

PRESENT and FUTURE CITIES

Idas, Innovations, and Shared Solutions



JANICE PERLMAN, Mega-Cities Project
ECOSOC – May 29, 2014

Questions for sustainable cities panel

1. What will future cities look like? What is the vision?
2. What is the defining issue?
3. Urban innovations - Where to find? How to scale-up and multiply their effect?
4. What are the opportunities?



Q1. Imagining the future city

- not a top-down task
- collective vision – city for all
- specific to place and time
- Visually, not unlike present city

NOT AN URBAN DESIGN ISSUE

Unlikely to look like Richard Register's EcoCity



...or DUBAI'S PALM ISLAND



...or DUBAI'S FLOATING CITY



... or TIANJIN'S ECOCITY



A city for all? Or, only the elite?

... or SMART CITY - MALAYSIA

“Encourages social integration” – Where?



City not an island – LOCATION is all



What a Modern Ghost Town looks like

Creating Construction,
Transplanting Culture

Ordos China

New South China Mall Guangdong – still unoccupied



THE NEW URBANISM

“As an urban form [it] is...robust, green and ‘sustainable’, offers high-density, low-cost living in locations penetrating the city centre, within reach of work by foot or bike... close-knit, self-reliant communities in which ties of family and neighbour are strong.”

The Guardian, April 30, 2014

Like POSITANO?



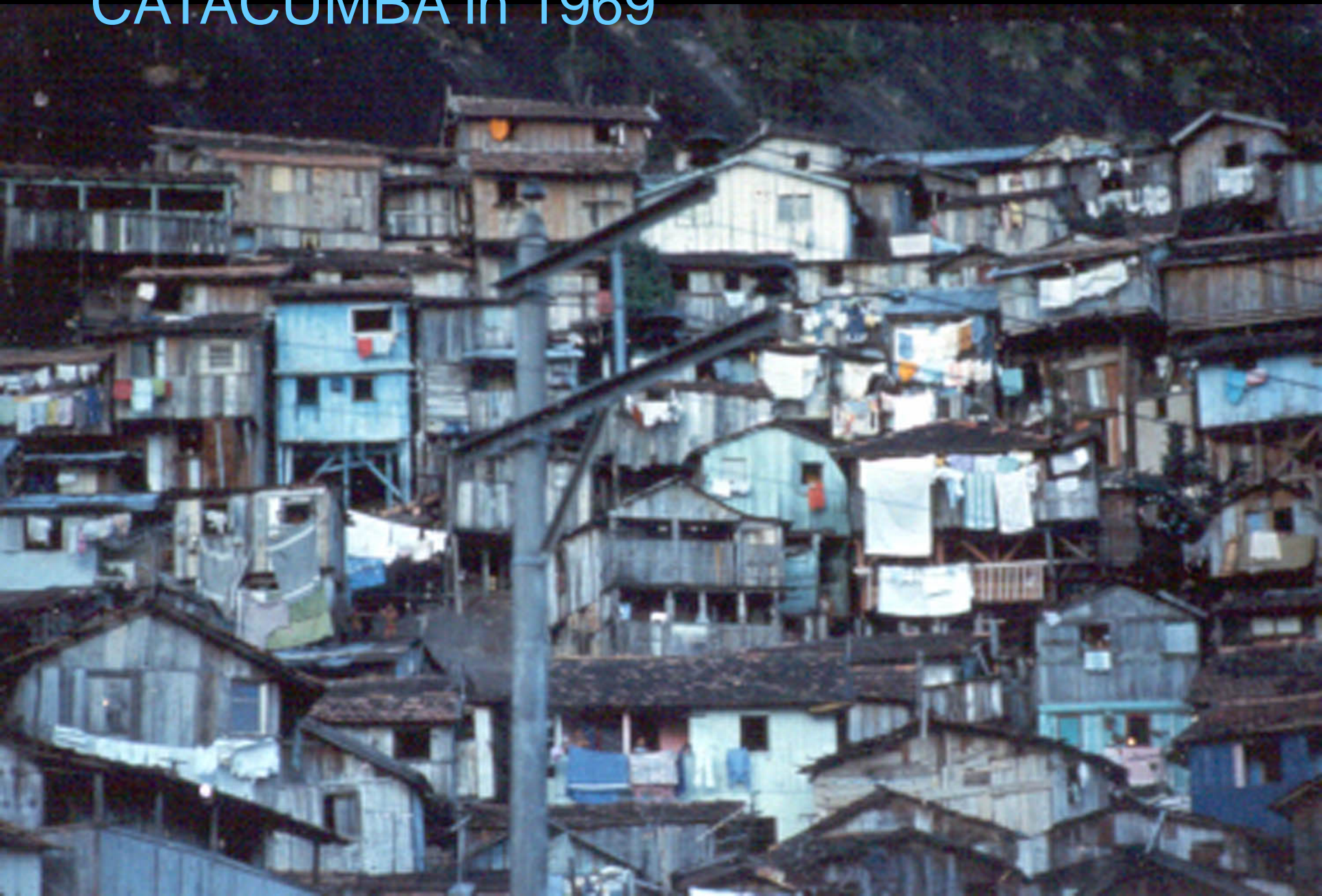
or like Rio's favelas?



**Such as
Rocinha today
or even**



CATACUMBA in 1969



quote is Simon Jenkins on Rio's favelas

“ As an urban form **the favela is** ...robust, green and ‘sustainable’. It offers high-density, low-cost living in locations penetrating the city centre, within reach of work by foot or bike... close-knit, self-reliant communities in which ties of family and neighbour are strong.”

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Q2: What are the defining issues for sustainable cities?

- Informality
- inclusion

Virtually all population growth thru 2050
will be in cities of the Global South

Rural-urban migration is swelling cities by:

70 million people/year
=8 NYCs/year

1.4 million people/week
=Milan or Munich

200,000 people a day



To house this influx we need

35 million units per year

96,150 homes per day

4,000 dwellings per hour

... almost all will be self-built,
informal and off the urban
service grid.



Incoming migrants cannot afford to rent or buy in the formal housing market



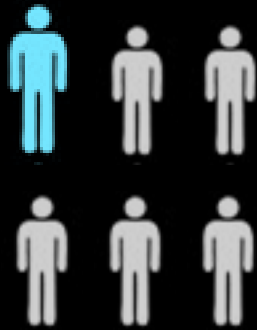
so, they build their own on vacant lands ... therefore urban



GROWTH WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN SLUMS

INFORMAL POPULATION

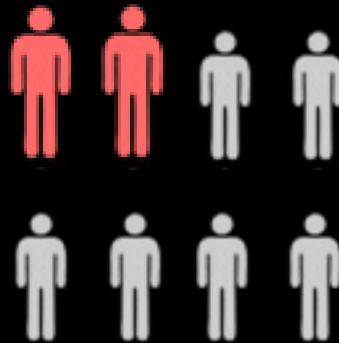
TODAY



1 BILLION

1/6 world population

2030



2 BILLION

1/4 world population

2050



3 BILLION

1/3 world population

BRIDGING THIS DIVIDE = key challenge of our times



INCLUDING the urban poor is the first step...

Q3: Where and how to find innovations needed for sustainable urbanization?



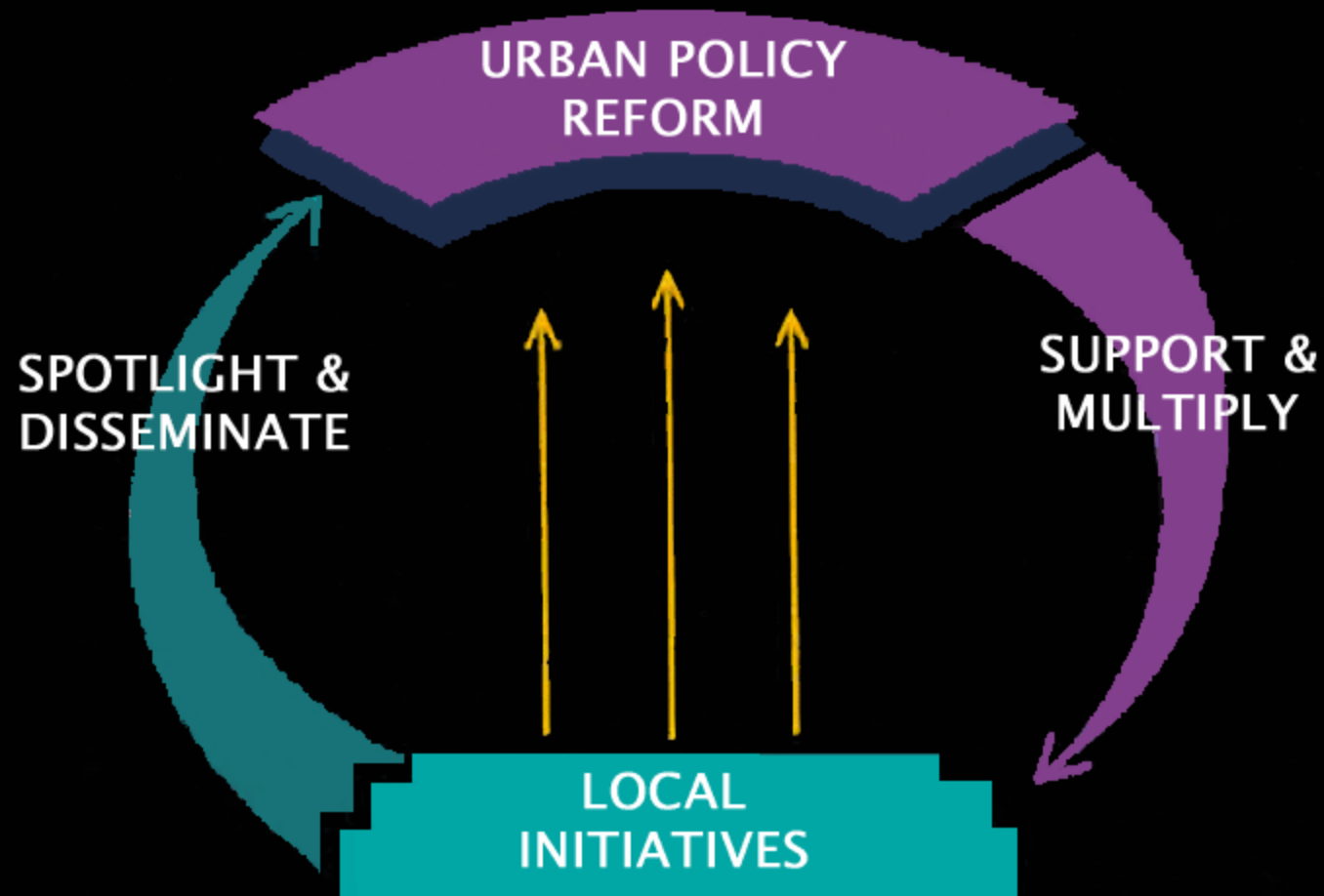
MEGA·CITIES
Innovations For
Urban Life

CITIES and COMMUNITIES as laboratories for urban innovation



W. H. R. 3

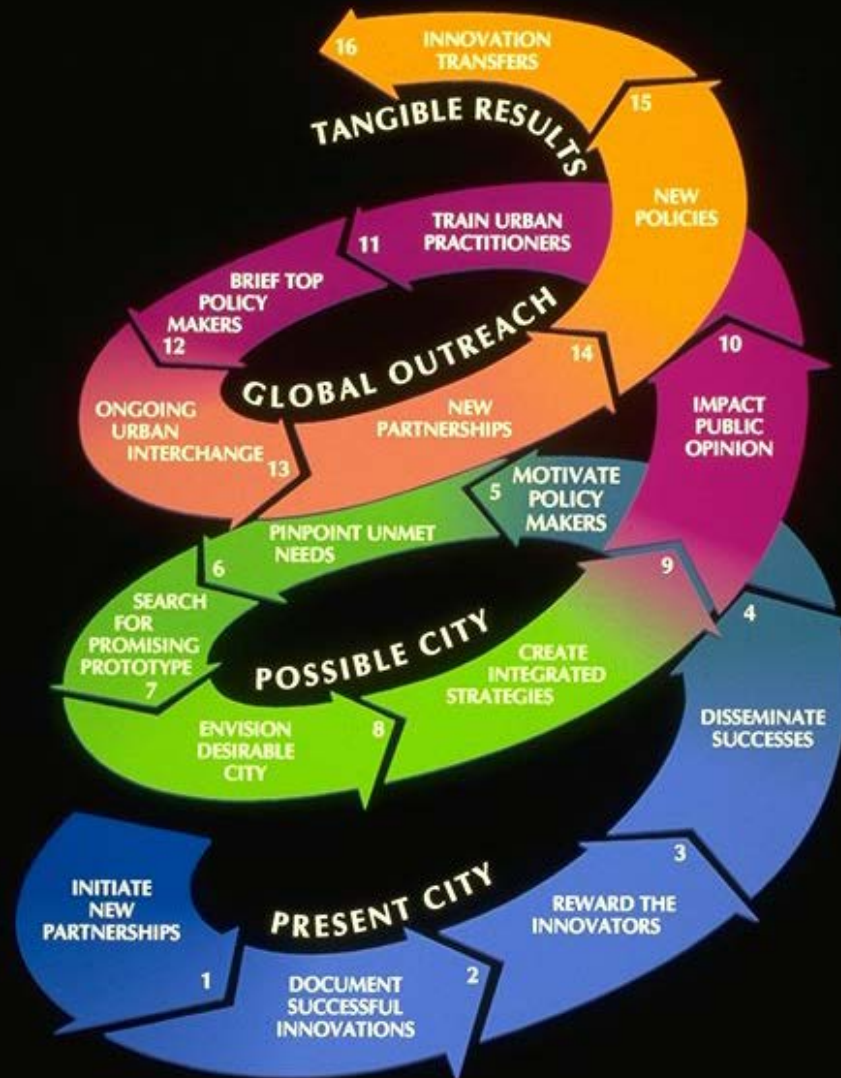
TRANSFORMING URBAN POLICY FROM THE BOTTOM UP



The Mega-Cities Project seeks to legitimate successful grassroots innovations and create incentives to strengthen and replicate them through policy support.

OUR STRATEGY

fosters a “can-do” attitude to urban problem-solving

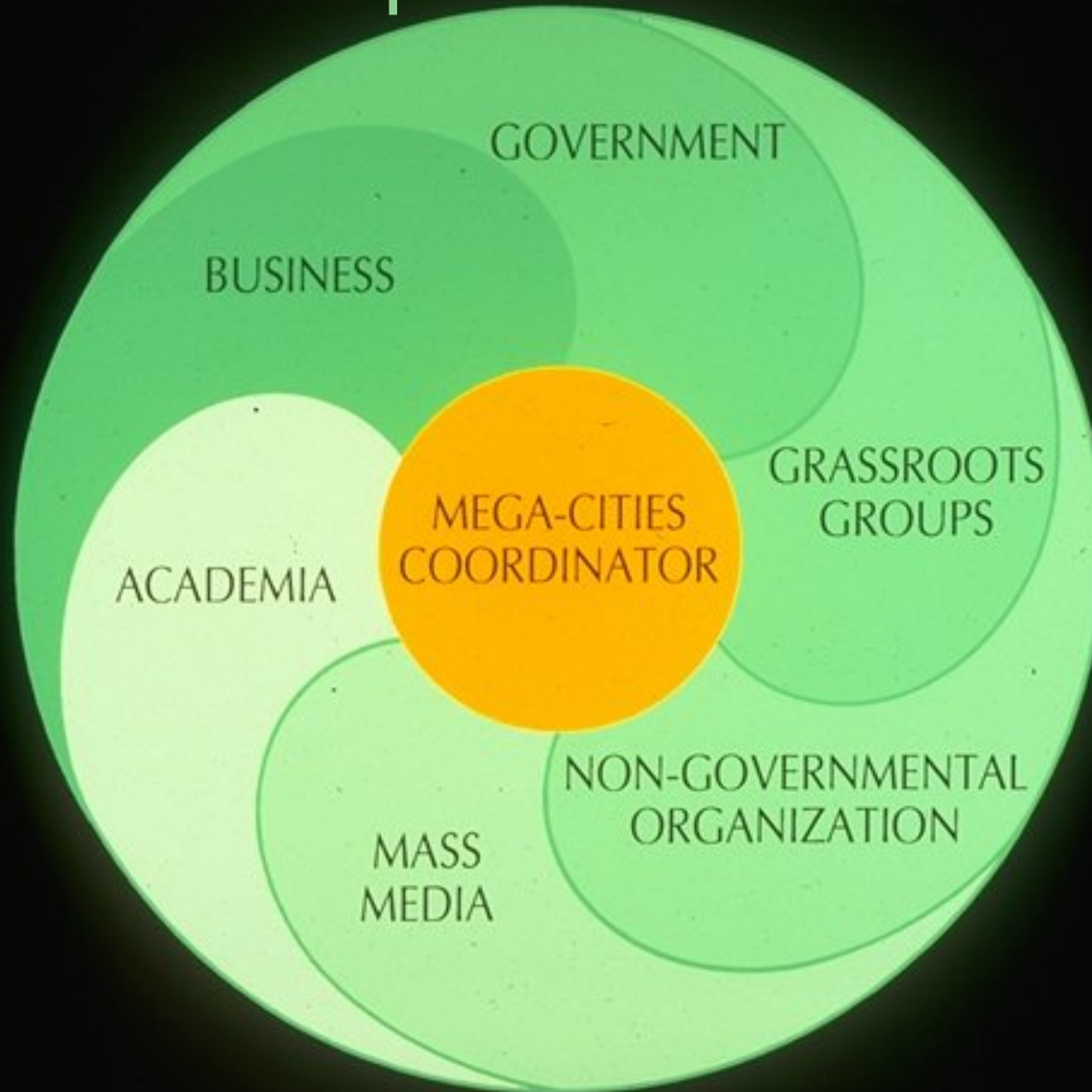




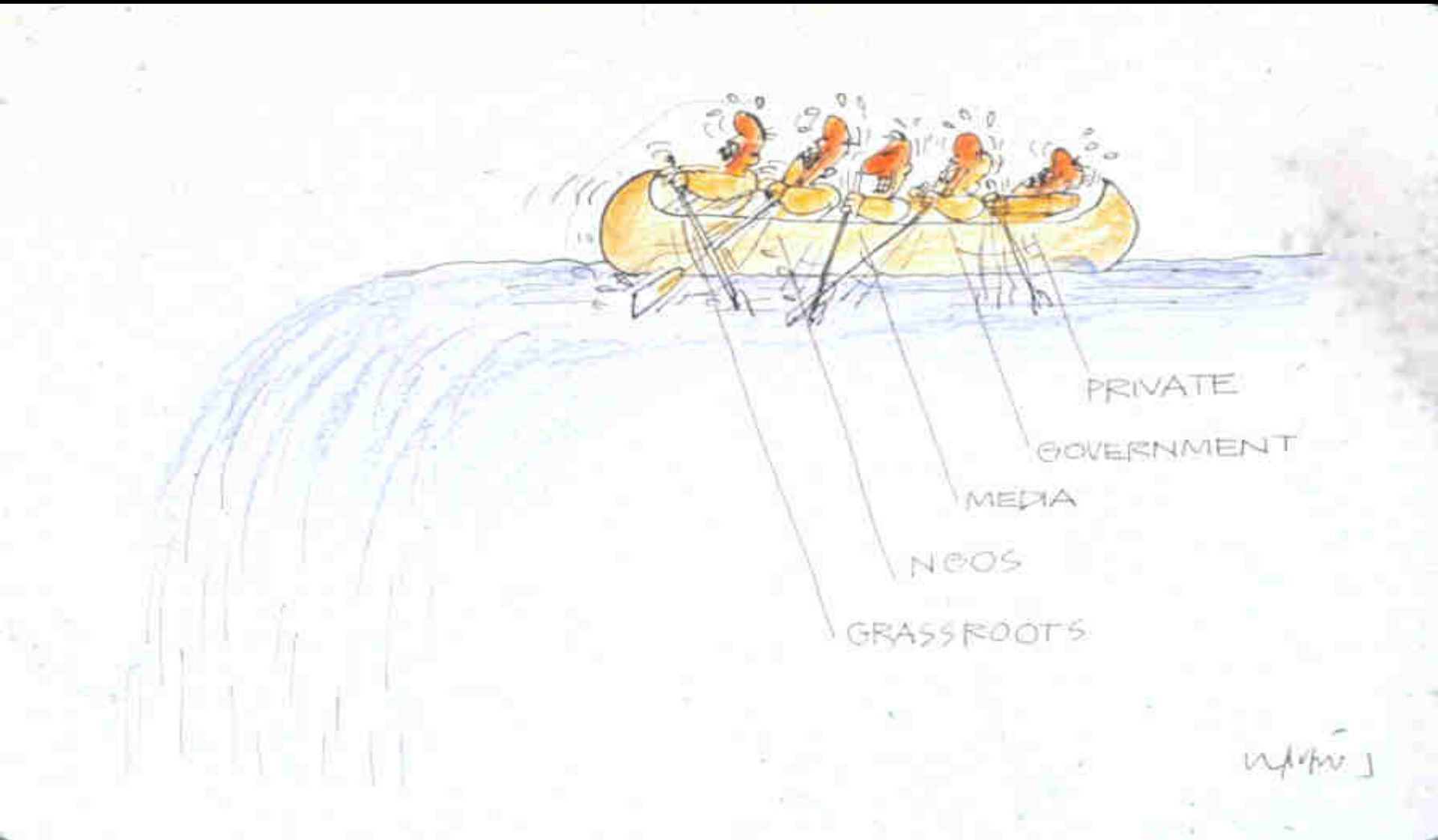
OUR STRUCTURE

6-sector partnership

host institution



Different viewpoints, shared stake in the city...



Incentive= pull together or sink

OUR COMMITMENT

Shorten lag time between ideas & implementation



...and Share Approaches That Work





TO IMPLEMENT IS DIVINE



OUR WORK

SOUTH –NORTH Innovation Transfer



CURITIBA
Surface Metro
(Speedy Line)



BUS STOPS LEVEL + DOORS OPEN FOR RAPID ENTRY



NYC Officials with Mayor Jaime Lerner

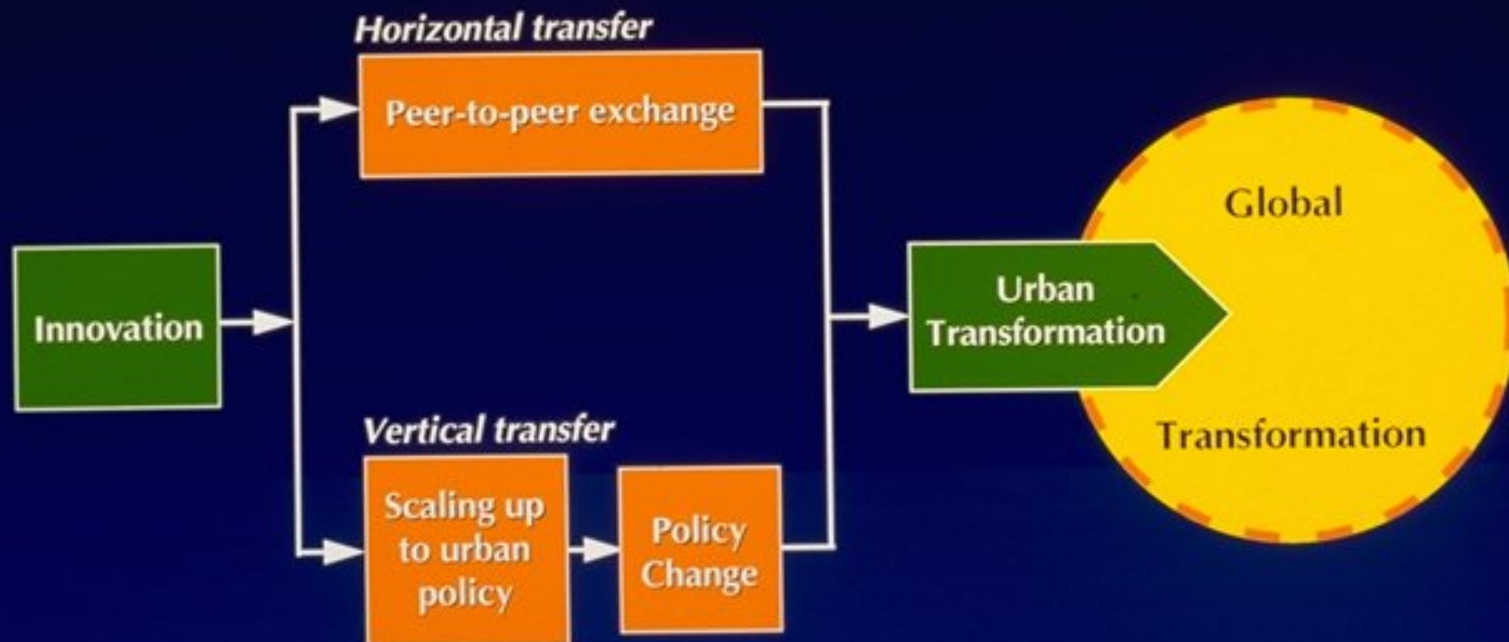


NYC SOUTH STREET SEAPORT- 1992





Elements of Mega-Cities Project Approach



Q. 4: What are the opportunities?

Policy Implications for Urban Inclusion

Place-based	Poverty-based	Universal
PAC JNNURM	Conditional Cash Transfers	RIGHT to HOUSING THE RIGHT TO THE CITY + Right to the center

Urban poor as asset, intellectual capital

- SCARCE: natural resources –cities reaching limits of carrying capacity
- SCARCE: Budgets inadequate to meet current and future needs
- ABUNDANT: informal sector population who are eager to make a contribution.

Current initiative: MC^2 = Energy
Bringing in the next generation

YOUTH BULGE: 1 billion kids between 15-25,
- 85% of them in the developing world
- 1/5 not in school and not working

MOBILE MIRACLE: 7 billion cell phones
- used by over 70 percent of population
in developing countries
- urban youth most connected

Shorten the lag time for young leaders
to be heard and to make a difference

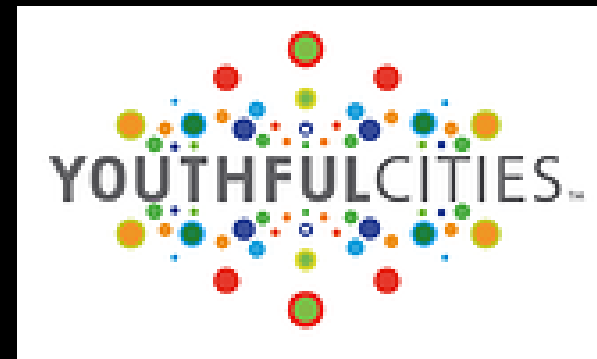


*“We stand tall because we stand on the
shoulders of those led before” – Yoruba Proverb*

Creating Inter-Generation Partnerships (current initiative 2014)



INCLUDED



Our urban future is here now





in JAKARTA



BUILDERS OF TOMORROW'S CITIES

in Rio de Janeiro