

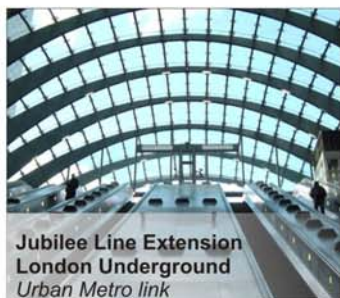
omega centre

Centre for Mega Projects in Transport and Development

A global Centre of Excellence in Future Urban Transport
sponsored by Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF)



**HSL- Zuid
Brussels to Amsterdam**
Highspeed TGV railway



**Jubilee Line Extension
London Underground**
Urban Metro link



**City Link,
Melbourne**
Highway extension



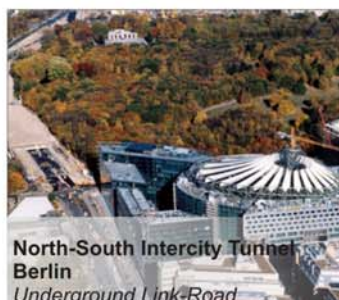
**Millau Viaduct
A75, Midi-Pyrénées**
Highway bypass



**Shuto Expressway
Greater Tokyo Area**
Metropolitan Expressway



**Big Dig
Boston, Massachusetts**
Highway tunnel



**North-South Intercity Tunnel
Berlin**
Underground Link-Road



**Monorail
Chiba**
Urban Metro link



Rion-Antirion Bridge
Bridge over the Gulf of Corinth



The OMEGA Centre Seminar will be launched in January 2009 on topics related the planning, appraisal and evaluation of mega transport projects and their impacts on development.

This event will allow the OMEGA Centre to present findings of our UK-based case studies and engage the public both from academic and industrial sectors.

The Centre has undertaken a wide range of research on several pressing issues related to "Treatment of Risk, Uncertainty and Complexity", "The Importance of Context" and "Sustainability" for the study of mega projects in transport and development. We will invite a number of speakers who are involved in a variety of aspects of transport projects in this kind in order to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge transfer.

Programmes of these seminars comprise contributions from the OMEGA Centre and external speakers, including journalists, bureaucrats, planners, industry leaders, and academics. This event will open to everyone who is interested in these issues, especially those associated with major transport project development. All these seminars will be recorded and published on the OMEGA Website.

www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk

By drawing on experts from many disciplines, we can stimulate debate and further discussions on certain crucial topics, such as transport infrastructure investment, challenges of sustainability, and financing mechanisms within the global market. This event can illuminate emerging issues surrounded the major transport projects and foster generation of ideas on tackling problems, threats and risks in contemporary and future environments.

2009 OMEGA SEMINAR SERIES

AVOIDING CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT FUTURE FOR MEGA-TRANSPORT PROJECTS?

Mayer Hillman

Policy Studies Institute, London

17:30-19:30, Wednesday 21st January 2009

room 401 (4th floor), Bartlett School of Planning, UCL

Wates House, 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB.

Directions available at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/about-ucl/location/maps/>

Dr. Mayer Hillman is a Senior Fellow Emeritus in Policy Studies Institute, London. He is also the co-author of the Penguin book **How we can save the planet**. You can find more information about him on his website: www.mayerhillman.com

The abstract of his talk:

The world now faces a dire predicament. An accelerating process is underway adding further greenhouse gases to the atmosphere though their concentrations are already at exceedingly dangerous levels. The world's spreading and intensifying addiction to energy-intensive lifestyles, combined with dramatic losses of rainforest and peatlands, as well as methane release from tundra regions and previously dependable carbon sinks becoming replete, is pointing to the very real prospect of ecological catastrophe this century.

There are near-overwhelming grounds for despair at the gross inadequacy of the responses of international governments, institutions and the public. There is widespread frighteningly fallacious belief that a way will be found for making compatible the goals of ever-rising economic growth and protection of the global environment from irreversible climate change in sufficient time -with technology playing a key role.

Is there still time to avert catastrophe and, if so, is there an assuredly reliable strategy available? As responsible citizens of the planet, what actions can and should transport planners take? What are the implications for mega-transport projects of the answers to these questions?

Our selfishness in not facing up to the massive challenges ahead by doing what we know to be essential is inexcusable. To avoid the charge from future generations of witting complicity in passing over to them a dying planet, there is no excuse for 'looking the other way'. We must all be actively involved now.

This event is free and open to all with no booking required.

For more information, email: yen-ning.tseng@ucl.ac.uk