

MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY CONGRESS INVESTIGATES THE 14 HOUR WORKING CITY

29 August 2008:

It is possible to dramatically increase the dynamism of our cities by rethinking the way that we work from the standard 9 to 5 paradigm to the 14 hour working city according to a new report into the urban sustainability of the world's mega-cities.

Connecting Cities: City Regions, is the work of six leading global academics and urban professionals examining the impact of urban development and the new structures of mega-cities ahead of the 9th World Congress of Metropolis, a meeting of world city leaders to be held in Sydney this October hosted by the NSW State Government.

The *14 hour Working City* by James Calder, Director of the Global Workplace Sector at Woods Bagot Architects is just one of the contributions in the report which suggests new ways of sustaining and improving city functionality with the redistribution of jobs and greater use of public transport.

James Calder said planners and governments are starting to realise the climate change crisis facing us - and our cities, is forcing us to look at ways to do more with less.

"The internet and virtual connectivity that allows us to work most efficiently in the 24 hour global marketplace presents one solution – the 14 hour working city," James Calder said.

"The 14 hour working city would enable early and late shifts - work times would overlap to spread movement across a far greater number of hours during the day. This may increase productivity for workers and organisations, increase utilisation of public transport, roads and office buildings and end the peak hour rush," James Calder said.

As a contributor to the report, Director of Metropolis Congress 2008, Chris Johnson, examines the greater metropolitan centre of Sydney as an example of a 'polycentric' structure with independent cities such as Newcastle, Wollongong, Parramatta, Penrith, Gosford and Liverpool now inter-connected with Sydney as part of one city system.

Connecting Cities: City Regions is the second in a series of 5 research publications being produced in the lead up to Metropolis Congress 2008.

NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor said the 2008 Metropolis Congress would present a great opportunity to look at Sydney in a global context and help our city's future by examining issues and challenges universal to all cities.

"Half the world's population lives in city regions and this is predicted to increase to 75% in less than 50 years, so better management of city regions is critical to long term sustainability," he said.

"A key goal of the NSW State plan is to encourage jobs in our regional cities, closer to where our workers live."

All delegates who register for Metropolis Congress 2008 will receive one free collection of the Connecting Cities series. To register online and for all speaker, city and program information, visit www.metropoliscongress2008.com or contact the Secretariat on +61 2 9254 5000.

About Metropolis Congress 2008:

Hosted by the NSW Government, the 9th World Congress of Metropolis is to be held in Sydney, 22-25 October, 2008. 1000 local and international mayors and government officials, industry and academic leaders are expected to attend. Metropolis Congress 2008 will bring together world cities to exchange experience and expertise around some of the key issues facing cities including climate change, urban renewal, financing public infrastructure and services and city leadership. Connecting Cities is the overarching theme of Metropolis Congress 2008 and refers to the global city network as well as the growing connectivity of global cities.

Metropolis Congress 2008 is supported by leading Australian and International organisations including the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, NSW Department of Planning, Brookfield Multiplex, Cisco, City of Sydney, the GPT Group, Integral Energy, Investa, Landcom, Mirvac, Nakheel, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Water, Westfield, Goodman, Leighton Holdings, Lend Lease Corporation, Macquarie Real Estate and Woods Bagot.

www.MetropolisCongress2008.com

High profile speakers already confirmed for Metropolis Congress 2008 include:

- **Dr Rajendra Pachauri**, Chair of the Nobel-prize winning Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, to deliver the Climate Change Plenary, Thursday 23 October
 - **Dr Shi Zhengrong**, Chairman of the Board and CEO of China's solar energy giant, Suntech and former student of UNSW, to deliver the Climate Change Plenary and Energy Workshop, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October
 - **Professor Saskia Sassen**, Columbia University Professor and member of the Committee on Global Thought, to deliver the Connecting Cities Plenary, Thursday 23 October
 - **Carlo Ratti**, Director of the 2007 Venice Biennale's Real Time Rome and the Museum of Modern Art's New York Talk Exchange, to deliver Connecting Cities Plenary and Technology Workshop, Thursday 23 and Saturday 25 October
 - **Wim Elfrink**, Chief Globalisation Officer for Cisco Systems, to deliver Opening Ceremony Address and Connecting Cities on Thursday 23 October
 - **Professor Chetan Vaidya**, Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, India's premier institute for research and training in urban management, to deliver the China and India Plenary and India workshop on Friday 24 October
- Mayors and Government officials from world cities attending the Congress include:
Bangkok, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Chong Qing, Dubai, Delhi, Guangzhou, Havana, Hiroshima, Hong Kong, Kolkata, London, Manila, Melbourne, Mexico (State of), Moscow, Mumbai, Montreal, Paris, Sao Paolo, Seoul, Stockholm, Tehran, Toronto and Wuhan.

Interviews

- **Chris Johnson**, Director of Metropolis Congress 2008 and Executive Director, Cities and Centres, NSW Department of Planning
- **Jeffrey Kenworthy**, Professor of Sustainability, Curtin University, Perth WA
- **James Calder**, Director of the Global Workplace Sector at Woods Bagot, Melbourne VIC

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