

# Aiming at a Better Impact of the Land Professions: the Role of Academic and Policy Dialogues

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## SUMMARY

The land professional influences the living conditions of people on earth. Their activities impact people, cultures, the physical environment, and the socioeconomic conditions of the world. From a spatial dimension, they shape the way people live — from the villages and small towns, from small towns to informal settlements in big cities, to streets and homes. They help renew dilapidated settlements, upgrade informal settlements, restore degraded landscapes, and plan smart villages and cities for sustainable livelihood and development. Land professionals constitute a wide range of people, including planners, surveyors, geodesists, architects, economists, agriculturalists, public administrators, engineers, and ecologists (to mention a few). Land professionals, especially surveyors, contribute to why human and vehicular traffics flow in cities and why water runs in taps at home. For the land profession to continue to aim at better impact in a world plagued by several land challenges—tenure insecurity, climate crisis, rural stress, and poor urban and rural liveability—for it to consistently produce knowledge and implement activities necessary to govern the land and natural resources to make transformative change. Therefore, this paper focuses on identifying and presenting the renewed roles of academic and policy dialogues in the future of the land profession in answering the ever-increasing geospatial, environmental, socioeconomic, engineering, policy, and capacity development questions. Theoretically, the paper explores the emerging role of academic and policy dialogues as a means of (co)creating knowledge and policy influence. It presents the experience of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Representative Office Shandong (China)—at conducting academic and policy dialogues for creating awareness and making local impacts in various areas of the land management—to draw lessons for other organisations within the global land sector. The paper is relevant in two critical ways. Firstly, it is essential to grasp opportunities to communicate land-related research outcomes to policy-makers. Secondly, it relates to how the land profession can continue to engage with stakeholders in knowledge building during and after the COVID-19 times.

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