Highlights of INSS-GT June 2016 Conference Survey Results

103 people attended the conference and 71 responded to the follow-up survey (69% return rate)

Breakdown of attendees by background:

- Researchers (26)
- Educators (25)
- Non-Profit Practitioners (25)
- Students (10)
- Other (8)
- Industry Practitioners (5)
- Municipal Practitioners (4)

What does “social sustainability” mean from your perspective?

“Socially sustainable development aims to help human and natural communities flourish, now and in the future. It prioritizes equity and human capital development at the individual and community levels. It maximizes community assets, including community-based knowledge, history, traditions, and social networks” (working definition from conference)

“Comprehensive sustainability that encompasses health and wellbeing of environment, the community, and the citizens that reside and thrive in that community”

“Understanding that the environmental eco-system is integrated across economic, environmental, and social; social sustainability means being mindful of their independent function yet recognizing the interconnectivity of each system (i.e. economic conditions influence environmental systems and vice-versa).”

“Engaging communities to build the capital needed to make bold decisions about their future.”

“Socially sustainable systems and programs improve or at least maintain the quality of life (especially social and cultural) of those under their purview. Social sustainability is an important criterion against which technological solutions to problems should be judged, as these solutions may serve as short-term Band-Aids or blinders while depleting “social capital.” I see it as part of the ethics of technological change and development.”

“The ability for people and communities to sustain and thrive, through equality, diversity, democracy, and high quality of life.”
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Some thoughts and feedback from respondents:

“The Friday morning working session was a catalyst for creative collaborative thinking. The energy in the room was electric and the ideas that where shared demonstrated some thoughtful approaches to how GT as an institution could tackle an array of social challenges (it was very liberal artsy at a traditional non-liberal arts place). It was also great to hear and meet such a diverse group of external folks engaged in this work as well as the internal people who probably rarely get together to share and really think about how they might collaborate.”

“I left with the hope and belief that Georgia Tech and other community leaders are very interested in social sustainability”

“The ability to talk through some of the key ideas of the conference with people from such diverse backgrounds was an experience everyone should have in their work. Everyone was free with their thoughts, and as a student it was great to see this kind of conversation flourish without anyone feeling like a lesser knowledge base for conversation.”

“This was a great conference. Very well organized and with a lot of great content. I left the conference feeling energized by the great exchange of ideas and by the level of commitment and enthusiasm of all participants for future collaborations. I do hope we can continue to work together to put into action all the wonderful ideas we discussed and proposed in the working groups. Thank you very much to the organizing team for putting together such an inspiring and engaging conference!!”

I would rate my understanding of social sustainability at the end of the conference as:

- Greatly improved 39%
- Somewhat improved 44%
- Slightly improved 16%
- Not at all improved 1%

Which of the following were true about your experience at the conference:

- I found the event intellectually stimulating 77%
- I met potential collaborators 70%
- I left with new ideas for deepening or expanding my own work 67%
- I found the event action-oriented 53%
- I could see ways that social sustainability related to my work that I couldn’t see before 43%
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#### Which of the sessions did you find particularly helpful or meaningful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Field Study Trip &quot;From the Beltline to the 'Hooch: Exploring the Emerald Corridor&quot; (Wednesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Friday morning working session: Next Steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>Thursday morning Roundtable session (Resilience and Social Sustainability panel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>Thursday afternoon Roundtable session (FEWS and Social Sustainability panel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>Thursday evening working session: Key Takeaways</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Wednesday night Keynote event with Shamar Bibbins, The Kresge Foundation, &quot;Advancing an Integrated, Comprehensive Approach to Climate Resilience&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Interest in next steps:

- 79% Attend 2017 conference
- 68% City/regional collaboration
- 67% Meet again with working group
- 55% Signing on to a "white paper"
- 41% Forming a UN University Regional Center of Expertise