

INTERNATIONAL URBAN FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

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This document is a translation of the 14th issue of the journal "Şehir & Toplum" ("City and Society" in English) published by Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU). Şehir & Toplum is a journal in which articles on urbanisation and local governments are published in Turkish. This issue of the journal is dedicatedly translated in English for the first time for participants of Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) 2019.

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Editor's Note

I am delighted to present you the special edition of our journal "Şehir & Toplum" ("City & Society" in English) on "international urban forums and conferences".

Every citizen has a word to say out about the cities. We share the sun, air, soil, we share the city. To live in justice, peace and high quality of life we should be sharing both our successes and failures and looking for alternative ways of consensus. We are all joint owners of our cities and should be hearkened because each voice matters. This idea paved the way for us to organize an international urban forum which gathers citizens, professionals, private sector, NGOs, universities and other stakeholders that play a crucial role in the design, transformation and governance of cities with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience and of creating new opportunities.

This edition contains international urban forums and conferences that can be regarded as basis and preliminary works in the preparation and organization process of Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) which will be held by Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) on 1-3 October, 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The first article titled "Making Sense of Urban Forums" written by Alim Arlı provides a historical timeline of urban exhibitions, conferences and forums in the world. Then, the interview with MMU Secretary General and MARUF General Coordinator M. Cemil Arslan reveals how the idea of MARUF emerged and gives a general framework of MARUF.

The following two articles by Gülden Erkut and Ulaş Akın address UN-Habitat Conferences and UN Sustainable Development Goals. Moscow Urban Forum is explored in M. Cemil Arslan and Hatice Çetinlerden's article named "From Glasnost to Globalism: Moscow Urban Forum".

The journal proceeds with the article by Ezgi Küçük and Samet Keskin on Urban Age Conferences held by LSE, focusing on the idea behind Urban Age Project. Subsequently, Urban Future Global Conference is elaborated by Hatice Çetinlerden based on the experience of years' conference. In the next article, Burcuhan Şener and Merve Ağca Kocakoç provide information on International Metropolis Project and share their experiences on International Metropolis Conference held in Sydney in 2018. Lastly Ekim Tan explains the idea of city games by drawing special attention to Play the City as an alternative discussion platform alongside forums and conferences.

I hope you find our special issue valuable, and we welcome your constructive feedback and comments.

Enjoy your reading.

EZGI KÜÇÜK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When the related dates are examined, it is observed that the conference and forums developed slowly in 1990s, they kept increasing in number through 2000s, and there has been a world-wide leap in the organization of conference and forums after 2010. Those gatherings where UN is a partner, or an equal participant seem to concentrate in the regions of Africa, Asia, and Oceanic islands. UN's participation is also an occasional incident in the events held in Europe and America. The growth of forums becomes remarkable as of their titles and numbers after 2000s, turning into a boom after 2010.

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Making Sense of Urban Forums and Conferences

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Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF): An Interview with M. Cemil Arslan

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Cities and Local Governments on The Global Urban Agenda:
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Play the City: The Architectonics of Game Spaces

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