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## **PROFESSOR PATSY HEALEY AWARDED PLANNING PROFESSION'S HIGHEST HONOUR**

Patsy Healey, BA, PhD, MRTPI OBE has been awarded the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Gold Medal Award. It is only the 12th time The Gold Medal has been awarded and the first time it has been presented to a woman in its 53 year history. The Gold Medal is awarded for truly outstanding achievement in the field of town and country planning. The Award is international and open to all RTPI Members.

Professor Patsy Healey has been cooperating with the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence (Central European Training and Research Centre in Spatial Planning) at the FASTU in Bratislava since the times of the TEMPUS IB-JEP 13424-98 project that was developing the activities of the SPECTRA Centre at the FASTU. She published two papers on ethics in planning: "The Treatment of Values and Ethics in Planning Theories" and "Practical Ethics for Planners" in the book "Recent Developments in Urban and Rural Theories and New Trends in Spatial Planning" (Eds.: B. Kováč, J. Komrska, FASTU ROAD Bratislava, 2000, ISBN 80-88999-01-4, 406p.) in order to support the postgraduate training for planners "Current Trends in Spatial planning in the context of European Integration" run by the SPECTRA Centre at FASTU in Bratislava, since 1999.

RTPI Secretary General, Robert Upton said: "The RTPI is delighted to present the Gold Medal Award to Professor Healey on the basis of her outstanding contribution to ideas, practice and education in Town and Country Planning for over 30 years. Prof. Healey is regarded as the doyenne of UK planning academics and has earned prestige with academics abroad and planning practitioners around the world."

Other winners of this award have included Sir Patrick Abercrombie (1955), Prof. Sir Colin Buchanan (1967) and Prof. Sir Peter Hall (2003).

Professor Patsy Healey said: "I feel really honoured to receive the Gold Medal Award from the RTPI and to be joining such exalted company as Sir Patrick Abercrombie and Sir George Pepler. Planning is hugely important to the future economic, social and environmental success of both the UK and internationally and I am glad to be recognised for having contributed to such a vital profession."

Professor Healey has had a long-standing involvement with the RTPI. She has been a Council member and part of the Education Development Panel, as well as being an Expert Advisor to what was the Research Panel. She is currently a member of the Research and Knowledge Committee. She has also been Senior Editor of Planning Theory and Practice from 1999 to date.

She is a member of the ODPM/DCLG Planning Research Network. She was recognised as an Honorary Member, by the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in 2004, only the second such honour to be awarded. She has just been made a Fellow of University College, London (June 2006).

Patsy Healey is Professor Emeritus at the Global Urbanism Research Unit, within the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University. She has been Professor Emeritus since 2002. Patsy Healey's career in research reaches back to 1970, when she was a Research

Fellow at the London School of Economics. Since then, she has been Head of the School of Planning, and Faculty Dean, at Oxford Brookes University (1978-80 and 1983-86); Head of the Department of Town and Country Planning at Newcastle University (1988-92); Director of the Centre for Research in European Urban Environments (CREUE) (1993-2002); and President of the Association of European Schools of Planning (1994-96).

It was whilst Patsy Healey worked as a planning theorist at Oxford Polytechnic that she developed an approach to planning theory which combined political economy analysis with the emerging politics of implementation processes. She also undertook research on planners' use of theory in practice, and on development plans and the development process. Following her move to Newcastle University, Professor Healey worked on developing an institutionalist approach to planning and development processes and a communicative approach within planning theory, while undertaking empirical research on the development industry in Tyne and Wear, local plan-making processes, the negotiation of developers' contributions, community development processes, and emerging spatial plan-making practices in Europe and the UK. The book for which she is most widely known, *Collaborative Planning* (Palgrave/Macmillan), drew on this experience.

In the past ten years, she has been developing approaches to collaborative planning practices, linked to an institutionalist analysis of urban socio-spatial dynamics and urban governance, with books on urban governance and on strategic spatial planning in Europe. She has just completed work on experiences of strategic spatial planning in city regions, with in depth case studies in the UK, Italy and the Netherlands. This will be published as "Urban Complexity and Spatial Strategies: a relational planning for our times", by Routledge in Autumn 2006.

The award will be presented at an event in Newcastle in March 2007.