

Presentations on Australia and the Netherlands

Ms. Sandy Sin Ting Chan / Mr. Kevin Ka Wing Lau / Mr. Striker Maren

Wednesday, 8 October 2008 (12:45 -14:00)

Room 829, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Australia

Abstract:

If you ever wonder what goes on in Down Under, this is the golden opportunity to hear it all! After spending their summer in Australia for the Griffith learning exchange program, the two speakers will shed some light on the Australian approaches to transport planning, heritage conservation and sustainable land use practices. Every city has its planning success to be applauded for and failure to learn from. Australian cities are no different. You shall discover *what to learn* and *what not to learn* from the Australian model of urban development.

About the Speaker:

Sandy Chan is currently a postgraduate student in the Master of Urban Planning program. Formally educated in Canada, Sandy earned her B.A. in Geography from the University of British Columbia. Traveling remains one of her passions and seeing the different ways of doing things enables her to think outside the box and learn to be flexible with her ideas. Kevin Lau is a second year student in the programme of Master of Science in Urban Planning. He attained his bachelor degree of Civil & Structural Engineering in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2007. The summer exchange at Griffith University enabled him to widen the scope in urban planning philosophy as well as local culture in the West.

Netherland

Abstract:

The Netherlands is a very unique place on the globe. It is popular for its traditional windmills, tulips, cheese, wooden shoes, delftware and gouda pottery, for its bicycles, and in addition, traditional values and civil virtues such as its classic social tolerance.

It also has a long history in planning. The Netherlands is a geographically low-lying country, with about 27% of its area and 60% of its population located below sea level. Significant areas have been gained through land reclamation and preserved through an elaborate system of polders and dikes.

In this presentation I would like to give you a brief introduction of urban and regional planning in the Netherlands. I will take you through the history of planning in the Netherlands to show how natural forces, as well as human hands helped shaping this country. I will zoom in on the western part of the Netherlands also called 'Randstad' and show some basic characteristics of this polycentric region. Also very Dutch values are addressed e.g. bicycles and water management which have a great impact on planning in the Netherlands.

About the Speaker:

Maren Striker is a 2nd year M.Sc. student at the University of Hong Kong where he is studying Urban Planning. After his bachelor education in Urban and Regional Planning in the Netherlands he worked at Arcadis Consultancy on projects involving coastal protection and urban development, cultural heritage preservation and urban renewal of the historical inner city of Wuhan, China.

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