

The Institutionalization of Urban Planning in the local Government, with the Participation of Society

Introduction

The creation of the IMPLAN, the Independent Institute for Urban Development Planning in Cancun, is the answer of the Municipality to the success of this Tourist Destination. This Specialized Institute proceeds permanent and integrated urban planning with participation of society and guarantees continuity of the urban planning for the City.

Brief History

Cancun

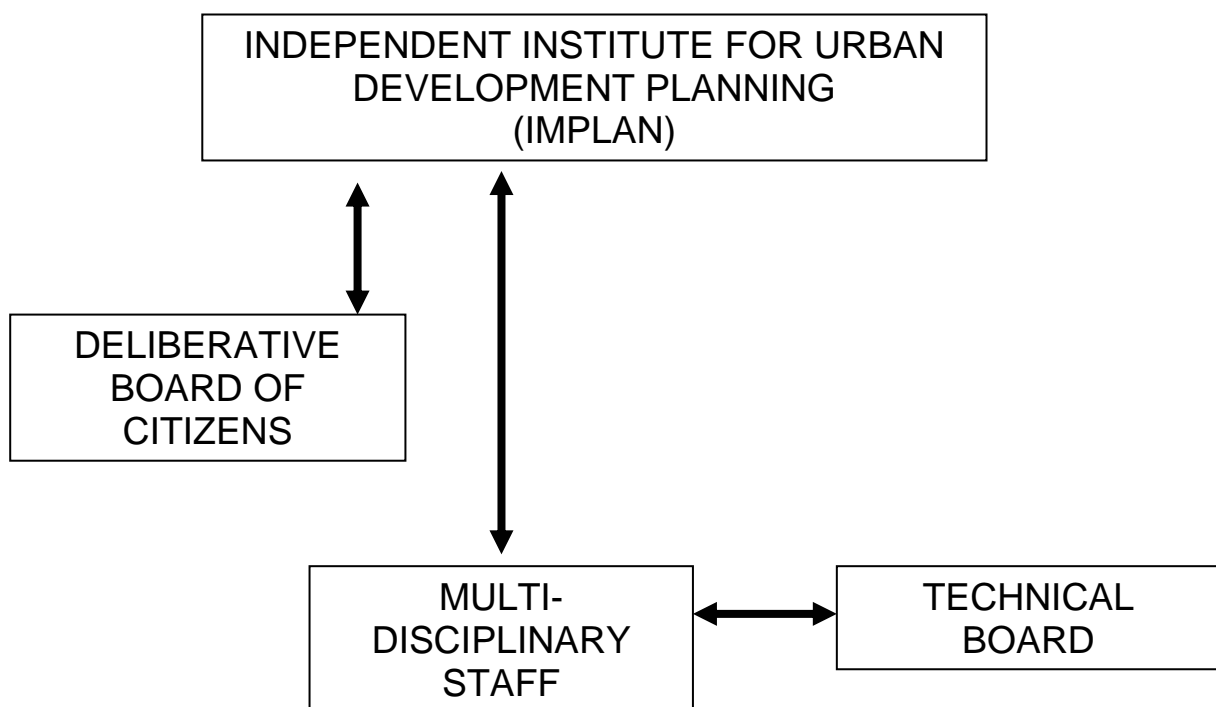
In 1974 Cancun was constituted and planned to be a tourist city with a support village of 150.000 inhabitants. It was a hit! It knew a growth without compare: 700.000 inhabitants in 35 years, more than four times as much as originally planned. This booming area stretched out its influences to whole the northern part of the peninsula of Yucatan and economic development went very fast. The Municipality of Cancun did have a Planning Area used to work with an traditional process but didn't had enough capacity to deal with this giant project, which is Cancun and not either was capable of detecting what were the necessities of urban planning for the city.

IMPLAN

In 2005 the IMPLAN was created; The Independent Urban Planning Institute of Cancun. The mission of the IMPLAN is being the technical consultancy organism for local government for everything that has to do with, design, elaboration y evaluation of urban development plans and programs, to control and regulated the sustainable growth of human settlements within the limits of the municipality, propose politics and strategies for their application with the participation of society in every project.

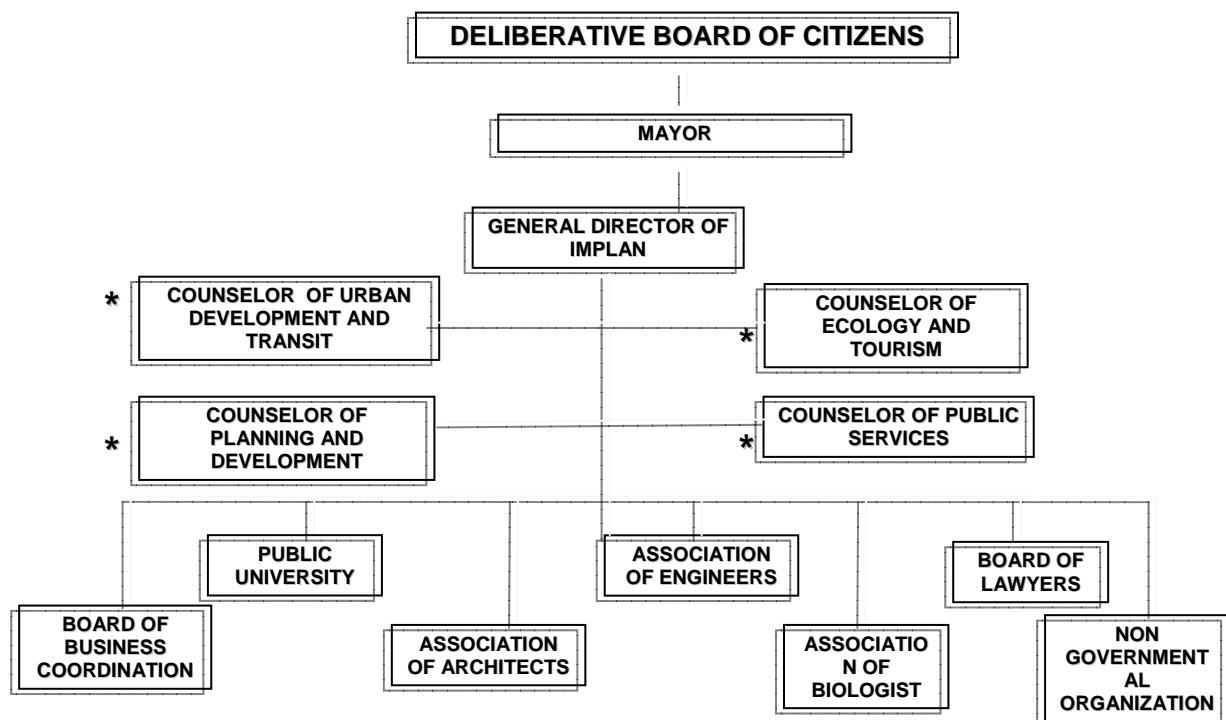
Organization of the IMPLAN

The Director of the Institute is collaborating with three different groups: the Deliberative Board of Citizens, the Technical Board and the Staff of the Institute.



The Deliberative Board of Citizens

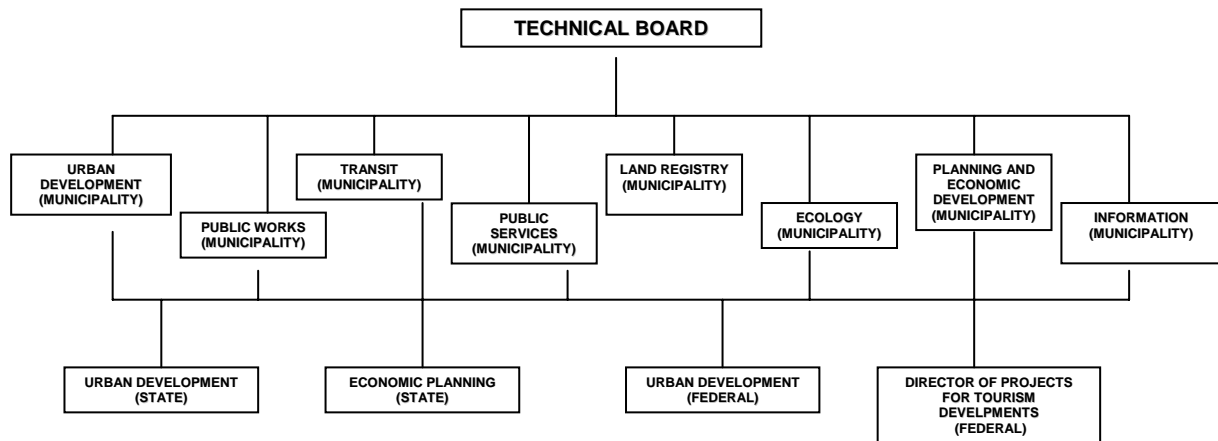
The IMPLAN is decentralized from local government and administrated by his Director and the Deliberative Board of Citizens. This board is integrated by thirteen members: the director, five belonging to the municipals administration and seven civilians. The group of five is: the Mayor and four Common Counselors. The group of seven is formed by: first, the President of the Association of Architects, second the President of the Association of Biologists, third the President of Association of Civil Engineers, fourth the President of the Board of Lawyers, fifth the Rector of the Public University, sixth the President of the Board for Business Coordination and seventh a member of a None Governmental Organization. Local administration changes every three years. With the change of administration also will change the four common counselors, members of the board, while the other seven members stay in function! The Director of the IMPLAN is nominated by the Deliberative Board of Civilians and changes every three years but can be re-elected The Director started his activities when the Municipal Administration was on function for one and a half year which means that the change of the Director of the Institute is on the middle of the periods that Municipal Administration will be on duty. The majority of the members of the Deliberative Board of Citizens are civilians, so change of municipal administration will not interrupt the planning process and the vision for the city of the IMPLAN. Continuity of the plans is guaranteed.



* REPRESENTANTS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, CHANGES EVERY 3 YEARS.

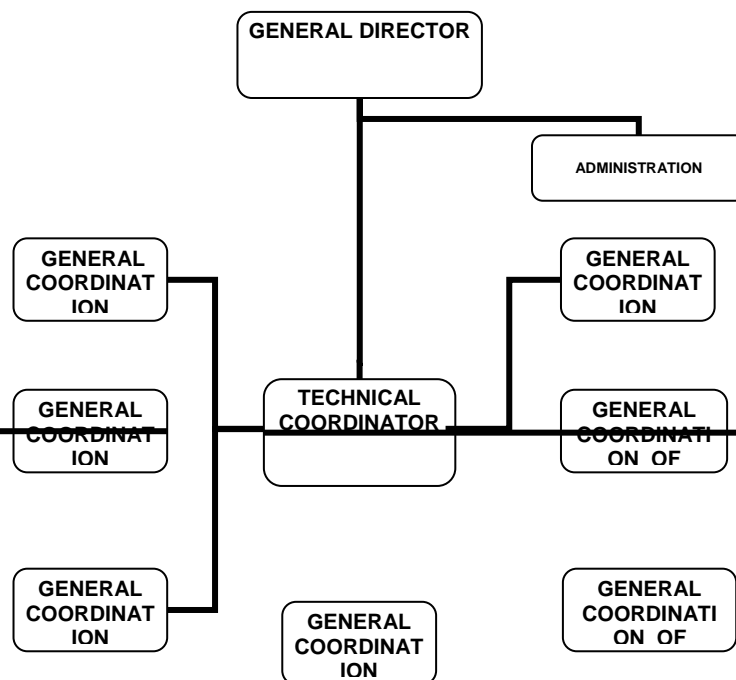
The Technical Board

The Director has to his possession a Technical Board which supports and coordinates on a permanent way the Institute and forms the link between the three different levels of Administration in the United Nations of Mexico.



The Staff

The IMPLAN has as multi-disciplinary staff, including Urban Planners, Architects, Biologist and Jurists. Different disciplines are working together on projects that will guide local administration in their planning process and will develop a strong vision for the future of the region. Essential is the participation of neighbours and citizens in this urban planning process. IMPLAN guides the process. This means that we are bringing together local administration, neighbours and citizens to work on the projects for their city.



UTF

IMPLAN started with receiving an Urban Task Force (UTF), organised by ISoCaRP, responding to the specific local planning issue: CANCUN. An international team of urban planners worked six days, in cooperation with the multi-disciplinary staff of the IMPLAN, on 2 topics: Disaster Planning and Different Scenarios for the future. For the IMPLAN the essential issue are the scenarios. How can we reach a sustainable future for Cancun and the region? Sustainable means having a strong local economy capable of handling sudden, unpredictable events like strong changes in the amount of tourists visiting Cancun (terrorism) and natural disasters (hurricanes). Sustainable with the presence of easily walkable neighborhoods and downtowns, a great number of parks, access to public transit and affordable housing for everyone and least but not last, the guarantee that the wellheads for groundwater supply will be declared a protected area. After 6 days of work, we considered 3 scenarios for the future of Cancun: 'A Tourist City'; mass tourism with a single dimensional economy, 'Central City'; a diversified regional socio-economic base and a 'City of Communities', dispersed activities. With these scenarios as a base, the IMPLAN is preparing the document; Strategic Plan & Program for the Urban Development of a Sustainable Cancun 2030 what will be presented to the Administration of the Municipality of Cancun in December 2006.