

# Preface

The international CUPUM (Computers in Urban Planning and Urban Management) conference has been one of the premier international conferences for the exchange of ideas and applications of computer technologies to address a range of social and environmental problems relating to urban areas. The first conference took place in 1989 in Hong Kong. Since then this bi-annual conference has been hosted in every continent of the world (with the sole exception of Africa) (see below). In 2013, delegates gathered for the 13th time in the city of Utrecht in the centre of The Netherlands.

The CUPUM Board has promoted the publication of a book with the collection of the scientific papers that were submitted to the conference. Those papers went through a competitive review process that resulted in the selection of what the reviewers deemed to be the best CUPUM papers. All these papers fit the main overarching theme of this specific CUPUM conference: *Planning Support Systems for Sustainable Urban Development*. Therein, we acknowledge that sustainable urban development is an issue that deserves wide and continuous attention. Moreover, it reflects the growing worldwide recognition of the importance of Planning Support Systems (PSS) with their background in GIScience as instruments for planning and policy support in general and for achieving sustainable urban development in particular.

Organizing the programme of an international conference and editing a volume of scientific papers requires time, effort, and support. First of all, as book editors, we would like to thank the authors for their high-quality contributions.

Second, we would like to thank the reviewers for their difficult task to assess and select the best papers for inclusion in this book. The double-blind review process was not an easy task, for sure, and it is always difficult when a number of potential authors are going to be disappointed. The group of reviewers who assisted us in this difficult selection process and provided the selected authors with valuable comments on their drafts were the members of the Board of Directors of CUPUM and the Advisors to this Board (see below). By fulfilling the review

process double-blind and demanding at least three reviews per submission we believe that the review process has been conducted in a fair and equal way.

Third, we would like to thank our scientific sponsors (the Faculty of Geosciences and the Urban and Regional Research Centre URU of the Utrecht University) for their contribution in time and resources to this publication. In addition, we would like to thank Springer Publishers for their willingness to publish these contributions in their academic series *Springer Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography*. This is the first time that a selection of best papers from the CUPUM conference has been published by Springer. Last but definitely not least, we would like to thank Ingeborg Koppenol, our office manager, who checked and double checked all chapters and in doing so, ensured that a book would actually be forthcoming.

## Past CUPUM Conferences

#	Years	Place	Country
I	1989	Hong Kong	HKG
II	1991	Oxford	GBR
III	1993	Atlanta	USA
IV	1995	Melbourne	AUS
V	1997	Mumbai	IND
VI	1999	Venice	ITA
VII	2001	Honolulu	USA
VIII	2003	Sendai	JPN
IX	2005	London	GBR
X	2007	Iguazu Falls	BRA
XI	2009	Hong Kong	CHN
XII	2011	Lake Louise (Calgary/Banff)	CAN
XIII	2013	Utrecht	NED

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Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Leeds, UK, 2013

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Planning Support Systems for Sustainable Urban  
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