The Think Global, Act Regional Symposium will bring together representatives of the six states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee—to frame an agenda for the southeastern MegaRegion. This one-day symposium will examine the future of the southeastern MegaRegion, explore common opportunities and challenges, and review efforts underway in other parts of the country.

We are embarking on a new era of change in the United States. By the year 2050, much of our population growth will be concentrated in expanding urban areas, forming the economic core of emerging MegaRegions. Anchored by the nation’s largest cities and including their surrounding areas, these MegaRegions will play an important role in the global economy. This new regional structure calls for the creation of policies, infrastructure, resources, and regional cooperation to respond to evolving the needs and opportunities, and a national framework to position MegaRegions for success in the global economy.

Faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology are working with colleagues at other universities and planning organizations throughout the country to develop a proposal to build a cohesive and competitive national spatial growth strategy that focuses on emerging MegaRegions. This new vision will lay the foundation for future economic competitiveness and improved quality of life. Symposia are being held in the MegaRegions to convene elected officials, state and federal departments, metropolitan and municipal planning agencies, chambers of commerce, and universities to assess regional needs and build political alliances across each MegaRegion. In 2007, a national conference will bring together the MegaRegions to advance an American Spatial Development Perspective.

At Georgia Tech, we are compiling a case study of the emerging southeastern MegaRegion—an area we are calling the Piedmont Atlantic MegaRegion (PAM). PAM will be one of the fastest growing MegaRegions, increasing from 46 million people in 2000 to over 82 million by 2050. This growth brings opportunities and challenges, and demands that we work together, leveraging our strengths to ensure long-term prosperity, improved livability, and the protection of our natural resources. Join us for the Think Global, Act Regional Symposium and help ensure PAM’s future success.
Think Global, Act Regional:
Framing an Agenda for the Southeastern MegaRegion
■ January 30, 2006 ■ Centergy One Building, 75 Fifth Street, Atlanta

Hosted by: Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development and City and Regional Planning Program in the College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology
Sponsors: Atlanta Regional Commission, EDAW, Georgia Power, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Schedule for January 30, 2006

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Welcome
Dr. Thomas D. Galloway, Dean, College of Architecture, Georgia Tech

8:15 a.m. A Regional Perspective
Senator Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senate

8:45 a.m. Think Global, Act Regional Symposium Roadmap
Dr. Cheryl K. Contant, Director, City and Regional Planning Program, Georgia Tech

9:00 a.m. MegaRegion Case Studies
Northeast MegaRegion: Thomas K. Wright, Regional Plan Association, New York
Southern California MegaRegion: Mark Pisano, Southern California Association of Governments

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Examining the Piedmont Atlanta MegaRegion
Dr. Catherine L. Ross, Director, Harry West Professor, Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, Georgia Tech

11:00 a.m. Panel of Elected Officials and Agency Representatives to Discuss MegaRegions
Led by Armando Carbonell, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Exploring Regional Challenges and Opportunities: Break-out Groups on Specific Issues

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Reconvene to Report on Group Discussions

3:45 p.m. Next Steps: Mission Moving Forward
Mayor Shirley Franklin, City of Atlanta
President Wayne Clough, Georgia Tech (invited)

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Please RSVP by calling 404.385.5120 or by e-mail cqgrd@coa.gatech.edu.
For more information about the Think Global, Act Regional Symposium call 404.385.5133 or visit www.cqgrd.gatech.edu.