

Toward a Planning Model for Using Information and Communications Technologies in Place Making

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The information age, the global knowledge economy and the network society represent new realities and opportunities for the planned development of localities and regions. Regional and community planners need to engage these opportunities on behalf of their areas and constituents. The practice of planning in this new economy and society requires new visions, transformed planning regulations and approaches, guided by fresh concepts and innovative plan execution.

This paper explores the construction of a theoretical framework, the intention of which is to provide guidance for the consideration of local planning practitioners as they seek to engage in place making that is facilitated by information and communications technologies. These new realities are complex and nuanced. An effective planning practice model must reflect these often-blurred realities and over-lapping processes.

The approach taken in the paper is to construct a composite planning model that is composed of the elements of: relational theory; the e-business spectrum; tested theories of local economic development; relational program planning and program organization; the relational spatial hierarchy; and the equality of development paradigm.

Applying it to empirical cases in Southeast Asia and the United States tests the model. The result is a discussion of a place making planning model that is based initially on information and communications technologies that are used to produce digital communities, and in later stages of planned development, can be used to produce intelligent communities and regional networks in support of those communities. Such a planning model is congruent with harnessing and steering the development potential of the global knowledge economy and network society on behalf of contemporary local place making.