

# 3rd International Urban Research Symposium ICLEI World Congress 2012

15 JUNE - 17 JUNE 2012, BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



## BACKGROUND

The purpose of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Urban Research Symposium at the ICLEI World Congress 2012 is to bring together researchers from around the globe who focus on urban sustainability, sustainability cities, eco-cities and sustainable communities. The symposium will convene researchers to exchange their concepts, studies, findings and ideas for future research, and to enable them to exchange with local government practitioners in order to strengthen the link between research and practice.

The International Urban Research Symposium is an event complementary to and integrated with the ICLEI World Congress 2012. The symposium will combine interaction with the core program of the World Congress, in which the researchers are invited to play a key role, and a mainly researchers focused agenda in dedicated time slots. Two principle opportunities exist:

- 1. World Congress Research Symposium Parallel Sessions (Sat 16 June):** Exploring experiences with researchers and city practitioners/city governments' interaction.
- 2. "Researchers' Own": Closed researcher sessions in parallel (only for researchers)**

Participation is free of charge, although participants are responsible for their own travel costs. Researchers are encouraged to explore the possibility of travel sponsorship with their local authorities. Partners and institutions can contribute to the Researchers' Symposium in advance by recommending known local researchers or universities to be invited.

## AIMS

Across disciplinary boundaries and along the ICLEI World Congress themes, the symposium will:

- Addresses the existing gaps, opportunities and challenges between research and practice.
- Use the expertise available at the conference to identify success factors and barriers for sustainable communities, and to develop local strategies that can be used by many communities around the world.
- Enrich the ICLEI World Congress program with findings, challenges and benchmarking activities.

## SPECIFIC AIMS

### PARALLEL SESSION:

- Explore how research and local decision makers can better interact.
- Identify needs of and opportunities for interaction between researchers and local decision makers.
- Discuss tools, knowledge, and challenges for more effective interaction.
- Improve municipal sustainability capacity by increasing collaboration between researchers and local authorities.
- Establish a basis for future cooperation among researchers and local government practitioners and develop an international research network consisting of academic researchers, research consultants and local government practitioners focused on local sustainability issues.
- Provide opportunities for municipal officials to interact with researchers to jointly identify research needs and to share local case study knowledge and examples.

### “RESEARCHERS’ OWN”:

- Enable collaboration among researchers committed to comprehensive approaches to sustainability at the municipal level.
- Develop a research agenda that supports a (local government) movement towards sustainable communities.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### PARALLEL SESSION:

**There will be two or three 90 minute session slots in the main World Congress program.** These sessions aim to explicitly show past or ongoing projects or activities where research and practitioners have/are collaboratively worked (ing) together to further local sustainability.

### **We invite proposals for:**

- a) An entire session proposal whereby the convener brings researchers and practitioners together.
- b) Speaker/presentation proposals from a particular project or program or activity.

Proposals should show challenges, advantages and opportunities of such collaboration. Competition for these slots is large. Speakers must consist of researchers and practitioners. Presentations must be addressed

to an audience made up of practitioners and policy-makers. Depending upon demand, these proposals can also be accommodated in the Researchers' Own sessions, where the audience will be exclusively researchers.

These expressions of interest will be selected and coordinated by ICLEI.

## **RESEARCHERS' OWN:**

**Parallel to the main World Congress, researchers are invited to meet and exchange on sessions relating to urban sustainability, sustainable cities, eco-cities, and/or sustainable communities.** Particular attention will be paid to the following themes (additional information: [ICLEI's Strategy 2010-2015](#)):

- [Green Urban Economy](#) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- Integrated Sustainability Policy
- Resource-Efficient City
- [Biodivercities, Securing Ecosystem Services](#)
- [Low carbon and climate neutral cities](#)
- [Resilient Community](#)
- [Green Infrastructure](#)
- Healthy and Happy communities

### **We invite proposals for:**

- a) An entire session proposal in the Researchers' Own whereby the session convener organizes this.  
For example:

- Panel session
- Round table
- Workshop

- b) Presentation proposals (typically 15 minutes) that can be integrated and combined into sessions.

Given space limitations, a selection process will take.

Proposals which show how the presentation or session contributes to the following criteria will be given priority in the following order:

1. Contribution to urban sustainability, sustainable cities, eco-cities and/or sustainable communities.
2. Thematic focus (from list above).
3. Advancing the agenda on research and practice.

The expression of interests to contribute will be selected and coordinated by the Research Symposium's Co-Conveners:

- Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Brazil

- Simon Fraser University (SFU) Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Vancouver, Canada
- Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability

## **PROPOSALS: SUBMISSION VIA CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

All abstracts should be sent to [urban.research@iclei.org](mailto:urban.research@iclei.org) clearly stating “Research Symposium Proposal” in the subject heading.

Abstracts are invited as outlined above, either for limited Parallel Sessions or the Researchers’ Own.

Abstracts will be accepted **from March 1 to April 15**. Early submission is encouraged.

Abstracts must:

- Be no more than 300 words.
- Clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the presentation and final paper.
- Clearly indicate the *theme* (see above), *focus* (practice, research, or theory – see proposal form) and *format* (poster, presentation, session – see proposal form), and length.
- Include your name, topic, and full address with contact information.

Notification of acceptance will be no later than **1 May 2012**.

**Language:** Abstracts and papers must be in English. Should the oral presentation be given in another language, please indicate this. We are currently exploring language translation options. Alternatively, sessions may be offered exclusively in other languages (pending confirmation).

**Form:** the Proposal / Call for Abstracts form can be downloaded [here](#):

## **CONTRIBUTION TO JOURNAL**

### **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT: THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

All papers and posters presented at the Researchers Symposium may be considered for publication in a special or regular edition of [Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability](#) . The *Local Environment* manuscript deadline will be advised after submission of abstracts. Maximum length is 5-6,000 words.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND DETAILS**

While there is no registration fee for the Researcher’s Symposium, participants are responsible for their own travel costs. Researchers are encouraged to explore the possibility of travel sponsorship with their local authorities.

See links for Registration and Practical Information on the World Congress home page.

You can register here: <http://worldcongress2012.iclei.org/registration.html>

Under **Additional program components** tick the box:

- “I am a researcher and would like to also participate in the 3rd International Urban Researchers' Symposium”

To ensure that your presentation is scheduled in the final program, registration must be complete by **10 May 2012**. Be sure to check the Researcher Symposium box on your World Congress registration.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **HOST: ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2012**

**City of Belo Horizonte**

**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability**

### **CONVENERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL URBAN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

**Local research community:**

**Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Laboratório de Ecologia Evolutiva e Biodiversidade – LEEB**

Contact: Dr. Geraldo Wilson Fernandes, Director, LEEB, and Professor, Departamento de Biologia Gera, UFMG

**International research community:**

**Pando | Sustainable Communities Research Network (to be launched at the ICLEI World Congress 2012)**

Contact: Mark Roseland, Director, Centre for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD) and Professor, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.

**Local Environment Journal**

Contact: Julian Agyeman, Co-editor, Local Environment and Professor and Chair, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Tufts University, USA.

**ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability**

Contact: Richard Simpson, Research Analyst, Capacity Center, World Secretariat, ICLEI.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS**

Please register your interest to support the International Urban Research Symposium

**[www.iclei.org/worldcongress2012](http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2012)**