities around the world were invited to join this urban innovation webinar. In order to further explore lessons learned from urban innovation, Secretariat of Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation and Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation coordinate experts and scholars at home and abroad to carry out field and written research, publishing of The Research Reports on 15 Shortlisted Cities from the Fourth Guangzhou Award. The highlights of the speeches made by guests at the meeting are as follows:



Our follow-up research on the 15 Shortlisted Cities of the 4th Guangzhou Award has managed to capture their ingenuity in implementing global agendas and their unique role in response to global challenges. We hope the Research Reports released today could encourage exchanges and learning among cities all over the world, and spark innovative ideas of cities to improve the well-being of their people.

Mr. Liu Baochun Director General of Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office

I'm very happy to see the evolution of the Guangzhou Awards. It has moved from being just a simple award to be a treasure of knowledge.



Mr. Octaiv de la Varga Secretary General of the Metropolis



Guangzhou Award is allowing to raise the ambition of the cities in the right direction. We are thankful to the city of Guangzhou for leading these dynamics towards the most sustainable and solid planets.

Ms. Firdaous Oussidhoun Special Adviser to the UCLG Secretary General

These case studies are showing us very important take—away in terms of how cities can implement the SDGs. We use these concrete evidence of how local authorities are actually implementing the global agendas. And so that we can not only engage other cities inspire other cities, hopefully provide impetus for other cities to follow suit.



Mr.Nicholas You Sonior Advisor to Guangzhou Award, Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute of Urban Innovation



The SDGs can provide a common platform for communication and a common value system for planning, programming, monitoring, and evaluation and for overall city governance.

Ms. Wandia Seaforth Former Chief of UN-Habitat Best Practices

For Innovation in urban governance, the big thing has been this focus on the sustainability goals, but the sort of bringing up the kind of the branding, the knowledge.



Ms. Hilary Clarke Freelance Journalist and Communication Specialist



One of the main lesson learned in our case is a stronger government system that is we have food policy, we was able to activate with all the bodies of the city that are working together toward a common goal.

Mr. Andrea Magarini Pellini Food Policy Coordinator of Milan Municipality

During this global pandemic, many cities are thinking of redesigning their cities. They came to Utrecht to ask us how they can integrate cycling into a mobility of their cities. So we think it's important to exchange this knowledge.



Ms. Desire é van de Ven Strategic Advisor of Strategy and Public Affairs of Utrecht Municipality



Guangzhou Award is a great network platform. Everyone try to share their best practices and

Mr. Ruslan Galiakhmetov Head of International Relations Department of Kazan Municipality

There are still tremendous challenges that cities are facing. The very weak infrastructure partnerships really need to come on board, because they have a lot of inertia.



Ms. Elisa Silva **Director of Enlace Arquitectura** 



We will continue to working with the public institution at the national and local level to improve this lack of infrastructure that they are.

Ms. Gabriela Cob Barboza Advisor in Sustainable Mobility, Human Rights and Gender of Santa Ana

Y As a developing country, China has made remarkable achievements in urban governance on the one hand, and faced a series of challenges on the other hand. Issuing the research reports can be regarded as a way of civilization communication. At such a critical moment when the world is combating the COVID-19 pandemic, publishing these reports not only demonstrates our solidarity and cooperation, but also marks a new starting point of global urban innovation and its



Mr. Bao Yajun Secretary General of Peking University Institute of Urban Governance





Reviews on the Online Anti-Epidemic Conference:

# How are global major cities fighting against COVID-19?

This online Anti-Epidemic conference was host by Professor Chen Dingding, President of Intellisia Institute. Nicholas You, Executive Director of Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, has addressed an opening speech. According to Nicholas You, since the outbreak of COVID-19, different cities have been facing different situations, which, in most cities of the world are not optimistic at present. In the face of COVID-19, the governance system is extremely fragile and has imposed a great impact on the urban underprivileged groups.

#### Mula Anthony (Uganda) Economic Adviser to H.E the Vice President of Uganda

Mr. Anthony has introduced Uganda's experience and the measures Uganda has taken against COVID-19, such as preventing citizen evictions and closing public facilities including international airports, churches, shopping centers, and international transport centers, all of which have helped reduce the flow of people and the spread of the epidemic.

#### Vaidehi Tandel (Mumbai, India) Junior Fellow, IDFC Institute, Mumbai

Before India's national lockdown in March, Mumbai has imposed travel restrictions and adopted some quarantine measures. However, the government did not have sufficient capacity to support these decrees. There are still large population concentrations, who are unable to maintain a social distance for work, and also a great number of people have returned home due to the loss of their jobs caused by COVID-19. This has resulted in an expansion of the infection. The situation in Mumbai remains complex and unmanageable due to the economic downturn on the one hand, and the continuing increase in the number of confirmed cases on the other.

#### Paurush Kumar (New Delhi, India) Senior Consultant of Intellisia Institute

The New Delhi government has been focusing on new immigrants and caring for the homeless. In order to mitigate the negative effects of the lockdown, New Delhi has set up special containment zones in the city, which are divided into green, yellow and red zones according to different risk situations. The New Delhi government has also developed a program which can update confirmed cases and medical infrastructure information to users in real time. Although the number of infected is still increasing, the overall situation is getting better.

#### Kabyeal Kwag (Daegu, South Korea) Chief Representative of Shanghai Representative Office, Daegu City Government

Kabyeal Kwag introduced a number of measures taken by Daegu City to deal with COVID-19. First, the Department of Disaster Safety Countermeasures has been rapidly established. Second, a drive-through inspection system was introduced into traffic to enable the a ten-minute process of registration, consultation, detection and disinfection. The third is the establishment of life treatment centers. The Government has set up a total of 15 life treatment centers to alleviate the shortage of wards. With the cooperation of the government and the citizens, COVID-19 was finally successfully controlled without a complete lockdown of the city.

#### Daniel Sanabria Fernandez (Barcelona Region, Spain) Chief Police officer of Cabrils, Catalonia,

### Spain (European Union)

Mr. Fernandez introduced Barcelona's experience in urban safety management during the pandemic. First, depending on government's different levels of reaction capacity, the multi-level response mechanism of government will cause the overdue response for COVID-19. Second, sufficient police force should be

maintained for management. COVID-19 poses a high infection rate for the elderly, so many of them living alone need police to ensure their health status. Third, as it is difficult for the police to control crimes while keeping a social distance, it is a challenge to deal with urban crime during the lockdown.

## Mauro M. Wolfe (New York, the U.S) Former Merber of New York Council of Defense Lawyers

According to Mr. Wolfe, every state in the U.S is different in terms of outbreak severity and the implementation of prevention and control policies. If we compare the situation of each states in the United States, the new cases in New York and New Jersey, where the epidemic was more serious in the early state, have dropped significantly. However, in other states that are eager to lift the lockdown, such as in Georgia, which is the first state to reopen after the U.S.'s new crown epidemic blockade, there has been a significant increase in newly-confirmed cases.

#### Bruno Barata (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) Representative of Brazil at the BRICS Legal Forum

Bruno considers that Brazil's current epidemic prevention lacks unified decision. At the highest policy-making level, the epidemic situation has not been mentioned at present. The situation is in disarray, with some areas under blockade and others completely open, as there is often disagreement over epidemic prevention and a lack of unified operational deployment. The federal government is not concerned about this at all. At present, the Government has chosen not to publish the confirmed diagnosis cases and related figures for the time being, but the situation in Brazil is worse than that in the United

States, according to other sources. The Government is currently providing financial assistance to those who have lost their financial resources due to the pandemic.

#### Chami Wu (Moscow, Russia) Representative of Russia

Chami Wu said Moscow had lifted the lockdown on June 9, and that the economy was rebooting. During the outbreak and at present, SMEs can obtain loans from banks to cover operating costs; commercial tenants can apply for deferred rent payments; bankruptcy can be applied for extension; foreign citizens in Russia can apply for an extension. In addition, Russia being a federal country, each region has the right to set its own prevention and control policies, which in fact, have been relaxed in most areas. It can be predicted that the economic situation will gradually improve after the lockdown is lifted.

# Professor Weiquan Li (China) Deputy Dean of School of Public Administration and Emergency Management of Jinan University

One of the most important aspects of China's success in combating COVID-19 in such a short time is its institutional strength. First, China's national emergency management is a holistic system of

governance with an extremely high capacity for overall mobilization in sudden emergencies. Second, China has used the used a combination of medical and big data technology in the prevention and control process, both through technical management and by working with the public. Third, an integrated policy package has been formed, including fiscal policy, unemployment benefits policy and production resumption policy, etc.

## Professor Jinshan Liu (China) Deputy Dean of College of Economics, Jinan University

Taking Guangzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone(GETDZ) as an example, Professor Liu illustrated Guangzhou's experience in maintaining its supply chain operation despite the impact of the epidemic across time and space. First, it relies on the extensive application of intelligent manufacturing. At the same time, the cross-border e-commerce platform of the whole industrial chain plays an important role. Second, as for the problems of cross-border logistics, a large number of intelligent cross-border logistics have been used to avoid personnel contact. Third, intelligent distributed production system has been adopted. According to the customer's orders, the demand area is partially solved by searching online for the best location near the production site.



## [COVID-19] Efforts to Work and Production Resumption and Local Residents Benefits

The sudden onset of the COVID-19 epidemic poses a huge challenge to the global economy. The fight against the epidemic has become the hottest topic in the first half of 2020. However, our economy and society compose a dynamic cyclical system that is unable to be stopped for a long period of time. How to coordinate the prevention and control of the epidemic and at the same time, resume our production has become one of the biggest challenges that local governments and businesses in every part of the world are facing right now. The Guangzhou Award Secretariat has selected six case studies from cities around the world to draw on the experience of how cities in the midst of an epidemic can help to address these challenges from education, services and consumption sectors and step back on track as soon as possible.

[Barcelona, Spain]

# "Now it's your turn, thank you!" Campaign Calls on Residents to Spend More in Order to Boost Local Economy



After surviving the most urgent phase of the epidemic's control, Barcelona Municipality has launched a plan to resume production and promote local business development by encouraging people to spend more. With this campaign, the Barcelona Provincial Council will reinforce its commitment to

local economic development, and direct aid to the commercial sphere in particular:

- ☆ To highlight the value of local food trade and municipal markets, which during this epidemic are demonstrating their importance in the commercial fabric of towns and cities.
- ☆ To make the public aware of the importance of shopping to local business through daily campaigns.
- ☆ To encourage residents to make purchases, as they have recognized the importance of their purchases to local commerce, which is inextricably linked to their own lives.
- ☆ The government is providing business enterprises and assistance to recover from the huge economic impact of the current epidemic crisis.

#### [Montréal, Canada]

### COVID-19: Support measures for Montréal businesses

The city is aware of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Montréal businesses, and is in continuous contact with other levels of government and all those involved in the economic ecosystem.

- ☆ Date for the second tax bill instalment postponed
- ☆ Business support hotline to answer small business owners' questions about support measures offered by the city.
- ☆ Six-month moratorium on capital and interest to private and social economy businesses who have received a loan through specific institutions.



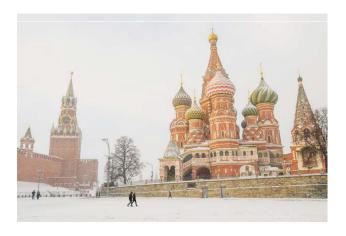
☆ Current payments for municipal programs are not affected. Additional time may, however, be required.

#### [Moscow, Russia]

## Moscow Authorities' Support for Businesses amidst Pandemic

The Moscow authorities are helping companies to regain investments, receive easy term loans, lower rent plus delay payments. The city has promptly coordinated with businesses and approved three packages of municipal support measures for companies hard-hit by the pandemic.

- ☆ To delay the payment of sales and other taxes by public catering, travel, culture, sports and entertainment companies as well as hotels.
- ☆ To extended the list of companies that have been granted sales and other tax deferrals and rental deferral for the second quarter. Subsidies were approved for



small and medium-sized companies, exporters and franchisees, as well as easy taxes for startups.

☆ To expand loan support and the assistance to developers, hotels, cinemas, supplementary education facilities, health centres, social entrepreneurs and small businesses that plan to buy out the rented municipal property.

The anti-crisis measures have directly helped nearly 35,000 companies with over 765,000 personnel.

[Izmir, Turkey]

#### Investments from Izmir



During the battle with the global coronavirus pandemic, Turkey met a new management method with

respect to local municipal works. Izmir Metropolitan Municipality stood out with its "crisis local administration" practices during the new era where planning and priorities have shifted significantly. Despite the heavy financial burden brought by the times, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality made

investments of TRY 1.1 billion from the beginning of the year and did not disrupt its services to the city and the citizens. The results of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality initiating measures before the first case was officially announced and during its spread have been reflected in economic tables.

[Sultanbeyli, Turkey]

### Education Initiatives - Action against COVID 19



Sultanbeyli Municipality has improved its service delivery capacity in this difficult process.

To ensure that local students continue to benefit from the lessons provided by youth centers during the lockdown, the government has offered online education services. The city has also decided to hold a competition considering some children may have not a digital device to reach distance learning

platform. A live stream will be broadcasted on Facebook and contestants will be answering the questions related to general knowledge and the district. As a result of the competition, winners will be awarded with certain technological devices for online education.

[Sultanbeyli, Turkey]

### Feeding of Stray Animals - in Action against COVID 19



During the lockdown of the cities, many animals living in the streets have difficulty in finding something to eat. Since all businesses were closed down, they cannot feed these animals anymore.

To ensure animals' well-being, the Sultanbeyli municipality's teams feed stray animals on a regular basis and call on the local veterinary service units to leave animal food at central areas.

### Terms of Reference

[DRAFT a.o. 12 July 2020]



## Four Cycles Review of the Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation

#### A.Background

The Guangzhou Award was co-founded and co-launched in 2012 by the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and the City of Guangzhou. Since then, 4 cycles of the award have been held, involving 976 submissions from 92 countries and from all geographical regions.

#### B. How is the award conducted?

The award system includes the following:

(i)A set of rules and procedures, including eligibility and criteria;[ http://www.guangzhouaward. org/c/e\_Rules.html]

(ii)An organizing committee, including members and their respective roles and responsibilities;[ http://www.guangzhouaward.org/c/e\_Organizer\_ and\_Jury.html]

(iii)An online submission template;[ http://www.guangzhouaward.org/p/e\_applynow]

(iv)An independent gender-balanced Technical Committee comprising of up to 11 experts from all geographic regions of the world and representing different areas of competence. This Committee is responsible for preparing a list of 45 deserving

initiatives and shortlist of up to 15 initiatives for consideration by the Jury.

(v)An independent gender-balanced Jury comprising of up to 7 prominent personalities such as former mayors, former governors, former or acting heads of international organisations and academia. The Jury is tasked with selecting up to 5 award winning initiatives from the shortlist.

(vi)All 15 shortlisted cities are invited to present their respective initiatives at an international professionally-moderated seminar on learning from urban innovation. The members of the Jury are embedded in the audience of the seminar and make their decision after the completion of the seminar.

#### C.Purpose of the Award

The purpose of the award is to accelerate sustainable urbanization and urban development through the exchange of lessons learned from innovation. This objective has led the Guangzhou Award to seek innovative ways of engaging in peer learning and city-to-city cooperation. These include:

· Convening, for each cycle of the award, an

<sup>1.</sup> http://www.guangzhouaward.org/c/e\_Rules.html

<sup>2.</sup> http://www.guangzhouaward.org/c/e\_Organizer\_and\_Jury.html

<sup>3.</sup> http://www.guangzhouaward.org/p/e\_applynow

international learning seminar where shortlisted cities are invited to present their initiatives to their peers in a learning format;

- · Conducting, between each cycle of the award, peer reviews and or study tours of the 15 shortlisted cities and the production of case studies;
- · Convening thought leaders' workshops, also between each cycle of the award, fcusing on lessons learned;
- · Bringing short-listed and award-winning city initiatives to share their experiences and lessons learned in person on the occasion of international conferences and meetings such as the World Urban Forum, Regional Fora, the UN-Habitat Assembly,
- · Ad hoc publications, articles, webinars to help disseminate lessons learned;
- · An interactive knowledge platform enabling users to search for initiatives according to region, theme, country, etc.

Since the fourth cycle in 2018, the Award has been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). For the fifth cycle in 2021, both the rules, regulations, guidelines and submission template have been modified to further reflect this alignment.

The stated purpose of all subsequent cycles of the Award is to provide evidence of what works and how for the local implementation of the SDGs and the NUA.

#### D.Objectives of the four-cycle review

The objectives of the four-cycle review include: (i)To take stock of lessons learned from the Award from each cycles and over the four cycles that could be of benefit to cities and metro-regions around the world

- (ii)To discern emerging trends, issues and challenges that were faced by cities and metroregions in each cycle and over the four cycles and their relevance to the global agendas;
- (iii)To propose how the Guangzhou Award should evolve going forward.

#### E.Proposed methodology

The proposed methodology is a threefold approach, as follows:

#### E.1 Quantitative analysis

To undertake a quantitative analysis of the submissions. This consists of looking at the broad categories of issues and themes addressed by the submissions, by geographic region and globally. The proposed categories are the five domains of sustainability, namely: social (including cultural), economic, environmental, technology and governance. The anticipated outcomes of this analysis include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- -differences and similarities of categories of issues by geographic region;
- -correlations, or lack thereof, between these issues and macro-trends within each geographic region;
- -trends or patterns in terms of the broad categories of issues over the four cycles and how these compare with macro-trends in global awareness and thinking (e.g. MDGs, Paris Accord, Sendai Framework, SDGs, etc.).

For the quantitative analysis, there will be two

steps. The first one will be a numerical analysis undertaken by the South African Cities Network. This will include all 976 submissions. This analysis will show how the submissions fall into the different broad categories globally and by geographic region and over the four cycles. The second step will be for each of the experts to corroborate these findings and compare them to macro social, economic and political trends within their respective geographical regions.

One of the proposed key questions is whether urban innovation is addressing the predominant issues that are trending in each geographic region and globally, or if urban innovation is not following these trends and is obeying a different logic, obeying no particular logic or is trend-setting.

The regional interpretation of the numerical analysis should focus on the 45 deserving initiatives from each cycle.

#### E.2 Qualitative analysis

The objective of the qualitative analysis is to identify lessons learned from the initiatives that are of value added to other cities and metropolitan regions taken regionally or globally. In addition to the five domains of urban sustainability, the analysis will take into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Of the five main tools for qualitative analysis, the Guangzhou Award can provide, at least partially, documents that represent the following tools or their proxies:

(i)Ethnographic material: At the end of each cycle, the secretariat of the Award sent people to undertake a peer review or a study tour of each of

the 15 shortlisted local authorities. These reports represent, to very differing qualities, an attempt for an informed outsider to better understand the context, the motivations and the prevailing challenges of each of the initiatives;

(ii)Narrative and case study material: This material includes: (a) the original submissions; (b) the presentations made by the cities at the learning seminar (PowerPoint presentations); (c) the summaries provided by the Technical Committee reports; and (d) comparative case study material developed by the secretariat for occasional publications. This material represents the story as it was told by the local authorities themselves and interpreted by experts;

(iii)Phenomenological material and grounded theory: A proxy to both these tools is provided by the reports of the Technical Committees and the Juries. These reports are based on comparative analysis using the notions of absolute and relative merit, of revolutionary and evolutionary innovation – the two main conceptual tools used by experts for the selection process.

Each of the experts has also participated in one capacity or another in the activities of the Guangzhou Award and in different cycles. In addition, each expert is also engaged in both research, teaching and professional practice.

#### E.3 Discussions and debate

The third approach to the review is to have up to four discussions on line to compare notes, working methods and findings between the experts. These will be organized and moderated by the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation using Zoom.

### GIUI in U20

The third Urban 20 (U20) Mayors Summit will be taking place in Riyadh, prior to the 15th G20 Leaders Summit that will be presided by Saudi Arabia. U20 started in 2018 under the leadership of the Mayor of Buenos Aires and Mayor of Paris, and convened by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). U20 seeks to develop a joint position and collective messages to inform and enrich the discussions of national leaders at the G20 summit through unique urban perspectives.

Nicholas You, Executive Director of GIUI, participated actively in the wok of the U20 from April to July 2020. He was the principal author of one White Paper on Gender Mainstreaming and served as contributing author to three other white papers on youth empowerment; urban inclusion and safety nets; and the post Covid-19 circular economy.



## Removing barriers to mainstreaming gender equality

#### Acknowledgments

#### Authors

City of Guangzhou: Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

Mr. Nicholas You, Urban Specialist and Thought Leader, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

Nicholas You is a veteran urban specialist and thought leader. Prior to his retirement he was the senior policy and planning advisor to UN- Habitat and the manager of the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996. He is currently the Executive Director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation. He regularly advises central and local governments, technology companies and civil society organisations on urban sustainability, urban governance and urban innovation.

### III.Outcomes of our work



## **IV** . Activity Forecast

1.Urban innovation index workshop2.The 16th Urban Innovation Forum open to Guangzhou citizens 3.An online meeting on videos sharing about the excellent international urban innovation initiatives 4.GIUI is looking for new partners to join















