Strategizing Knowledge-Based Urban Development: Knowledge City Transformations of Brisbane, Australia

Tan Yiğitcanlar, Senior Lecturer
Queensland University of Technology, School of Urban Development, Brisbane, Australia
tan.yigitcanlar@qut.edu.au,

Roisin McCartney, PhD. Student
Queensland University of Technology, School of Urban Development, Brisbane, Australia
r.mccartney@connect.qut.edu.au

In the global knowledge economy, knowledge-intensive industries and knowledge workers are extensively seen as the primary factors to improve the welfare and competitiveness of cities. To attract and retain such industries and workers, cities produce knowledge-based urban development strategies, where such strategizing has become an important development mechanism for cities and their economies. This paper discusses the critical connections between knowledge city foundations and integrated knowledge-based urban development mechanisms in various levels. In particular, the paper investigates Brisbane’s knowledge-based urban development strategies that support generation, attraction, and retention of investment and talent. The paper develops a knowledge-based urban development assessment framework to provide a clearer understanding on the local and regional policy frameworks, and relevant applications of Brisbane’s knowledge-based urban development experience in becoming a prosperous knowledge city. The paper, with its knowledge-based urban development assessment framework, scrutinizes Brisbane’s five key environments in detail: creative, administrative, business, natural, and built environments. Following the discussion of the case study findings the paper concludes by stating the global orientation of Brisbane within the frame of national and regional level knowledge-based urban development strategies performing well, as several good practices from Brisbane have already been internationally acknowledged. Nevertheless, the research also reveals that Brisbane is still in the early stages of its knowledge-based urban development implementation, and the development of a monitoring system for all knowledge-based urban development levels is highly crucial in accurately measuring the success and failure of specific knowledge-based urban development policies, and Brisbane’s progress towards a knowledge city transformation.

KEY WORDS: Knowledge city, knowledge-based urban development, knowledge precinct, knowledge-intensive industry, knowledge worker, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.