

Graduate Seminar Information

Culture, Technology and Transportation Systems: A Case in Saudi Arabia

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and
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ABSTRACT:

In 2013, the government of Saudi Arabia has announced construction of the 180-kilometer long light rail system known as the Metro in the city of Riyadh, the capital city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The objectives of the presentation are to analyze cultural issues surrounding Saudi society that once thought contradicting development of any transit system in an Islamic city and to develop strategies for attracting as many passengers as possible to the Metro system in the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Among several cultural norms in the Kingdom, the strict separation of gender in public space and over sensitivity to privacy, are the two major arguments countering the development of any mass transit systems in Riyadh.

Short Biography:

Dr. Tschangho John Kim, Endowed Professor Emeritus of Urban and Regional Systems, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), is a Fellow of Regional Science Association International, and has published 9 books, 143 journal articles, book chapters, and professional articles in the areas of transportation planning, urban and regional development, global urbanization, geographic information systems, intelligent transportation systems and location-based services. His current works include planning for future cities in a ubiquitous access technology space, developing efficient solutions for complex location-based services, developing international standards for ubiquitous geographic information systems and modeling dynamic congestion control systems for metropolitan areas.

Dr. Kim has worked in Austria, Germany, Indonesia, South Korea, Sweden, Kenya, the People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. From 1979 to 1980, he served as project director of the National Comprehensive Transportation Study of Korea and from 1990 to 1991 he directed the Optimal Transport Sector Development Project in Indonesia. He was director of the Office of Overseas University Collaboration at UIUC from 1984 to 1991, and special advisor on international affairs to the Governor of Illinois from 1985 to 1987. More recently, Dr. Kim served as a leader in a number of technical committees for Geographic Information Systems and Intelligent Transportation Systems of the International Organization for Standardization, as well as serving as president of the Western Regional Science Association and as a member of the boards of directors of the Korea-USA Science Cooperation Center and the Fulbright Academy of Science and Technology. He is currently an advisor to Arriyadh Development Authority for planning of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He serves as Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Transportation Technologies, on the editorial boards of 11 international journals, on the review board of the European Research Council, and a member of National Academy of Science' Committee on National Research Frameworks for Transportation. He earned a Ph.D. degree in urban planning from Princeton University.