



## Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment

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### *Symposium on "Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing" Shanghai, 26-30 October 2010*

The impacts of rapid urbanisation and the need to promote the sustainable development of cities encouraged SCOPE—the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment—to join with UNESCO and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the planning and development of the recent international symposium « Urban Futures and Human and Ecosystem Wellbeing ». The conference brought together experts from around the world to consider the multiple aspects and future prospects and potential to promote better management of natural resources and ecological and human wellbeing in the world's urban environments.

Experts were able to dialogue freely and to share and explore new ideas and perspectives; the seeds for future collaboration were sown. They welcomed the wide spectrum and quality of issues that were tabled and discussed during the breakout sessions: eco-city planning; relationships between urban, rural and natural systems; urban governance with a focus on integrating sustainability in all levels of planning and management; urban heritage: the past and future of cities; and ecological architecture.

The meeting was organised and hosted by SARI, the Shanghai Advance Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The Institute did an outstanding job in helping to finalise the programme in liaison with the three sponsor organisations, and in identifying and inviting speakers and other participants, and drawing attention to the symposium via a dedicated website. The Institute also oversaw the logistics and provided superb arrangements for the meeting. SARI has now undertaken to produce and publish the symposium proceedings.

The city of Shanghai provided a wonderful setting for our deliberations. The gracious welcome and warm hospitality of the local hosts were much appreciated, as was the post-symposium field trip to Chongming Island. Many experts also enjoyed the opportunity to visit the World Expo 2010 in the days just before its closure. All participants recognised the strong support of SARI and the exceptional work of the young members of the Institute who managed the smooth running of the symposium and the other events.

SCOPE expresses its deep appreciation to the Shanghai Advance Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and to its staff, for their outstanding contribution to ensure the success of the meeting.

30 November 2010