

Global Citizenship Public Lecture

Knowledge Exchange in the Pacific Rim: The Case of the Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development

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Abstract

The nature of citizenship is changing in the global era. One illustration of this point is the emergence of a rich ecology of transnational professional associations responding to a diverse array of global civic concerns. This lecture examines a specific case study, that of the Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development, which this year is marking its twentieth anniversary. Comprising a wide-ranging network of scholars and professionals, PRCUD engages in a unique form of global citizenship based on organized knowledge exchange. The vehicle for this activity is an ongoing series of roundtable forums organized in conjunction with host cities throughout the Asia Pacific region. Host cities select issues that are of central concern to their jurisdictions, and the roundtable forums are then organized to bring international and local expertise to bear on topics such as cultural heritage preservation, economic development, inner city revitalization or urban riverfront transformation. These forums become the focus of scholarly research, citizenship involvement, and professional action at multiple geographic scales. While the forums are specifically designed to address local issues in their specific contexts, they also provide hooks for “South-South” learning supported by the World Bank and other globally based institutions. This lecture will illustrate with examples from cities throughout the Asia Pacific Region.