

**IDEA League Summer School 2021**  
**<Climate Change and University Campuses, RWTH Aachen**  
**University Summer School>**

Report Date    2021        YY 08    MM 27    DD

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Affiliation at Tokyo Tech	School of <u>Environment and Society</u> Dept. of <u>Architecture and Building engineering</u>		
Student ID#	20D58010	Current academic program year	D1
Program theme	Climate Change and University campuses, focusing on how researches related to create a sustainable campus lifestyle are being implemented		
Program period	2021 YY 08 MM 25 DD to 2021 YY 08 MM 27 DD		
Posting to the web	This report may be posted on Tokyo Tech website. Would you prefer to have your name included or excluded from the report if it is uploaded? Include		

**Report contents**

**① The reason you joined the program**

I joined this program for lots of reasons. First of all, Climate change is an urgent issue that we need to move forward with implementations, and I am interested to know more about how I can take part in solving this issue. Furthermore, my current research focuses on the role of universities, especially the morphology of university campuses and their impact on cities. So, I want to explore more research themes for the future. Additionally, I want to understand how various researchers are working to provide a sustainable built environment and realize through projects. Finally, I want to effectively use my summertime and use it to expand my ability to discuss with people from diverse backgrounds and build more networks with everyone.

**② Pre-program preparations**

▪ Collect information

I found out about this specific program from Tokyo Tech website more specifically ASPIRE. Later on I applied the required documents.

<https://www.titech.ac.jp/english/students/abroad/programs/idea-summer>

▪ Contact and request from program organizer

I had to do an online interview with ASPIRE team, later on, I received a confirmation letter that I have passed for the summer school. The next step was to apply to the organizing university through a web portal and send additional documents such as a motivation letter and CV. After few days, I received the acceptance letter, the program schedule with a zoom link on the pdf, and other details about the summer school. Before the beginning of the program, I did a background check on the keynote speakers and their research and project activities.

**③ Program contents, activities**

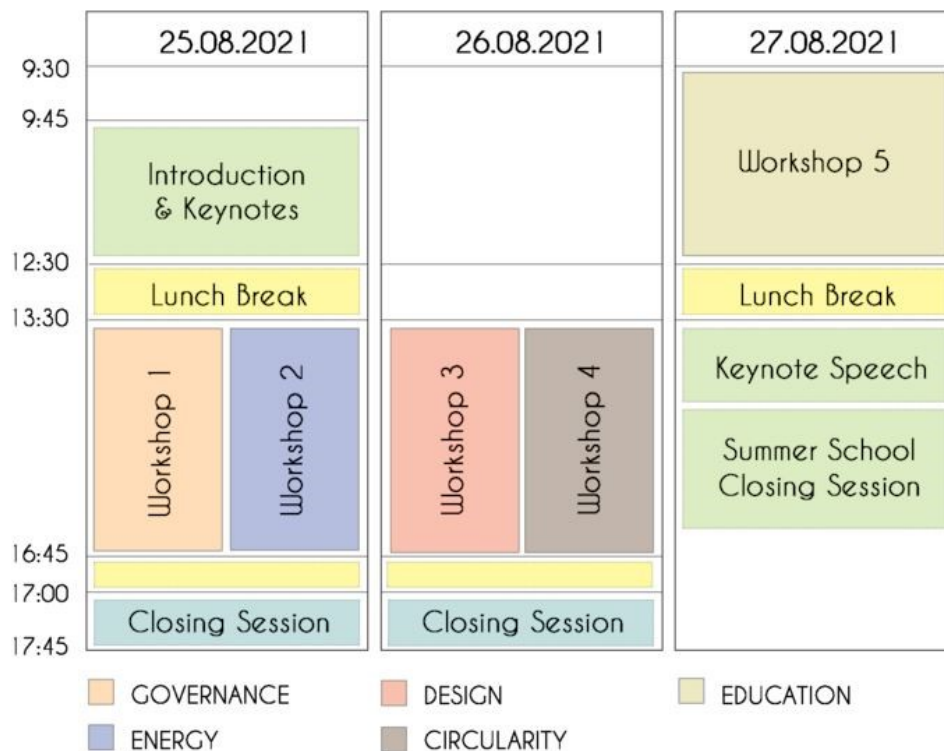
▪ Platform (Zoom, Slack, Miro or other tools used in the summer school)

We used zoom for all the online programs. During the workshop session, we were split into breakout rooms for future discussion.

A link for Miro was sent to us in the chat so, to brainstorm our ideas.

- Schedule

We have a different time zone and the following time zone was according to the CET zone. The first day started with welcoming participants, followed by listening to the keynote speaker. After the lunch break, we were split into two parallel workshops based on our research expertise. I was part of the Governance, Design, and Education theme. In the workshop, we also had a presentation followed by discussion points in a separate breakout room. Finally, we had to report our discussion points to the whole class. The workshop on the second and third days followed a similar format to the first day. By the end of summer school, we gave feedback, took a group photo (online), and said goodbye.



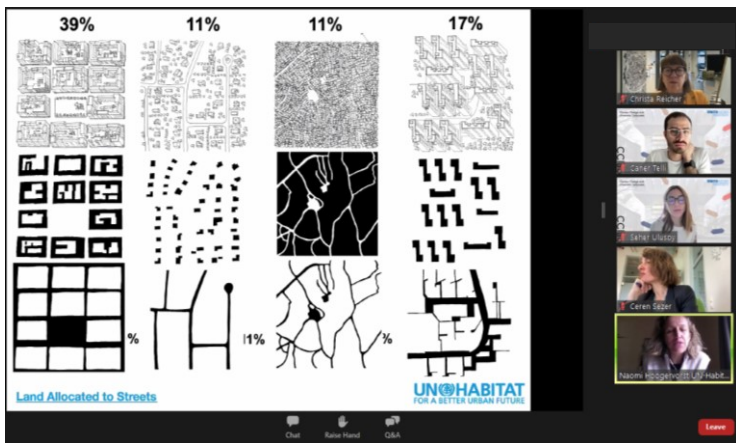
<https://www.staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de/cms/Staedtebau/Der-Lehrstuhl-und-Das-Institut/Aktuelle-Veranstaltungen/IDEA-League-Summer-School/~pypbu/Programme/>

- Activities (Lecture, workshop, presentation)

- A. Lectures



This specific lecture was given by **Prof. Christa Reicher** who is the director in RWTH Institute for Urban Design, about climate sensible urban spaces. On the image we can see how planners have acted to transform cities into sustainable way through changing the street layout that can be used by pedestrians and bicycle users. This will help to attract more people to have a quality life.



Keynote speaker: **Ms Naomi Hoogervorst**  
 Senior urban planner, UN Habitat, Urban Lab, Kenya. The lecture was a very insightful, specially related to understand how planning and architecture can play role to provide a good environment for communities.

All the lectures were held on zoom. After the keynote speakers finish their presentation, we were able to ask questions related to their work, research, activities, or lecture content. We given the chance to express our opinion if we have an opposite idea on certain issues. These are examples to explain part of the 3-day program. There are also other interesting lectures that I am waiting for the university to upload online so I can go through them again.

I will list keynote speakers below for anyone who is interested to check their activities for inspirations:

Day 1:

- Prof Christa Reicher**  
 Director, RWTH Institute for Urban Design
- Ms Naomi Hoogervorst**  
 Senior urban planner  
 UN Habitat, Urban Lab, Kenya
- Prof Andy van den Dobbelaar** (TU Delft)  
 Department of Architectural Engineering and Technology
- Prof Aaron Praktinjo**  
 RWTH Aachen University, Chair of Energy Systems Economics

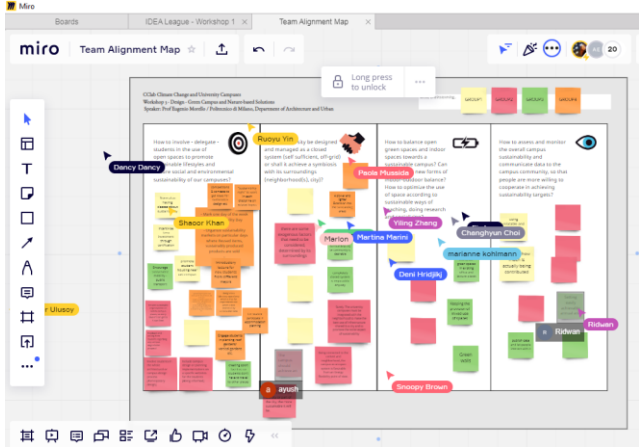
Day 2:

- Prof Eugenio Morello**  
 Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies
- Prof Niklas von den Aßen**  
 RWTH Aachen University, Life cycles in Energy, Chemical and Process Engineering

Day 3:

- Prof Davis Bookhart**  
 The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Division of Environment and Sustainability
- Ms. Christina Tang** BlueSky Energy Technology

**B. Workshops and presentations**



By the end of each lecture, we were split into small groups to discuss all or specific subjects. Within my group, we first discussed our ideas and then took the time to post them on the Miro. It is interesting to see and hear other groups' opinions on the same questions. Later on, one member from each group will wrap-up and present to the whole class. I was able to do a wrap-up presentation.

- Networking with other participants

We didn't have time to network with other participants but, some of us looked each other on Linked In and got connected. Most participants turned off their videos so, I was not able to get the chance to see them. Certificate of program completion, any awards

#### ④ Program participants

In total there were 42 participants (1 from NTU, 1 from HKUST (Hong Kong), 17 from RWTH Aachen (Germany), 16 from Polimi (Italy), 2 from ETHZ (Switzerland), 4 from TU Delft (Netherlands), and finally only me from Tokyo Tech). We didn't have any specific team to mention few of my group mates.

#### ⑤ Any difficulties you faced during the online program

- The schedule in JPT was from (4:30 pm – 1 am the next day). But for me, it was not of any inconvenience.
- It was challenging to start a conversation as soon as we joined our breakout room to discuss the topics. We took time to start speaking but, later on, it was ok to dive into the discussion. But other than that, everything went perfectly, we didn't have any technical issues.

#### ⑥ Outcomes of your participation in the program

It was an eye-opening experience for me!

- I was looking at how university students were working and acting to create a sustainable environment within their universities, and I started to think about ways I can actively contribute to Tokyo Tech. I have also achieved my initial goal, which was to explore more research thematic ideas. I can say I want to focus more on climate change.
- After listening to the keynote speakers' career path, I would say I have more insight on how I can achieve my future career goals.

#### ⑦ Any advice for students who wish to participate in a similar type of online program

I would say go for it! You will not regret it! I know the application process is competitive, but it's better to give it a shoot!

It is fun to meet professionals and researchers working in a related field as yours, or different and talk about the common points. It was only 3 days for me, but I have learned a lesson for a lifetime.

Besides, it is also a good way to use your summer vacation and broaden your professional network.

Good luck on your application!