

Partnership for Urban Innovation

GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2010 • JUNE 17 – 18, 2010 • SHANGHAI, CHINA

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Economic Growth in Cities

Cities account for a growing proportion of a growing world population, but many are significantly less carbon-intensive per unit output than surrounding rural areas. Cities contain geographic concentrations of people, skills, and capital infrastructure making them vulnerable to extreme weather events. However, this same mix of density, diversity and specialization affords cities unique scope for knowledge-sharing and innovation and the ability to trial, replicate and scale new technologies.

This session will access economic research, city leader, technology and urban planning perspectives to explore some key hypotheses: 1) well-planned, compact, connected urbanization can enhance efficiency and incomes relative to rural/sprawling/suburban development or unplanned urban development, 2) sustainable urban development plans improve the effectiveness and competitiveness of cities relative to approaches which overlook sustainability, 3) networked urban infrastructures heighten the gains from urban agglomeration and afford greater opportunities for targeted job-creation projects which provide long-term growth enhancing effects. The agenda will build on analysis of:

- The Economic Case for Sustainable Cities
- The Economics of Network Enabled Growth - a vision of innovative connected cities
- World Bank programs

The session will identify policy and planning frameworks best suited to invoke the 'spark of good governance' required to propagate successful and sustainable cities. The session will discuss the best way to develop a collaborative and consistent database of city performance through improved monitoring and comparable inventories of economic, social and environmental outcomes such as greenhouse gas emissions. Such a database can be used to provide a rigorous analytical foundation for urban development policies, based on robust empirical investigation and an assessment of best practice. This can then drive policy recommendations on how local, regional and national frameworks can best be aligned to deliver sustainable growth and competitive advantage.

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Speakers

Lev Gonick

CIO Case Western Reserve University and Founder and Board Chair Emeritus of OneCommunity in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bernice Lee

Research Director, Energy, Environment and Resource Governance, Chatham House

Stanley Yip

Director - Planning & Development, Arup China

Daniel Hoornweg

Lead Urban Specialist, World Bank

Dimitri Zenghelis

Senior Advisor, Cisco Long Term Strategy and Innovation; Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics; Associate Fellow Chatham House

Moderated by: Dimitri Zenghelis (Cisco and LSE) and Daniel Hoornweg (World Bank)

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