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Bulletin Board

I. THEMES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

April 2009: City governance and citizen action II. The deadline for submissions has now passed.

October 2009: Securing land for housing and urban development. Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2009.

Access to land is obviously central to all aspects of urban development, including poverty reduction, service provision and measures to improve housing conditions. Managing land and land use is also important for managing urban expansion and infrastructure development and for addressing a range of environmental issues, including minimizing sprawl and building resilience to extreme weather events, and the direct and indirect impacts of climate change.

For this issue, papers are welcomed on any of the above aspects in relation to urban land. This would include papers that examine whether more secure land tenure brings other developmental benefits (for instance, access to services and credit or political voice); also papers that identify more effective government land acquisition and land management policies that support better possibilities for good quality housing and livelihood opportunities for low-income groups. Papers that consider how public transport systems influence land markets are also encouraged – especially where improvements in public transport act to increase land areas with good access to livelihood opportunities.

April 2010: Migration and mobility and the implications for local governance and local development. Deadline for submissions: 15 September 2009.

The last 10 years have seen much-increased recognition of the positive aspects of migration, including those related to remittances and to the capital, knowledge and contacts that return migrants can bring to their “home”. Discussions of the means through which poverty can be reduced also recognize the importance of mobility and of the disadvantages faced by those unable to move in response to new opportunities. The last 10 years have also brought greater recognition of the scale and nature of rural–urban linkages (partly expressed through mobility, partly through remittances) and of the significance of smaller urban centres, both in these links and in housing a substantial part of the urban population.

Among the topics for which papers are welcomed are:

- How does increased mobility affect gender relations, inter-generational relations and relations between non-migrants, out-migrants (and their relatives) and in-migrants?
- How do different groups of migrants protect and promote their interests (e.g. those who migrate seasonally compared to those who migrate long-term; the existence and role of social networks; how ethnicity, gender and age affect these)?
- How do migrants protect and promote their interests (not necessarily self-interests) and influence decision making in their hometowns (e.g. through associations and their activities; by ensuring their relatives’ support for specific political groups; by engaging in decentralized – municipality to municipality – cooperation projects...)?

Papers are also welcomed on mobility and migration in relation to small urban centres:

- Small urban centres as “senders” of migrants (both within nations and internationally) and receivers of remittances; what social, economic and other impacts do these bring to small urban centres, and for whose benefit?
- How do global and national contexts affect poverty and mobility in small urban centres?
- How do high levels of mobility and remittance flows affect local governance systems in small urban centres? How are different priorities negotiated, who are the actors involved (local/national government; civil society, including migrant associations; private sector, including migrants where relevant) and what is their role? What are the key lessons from innovative initiatives and how can these inform policies and initiatives in different contexts?

October 2010: Youth in the city. Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2010.

The needs, aspirations and capacities of youth seem to be forgotten in most discussions of urban development. Their lack of opportunity becomes especially evident around employment. Unemployment rates for young people are perilously high – often two to three times higher than those for adults. The implications for families, communities and young people themselves are critical. Yet when given the opportunity, young people can be productive, committed and enterprising workers, making vital contributions to local development. This special issue, to be guest edited by Dr Sheridan Bartlett, will seek to draw in papers discussing this concern and describing promising youth-oriented initiatives.

During 2008, a web-based questionnaire will be available to all readers – and themes for *Environment and Urbanization* issues after April 2010 will draw on readers' preferences and suggestions.

II. SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CITIES

Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda: The 5th Urban Research Symposium to be held at the Palais du Pharo, 28–30 June 2009, Marseille, France.

Simultaneous interpretations will be available in French and English and in other languages if possible. For more details, see <http://www.urs2009.net/>.

Although the call for papers to be presented at the symposium is now closed, anyone interested in the topic can attend. Those who submitted papers that have been accepted for presentation will be notified by 20 October 2008. The papers presented at the symposium seek to:

- examine the current applied urban research and practices on cities and climate change in low- and middle income nations and transition economies, as well as in high-income countries;
- identify knowledge gaps in current research; and
- contribute to a focused urban research agenda to guide collaborative efforts in this area.

Papers will be presented within five clusters:

- science and indicators of climate change and related impacts: understanding and measuring how cities impact, and are impacted by, climate change;
- infrastructure, built environment and energy supply: planning efficiently and effectively to increase the resilience and energy efficiency of cities;
- role of institutions, governance, and urban planning: improving management, coordination, and planning of cities to meet climate change challenges;
- incentive policies, economics and finance: understanding how and why cities respond to climate change; and
- social aspects of climate change: understanding and reducing the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations.

Papers in each of these clusters will include contributions on:

- diagnosis of specific issues and their components;
- analysis and approaches;
- experiences and concrete cases of current policies and practices in cities and the reasons for success;
- extracting lessons, analyzing conditions for scaling-up, and creating action plans to deal with climate change-related issues. It is expected that the lessons associated with each cluster will provide the basis for a multi-donor coordination/effort to deal systematically with cities and climate change and to mainstream these concerns in their national and regional assistance strategies.

A sub-set of the papers accepted for presentation will be published following the symposium and all papers accepted will be posted on the World Bank website. For further information, visit <http://www.urs2009.net>.

III. ADAPTING CITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A new web page has been set up at <http://www.iied.org/HS/topics/accc.html> on adapting cities in low- and middle-income nations to climate change. In part, this is in response to the interest generated by the April 2007 issue of *Environment and Urbanization*. But it is also because of the lack of attention to adaptation and to cities in low- and middle-income nations – especially from governments and international agencies. To date, discussions on how to address climate change have focused far more on mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) than on adaptation (coping with the storms, floods, sea-level rise and other impacts that climate change will bring). The limited discussions on adaptation have also paid little attention to cities – except in some high-income nations. But hundreds of cities and smaller urban centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are at high risk from climate change. Many such urban centres (or the nations in which they are located) have contributed very little to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, while mitigation may be a national agenda driven by international agreement, adapting cities to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change is intensely local – and needs to be rooted in local development agendas, local land use planning and local infrastructure investments. The best basis for adaptation in cities is competent, capable local governments with a commitment and an ability to work with low-income groups – whose homes and livelihoods are often among the most at risk from climate change.

This website includes a range of case studies of particular cities and of urban populations in particular nations. It also includes pre-publication versions of papers that will be published in future issues of *Environment and Urbanization*.

IV. DISCOUNTED PRICES FOR ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION

The publisher of *Environment and Urbanization*, Sage Publications, offers large discounts on the subscription prices to charities and students and to all subscribers from low- and middle-income nations.

Annual subscription prices:

Charities: £99/US\$ 178 (this includes print and e-access)

Students from high-income nations: £20/US\$ 36

Subscribers from low- and middle-income nations:

Institutions: £59/US\$ 107 (print and e-access)

Individuals: £20/US\$ 36 (print)

Students: £13/US\$ 24 (print and e-access)

To subscribe to one of these, e-mail: subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk

V. NEW ISSUE OF MEDIO AMBIENTE Y URBANIZACIÓN

The new issue of Spanish language *Medio Ambiente y Urbanización* (Issue 68, April 2008) is on the theme of "Poverty, space and economic development; policies and programmes". All the papers listed below can be accessed at no charge from www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iieal/meda.

- Introduction – *Adriana Clemente*
- The transition to a predominantly urban world; trends and underlying causes – *David Satterthwaite*
- Developing municipal policies for economic development in Argentina – *Alejandro Villar*
- Socioproductive policies and municipal cooperation in Argentina; lessons learned – *Adriana Clemente and Claudio Lesnichevsky*
- Power and local economic development in Peru – *Luis W Montoya Canchis*
- Views and perspectives on socioproductive policies; the case of the National Plan "Hands to Work" – *Marcela Rebon and Erika Roffler*
- Alternative proposals for equity and development in local spaces – *Cristina Girardo*
- The plan for unemployed male and female heads of households; elements of an evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses – *Julio César Neffa*
- The driver of urban growth and sociospatial segregation in Greater Buenos Aires – *Andrea Echevarria*

Medio Ambiente y Urbanización, produced since 1983 by IIED–América Latina in Buenos Aires, is now available on-line at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iieal/meda>. All issues on the site are available at no charge. An annual personal subscription to the print edition of the journal (two issues) costs US\$ 28 for those outside Latin America; payment can be arranged by credit card through IIED (e-mail: humans@iied.org). An institutional subscription for those outside Latin America, which includes both print issues and e-access, costs US\$ 100 and can be arranged through IIED (e-mail: humans@iied.org). For more details of the work of IIED–América Latina, see: <http://www.iiedal.org.ar/>.