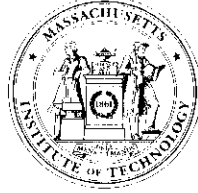


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Dear Participants,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the organizers and participants of the China Planning Network China Week 2009—China Urbanization Summit.

Since the 1970s, urbanization in China represents the largest migration in human history, from a level of 18% in 1978 to 44% by 2006. Urbanization affects every aspect of social and economic life in Chinese cities. At the same time, the current global economic crisis provides a new framework for examining this phenomenon: how has rapid urbanization in China made a difference in allowing the country to deal with the economic downturn? Is urban development a victim to this crisis, a solution to the problem, or something more complex?

I am very pleased that the China Planning Network has undertaken to organize the CPN China Week 2009 to bring the western academic and professional community to China to discuss these questions *in situ* with Chinese scholars, professionals and government leaders, and to examine the challenging aspects of its urbanization in regard to housing, transportation, economic trends, environment and energy, and more general considerations of urban and regional planning and policy.

The CPN is a think tank with 180 participating scholars and over 2,500 members. Since 2004, MIT and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning have devoted great resources to the China Planning Network both intellectually and financially. 25 MIT professors and 15 MIT programs have been engaged in CPN activities. This year, I am excited to see the partnership that China Planning Network is establishing in China, and I would like to specifically thank Renmin University, Tsinghua University, Peking University, Chongqing University, www.China.com.cn, the Ministry of Housing and Urban/Rural Development, and the National Development and Reform Commission for the significant energy and efforts they have contributed to this effort.

I am truly sorry that I am unable to be in Beijing to share the moment with you but I do wish you all a fruitful and memorable China Week in Beijing. As the head of the department I am proud that DUSP has inspired and cultivated an organization like the China Planning Network, and I wish the CPN continued success in its intellectual entrepreneurship of fusing western scholarship on urban development with China's unprecedented urbanization process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy K. Glasmeier".

Amy K. Glasmeier
Professor and Department Head