

The editor's page

As a documentation and communication vehicle – part of a broader effort of the Athens Center of Ekistics (ACE) to contribute to the development of a sound approach to the field of Human Settlements – Ekistics makes itself available as a free forum for the exposure of ideas and experiences from anywhere to everywhere, provided they are relevant and transferable.

In this effort, writings of members of the World Society for Ekistics (WSE) have quite frequently been considered and published in Ekistics.

How could our attitude be different in cases of collective efforts of the WSE such as its meetings last year in Berlin (24-28 October, 2001) with the title "Defining Success of the City in the 21st Century"? Actually, we have reported on such events on various occasions in the past, the most recent being in vol. 64, no. 385/386/387, July/August-Sept./Oct.-Nov./Dec. 1997 and vol. 65, no. 388/389/390, Jan./Feb.-Mar./Apr.-May/June 1998 on "Mega-Cities ... and Mega-City Regions", a conference of which the WSE was a co-sponsor together with Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, and the University of British Columbia, Canada.

We are happy that the World Society for Ekistics welcomed our proposal to consider the large number of documents made available at its meetings in Berlin and select some of the papers presented for publication in Ekistics. However, the amount of material available far exceeded the capacity even of one triple issue. Hence the following two triple issues:

1. Defining Success of the City in the 21st Century – 1 of 2 (Ekistics, vol. 69, no. 412/413/414, January/February-March/April-May/June 2002); and,
2. Defining Success of the City in the 21st Century – 2 of 2 (Ekistics, vol. 69, no. 415/416/417, July/August-September/October-November/December 2002).

The meetings consisted of

- I. The WSE Executive Council
- II. The annual C.A. Doxiadis Lecture
- III. A Symposium "Defining Success of the City in the 21st Century" and
- IV. The General Assembly of WSE members

Deviating from the usual way of selecting papers from such conferences and organizing the material along the views of the Editor, this time, as an exception and in order to give a more complete image of the event, we thought it advisable to include the entire program and provide whatever information was considered relevant from all four distinct meetings. As one would expect, emphasis is given to the C.A. Doxiadis Lecture and the Symposium. Again in this case we thought of following the allocation by theme and sub-theme of the material according to the detailed program of the Symposium, in nine sections. All this is explained in the following pages and the tables of contents which precede this note.

Here for the sake of clarity, please note that the present issue – the first of two – contains 20 papers, i.e. the 2001 C.A. Doxiadis Lecture and 19 papers corresponding to the first four of the nine parts of the Symposium. The second issue contains 26 papers, corresponding to the last five of the nine parts of the Symposium.

I close this note by thanking:

- the WSE for having entrusted us with undertaking the effort of presenting this material;
- all the contributors, most of whom willingly – or by force due to the pressure exerted by the Editor – devoted additional work to their papers for the sake of readers;
- Mrs Noriko Doi for having provided most of the photographic material and Ross Holland from whose report "2001 Berlin Symposium of the World Society for Ekistics" we borrowed four photographs without even asking for his permission as we were sure he would grant it;
- Mrs Alex Freme-Skliros (and here I am joined by R.J. Rooke) whose devotion and hard work surpassed all description in making the present task feasible.

P. Psaroulas