

A CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: AIA Aerotropolis Book Volumes (Abstracts for Book Volume 1)

Introduction

Large-scale urban and regional development (LSURD) and economic growth hubs are new paradigms in producing socio-economic growth points within regions with high needs for socio-economic development, and with the potential to create such LSURD's to benefit large sectors of the community.

Within the context of developing nations, and in particular those on the African continent, much of the development happens within the unique political, economic, social, environmental and historical contexts. The increasing pressures and demands on regions and localities within countries to improve their socio-economic conditions in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, have given rise to specific developmental plans, strategies, and instruments or catalytic projects.

The idea of developing smart airport (or port-based) cities and regions has received traction on many continents and in many nations. Africa is on the verge of fully adopting such plans and strategies, and locally our cities (Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town) are taking the lead in employing regional transportation hubs and smart cities as centres or catalysts for regional economic development. This implies a multi-pronged and modal approach to development. The need for integrated plans and strategies that require the application of new modes of governance, strategic management, economic development and the interpretation of the concept of 'knowledge production' must engage in the process of what the quadruple or quintuple helix approach requires when building a knowledge-based economy in such contexts.

The impact of Covid-19 and the social unrest in the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal regions in particular, have had a massive and lasting impact on regional economic development strategies, plans and the efforts to use aerotropolis developments to contribute to the socio-economic development goals and objectives.

The Aerotropolis Institute Africa plans to launch a series of book volumes that will not only contribute to the ongoing debates on the value, progress and contribution of smart airport cities to local and regional economic development, but will also raise questions and issues

that can be researched thereby contributing to the policy debates. This approach is essential to keep the ideas viable while introducing innovative perspectives, models and practices into the processes of developing aerotropoli. Ultimately the aim is to ensure that the 'aerotropolis catalytic projects' can make a significant contribution to local and regional economic development. This communique is a call for interested authors to suggest chapter topics in line with the first volume proposed below:

Aerotropoli: their future and viability in the post Covid-19 dispensation

We are planning a series of book volumes with approximately 12 chapters each, including an introductory and concluding chapter. The idea is that the volume series will be relevant to the challenges and issues experienced during a specific event or period, like the recent pandemic and specifically the social unrest in parts of South Africa affecting aerotropoli and regions surrounding fledgling aerotropolis developments.

In a recent [webinar organised by the AIA](#) the challenges and issues surrounding the post Covid-19 and social unrest challenges to building the SA and KZN brand to promote tourism was discussed. It is the intention to use this webinar and the inputs as a backdrop for this proposed book volume. Many attendees of the webinar indicated that they were keen to contribute to these proposed publications.

Since the inception of the Durban Aerotropolis, there were signs and indicators of excellent progress in the growth and development of many facets of the Durban Aerotropolis. Some of the proposed ideas and themes could assist in shaping the topics for the proposed first book volume.

Possible themes related to the book: Aerotropoli – Their future and viability in the post Covid-19 dispensation

- Contextualising Covid-19 impacts and aerotropolis development
- Covid-19 and the aerotropolis: Aero mobilities and implications for aerotropoli
- Cybersecurity implications for aerotropoli during Covid- 19 and beyond
- Air traffic and route development challenges and options during and post the Covid-19 pandemic
- Tourism, Covid-19 and aerotropolis development

- Leadership and management issues for African aerotropoli: What educational and skill requirements are needed most?
- Covid-19 and the Durban Aerotropolis Master Plan: Prospects and keeping plans on track
- Contextualising the resilient aerotropolis
- Transport based regional development projects (Transit orientated cities and development, TOCD): How does the Durban Aerotropolis benefit from the current dispensation to produce advanced logistics and supply chain systems fit into the Airport Cities and Aerotropoli in Africa: Prospects and Possibilities?
- Growing and establishing the Industry Cluster and Business Parks in the 'first mile' of aerotropoli
- Governance and stakeholder engagement challenges in aerotropoli (eg. The 'one-stop-service' idea for stakeholders and investors).
- Health services in the aerotropolis precinct: Specialised health hubs and hospitality services
- Environmental sustainability and aerotropoli
- Considerations to promote resilient and responsible Aerotropolis development
- Smart Aerotropoli and integration of smart cities
- The Aerotropolis and its occupants: How we live and work in aerotropoli of the future?

How to proceed?

The book chapter ideas and themes listed above are general guidelines for shaping a potential chapter abstract.

Please consider preparing an abstract for this book volume in line with these ideas or themes. The proposed book and its chapters will be managed by academic and practitioner editors and reviewers. A double peer reviewed process will be followed to ensure the academic quality, but also to ensure that it qualifies for national subsidy for the universities or university academics that would like to contribute. In other words, every chapter will be viewed as a fully-fledged academic journal article, although the editors will ensure that the chapters will contribute to the overall book theme in a coherent manner.

Prepare chapter abstract in the following format (Arial – Font Size 12):

Title of Chapter

Name and Affiliation of Author(s)

Abstract (300 words)

Key Words: (between 5-8)

You will receive an email confirmation from the AIA Research Coordinator to confirm receipt, and then advise on how to proceed. Once your abstract is approved, you will receive instructions on how to prepare your chapter, using a specific MS-Word based style sheet for chapter submissions. When your chapter is submitted, you will work with our book technical proof reader/editor to prepare your chapter for final approval and publication. The proposed publication date will be in the latter part of 2022.

Please send your abstracts proposals to the AIA Research Coordinator- **Dr Nyasha Chiwawa** **before the 15 December** to the following email: chiwawan@ukzn.ac.za

Professor Henry Wissink – Interim Project Manager (AIA)