



News, Conferences and Happenings



The Third International
Conference on Diversity in
Organisations, Communities and
Nations Conference,
The East-West Center,
University of Hawai'i,
13-16 February 2003

Cultural Diversity in a Globalising World

The Diversity Conference is being hosted this year by the Globalism Institute at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia and the Globalization Research Centre at the University of Hawai'i.

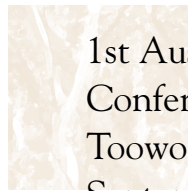
The conference will include both major keynote addresses by internationally renowned speakers and numerous small-group workshop and paper presentation sessions. In all sessions we are encouraging people to bring an active sense of the world today, from the global to the local, and to engage with the possibilities for positive change. The themes listed on the website indicate the range of issues which the conference will be addressing, and you may like to speak to these from a variety of perspectives – engaged scholarly interest in diversity; governmental and non-governmental involvement in community building; interest in diversity management; your research on aspects of culture and diversity – whatever you do or whatever moves you to speak.

Papers submitted for the conference proceedings will be fully peer-refereed and published in print and electronic formats. If you are unable to attend the conference, virtual registrations are also available allowing access to the electronic versions of the conference proceedings, as well as virtual presentations, which mean that your paper can be included in the refereeing process and published with the conference proceedings.

Full details of the conference, including an online call for papers, are to be found at the conference website at: <http://www.Diversity-Conference.com>

We hope you will be able to attend this important and timely international conference.

Professor Paul James
Director, Globalism Institute
RMIT University
Melbourne, Australia



1st Australian Farming Systems Conference 2003

Toowoomba, Queensland

September 7–10 2003

Call for Papers

“Farming Systems in the Future”

Purpose

The First Australian Farming Systems Conference aims to provide a forum for exposure, dialogue and learning about Farming Systems (FS) approaches,

methodologies, methods, and their application. Our purpose is to explore and challenge current thinking by sharing contemporary experiences and achievements from a diverse range of situations (including social, international, inter-disciplinary).

Background

AFSA (Australian Farming Systems Association) was formally established in 2001. Its primary goal is as a networking association amongst people interested in farming systems across Australia. It is associated with IFSA (International Farming Systems Association) which is a global organization made up of regional farming systems associations and loosely affiliated individuals. IFSA participants include farming systems practitioners associated with universities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations interested in agricultural development around the world. While early work began with a field and small farm focus, IFSA has increasingly been concerned about sustainable agriculture, policy and ecosystems issues on a watershed or larger scale. IFSA holds a global conference very two years to members can share research results and outreach methods. Most regional associations hold their meetings on alternate years. Recent IFSA conferences include Chile (2000), South Africa (1998), Sri Lanka (1996) and France (1994). This will be AFSA's First Australian Farming Systems Conference. For details about AFSA contact Christine King (President) christine.king@dpi.qld.gov.au

Themes

Concepts behind Farming Systems (FS) approaches

This theme is interested in key concepts and ideas around Farming Systems (FS) approaches that differentiate it from other approaches used in agriculture and resource management. Understanding differences and changes (eg values) might help predict which types of change may shape future theoretical frameworks. This theme will be suited to people with an interest in the more fundamental questions related to the nature and knowing of FS approaches.

Sustainability and the contribution of Farming Systems approaches

This theme focuses on FS and sustainability including the physical, social or economic aspects

and their inter-related impacts on FS improvement and sustainability. People with an interest in the issues relating to interdisciplinary RD&E, sustainability and FS practice will be well matched to this theme.

Resilient Farming Systems in a complex world

This theme recognises the complex and changing world in which farming systems are located. It explores how FS approaches are situated and relate to current and future demands such as environmental certification, globalisation, intellectual property, food safety, quality assurance, trade labelling and large market forces. People interested in how resilient FS might be designed and managed to allow for wider system issues will find this theme particularly useful.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning for Farming Systems improvement

This theme focuses on techniques, methods and methodologies for monitoring, evaluating and learning for FS improvement. Examples are being sought that include theoretical applications as well as practical experiences. This theme aims to attract people interested in sharing their insights and experiences with FS projects in relation to how they address monitoring, evaluation and learning.

'Uncommon' processes and partnerships for Farming Systems change: International, Alternative and Social

This theme looks to encourage new ideas from outside the common FS domain that can potentially contribute to FS change. These may include processes or methodologies from overseas FS projects, other cultures and philosophies, as well as other disciplines such as health, social work or psychology. Of particular interest is how can social aspects be incorporated into the FS arena. This theme also aims to provide a joint exploration of issues and questions that require 'uncommon' partnerships between mainstream FS with the international, alternative or the social (eg horticulture, permaculture and organic systems; indigenous and bush food production systems; social, health and other related systems). Why will practitioners build working partnerships across their conventional disciplinary boundaries and what issues require such approaches over the next 5 years in Australasia?

Poster Sessions and Tool Bazaar Workshops: Challenging across system boundaries

The Poster Sessions and Tool Bazaar workshops will be focused on the perceived divides that exist in the farming systems environment and the tools we use to address these. We are looking for examples of innovative methodologies, methods and tools (eg Participatory methods) that try to overcome divides between urban and rural communities; social, economic and financial; theory and practice; gender; indigenous and non-indigenous; scientists and community; and agencies/people across the supply chain. Tool bazaar workshops will be interactive and facilitated so that participants use the tools during the workshop. Posters will outline methodologies.

Papers and Timing

Intending authors are invited to submit the titles of proposed papers together with an abstract of about 300 words outlining the aim, content and the conclusions of their papers. Accepted papers will be printed directly from authors documents, using a template provided by the organiser.

- Receipt of abstract: 8 February 2003
- Accepted papers advised: 8 March 2003
- Full papers due: 8 May 2003

Submission of a paper abstract implies that the author will attend the conference to present the paper in person if it is selected.

All correspondence relating to the conference organization, including proposals for papers and indications of interest should be addressed to:

The Conference Secretariat
Meetings and Events Department
University of South Queensland
PO Box 282
Darling Heights Qld 4350
Email: stewartc@usq.edu.au
Tel: (07) 4631-2190
Fax: (07) 4635 5550

New Publication

An important report was recently released for the Sustainable Transport in Sustainable Cities project: *A City of Cities*.

The report focuses on the Sydney region. It points out that just about everyone agrees that Sydney will grow by at least 25% over the next two decades; the equivalent of adding Canberra's population to Sydney every six years.

A City of Cities presents a vision of future Sydney that will cope with the challenges of living in a megacity without compromising the resources and amenities.

A City of Cities proposes two revolutionary but fundamental planning criteria for all future planning. The first is that Sydney becomes a city of six cities or linked regions each with their regional centre or centres, such as Sydney central, Parramatta, Penrith, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Chatswood and Hornsby, with the centres in between acting as the interconnection nodes. Each of these cities would be self-sufficient in offering the full range of housing, businesses, transport, shops, schools and cultural and leisure facilities within easy access of its residents.

A City of Cities Executive Summary

Improving access is the best strategy

A City of Cities examines the critical relationship between land use and transport provision/behaviour.

Sydney's traditional transport vision of building more infrastructure to improve travel speed over greater distances is not working and is ultimately unsustainable. The better alternative is to plan land use to give access to activities while reducing the need to travel. Good land use planning can also encourage more sustainable modes of transport.

To create a sustainable and efficient urban transport system, Sydney needs to enhance accessibility, rather than increase mobility.

A misconception is that the only transport task in Sydney is to and from the CBD. However, only 13 percent of jobs in the Sydney region are in the CBD. Other centres and their respective communities need greater attention.

Modify the form and structure of the city

Land use planning has failed to provide the foundations for developing a sustainable city that will accommodate the projected increase in Sydney's population from four to five million by 2020.

The 'form' of a city is the nature and density of development. The 'structure' of a city is the spatial relationships of services and activities. Both the form and structure of Sydney are a source of its inefficiency. *A City of Cities* recommends the establishment of a research program to explore the relationship between the form and structure of Sydney and its sustainability objectives.

Integrate land use and transport planning

Integrated land use and transport planning is essential to improve accessibility and manage travel demand. This requires better directed planning and development controls. Planning should permit more flexible development approvals within designated mixed development centres and incentives should promote new development in designated centres, in preference to isolated sites.

Mass transport provision should be promoted by:

- amending legislation to allow broader funding mechanisms for developer contributions to apply to public transport provision or improvement;
- allowing development consent conditions to require provision of appropriate planned transport services and to prevent the oversupply of parking.

Establish sustainability benchmarks

Sustainability benchmarks are needed to assess the impact of transport and land use policies on Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region (GMR).

Issues to consider include energy consumption, use of water and creation of waste.

Adopt a policy of regionalisation within and around Sydney

A City of Cities proposes dividing Sydney into six regions. There is also a need for greater development outside the Sydney GMR to extend and divert transport growth out of the metropolitan centre to the north, south and west beyond the Blue Mountains.

Regions must provide full amenities

Regional centres are not just places for building shops and houses that meet developers' objectives. Each centre must provide a wide range of services including employment opportunities, education, major retailing, cultural and recreation facilities and public amenities that meet the needs of the community.

Develop mass transport links between the centres

Transport networks must feed the trip-generating centres. A high quality regional mass transport network is required to link the major centres as well as an enhanced metropolitan transport network. We need both.

A City of Cities is just one of 13 reports to be published for the Sustainable Transport in Sustainable Cities project. All of the executive summaries may be downloaded from <http://www.warren.usyd.edu.au/transport/publications.htm>

The whole report on CD may be ordered by returning the order form that is on the last page of the downloadable executive summary.