Recognizing Urban Infrastructure Excellence

Featuring: James Stewart, Steve Beatty and Darryl Murphy

Now, more than ever, our cities are central to our planet’s development. Cities now support more than half of all human life; drive the vast majority of economic growth; and emit more than 70 percent of the world’s greenhouse gases.

It is hardly surprising therefore, that the eyes of the world are increasingly focusing on our urban areas and that everything from productivity to climate change are coming under the microscope. So, as governments struggle to respond to a host of often competing pressures – such as financial, social and environmental – the topic of sustainable cities is becoming ever more present.

The imperative for infrastructure

As any reader of this publication already knows, infrastructure is at the heart of this challenge. Already, we have seen exceptional cases of innovation and leadership in urban infrastructure projects around the world. Indeed, today’s infrastructure is increasingly being designed and delivered in a way that enhances urban sustainability by creating more livable and vibrant urban environments that support economic growth and development.

But – as is the case with any emerging field – we see clusters of excellence emerging in some regions while others fall drastically behind. One of our challenges as an industry must therefore be to share the innovations and best practices of these urban infrastructure pioneers with those around the world who can benefit from our shared experience.

Catalyzing innovation

KPMG’s Global Infrastructure Practice strives to be a catalyst for enlarging this body of knowledge. We believe that – through our work with leading infrastructure developers, governments, investors and urban leaders – we can help cross-germinate ideas and achievements to advance the world’s understanding of infrastructure’s role in driving sustainability.

One way in which we do this is through the Infrastructure 100, a special publication featuring 100 innovative infrastructure projects from around the world that demonstrate this pioneering
We will focus on individual projects to recognize ingenuity, promote progress and inspire the industry to imagine, finance and build the foundation for sustainable cities around the world.

Shining the spotlight on urban infrastructure

This month, we have started work on the World Cities edition of the publication, examining the unique challenges that face our urban areas and identifying 100 projects that – in the opinion of a panel of global experts including architects, engineers, sponsors, builders, operators, academics, financiers, lawyers and policy makers – best address the needs of cities by creating places where people want to live and work.

The publication will showcase ten individual projects within ten sectors: Urban mobility, Global mobility, Urban regeneration, Education, Healthcare, Water, New cities, Waste management, Urban energy, and communications infrastructure. In each sector, our panel will also highlight one project that the panel deems most worthy of specific recognition for its innovation in urban infrastructure development.

Promote your project to the world

And so we encourage you to submit your project to the panel. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2012 with successful projects announced in May and celebrated at a special industry function in July. Those seeking additional information about the Infrastructure 100 publication and selection process can visit: www.Infrastructure100.com, and projects can be submitted online at http://www.infrastructure100.com/Submission.

On behalf of KPMG’s Global Infrastructure team, we look forward to receiving your submission and sharing the great achievements of our industry with you this spring.