**THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL**

Jane Stanley, President of EAROPH Australia

The Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) is an Asia Pacific peak body for the built environment, with members across sectors and disciplines. Its Australian membership operates as the national Chapter, linking into global thought and action.

Last year we convened a successful global think tank with the Clarence Valley Council in New South Wales to address the challenges of planning for major infrastructure projects. This resulted in an Action Plan for the Council which draws important lessons from global experience.

Last month EAROPH Australia joined with Bendigo City Council in convening a global think tank on issues of concern in the Bendigo Region, including local/regional economic opportunities. Discussions were informed by several international case studies, and the outcomes of the Bendigo deliberations will be incorporated in a forthcoming EAROPH handbook on Building Local Economies. The think tank identified several ways in which our approach to regional development needs significantly revised.

The outcomes will form a case study for a toolkit on Building Local Economies which EAROPH Australia is preparing as a contribution to the New Urban Agenda. This will be a global compact that will be launched by UN Habitat at Habitat III in Quito, Equador in October this year. EAROPH has particular responsibility for recommending strategies on Local Economic Development as well as Municipal Finance.

EAROPH is available to facilitate further global think tanks on relevant issues, and would welcome Local Government as participants in the organisation.

<http://www.earophaustralia.com>

EAROPH Honorary Vice President KC Leung opening the think tank.

