



Sunday March 8, 2009
14:00 to 15:30

Lyon Convention Center
France

FACING THE CHALLENGES OF EXPANDING CITIES

Plenary session

Moderator

- **Maria Livanos Cattai**, Member of the Board of Directors of Petroplus Holdings AG, Switzerland

Speakers

- **Gérard Collomb**, Senator-Mayor of Lyon, President of the Greater Lyon urban community, France
- **Jean-Jack Queyranne**, President, Rhône Alps Region
- **Ismail Serageldin**, Director, New Library of Alexandria, Egypt
- **Saskia Sassen**, Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, USA
- **Nicholas You**, Senior Policy and Planning Advisor to the Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Summary

- The aim of the panel discussion was to get answers to the following questions:
 1. What are the challenges of global city expansion?
 2. Which solutions to these challenges are expected from the life sciences?
- Answering the first question all panel members agreed on some well known problems like cities contribution to global emissions, pollution, efficient transportation, waste and sanitary problems which are linked to city expression in to unpredicted proportions
- Gérard Collomb insisted that these problems are further complicated by large scale migrations with the result of social antagonism
- Jean-Jack Queyranne stressed that we are facing an enormous transformation of the "anatomy of cities" forming huge metropolitan areas
- Saskia Sassen further developed her idea that cities show the problems of globalisation through a magnifying glass
- Regarding the second question, all panel members agreed on life sciences can potentially bring solutions to a lot of these challenges, e.g. health care provision, pollution and energy consumption



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BioVision 2009 session reporting

- Jean-Jack Queyranne specified his expectations that life sciences contribute to a rethinking of all the different aspects of life in the city
- Ismail Seregaldin gave six specific points he is expecting from life sciences:
 1. Reducing air pollution
 2. Provision of water supply
 3. Educate the poor
 4. Find solutions for solid waste recycling, essentially develop more biodegradable products
 5. Mobilise finance for implementation of life sciences, which will be less expensive than implementation of other new technologies in developing countries
 6. Getting the laws right, especially regarding ethics and an open eye on what is happening in the rest of the world, as life sciences can create bridges by collaboration with other groups all over the world
- But all panel speakers again agreed on science not being able to solve all the mentioned problems alone
- There is a strong call for a new governance of cities in the sense of recognising the level of the cities as a decision level
- However, as Nicholas You pointed out, the recognition of the cities as a decision level should not go too fast and too far, as it did in the cities' administration in China, but the cities should be integrated into decision making processes according to their global impact
- Essentially scientific advice for decision makers should be fully integrated into the cities' new governance structure.



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Quotes

"Cities are very Fuzzy Logic Systems, which are not predictable at all. The question is, how do we manage the possible positive outcome of such systems."

Saskia Sassen

"Building tomorrow, it is trying to build the city within the city with limited consumption of space."

Gérard Collomb

"Challenges for cities in the 21st century are effectiveness and maintaining social links."

Jean-Jack Queyranne

"It would have taken Rotterdam to find consensus with 20 regional authorities, and that would have taken 20 years, to stay the worlds No. 1 port. Therefore Rotterdam today is not capable of being the No. 1 port any more."

Nicholas You

"You can talk for ages on an international level about what solutions could be, but the city has to act on a regional level before the global discussion is finished."

Saskia Sassen

"There are cities in China which grow like asparagus in spring."

Maria Livanos Cattai

"The election of a mayor should not be based only on his future cabinet but also on his future scientific advisory board."

Saskia Sassen

"A major challenge is to reconcile science and ecology and the issue for scientists is to get the message to the public opinion."

Gérard Collomb

"There are cities of the north today finding parts of cities of the south with all their specific problems, especially migration and separation of rich and poor, directly integrated within themselves."

Ismail Serageldin



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