



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO MEET ON URBAN TRANSPORT AND LAND USE ISSUES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Nairobi, Kenya

The Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) at Columbia University in New York, New York, USA is hosting a workshop on transportation and land use issues, with a special focus on the Nairobi Metropolitan Region. CSUD has been working with key local institutions in Nairobi since 2005, including the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Nairobi and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research Analysis (KIPPRA) and is looking forward to sharing some of the results of these collaborations, as well as promoting public debate around the key issues of metropolitan planning particularly transportation.

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.

Generously funded by the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF), this workshop gives 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 see this workshop as one more way to promote high quality discussion, debate, and networking on the 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 will be held at the **Sarova Stanley Hotel** in downtown Nairobi from **14-15 December 2010**. Experts are available for interviews upon request including Permanent Secretary Philip Sika, Meleckidzedek Khayesi, Juan Carlos Munoz Abogabir, Winnie Mitullah, Dinesh Mohan, Elliott Sclar, Henrik Nolmark, Mans Lonroth, Arne Wittlöv, Peter Ngau, His Worship Kihara The Mayor of Ruiru, and Preston Chitere.

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

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

For questions, please contact Elizabeth Marcello at emarcello@ei.columbia.edu, 0718.815.165

###