



## Call for Abstracts

### The 4<sup>th</sup> International ICLEI Urban Research Symposium

8-12 April 2015 - Seoul, Republic of Korea

Leading urban sustainability researchers will convene at the ICLEI World Congress to drive forward current debates in international policymaking and sustainable development. We invite interested researchers and experts to submit abstracts which reflect either active research contributions or research-practice collaboration in these fields.

#### Thematic priorities for the 2015 Symposium include:

- Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the urban level: We wish to bring research-practitioners together to discuss what is needed to implement the new SDGs at the urban level. Where will research need to be done? How can researchers and practitioners cooperate to effectively roll out strategies to promote further sustainable development? How can research be used to identify such strategies?
- Urban NEXUS; Intersectoral approaches to urban sustainable development: Discuss the benefits of and challenges to inter-sectoral approaches to urban sustainable development, using the learnings and experiences already made with the Urban Nexus project and approach. Where is further research needed to aid practitioners in implementing inter-sectoral approaches? How can results be best measured to report on the successes of inter-sectoral approaches and further improve them?
- Monitoring, Reporting, and Verifying; Performance driven urban sustainability: In the past 25 years, the world has seen urban sustainable development blossom from a radical, fringe concept to a mainstream element of urban planning. How can research help leading cities place a stronger emphasis on measurable and verifiable performance of their sustainable development policies and initiatives?
- Think Tanks for Cities: How and from where do innovative local governments get inspiration and access to global best practice?

The **2015 Symposium** will emphasize interaction with the core program of the ICLEI World Congress, within which researchers are invited to collaborate and communicate with civic leaders from all over the world. In addition, the Symposium will provide a researcher-focused agenda in dedicated time slots.

Researchers from leading institutions and universities will be brought together to exchange findings, hold discussions, and explore further research on urban sustainability. The researchers will focus on state-of-the-art thinking and initiatives that help use existing capacity more effectively, and will be given the opportunity to strengthen the application of their research through interaction with practitioners.

## Intended outcomes from the Researcher's Symposium (series)

- Improve municipal sustainability capacity by increasing collaboration between researchers and local governments.
- Develop a research agenda that supports local governments in becoming sustainable communities.
- Enable and strengthen global collaboration among researchers committed to comprehensive approaches to sustainability at the municipal level.
- Promote future cooperation among researchers and practitioners through international collaboration networks such as *Pando | Sustainable Communities* ([www.pando.sc](http://www.pando.sc)).
- Provide opportunities for municipal officials to interact with researchers in order to jointly identify research needs and to share interesting local case study examples.
- 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.

## Partners

The Symposium is being organized in partnership between ICLEI and selected long-term and local partners, including:

- The Seoul Institute, which is also acting as Secretariat for the Megacity Think Tank Alliance (MeTTA) (<https://www.si.re.kr/>)
- *Pando | Sustainable Communities* – the international collaboration network for sustainable communities researchers and practitioners, Pando ([www.pando.sc](http://www.pando.sc)) was launched at the ICLEI 2012 World Congress and Researchers Symposium.
- *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cloe20/current#.VGLrTPTF-nE>)
- The Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University, Canada ([www.sfu.ca/cscd](http://www.sfu.ca/cscd))

## Invited target group

Our target group is researchers with specific interest in urban sustainability in a global context. We intend to accommodate 40-60 participants who will be fully integrated into the full World Congress 2015 program.

Partners and institutions can contribute to the Researchers' Symposium in advance by recommending known local researchers or universities to be invited.

## Abstract and paper submission information

Following the Opening Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Researchers' Symposium (April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015), researcher participation will be integrated with the ICLEI World Congress 2015 schedule. This approach reflects the complementary overlap between the Researchers' Symposium themes and World Congress themes, which can be viewed in more detail at: <http://worldcongress2015.iclei.org/program/thematic-sessions.html>.

Abstracts (of no more than 300 words) are invited on the topics outlined above, or on others which fall within the thematic scope of the World Congress. Abstracts will be accepted **from November 15 to December 15**, and should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the presentation and final paper.

Abstracts should also clearly indicate the *theme* (see above), *focus* (practice or research – see below) and *format* (abstract, standard, or poster – also see below) of the proposed presentation.

### Submitting your abstract:

Abstracts can be submitted electronically, by clicking on the 'Submit an Abstract' button found at <http://worldcongress2015.iclei.org/call-for-abstracts>.

Accepted abstracts will be invited as abstract, standard, or poster presentations. Notification of acceptance will be no later than **February 1**. All presentations accepted for the Researchers Symposium may be considered for publication in a special or regular edition of *Local Environment*. The *Local Environment* manuscript deadline will be advised after submission of abstracts. Maximum word length is 8000 words. *Local Environment's* Instructions for Authors are available at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=cloe20&page=instructions#.VEUwgNR4rdI>

**Abstracts, papers, and oral presentations must be in English.**

### Registration deadlines and details

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

To ensure that your presentation is scheduled in the final program, Researchers Symposium participants must also register for the World Congress 2015 by March 1, 2015. Registration and for attendees is provided at <http://worldcongress2015.iclei.org/registration>. Please state 'Researcher Symposium Attendee' in the 'Remarks' section of your World Congress registration.

### Presentation/Paper focus: Practice or research

Referees for presentation proposals and of submitted papers will base their assessment upon the kind of focus of a particular presentation or paper.

**Practice Focus:** A presentation or publication which describes innovative or exemplary

practices or programs in or with local governments. This may take the form of case studies, narratives, demonstrations or technical reports. The outcomes of practice may be improved frameworks, concepts, understandings or structures, such as enhanced capacity through the development of skills, knowledge and operational effectiveness.

**Research Focus:** A presentation or publication reporting upon original research, based on the systematic collection and analysis of data or facts. This kind of work may involve the application or testing of theory.

### **Symposium presentation formats**

The 4<sup>th</sup> International ICLEI Urban Research Symposium will place an emphasis on discussion, and this is reflected in following presentation formats.

**Abstract presentations:** An opportunity for authors to briefly (3-5 minutes) surmise the core points of their work in a concise presentation. This format can also be performed in conjunction with a poster presentation.

**Standard presentations:** Standard presentations (10-15 minutes) on researcher-practitioner collaboration at the local level. Research groups or teams may also propose workshops two workshops have also been tentatively planned: the first, facilitated in conjunction with the Seoul Institute, will focus on Think Tanks for Cities. The second, facilitated in conjunction with The Next Practice, will address Urban Productivity, with a focus on performance assessment.

**Poster presentations:** Researchers have been allocated approximately 5-15 poster slots, which will be featured alongside 60 other presentations from innovators in local government, civil society, and corporate enterprise. Because of this integrated format, preference will be given to poster proposals with a practical focus.

### **Panelists and facilitators: Thematic Sessions**

In order to best integrate the expertise of Researchers Symposium attendees, and to take full advantage of multi-professional format of the ICLEI World Congress, researchers will be invited to participate as panelists and facilitators in the World Congress 2015 Thematic Sessions program.

Thematic Sessions define the themes and topics of the symposium more clearly and make it easier for delegates to identify sessions of interest. They also increase the size of the audience for a given presentation and stimulate more discussion on the topic at hand. Researchers will be asked to facilitate group discussion, and to provide their expertise and knowledge on a given theme as panelists.

While registering, if you have interest in serving as a panelist or facilitator, please make note of your area of expertise. While we cannot promise placement in either role, this information will help us connect researchers to the thematic sessions that they are most suitable for, and interested in.