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Governing the Metropolis: The Case of São Paulo
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Building Metropolitan Governance in the fringe – The case of the ABC Region – Sao Paulo - Brazil

Prof. Jeroen Klink
Story-line

- Socio-economic and spatial restructuring in South American Cities - Finance, Organization and Management for City-regions and metropolitan areas
- The specific case of São Paulo and the ABC region
- Some reflections on Metropolitan Regionalism
The Basic paradox

- City regions and metropolitan areas as strategic players in the global economy...
- But lacking a framework to guide their organization, finance and management
Brazil is no exception to the rule

Metropolitan areas are inserted within the global economy…
And, as such, generate income

Work-related real Income (persons older than 15 years)

Brazil versus Metropolitan areas – 1992, 2002 and 2006

Urban Age South America Conference, São Paulo 3-5 December 2008
Concentrate (historical) social challenges...

Unemployment rate (%) – Persons older than 15 years
Brazil versus Metropolitan Areas
And a substantial part of the social deficit

Percentage of housing units with a density higher than 2 persons/room
Brazil versus Metropolitan Areas
1992, 2001 e 2006
1990s – METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE IN BRAZIL – NOT ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA

• CONTEXT OF THE 1988 CONSTITUTION
  • Democratization, decentralization, new social movements
  • Metropolitan governance associated with top down management
1990s: An Institutional vacuum on metropolitan governance

- The Federal government withdraws
- State governments take up the formal responsibility
- But facing challenges to make a real advance
Postmetropolis?
Urban Age South America Conference, São Paulo 3-5 December 2008

Geographies
The ABC - Restructuring in the industrial Heart of Sao Paulo

- Car Manufacturing
- Petrochemical complex
- Production services
Increasing productivity and managerial, and technological modernization in larger firms.

At the same time, unemployment, informalization, loss of competitiveness of national production chains.
Urban Age South America Conference, São Paulo 3-5
December 2008
The Mobilization of private and public stakeholders – Governance of restructuring

- Consortium of the ABC region
- The Chamber of the ABC region – multi-level/territorial governance
- Regional Development Agency
Urban Age South America Conference, São Paulo 3-5 December 2008
O GRANDE ABC NA BUSCA DE SOLUÇÕES.

CONSELHO DELIBERATIVO
4ª REUNIÃO ORDINÁRIA

Doze acordos foram assinados na 4ª Reunião do Conselho Deliberativo da Câmara do Grande ABC
Not all is perfect. Continuous collective learning on:

• Institutional strengthening
• How to up-scale and mean-stream implementation of programs/projects at city regional/metropolitan level
• Lack of linkage with real estate markets
Reflections on Regionalism

• The potential of plurality and multi-level governance for city regions and metropolitan areas (federal/state/local/non-governmental)

• The Institutional *fetiche* => The quest for the holy grail versus flexible and incremental regionalism (Urani/Borja – flexible geographies)

• New approaches at state level – EMLASA/Minas/Pernambuco/Paraná

• Inter-municipal Consortia

• Collective learning with imperfect institutions