

Sir Patrick Geddes  
Commemorative Lecture 2010



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

# Sustainable Economic Development: towards the emerging Ecological Age

Mr Peter Head OBE FREng FRSA *Director, Arup*



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**Wednesday 21 April 2010 at 17.45**

The Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, The National Galleries of  
Scotland, the Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL (entrance via Princes Street Gardens)

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**21 April 2010**

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The National Galleries of Scotland  
The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL  
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Nearest station: *Edinburgh Waverley*  
Registration 17.45pm

## Sustainable Economic Development: towards the emerging Ecological Age



*A portrait of Sir Patrick Geddes*

Sir Patrick Geddes' influence as a pioneer of town planning received worldwide recognition. His work in Scotland, France, the Near East and India based on the principle of "Place-Work-Folk" remains relevant to contemporary issues of sustainable development, regionalism and locality, economic and community regeneration, environmental quality and social inclusion.

In his lecture, Peter Head will look at the post recession, post Copenhagen situation and analyse the increasing importance of land use planning at a regional and local scale in order to achieve sustainable economic development. He will look at the retrofitting of urban communities and the associated reintegration of rural and urban economic development in order to achieve the step change to the efficient use of renewable resources that is necessary to deal with climate change mitigation and adaptation and ecosystem destruction. He will address how this can be funded and how the programme can kick start economic momentum after the recession. He will talk about how communities and the cultural roots of society could be engaged in this change process and how this fits with a wider international perspective. His lecture will finish with some visions of how a 2050 ecological age city might look and feel.

### Speaker



**Peter Head OBE FEng FRSA, Director, Arup** is a champion for developing global practice that demonstrates that the way we invest public and private money in the built environment could be made very much more effective if the public and private sector adopted sustainable development principles. He is a civil

and structural engineer who has become a recognised world leader in major bridges (he received an OBE for successfully delivering the Second Severn Crossing as Government Agent), advanced composite technology and now in sustainable development in cities. He has won many awards for his work including the Award of Merit of IABSE, the Royal Academy of Engineering's Silver Medal and the Prince Philip Award for Polymers in the Service of Mankind.

Peter joined Arup in 2004 to create and lead their planning and integrated urbanism team and now heads this team globally. He was appointed in 2002 by the Mayor of London as an independent Commissioner on the London Sustainable Development Commission and leads the planning and development sub-group of the Commission. He is the REng judge for the Prince Philip Designers' Prize.

Peter is project director for the planning and development of the Dongtan Eco-city demonstrator on Chongming Island in Shanghai, and the Wanzhuang Eco-City in LangFang near Beijing for the client Shanghai Industrial Investment Co.

In July 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in engineering at Bristol University, where he is a visiting Professor in Systems Engineering. In October 2008 Peter was appointed as Innovation Champion for Thames Gateway. Peter was 2008 Principal Voice on CNN and in the October 2008 issue of Time magazine, he was nominated as one of 30 global eco-heroes. Peter has also been awarded the 2008 Sir Frank Whittle Medal by the Royal Academy of Engineering for his efforts to deliver an environmentally sustainable built environment in a rapidly urbanising world. The Medal is a prestigious industry accolade, awarded for outstanding and sustained achievement which has contributed to the well-being of the nation.

Peter is strategic adviser to the Chair of the C40 Large Cities and Climate Leadership Group and the Clinton Carbon Positive Programme. He has just taken on another role as Chair of the Board of the Institute for Sustainability in Thames Gateway.

# Programme

- 17.45 Arrival and registration
- 18.00 **Welcome** by *Ian Angus*,  
**Convener RTPI in Scotland**
- 18.05 **Introduction** by *Stewart Stevenson*,  
**Minister for Transport,  
Infrastructure and Climate Change**
- 18.15 **Lecture** by *Peter Head*, followed by questions
- 19.25 **Vote of thanks** by *Ben Tindall*, Chairman of  
**the Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust**
- 19.30 Drinks reception

Supported by



**The Sir Patrick Geddes  
Memorial Trust**

## **CPD requirements**

This event is intended to help RTPI members with their CPD requirements



**This lecture has been organised by:**

**The Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland**

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# Date and location

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**21 April 2010**

commencing at 17.45 pm.

The Hawthornden Lecture Theatre,  
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