



THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

THE EARTH INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## Center for Sustainable Urban Development's consortium team is first runner up in Nairobi International Planning Competition

Nairobi, Kenya, 8 April 2010. At an awards ceremony hosted by Kenya's Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development, an international consortium team, including the Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) at the Earth Institute, was selected as first runner up in Nairobi's first ever International Planning Competition. The winner of the competition was a team led by the Delhi-based Consulting Engineering Services (I) Pvt. Ltd. The Ministry's competition called for a "spatial planning concept" proposal "to develop a sustainable land use system for the Nairobi Metropolitan Region (NMR)."

In July of 2009, the Ministry invited eight of the nineteen teams that responded to their request to submit proposals. CSUD's consortium, which spanned three continents, three universities and three firms, was one of the eight selected teams. The proposal that followed, "Nairobi Metropolitan Region: Networking the Sustainable African Metropolis: Issues, Visions, Concepts", is the essence of CSUD and its collaborators' vision for the Nairobi Metropolitan Region.

This competition and the challenge it presented created a unique opportunity to dialogue on the future of the Nairobi Metropolitan Region, a dynamic and diverse area ranging from an economically powerful urban core fuelled by local entrepreneurial and intellectual skill, to areas of great natural beauty and high agricultural potential. The competition also provided a chance to anchor a metropolitan spatial concept in Kenyan realities and provided a way for government to tap into the formidable expertise and creativity in the country. This was a step forward in the government's attempt to address the complex problems of rapid urbanization and harness the opportunities it presents in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

CSUD, in collaboration with its international partners which include the Center for Urban and Regional Planning, Nairobi; Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Nairobi; Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning (ASRO) of the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven (KUL); Omgeving – Belgium; Euro Immo Star, Belgium, is currently working to publish its concept in a book and is also developing a popular version of the award-winning report which will be launched and circulated further in Nairobi in late 2010/early 2011. The report and the forum planned for its launch will help catalyze discussion among stakeholders, including civil society groups and local governments, and foster engagement in shaping the future of their region at a critical time. Kenya has a new constitution and is refashioning local government and planning institutions. This work feeds into and supports these exciting changes.

---

For further information about the competition visit the Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development's website at <http://www.nairobimetro.go.ke/>.

For more information about CSUD visit <http://csud.ei.columbia.edu/>.

For more information about the Earth Institute visit <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/>.