

IABR–2016– THE NEXT ECONOMY–

Press Release, 4 May 2016

WE HAVE A CLIMATE AGREEMENT! WHAT'S NEXT?

At IABR–2016 two conferences on how to proceed after signing the Paris Climate Agreement

The seventh edition of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam, IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY, opened on Saturday 23 April, the day after the UN assembled in New York to sign the Paris Climate Agreement. This immediately highlighted the topicality of the theme of this Biennale. As IABR director George Brugmans underlined at the opening: the Next Economy starts today!

Driven by the question WHAT'S NEXT? the exhibition IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY is also a ten-week platform for conferences, debates, lectures, workshops, brainstorming sessions, and meetings that further explore the relationship between spatial design and tomorrow's economy. The program for the next couple of weeks includes SUSTAINABLE URBAN DELTAS, a conference organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Delta Coalition, as well as the launch of the first Rotterdam RESILIENCE STRATEGY. Both conferences focus on the long-term resilience of cities.

Sustainable Urban Deltas: Working on the Urban Agenda

On Monday 9 May, IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY presents the international conference SUSTAINABLE URBAN DELTAS as the prelude to the official program of the Delta Coalition, a new alliance of 12 countries that, despite all of the existing international consultative structures and conventions, have come together over a shared agenda they want to implement.

The Netherlands currently chairs the Delta Coalition. Its first official high (administrative) level meeting will be held in Rotterdam on 10 May. That is why on 9 May, the Dutch national government and IABR bring government officials and professionals from around the world together for SUSTAINABLE URBAN DELTAS. How can we make the urban deltas of tomorrow more inclusive, sustainable, productive, and livable? How can we make our delta cities physically and socially resilient for all citizens?

The program includes keynotes by Maarten Hajer (chief curator IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY), Edgar Pieterse (director African Center for Cities, University of Capetown) and Adriaan Geuze (director WEST8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture and the curator of the 2nd IABR: The Flood). Master of Ceremonies is Henk Ovink (the Netherlands's first Water Ambassador). The thematic break-out sessions are all led by designers, including Matthijs Bouw (One Architecture), Eric Frijters (.FABRIC), Joachim Declerck (Architecture Workroom Brussels), and ZUS with De Urbanisten.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DELTAS is organized by the IABR, the Dutch National Government and the Delta Coalition. The conference at IABR-2016 is part of the official program of the Delta Coalition on 9 and 10 May in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Presentation Resilience Strategy Rotterdam

On Thursday 19 May, Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb will open a work conference on urban resilience on the platform of IABR–2016, when the city of Rotterdam will launch its first Resilience Strategy. Chaired by Paula Verhoeven (Executive Director General Department of City Development Rotterdam), speakers include Mayor Aboutaleb, Michael Berkowitz (President 100 Resilient Cities), Arnold Molenaar (Chief Resilience Officer Rotterdam) and George Brugmans (Executive Director IABR). Various work sessions will focus on the question: What's Next? What are we going to do?

Exhibition

The exhibition IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY presents a variety of projects that explore a climate-resilient future: from radical scenarios for the energy transition in Groningen and on the North Sea, and a sustainable development model for Albania to examples of local initiatives for waste management and renewable energy in Africa and representations of new ecological urban societies in China.

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During the weekend of 23 and 24 April 2016, the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) kicked off its seventh edition: IABR–2016–THE NEXT ECONOMY. Under the supervision of executive director George Brugmans and chief curator Maarten Hajer, an international Curator Team once again focuses on the future of the city, investigating the relationship between urban design and tomorrow's economy. Until 10 July 2016, IABR–2016 is a platform for debate and exchange between creative coalitions of designers, administrators, businesses, citizens, and other agents of change with fresh ideas and imaginations of the twenty-first century city, culminating in a closing debate on Sunday 3 July.

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NOTE TO THE EDITOR

For more information about the program, requests for images and interviews, please contact press officer Nancy van Oorschot at nancy@iabr.nl or +31-6-41684324. Visit the [press page](#) of the website for downloads.