

2017 City and Society International Forum: Celebration at 110 Anniversary of Tongji University

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An international forum, “Sustainable and Inclusive Development: Diverse Practices of Global Cities” was hosted by Tongji University, Shanghai on 28-29 October 2017. Let us congratulate Tongji University’s 110th Anniversary, as this forum was held to commemorate this milestone as well being part of the World Cities Day Series.

There is a long list of Tongji University research institutes and departments, as well as other civic and public organizations that contributed to the holding of this forum. They were as follows: the Shanghai Tongji Urban Planning & Design Institute; Tongji University Department of Sociology; the City and Society Research Center; the Fair City and City Governance Summit Team; Tongji University’s Urbanization and Social Development Research Center, as well as its School of Political Science and International Relations, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Liberal Arts Office. The Shanghai Coordination Center of World Cities Day co-organized the event and the Shanghai office of the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region gave its very welcome support for the event.

The forum had for its aim “to facilitate the cross-disciplinary and cross-border dialogue and interdisciplinary cooperation of related fields through multidimensional academic discussion around theory-building, empirical research, planning practices and policy innovations.”

Many outstanding staff were fully engaged in the forum’s organization, with their work overseen by Preparatory and Academic Committees. The member of Preparatory Committee included Director, Honghua MEN (Dean, School of Political Science and International Relations, Tongji University); Executive Directors, Jian ZHOU (Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University) and Weijue ZHU (Department Head and Professor, Department of Sociology, School of Political Science and International Relations, Tongji University) and other various members, while Academic Committees included Director, Shiling ZHENG (Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences) and other 18 eminent scholars.



Tongji University: The Photo by Dr. Mizukami on 28 October 2017.

Apart from more than 30 presentations given over the course of the first day (28th October), there were also four keynote addresses. These presentations were as follows: “Socially Sustainable Cities: Autonomy, Integration, Survival ” by Sharon ZUKIN (Professor, Brooklyn College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York); “Towards a Global City of Inclusiveness” by Zilai TANG (Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University); “Building Up and Out: How Is China Helping to Urbanize the Global South” by Xiangming CHEN (Dean and Professor, Center for Urban and Global Studies, Trinity College, Connecticut); and “The Integrative Logic of Multi-stakeholder Urban Governance: Case of Pudong” by Hai YU (Professor, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University).

On the second day, 29 October, there were 20 presentations during the morning session before enjoying the farewell lunch at Tongji Xue Yuan Canteen on campus. For the members of the Rikkyo Institute for Global Urban Studies and the Department of Urban Sociology, the University of Seoul, it was the 8th conference reunion since 2010 symposium in Tokyo. But it was a much larger event than previous conferences due to Tongji University’s 110th. Anniversary. From the University of Seoul, Professor Wonho JANG presented a paper, “Scenescapes and New Cultural Communities in Seoul,” so did Professor Kee-Bom NAHM,

“Changing Governance in the Seoul Digital Industrial District: Towards a Mature Cluster?” There were contributions from Rikkyo University. Professor Seongbin HWANG acted as discussant, and two papers were presented. These were from Professor Yoshiaki Edwin NORO, “Lives and Businesses of Bangladeshi Returnees from Japan” and Professor Tetsuo MIZUKAMI, “Japanese Brazilian Communities in ‘Business Castle Town’: Hamamatsu City’s Multicultural Directions”.

The annual conferences become the responsibility in their turn of the staff of the four participating universities: Tongji University, Fudan University, The University of Seoul, and Rikkyo University. Next year it was to be held in Seoul. However, since the College of Sociology, Rikkyo University will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2018, we have decided to organize the International Conference in Tokyo.

