

## **LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS MEET ON URBAN TRANSPORT AND LAND USE ISSUES**

14-16 December 2010 – Nairobi, Kenya

The Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) at Columbia University in New York, New York, USA hosted a workshop on transportation and land use issues December 14-16 in Nairobi, Kenya with a special focus on the Nairobi Metropolitan Region on the workshop's first day. CSUD has been working with key local institutions in Nairobi since 2005, including the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) at the University of Nairobi and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research Analysis (KIPPRA) and was pleased to share some of the results of these collaborations, as well as promote public debate around the key issues the organizations have been researching.

The workshop was a great success as experts on urban planning and transport attended from six different continents. From Beijing, China to Santiago, Chile, and many cities in between, the experts shared their innovative research and dialogued with local policymakers, researchers, civil society and business organizations about Nairobi's future, which depends to a large extent on how it manages its transport, land use and other issues. Nairobi is a region that faces immense challenges of rapid urbanization, poor public transport, and environmental and public health threats. Given recent investments in large-scale infrastructure projects in the Nairobi Region and reforms in the country's constitution, Nairobi is at a critical moment, especially with regards to urban development, planning, and sustainability. Changes in the region are taking place in the absence of adequate institutions, regulation and transport and land use planning, policy, and action. By conducting joint research and supporting local networks for policy change, CSUD supports Kenyan aspirations for more informed public debate, useful analysis and empowerment in solving local transport and land use problems locally while sharing global knowledge.

Speakers at the workshop's first day included Archbishop Philip Sika, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development; Eric Aligula, Senior Analyst, KIPPRA; Arne Wittlöv, Chairman, Volvo Research and Educational Foundations Board; Peter Ngau, Associate Professor, University of Nairobi, DURP and Director, Urban Innovations Project; Christian Schlosser, Chief, Urban Transport Section, Human Settlements Financing Division, UN-HABITAT; Winnie Mitullah, Associate Research Professor of Development Studies, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi; Henry Ochieng, Program Officer, Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA) and Treasurer, Consumer's Federation of Kenya (COFEK); Meleckidzedek Khayesi, Technical Officer, Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention and Disability, World Health Organization; George Kirui, Director, I-Pasha (a social entrepreneurial company) ; Simon Kimutai, National Chairman, Matatu Owners Association; Dickson Mbugua,

Chairman, Matatu Welfare Association; Cllr. G. M. Kaarah, Mayor, Municipal Council of Ruiru; Lesley Khayadi, Town Clerk, Municipal Council of Ruiru; Elliott Sclar, Director, CSUD; and Jacqueline Klopp, Associate Research Scholar, CSUD.

Generously funded by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundation (VREF), this workshop gave CSUD and its partners an important opportunity to present our joint work to VREF, representatives from partner organizations from around the world, and other key guests. We saw this workshop as one more way to promote high quality discussion, debate, and networking on how to move the Nairobi region closer to sustainable transport and land use and hence improved public health and quality of life for its growing number of residents.

The workshop's second day leveraged the diverse international expertise of the attendees. VREF's eight international Centres of Excellence (CoEs), academic and research organizations funded by VREF to contribute to the development of sustainable urban transportation systems, gave research presentations on their latest work and future directions. The presentations and discussions that followed aimed to share knowledge, ideas and build networks among the VREF CoE's and the various local participants. To learn more about the VREF CoEs and their innovative research visit the VREF website at <http://www.vref.se/>. The presentation abstracts from each CoE will be made available on the CSUD website shortly.

The workshop was held at the **Sarova Stanley Hotel** in downtown Nairobi from **14-16 December 2010**.

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

For more information about VREF visit: <http://www.vref.se/>

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