

## 2014 SEMINAR PROGRAMME

*Wednesday, 30th April - 5:30pm*

*Room 401*

*Bartlett School of Planning - UCL*

*Kulveer Range \**

## Politics and Megaprojects in London: what lessons have we learned?

London has just gone through an era where it has had more megaprojects undertaken than at any time since World War II. From upgrading the Tube, building a new Olympic Park, digging the largest transport project in Europe – Crossrail, to delivering a whole new mode of public transport – the Boris Bikes – this City has succeeded politically and physically – but how and why – and how do we continue to do so?

\* **Kulveer Ranger.** In May 2008 Kulveer Ranger was appointed to lead on policy direction for transport on behalf of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. His responsibilities included overseeing the relationship between the Greater London Authority and Transport for London (TfL) and to ensure the appropriate direction of the £8bn annual expenditure and the delivery of the Mayor's transport priorities. From 2008-11 he sat on the board of TfL, advised the mayor on all transport modes and infrastructure projects, developed the new 20 year Mayor's Transport Strategy and reviewed the performance and funding of the London Underground and London Bus network. He negotiated directly with government ministers on behalf of the Mayor, including successfully supporting the case for £14bn Crossrail scheme, the largest transport infrastructure project in Europe. He ensured the development of the new iconic Routemaster Bus, the 'Smoothing Traffic Flow', 'Shared Space' and 'Cycling Revolution' policies and led the delivery of the successful 'Boris Bike' cycle hire scheme. He also sat on the Olympic and Paralympic Transport Board, planning and reviewing with all transport and government agencies the effective delivery of the London 2012 Games. Throughout this period Kulveer was the Mayor's media spokesman, developing and executing communications strategies to support the key policies, projects and handling key stakeholder relationship to support the delivery of the mayor's agenda. From March 2011 he advised the mayor on environmental issues. He developed the 'Putting the village back into the City' strategy. Establishing key programme areas for greening the city, delivering cleaner air and retrofitting London's building stock. He led the development of the London Electric Vehicle Partnership, developing the 'Source' EV network. He also sat on the international steering group for the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, working with Mayor Bloomberg's office and the Clinton Climate Initiative. He was appointed as one of the 1000 London 2012 Games Environmental Champions and also established the Mayor's Low Carbon Prize for London Students. In March 2011 Kulveer also created the Mayor's Digital London office. He established the mayor's digital strategy focusing on improving city wide connectivity, specifically working on the 'super-connected cities' programme with the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. He led the development of new digital platforms for public engagement including growing the London Data Store and worked with the Prime Minister's office to support the growth of the technology cluster 'Tech City' in East London. He currently sits on the Digital City Exchange research board for Imperial College London. From 2000 – 2008 Kulveer was a senior consultant at The Nichols Group undertaking a diverse range of strategic reviews and delivery assignments relating to transport infrastructure programmes. His clients included Network Rail, Rail Safety & Standards Board, Department for Transport, Transport for London and the Strategic Rail Authority. Kulveer joined Serco Plc in October 2012 as Director, Special Projects focusing on the development of the 'Future Cities' strategy and is now Transformation Director, Customer Engagement.

**All are welcome and participation is free.**

Further details about the OMEGA Seminar Programme can be found on the OMEGA Centre's web site (<http://www.omegacentre.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/outputs/seminar2.php>).

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