

Mistra Urban Futures

Minutes

Board Meeting No. 15

January 27, 2015
Telephone meeting, 4 pm - 6 pm, CET

Participants:

Thomas Rosswall (Chair)
Colin Fudge
Klas Groth
Katarina Pelin
Hans Ristner
Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez

Ex officio:

Johan Edman, Mistra
Katarina Gårdfeldt, Gothenburg Consortium
Karl-Gunnar Olsson, Chalmers
David Simon, Director

Invited participants:

Cecilia Örnroth, Secretary
Stig Egnell
Jenny Sjödin
Ulrica Gustavsson
Mikael Cullberg

Notice of absence:

Elisabeth Deakin
Thomas Elmqvist

1. **Opening of the meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Elisabeth Deakin and Thomas Elmqvist were unable to participate in the meeting.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

The Chair invited the members to review the agenda and suggest any additional issues that might be discussed under agenda item #8, Any other business.

Decision:

To approve the agenda as circulated.

3. **Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes from meeting #14 had been circulated and approved by the Board electronically. The bibliometric analysis was sent to the Board for comments on 22 December 2014.

Feasibility study report Mistra Urban Futures node in Stockholm:

The Stockholm group had presented a preliminary report to the Secretariat, which in turn had provided feed-back. It was decided to postpone the presentation and discussion of the report to the next meeting, in order to allow the Stockholm group to respond. The feedback concerned a) developing the links with other platforms, b) linking existing networks and international partnerships to the Centre, c) local partnership and financing; as a next step, the governance structure for the Stockholm partnership needs to be more elaborated, including commitments from key partners such as the City and County of Stockholm, d) the purpose of the pilots in relation to the future agenda, and e) plans for the period up to 2016, which need to be adapted to COP 2015. In addition the involvement and anchoring of the plans of a futures node in Stockholm within KTH need to be clarified.

The team for the pre-study on a possible platform Skåne has prepared a draft Letter of Intent. The Board will discuss this at its next meeting, when a final version will be available.

Decisions:

To note that the minutes from the previous meeting had been approved.

To postpone the discussion of the pre-study in Stockholm to the next Board meeting (3rd March);

To ask the GOLIP Director, Mikael Cullberg, to contact KTH to clarify the involvement from KTH; and

To add to the next Board meeting a discussion of possible inclusion of a node in Skåne.

4. Update from the Director

The Director gave a brief update of the main achievements and changes since the Board meeting in November that are not listed under separate items below.

Appointment process for Deputy Scientific Director: This is moving forward. A candidate was on campus 7-8th January and made presentations and held detailed discussions with both Mistra Urban Futures and the Dept of Architecture, where she would have her academic base. The outcomes were very positive and everyone was agreeable to appointing her. As Head of the Area of Advance, Karl-Gunnar Olsson is leading formal negotiations and the plan is to have arrangements in place by the end of January when Chalmers VP Carlsten retires. If hired, she will get a professorship at CTH (Artistic Professor) for 3+3 years.

Progress on Urban SDG campaign and pilot project: The Director participated in a Campaign workshop in Bangalore, 11-13th January, where important progress was made. The resulting text is being incorporated into the SDSN Public Consultation on their SDG document. Next steps have now been defined and timetabled in concert with key UN process deadlines and meetings. On our pilot project, preparations are now under way following Mistra's approval of our funding request and an informal green light from Sida to proceed pending formal notification. The key tasks are refining the project agenda and recruiting appropriate research staff.

COP2015 was submitted on schedule to Mistra and Sida in December. Formal approval was received from Mistra on 15th January.

The Centre is involved in the continuing Future Earth (FE) transition: The Urban Transition Team (co-chaired by the Director and Thomas Elmqvist) would hold its 2nd scoping meeting in Boulder, CO, 11-13th March; while Thomas Elmqvist and Mikael Cullberg attended an inaugural meeting in Brussels on 15th January to prepare for the establishment of a FE European regional node.

The Director has accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker at a high-level East African ministerial and mayoral conference in Dar es Salaam in mid-February on visioning future sustainable cities for the region. He will combine that with a visit to KLIP to launch the Urban SDG project there.

While in Dar es Salaam in January, the Director held discussions with colleagues at Ardhi University in relation to their current grant application to Sida with KLIP and Reality Studio for funding collaboration between Kisumu and Ardhi University, which also links to the Chalmers' East Africa Urban Academy initiative.

Planning is also moving forward following an invitation to the Director to organize a high profile international session as part of a city focus on the opening days of the Almedalen Week 2015. The Almedalen week is a highly regarded annual political event in Sweden which is open to the public.

The week prior to Almedalen, the Volvo Ocean Challenge yacht race will end in Gothenburg. Several events will be organised during that week, some, with a specific urban focus in which we will partner, possibly showcasing CTLIP.

Decisions:

To note the report from the Director; and
 To express appreciation to Mistra and Sida for additional funding for the pilot USDG.

5. Progress Report 2010-2014

The Progress Report is now complete, including the bibliometric study and all Annexes. Annex 1 "Voices from Mistra Urban Futures" comprises 15 interviews with various stakeholders at all LIPs. The report is presented with the intended layout. The main report should be submitted to Mistra no later than 2 February 2015 in hard copy and digital form (Annexes).

Decision:

To approve the Progress Report 2010-2014 for submission to Mistra.

6. Strategic Plan 2016-2019

This same day, but prior to this meeting, a physical meeting in Gothenburg took place with Thomas Rosswall, Colin Fudge, Katarina Pelin, Hans Ristner, Katarina Gårdfeldt Karl-Gunnar Olsson, David Simon and the secretariat present. During this meeting the final draft of the Strategic Plan was discussed in detail. A summary of the discussion was presented by the Director. Further input and discussion was held during this agenda item so that those attending by phone could contribute.

Decisions:

To request the Director to take note of the written and verbal comments from the Board and incorporate these into the document as the Director sees fit, and
 To request that the sections on the individual LIPs are made less local and inward looking and more clearly and directly linked to the strategic objectives and research themes in Chapter 1 and 2.

7. Next meetings

The following additional Board meetings will be held in 2015:

- #16 3 March – phone meeting (5-6pm) to approve Annual Report and programme for site visit
- 5-6 May – Board members are invited to participate in the site visit by the Mid-Term Review (MTR) panel

- #17: 11-12 June – physical meeting (in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch) to discuss outcome of the MTR evaluation
- #18: 1-2 October – physical meeting (in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch) to approve draft of revised Strategic Plan and Outlined COP if Mistra has approved an extension but requires revisions, or to discuss alternative plans for continued activities
- #19: 23 November – phone meeting (4-6pm, CET) to approve revised Strategic Plan and COP 2016, if continuation is approved

Decision:

To cancel the planned meeting on 13 February and instead circulate the final Strategic Plan for formal approval by email;

To note the schedule for 2015.

To note that Karl-Gunnar Olsson cannot participate on 11-12 June or 1-2 Oct and that he will be replaced by someone else from the host during those meetings; and

To note that Katarina Gårdfeldt cannot participate on 11-12 June and that she will be replaced by someone else from the consortium during that meeting.

8. Any other business

There was no other business during the meeting, but Johan Edman (who left the meeting during agenda item 7) informed the Chairman and Director the day following the meeting regarding the Mid-Term Review:

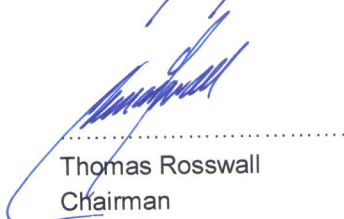
The evaluation panel will consist of five persons rather than six as previously intended. As previously communicated, these will be Ilmar Reepalu (Chair), Caroline Moser, John Robinson and David Dodman. Evert Kroes (regional planner, Stockholm County Council) had also accepted taking part in the panel. However, in mid-January Kroes unfortunately realized he had a conflict with another appointment and had to resign. A replacement for him is being sought.

Rebecca Oliver has formally agreed to participate as scientific secretary and editor of the evaluation report. She will not be on the evaluation panel but will play a very important role.

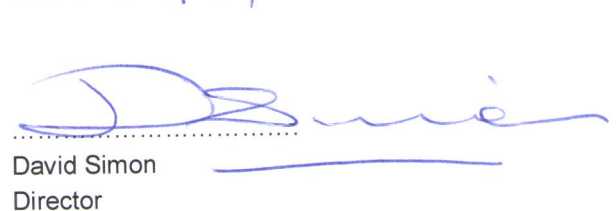
Caroline Moser has a good picture of the assignment and a LIP travel plan has been developed for her as the only panel member visiting the non-Swedish LIPs.

The panel will hold their first conference call on February 27 so they will be able to discuss both the Progress report and the Strategic Plan ahead of the meeting.

Date: 2/3/15


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Thomas Rosswall
Chairman

Date: 25/2/15


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David Simon
Director