



Belize City

Caribbean Urban Forum 2017



Call for Abstracts

CUF7-FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Introduction

The Belize Association of Planners and the Mayor of Belize City and the Belize City Council will be hosting the 7th Annual Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF 2017), 17th -19th May 2017 in Belize City, Belize. Co-hosting will be the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) and other regional and international organizations. The Forum brings together land use practitioners, municipal managers, policy makers, academics and allied professionals in an effort to address urban issues in the region.

The policy environment is rapidly changing and we have recently seen the Paris Agreement (2015), an international climate accord to replace the Kyoto protocol as well as the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, has recently concluded in Quito. A critical output is the agreement on the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which is seen as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which gave rise to the SDGs. There are many SDGs of relevance to the NUA, but SDG 11, which proposes sustainable cities and communities, is key.

The New Urban Agenda will be the international framework guiding urban planning and management for the next two decades and environmentally sustainable development is key to its implementation. We have thus selected [Green] Energy, Economy & Space – Pathways to Urban Sustainability as the theme for CUF2017. The social aspects of environmental sustainability are critical in the NUA and it proposes just and equitable access of all to the city. What is also clear about the NUA is that it is universal and general and need to be articulated and detailed in the context of small and island developing state as exists in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Energy, Economy and Space are critical areas where greening can make the most fundamental and lasting impacts. The generation of energy through petrochemical sources is a major contributor to greenhouse gasses which may impact global warming. Harnessing renewable energy is becoming more popular in the Caribbean where energy prices are generally high, however, there is still a heavy dependence on petrochemical sources. The CARICOM Energy Policy of 2013 has also recognized the need to address the issue of energy efficiency, in particular the transport sector as it is a major consumer of energy and in the buildings where they work and live. The green economy is a particular important initiative being supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The working definition of green economy as:

“..one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.”

At the UN General Assembly 2015, UNEP has promoted the Inclusive Green Economy which expanded the concept to include concepts such as “sharing, circularity, collaboration, solidarity, resilience, opportunity, and interdependence” are accentuated. The call for Green Public Space, is in response to SDG 11.7 which calls for “universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”. The framework issues which impact on public spaces, inclusive of parks and streets, in the Caribbean have not been properly addressed. .

Conference Objectives

The conference will address specific policy issues in the Caribbean urban sector within the context of broader sustainable development issues. Through presentations, workshops and discussions, the forum will:

1. Examine Caribbean examples, or examples relevant to the Caribbean, of greening of energy, economy and space
2. Identify the linkages of examples to the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs or other relevant indicator mechanism

Specific activities, which will also be accomplished at or immediately before the CUF 2017 are:

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Planning Association (CPA);
2. International workshop on Sustainable Urbanization (UNHabitat);
3. Further specify the Caribbean Urban Agenda (and the Pacific Urban Agenda) as a pathway to articulating a New Urban Agenda for SIDS;
4. Further dialogue on a quality assurance/ accreditation process for Caribbean planning schools and continuing professional development;
5. To define the need for local action by local government and local government associations in shaping and implementing green approaches;

International Call for Abstracts

The following are broad areas under the themes under which papers can be contributed. **Abstract may focus on, but are not limited to:**

Green Energy	Green Economy	Green Space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Mobility and Transport • Technology Applications in Sustainable Urban Development • Planning for walkability, reduced automobile dependence, low carbon transport, public transportation • Urban/Rural Planning • Green Building Technology • Cultural Heritage as Lessons in Green Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal/Informal Livelihoods in the Green Urban Economy • Financing Urban Greening in Towns and Cities • Governance for Transitioning to a Green Economy • Formal/ informal opportunities for green business development in the urban economy • Natural resource based livelihoods, conservation and alternatives • Urban agro-ecology • Reduce, Re-Use, Recycling in Urban Communities • Cost/ benefit of Greening green taxes • Green policies and legislation • Financing local economic development and strategic local action • Gender and the Green economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Justice - Green space as a Right not a Privilege in Urban Communities • Climate Change Resilience for Vulnerable groups in urban communities • Localized Planning for Urban Resilience • Professional Planning Practice - Making Space for all Planners • Informal Human Settlements • Inequality in provision of green spaces • Alternative Uses for Green Space in Cities • Ecological space in Urban Communities • Water and the City - reclaiming waterfronts • Planning and Social issues • Community planning - Best Practices Approaches • Designing for the Complete Community • The role of the environment in city branding

Please note that if you are selected to present at CUF2017, a short paper for publication in the conference proceedings or a refereed book arising out of the conference is mandatory prior to the conference.

Submission Criteria

Abstracts must be original and not submitted to other conferences or publications. Abstracts should be submitted in English using MS Word or equivalent format using Arial font size 10" and 1" margins and not exceed more than 300 words.

Abstract submissions should include:

1. Title of the proposed presentation;
2. The sub-theme to which it relates (green energy, green economy or green space);
3. Name(s) of author(s); (no more than 3)
4. Position or title of author(s);
5. Author(s) employer or affiliated institution;

6. Contact details including - e-mail address, telephone/fax numbers and postal address;

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:

Papers and Presentations Sub-Committee

Email: info@bluespacecaribbean.com

Deadline: January 15th 2017.

Feedback on abstracts will be provided by January 29th 2017

Questions?

For further information on general conference as well as the events being held prior to CUF2017, please contact:

Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management

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