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## Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus

GDN 13th ANNUAL  
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE  
Budapest, Hungary  
16-18 June, 2012

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*Professor Saskia Sassen, Keynote Speaker  
at the Opening Plenary of the GDN 13th Annual  
Global Development Conference*



## Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus

### ■ Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus

The future of the world will surely be urban and this is likely to be a good thing. Per capita incomes are five times higher and infant mortality rates are two-thirds lower in those nations that are more than 50 percent urbanized relative to those countries that are less than 50 percent urbanized. While this correlation does not imply causality, it is almost impossible to imagine the world's poorer countries becoming rich countries unless they too become largely urbanized. Urban concentration has historically, enabled the flows of knowledge, the division of labor, the movement of goods, and the combination of labor and capital that help transform poor places into prosperous ones.

But urbanization also creates enormous challenges, including contagious disease, congestion and crime, that often seem to be far beyond the capacities of many governments. Mega cities (but also small ones) throughout the world struggle with providing decent living space, clean water and other amenities for their rapidly growing number of residents. These urban problems do not just harm the current residents of the cities; they also stop others from coming to cities and enjoying the economic benefits that can come from agglomeration. Making cities more livable is not just about quality of life, it is also about economic development.

Against this background, the Budapest Conference held on 16-18 June, 2012 focused on the overall important nexus between urbanization and development by adopting a truly holistic, as well as interdisciplinary approach, i.e. by trying to examine how urbanization as a whole, affects development altogether, thus moving beyond approaches focusing only on the economic aspects of the urbanization process. At the same time, a fresh look at the development *mantra* that cities are the engines of growth was essential, in order to delve deeper into the role of local elites and how they may shape the character of a city (and thus its developmental or non-developmental focus), the integration of the ethnic minorities in the urbanization process, and the overall nexus between urbanization and poverty (this link currently places the urbanization issue in the international development agenda). Furthermore, a series of negative externalities arising from the urbanization process in various regions across the world, such as crime, congestion and contagious disease were also covered in the conference, and a particular effort was made to shed more light on the overall relationship between migration and urbanization. The role of technology infusion in making cities smart places to live in was also examined. Finally, the conference allowed for useful policy lessons to be derived on the basis of success, as well as failure stories in developing and transition countries, and around the globe in this important area. In this context, the overall enabling policy environment in the urbanization process was considered.

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## URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT DELVING DEEPER INTO THE NEXUS

“GDN is a perfect example of the kind of partnership that CEU likes to develop and is very pleased to develop.”

**John Shattuck**

President and Rector, Central European University (CEU), Hungary

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## OP-ED:

Urbanization and Development:  
Delving Deeper into the Nexus

Dr. Gerardo della Paolera, GDN President and  
Dr. George Mavrotas, GDN Chief Economist



H.E. Dr. János Hóvári, Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary giving Opening Remarks during the Opening Ceremony of the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference, in Budapest

Already, we have crossed the halfway mark. In 2007, and for the first time in human history, more than 50 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas. By 2030, various projections suggest that this will increase to almost 60 percent of the total population, and to about 80 percent by 2050. Needless to say, with urban areas becoming the source of livelihoods for a majority of the population around the globe, a huge toll on resources is undertaken. Planning of urban areas, the provision of sizeable amounts of public goods, their impact on the environment, and the tackling of waves of migrants to the cities are issues that require an urgent scrutiny by scholars and policymakers all together. Many facets of development become synonymous with urbanization.

But what is really a 'city' and how can it be defined? To quote Alan Beattie in his book *False Economy* (2009), "A successful city is a hard thing to build, and a world-class one even harder. But incompetent or wrong-headed governments have stunted and even destroyed so many in the past that complacency and fatalism in the face of urbanization are



Dr. Lyn Squire (GDN founding President), Dr. Gerardo della Paolera (GDN President) and Professor Pierre Jacquet (AFD Chief Economist and GDN President-designate) (From L - R)

profoundly misplaced." Edward Glaeser, in his recent celebrated book *The Triumph of the City* (2011) argues that "At their heart, cities are the absence of physical space between people and firms; they enable connections and that makes them more productive."

Professor Saskia Sassen, the Keynote Speaker at GDN's 2012 conference presented the 'state-of-the-art' in this fascinating area by arguing that "Cities are complex systems. But they are incomplete systems. In this incompleteness lies the possibility of making – making the urban, the political, the civic, a history, an economy. To what extent, therefore, do we need to see the complex city as a sort of new frontier zone for the circulation of development processes and for the making of new types of economies? In other words, can cities and their growing presence add something specific to the larger question of development? Can the city function as a sort of algorithm where information, knowledge, policies, experience, many coming from rural experiences, all flow in and then exit strengthened by re-distributive and civic logics, both key features of cities?"

We believe that the most important societal changes in developing countries are occurring in cities, and the most important things in urban development are taking place in developing countries. Yet, in spite of a growing number of very good contributions from the 'South', we still have far too little economic research on developing world cities. Despite the fine work of a small cadre of pioneers in the economics of developing world cities, the overwhelming bulk of urban economics research has focused on the developed world, in general and the USA, in particular.

At the same time, the urbanization experience (and the policy challenges faced by policymakers) of the various regions in the developing world varies substantially. In South Asia, one of the central questions today is whether the urban model of East Asia can be replicated, i.e. cities investing not only in traditional infrastructure, but also in social infrastructure. Violence and conflict have also been associated in recent works with the engine of growth thesis regarding urbanization, a distinct feature of the urbanization process in many cities in Latin America.

Furthermore, globalization has resulted in growing competition amongst cities in South Asia as compared to nation-states, i.e. Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) are more relevant to business than India as a country. Finally, for Africa, although urbanization is a rather recent phenomenon, the prospect of Africa's urban population doubling over the next two decades presents various challenges, as well as opportunities for the region.

Of course, urban concentration has historically enabled the flows of knowledge, the division of labor, the movement of goods and the combination of labor and capital that help transform poor places into rich ones. But at the same time, urbanization also creates enormous challenges and externalities, including contagious disease, congestion and crime that often seem like to be far beyond the capacities of many governments in the developing world. Urban poverty is also emerging as a central challenge in this important research and policy area. Is the urbanization process *per se*, the one that produces unavoidable poverty traps, or is it that the continuous migration to cities of very poor people for which states and municipalities fail to timely endow them with a minimum stock of public goods, the overwhelming dominant phenomenon for the stickiness and resilience of poverty enclaves? Obviously, reducing the costs of these externalities will improve the quality of life in poor cities and also enable those cities to expand and live up to their full economic potential.

From 16-18 June, 2012, some of the world's best minds in the scholarly and policymaking arena gathered in the historic city of Budapest, Hungary for the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference, which focused on Urbanization and Development. In partnership with the Central European University (CEU), the conference provided a platform to debate and also improve our overall understanding on the urbanization and development nexus. Around 350 participants participated in the conference from all over the world, including representatives from the policymaking world, the international donor community, academia, practitioners in this area and, most importantly, a vast number of young researchers (GDN's main focus in view of the centrality of the organization's mission in enhancing capacity building in the Global South).

JICA-RI Side Event  
on Urbanization  
and Natural Disasters:  
Experience from Japan

Dr. Akio Hosono, Director, JICA-RI presenting his insights on 'Urbanization and Disaster Risk Management' with reference to the recent natural disasters in Japan

Dr. Akio Hosono, Director of the Japan International Cooperation Agency-Research Institute (JICA-RI), Japan opened the 'Side Event on Urbanization and Natural Disasters: Experience from Japan'. Dr. Hosono discussed 'Urbanization and Disaster Risk Management' with reference to the recent earthquake and tsunami in eastern Japan, and lessons learnt thereof. He highlighted how the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) independently, and through the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) system has helped nations and victims of natural disasters, for years, offering first emergency supplies, and then follow-up assistance.

Through his reflection on Dr. Hosono's presentation, Ravi Kanbur, GDN Board Member and T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, Cornell University, USA addressed the financial dimensions of crisis response. He pointed out that crisis by crisis intervention is not effective. For developing countries, crises are likely to be the "new normal", with multiple origins ranging from climatic, infectious diseases, trade collapses, to local or global financial meltdowns. Therefore, what is needed is a general system of social protection immaterial of the source of the crisis.

The event was organized by JICA-RI. Professor L. Alan Winters, Chairperson, GDN Board of Directors and Professor at University of Sussex, UK presided over the gathering.

# OPENING PLENARY

## Cities: New Frontier Zones in Development Processes



**Professor Saskia Sassen**, Keynote Speaker, presenting on 'Cities: New Frontier Zones in Development Processes' at the opening plenary

A well-known sociologist, a leading scholar on globalization and Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, Saskia Sassen commenced GDN's 13th Annual Global Development Conference. Through her keynote address on 'Cities: New Frontier Zones in Development Processes', Professor Sassen touched upon many interesting aspects relating to this year's conference theme 'Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus', and set the scene for the three-day symposium that followed.

The plenary was chaired by GDN President Dr. Gerardo della Paolera.

Professor Sassen led a discussion on the topic by personifying cities as having capabilities and a variety of meta-realities that make politics and all kinds of histories. Cities are both good and bad places, and a well working city has a distributed economic space – neighborhood sub-economies, multiple politics, amongst others. Moreover, today's cities have to be seen in the context of overall development. But development is a "slippery notion". Hence, development



problems could be perceived from the standpoint of distribution – "What kind of distribution would bring about well-being?"

Coupled with distribution is the subject of the growth of cities. To understand growth of cities, one has to understand the sources of growth. Cities, Professor Sassen asserted are not simple urban spaces but interactions among different components. Cities make visible high growth and prosperity, such as the creation of new airports, malls, to name a few, which lead to the creation of new employment opportunities. But cities are also sites of impoverishment – one can observe the gentrification of cities and radical transformations that has brought about huge inequalities.

Furthermore, Professor Sassen, addressed the concept of "global city" which became popular following the publication of her book *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*, in 1991.

The audience during, and thereafter, participating in discussions (left) at the Q&A session of the opening plenary

# With Special Thanks

The Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary hosted GDN's 13th Annual Global Development Conference titled 'Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus', on 16-18 June, 2012. CEU is a "crossroads" university that is home to students and faculty members from more than 100 countries. CEU draws on the research tradition of great American universities and the most valuable intellectual traditions of Central Europe.

President and Rector, CEU, John Shattuck said that it was a great opportunity for the varsity to be able to host GDN's annual conference as "GDN is a perfect example of the kind of partnership that CEU likes to develop and is very pleased to develop." Also, "Many of our academic activities are in line with the development work that GDN does."

The first two plenary sessions of the three-day conference were hosted at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). Perched on the banks of the Danube river, HAS is one of the most important and prestigious learned societies in the country. It is also one of the most exquisite venues to hold an international convention. Founded in 1825 by Count István Széchenyi, HAS is the only European Academy that owes its emergence and subsequent establishment to public will revealed through public donations received, rather than the will of a monarch.

GDN President Dr. Gerardo della Paolera expressed his gratitude to both, CEU and HAS for their generosity, cooperation and support. He also extended his appreciation to all the sponsors, whose support ensured the event to be conducted on a grand scale. He made a special mention of the fact that in 2012 GDN received US\$500,000 from the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan for taking the Awards and Medals Competition to the next level, pointing out that, "It has been decided that this year onwards, all awardees are to receive technical mentoring from experts." Dr. della

She remarked that global cities and mega-regions are novel spatial formats that hold specific governance challenges, and there is no one 'perfect global city'. With an enormous variety in 'global circuits' connecting cities, specialized differences in cities' production capacities feed a growing number of cities. This makes different groups of cities desirable to different types of firms, even though some of these cities may have some serious negatives.

While analyzing development implications of these new spatial formats, one has to bear in mind that mega-regions and global cities are different arrangements although bearing similar dynamics. Thus, to maximize the benefits and the distributive potential of these novel spatial formats, we need to, Professor Sassen highlighted, "Shift our interpretations of economic change, as well as our policy framework."

She concluded that an integrative approach is crucial, as very often, mega-regions and a low cost area, lie within a single country. From a policy perspective, one has to therefore, formulate strategies that lead to integration of the diverse spatial formats – incorporating laggard regions with winner regions, like in the formal low cost outsourcing model used by many global firms. Furthermore, such complexities warrants policies that encourage concentration of developmental efforts in the poorer regions through strategies that allow for cities to contribute to both economic and environmental sustainability.

**CHAIRPERSON**  
**Gerardo della Paolera**  
 President,  
 Global Development Network (GDN)

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Saskia Sassen**  
 Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology,  
 Columbia University, USA

Paolera, furthermore, thanked the GDN staff whose diligent efforts helped turn the conference into a huge success.

Chairperson, GDN Board of Directors and Professor of Economics at University of Sussex, UK, L. Alan Winters offered his special thanks to His Excellency Dr. János Hóvári, Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary, who had graced the occasion.

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## PLENARY 2

### Cities as Engines of Growth



*Dr. Isher J. Ahluwalia sharing her views on 'Cities as Engines of Growth'*

### Plenary commentary

The second plenary session took off with speakers from different corners of the globe speaking on the various aspects of 'Cities as Engines of Growth'. It was chaired by French Development Agency's (AFD) Chief Economist and GDN President-designate, Professor Pierre Jacquet.

Dr. Isher J. Ahluwalia, Deputy Chair of GDN Board of Directors and Chairperson ICRIER, India opened the session by stating that all multiple challenges of development converge on the issue of urbanization. She cited the challenges India faces in preparing its cities for becoming 'engines of growth', and how they can be overcome through policies supportive of urban productivity potential and strategies that remove barriers to productivity and growth. For example, having a clear and effective urban strategy can address and contain the rising urban sprawl (25 percent of which could be categorized as slums) that comes with the increasing pace of urbanization. It can also minimize congestion of diseconomies. By focusing on skill base development and making its industry

and services sectors more labor absorbent, India can convert its demographic opportunity to demographic dividend.

Professor of Economics and Urban Studies at Brown University, USA and second plenary speaker J. Vernon Henderson, dealt with the bias in formulating strategies for growth, which seems to increasingly focus on urban centers. He argued that such bias emanates from favoritism for the biggest political cities (Shanghai and Beijing) through excessive investments in "specialized manufacturing and service sectors" while moving the regular manufacturing out to the hinterland/ smaller cities. This leads to consequent low returns and in-migration which compounds inequalities sharply, and national growth losses. Professor Henderson, therefore, emphasized on the limited need for global mega-cities, such as Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico and Thailand. He stressed that it is not a universal truth that urbanization leads to growth. In Sub-Saharan Africa, there is a much lower correlation between GDP per capita and urban share.

Professor at University of California, Los Angeles, USA, Matthew Kahn marked out three main patterns in the current urbanization process and three life challenges that cities face today – air pollution, infectious diseases and greenhouse gas emissions. With an increasing demand these days for green cities and blue skies, Professor Kahn enquired: how is the environment affected or threatened; and whether politicians at the local and national levels have the right incentives to address the challenges to reduce the cost of urban growth?

With exemplars from cities across the world like Bangkok, Beijing, Los Angeles, Manila and New York addressing the above-mentioned challenges, Professor Kahn stressed on the need for diffusion of best practices and strategies for urban adaptation. He concluded the session with the optimism of witnessing the rise of green cities around the world because when faced with climatic challenges, mankind innovates and those innovative ideas become "public goods".

## Plenary summary

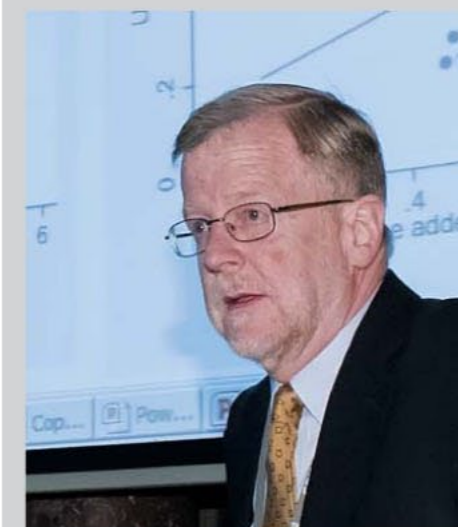
A large body of evidence now exists on urban economies in the developed world. In relatively wealthy countries, we know that there are "agglomeration economies", and wages and productivity are much higher in dense agglomerations. This is further supported by spatial concentration of industries. Industrial groups locate near other industries that are customers or suppliers, or that use the same type of workers. Industry specific infrastructure develops. Proximity is even more valuable when workers are skilled, and these skills can mean talents learned in school or non-academic abilities, such as being able to start a firm. There is also a strong correlation between measures of local entrepreneurship, such as small, average firm size, and employment growth. These correlations exist at the metropolitan area level, and they also hold within metropolitan areas.

Cities succeed not only because they enable productive workplace connections, but also because proximity can enable the creation of social capital more broadly. Young people who come to thriving urban areas, like Bangalore and Los Angeles, come – in part, because they will make connections that will be valuable to them throughout their lives. In the developing world, urban social capital may be particularly important in determining the quality of life. The poor neighborhoods of many Indian cities are fairly safe, not because of excellent policing, but because the neighborhood is connected and looks after its own. In countries with weak governments, social capital can be both a substitute for the state and the means through which governance quality is improved.

One valuable line of research is to try to determine how many of these facts also hold in the developing world. There is every reason to hypothesize that the link between economic productivity and urban density is just as strong in the world's poorer countries. Analyzing these core stylized

facts in the developing world was a core agenda of this plenary.

Further, we observe strong linkages between migration and urbanization. Urban growth is essentially, migration from rural to urban areas. This might involve temporary migration, as well as permanent settlement in the cities. Some issues that require research are the motivation behind flow of workers,



*Panelists J. Vernon Henderson (top) and Matthew Kahn presenting at the plenary session on 'Cities as Engines of Growth'*

wage patterns of temporary and permanent migrants, availability of services to improve their standard of living in the cities, etc. Most large cities in the world are a confluence of immigrants from several different countries – which can lead to gains from networking or losses from ethnic tensions. Presence in the cities and

opportunities of developing skills and social networking is likely to lead to huge benefits. However, we need nuanced research studies to analyze such benefits.

Research on developing world urban economies needs to have the same healthy combination of individual and aggregate data research that we see in developed world city research. It is useful to know the correlates of overall urban success. Understanding the links between urban productivity in the developing world and the quality of institutions, governance and infrastructure in the developing world is crucial for effective policy formulation in developing countries. Much of the recent research in these areas has looked for natural experiments, accidents of policy or geography that increase the density of one area. The developing world may provide an array of such natural experiments, which will mean that research in these areas could end up being relevant for the developed world as well.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Pierre Jacquet**  
Chief Economist,  
French Development Agency (AFD),  
France, and GDN President-designate

#### SPEAKERS

**Isher J. Ahluwalia**  
Deputy Chair –  
GDN Board of Directors and  
Chairperson, Indian Council for  
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Relations (ICRIER), India

**J. Vernon Henderson**  
Professor of Economics and  
Urban Studies,  
Brown University, USA

**Matthew Kahn**  
Professor,  
Department of Economics and  
Institute of the Environment,  
University of California,  
Los Angeles, USA

### PLENARY 3

## Urban Externalities: Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime



Professor Teresa Caldeira, Dr. George Mavrotas and Professor Susan Fainstein (From L - R) debating on 'Urban Externalities: Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime'

### Plenary commentary

Chaired by GDN's Chief Economist Dr. George Mavrotas, the plenary on 'Urban Externalities: Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime', saw Teresa Caldeira and Susan Fainstein on one platform at the same time. Both speakers – scholars on urban planning, focused on particular cities located on two ends of the globe to throw light on their individual themes. Professor Caldeira, of University of California, Berkeley, USA referred to São Paulo as her case study for studying patterns in urban violence. Professor Fainstein, from Harvard University, USA cited Singapore in her discussion of urban justice.

Commenting on how patterns of urban violence change over time, Professor Teresa Caldeira observed that in São Paulo, a new set of urban practices, very different from the time of military dictatorship a decade ago, is shaping the city in unexpected ways. The new articulations of artistic production – imprinting graffiti or *pixações* and urban performance – using motorcycle and skateboard, also referred to as 'moving around', are giving the

"subalterns" in the city new visibility and political agency. Improvements in technology, particularly, make imprinting and 'moving around' easier. Professor Caldeira marked out that though such articulations enable a new form of representation by the "subalterns", they disrupt the existing order of things in the "public space", which is a terrain where dynamics of violence takes place. The disruption creates tense environments, and fractures and harms that space. Thus, the articulation is contradictory. It includes narratives of rights and enjoyment, yet is an expression of danger, illicit activities and violence. Also, since these activities are mostly undertaken by young men, it shapes gender hierarchy among the "subalterns".

Using the principles of urban justice, Professor Susan Fainstein addressed the negative urban externalities arising out of urbanization, such as deteriorating health conditions, congestion, and safety issues. Referring to Singapore's case which transformed itself from abject poverty to one that

reflects impressive development, she discussed the applicability of the Singapore model for developing countries. She argued that Singapore's growth was driven by state capitalism. In the absence of a rural hinterland, the state was free of the responsibility of having to balance rural-urban interests. This gave Singapore more room to engage in low-level manufacturing to begin with, and then move up the value chain and gradually, start engaging in high-level services. Over time, banking services moved up the value chain as well, and so did tourism. However, despite the good work on many fronts, Singapore was faced with issues raised by the slum development program, namely, a highly rule-bound society, limited democracy and the ethnic integration policy that destroyed diversity. Professor Fainstein concluded by saying that urban justice has three governing principles: *equity, diversity and democracy*. Of these, equity should be given priority in developing countries where there is not much affluence to circulate around, and redistribution is a challenge.

### Plenary summary

Cities are magnets of attraction for people trying to improve their standards of living. However, often the circumstances in cities lead to deterioration in the quality of life of people.

This plenary examined the downsides of high density of population in urban areas. Cramping large number of people in small spaces creates pressure on the available urban infrastructure. Inadequate availability of medical facilities, clean water and sanitation facilities leads to epidemics of contagious diseases.

Traffic congestion and overcrowding of transportation facilities are other potential fallouts of urbanization. High income inequalities in urban areas can also be associated with higher levels of crime.

There are at least two important research agendas relating to cities and health in the developing world. One line of research involves understanding the reasons why life expectancy can vary so much from place to place, and what factors correlate with high urban mortality levels? Understanding the circumstances under which urbanization improves or worsens health of people is crucial to formation of sound public health policy in urban areas. A second line of research concerns health interventions and their impact. Clean water and efficient sanitation facilities have been thought to be a major influence on urban health. Other interventions, such as free clinics, street cleaning, vaccination programs, maternal health care facilities, etc. have been implemented across the world.

In many parts of the world, crime is a major problem, but not always (and everywhere) associated with urbanization. Many poor Indian neighborhoods, for example, are quite safe because the community effectively polices itself. In other cities, including many in Latin America,



Plenary speaker Professor Susan Fainstein (middle) and the audience participating in active discussions during the Q&A session at the third plenary

crime is an overwhelming factor. Crime flourishes in these cities both because of the urban proximity to victims, and also, because cities facilitate markets in illegal products, like drugs. An unsafe city can be a major hurdle to the process of amalgamation of people with different skills that leads to economic growth. Hence, the need to analyze the different factors that cause crime and appropriate policy interventions to minimize crime in cities.

Congestion is a third problem that springs naturally, from density. When there are too many people using too little road space and public transport, travel speeds can become painfully slow. The economic functioning of cities like Mumbai appears to be hampered by the immobility of its roads, yet we do not fully know the costs or the remedies in this case. Cities like Singapore and London have adopted the policy of pricing congestion.

However, more research is required to assess the costs and benefits of such policies, as well as their application in less developed countries. Also such research needs to be combined with analysis of other innovative approaches pertaining to efficient public transportation systems.

**CHAIRPERSON**  
**George Mavrotas**  
Chief Economist,  
Global Development Network (GDN)

**SPEAKERS**  
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Professor of City and  
Regional Planning,  
University of California,  
Berkeley, USA  
**Susan Fainstein**  
Professor of Urban Planning,  
Graduate School of Design,  
Harvard University, USA

## PLENARY 4

### Urbanization and Poverty



### Plenary commentary

The wide-ranging presentations on 'Urbanization and Poverty' led to some interesting discussions by the speakers. Gábor Kézdi, Professor and Head, Department of Economics at host varsity – Central European University, Budapest, chaired the session.

Julian Studley Fellow, New School for Social Research, USA, Robert Buckley set in motion the debate by questioning if cities are becoming Malthusian in the current context of urbanization and growth. Two narratives that lead one to presume so are the expansion of slums that consign the dwellers to almost medieval conditions in cities and the role of immigration policies of the rich countries in "warehousing" the poor in these cities.

Through examples from the African, Chinese and Indian economy attesting that modern cities have indeed become Malthusian, Professor Buckley ended with a few suggestions on how Malthusian urbanization can be broken. At a conceptual level, it

includes rethinking restrictions on migration and social innovations. Practically, it can be done by recognizing and enhancing the capacity of slum dwellers, making greater use of technology and creating nimbler ways to subsidize for the poor.

Ravi Kanbur, T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs at Cornell University, USA continued the discussion by inquiring if the existence of the informal sector and employment or underemployment therein, has aggravated urban poverty. Discussing the various trends in and theories on informality, he pointed out that it is closely linked to the notion of dual economy – the reserve army of labor, namely, the informal sector in the urban areas.

There are differing opinions on why informality exists. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has shifted the conceptual frame such that informality is now seen from a worker-based perspective, rather than an enterprise-based perspective. Professor Kanbur highlighted that although informality remains and will remain a

central phenomenon in development policy research, one sees a lack of clear and consistent conceptualization of informality in the literature. Therefore, it warrants more research.

Providing an epilogue to the session was Carlos Vainer, Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He began by addressing the conceptual issues of urban poverty through different aspects such as 'income poverty'; and urban hunger, malnutrition and food security. The latter is more serious for the urban poor than the rural poor, pointed out Professor Vainer. The many factors that have aggravated urban poverty and entrenched it are informal employment, under-employment, criminalization of informal workers, absence of land rights and exclusion.

Professor Vainer ended his presentation with the suggestion that to tackle urban poverty, policymakers need to identify who are the "poor". This would help focus policies better. Better targeting of policies could be based on better research, he added.

### Plenary summary

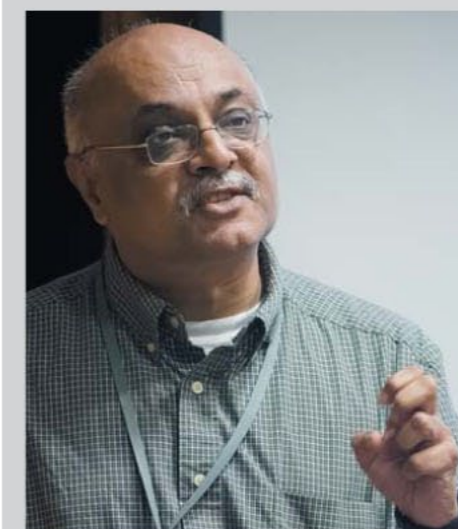
In this plenary, GDN welcomed new insights on understanding a wide range of factors that contribute to the dynamics of urban poverty, as well as policy prescriptions to address these factors. It has been estimated that one-third of all urban residents are poor. Almost every city, in every developing country has its concentrations of poverty – its shanty towns. In places like Kolkata or Lagos, the suffering can be so extensive and extreme that observers cannot help but see the entire city as hellish. Even in the developed world, cities are disproportionately poor. In America, the poverty rate is 17.7 percent within cities and 9.8 percent in suburbs. However, for many observers, presence of urban poverty is, in part, a reflection of urban strength and not weakness. Cities are not full of poor people because cities make poor people but, because, cities attract poor people with the prospect of improving their lot in life.

With continued urbanization, the numbers of the urban poor are predicted to rise. Urban poverty can be defined with different facets, like income poverty – urban poor living on less than a dollar per day; urban hunger, malnutrition and the issue of food security, which is more serious among the urban poor than the rural. Furthermore, informal sector employment and underemployment, informal settlements with inadequate facilities and absence of land entitlement, quality of services below desired standards and at relatively high cost, along with exclusionary provisioning of services have aggravated urban poverty.

A crucial part of the study on urban poverty is first to identify the "poor" and then to determine the dynamics of poverty. An in-depth analysis of urban poverty forms an essential foundation for policy formulation toward poverty alleviation. Many studies have aimed at understanding the characteristics of urban poverty at different scales worldwide. A growing number of studies are now more focused at the country, region or city and micro-level

longitudinal studies; yet, more research is needed in this area.

It has been rightly argued that despite the negative impacts of urbanization on the prevalence of slums, urbanization needs to be perceived as a positive phenomenon and a precondition for improving access to services, as well as economic and social opportunities. This presents a major challenge for forward



Professor Ravi Kanbur (top) and Professor Gábor Kézdi providing insights on urban poverty

looking urban planning policies in the Global South. At present, the absence of adequate planning has led to increased poverty, proliferation of slums and informal settlements, inadequate water and power supply, as well as degrading environmental conditions. The magnitude of these problems is growing each day. This calls for research on ways to break out of this trap.

Finally, strong governance is one critical factor in effective poverty alleviation. The challenges, however, are in creating institutional structures that ensures political accountability, effective mechanisms of citizen participation and access to services by the urban poor. Cities are characterized by heterogeneous communities living together or within a few blocks of each other, and this makes the role of local governance even more critical. The research questions that we can potentially bring in here are: What are the different forms of governance in cities? Are these effective, financially strong and well-coordinated? Is decentralization of urban governance beneficial with respect to provision of welfare to the disadvantaged communities? What kind or form of governance is effective in improving slums and other localities where the population tends to float as people migrate in search of better standards of living? The plenary tackled all these queries through its presentations.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Gábor Kézdi**  
Professor and Head,  
Department of Economics, Central  
European University (CEU), Hungary

#### SPEAKERS

**Robert Buckley**  
Julian Studley Fellow,  
Graduate Program of International  
Affairs, New School for Social  
Research, USA

**Ravi Kanbur**  
Member – GDN Board of Directors  
and T.H. Lee Professor of World Affairs,  
International Professor of Applied  
Economics and Management,  
and Professor of Economics,  
Cornell University, USA

**Carlos Vainer**  
Professor,  
Institute of Urban and Regional  
Planning and Research, Federal  
University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## PLENARY 5

### Urbanization and Development: The Enabling Policy Environment



**Mario Pezzini, Professor Anthony J. Venables, Dr. Santiago Levy and Thomas Sevcik**  
(From L - R) expounding on their research findings at the conference's fifth plenary

## Plenary commentary

**M**ario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre opened the fifth plenary on 'The Enabling Policy Environment'. The session was chaired by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Sector Vice-President Dr. Santiago Levy.

Demonstrating the relationship between geography and urbanization which changes the shape of cities, Mario Pezzini said that the locus of wealth in the world is shifting. Cities often act as engines of national growth, with metro regions producing the bulk of the national GDP – higher GDP per capita, higher productivity and higher employment compared to the national average. Yet, metropolitan regions are not always synonymous with success. In fact, in many countries, laggard regions contribute way more to the GDP; some rural regions grow faster than urban areas.

He suggested that territorial development policies could help, but territorial development must be closely aligned to the unit of analysis. For instance, settlement patterns in the UK

are very urban; in Sweden they are very rural. Also different countries have different types of skills. Therefore, no common policy response will work.

Development of formal mass housing in Africa formed the crux of the presentation by BP Professor of Economics, University of Oxford, UK, Anthony J. Venables. With a growing middle class in the continent, mass housing is a missing market in Africa. While mass housing in London could be facilitated due to many enabling factors, it could not be made possible in Africa for several reasons. In this context, Professor Venables illustrated the possible, necessary measures that could be undertaken to improve and enhance housing situations in the region.

He explained that mass housing matters because mass housing, governed by clear property rights, leads to well being of not only citizens, but also helps shape a productive city. Africa would thus stand to gain from formal sector mass housing and policy coordination at the highest level, if its legal, financial and housing policies are

aligned to the policies of the central and city governments.

The ideas put forward by Thomas Sevcik, CEO of Arthesia were bold and radical. With unprecedented levels of urbanization, it is projected that by 2050, about 80 percent of the world's population will live in urban areas. Nigeria would add 200 million in its cities, India 497 million and USA 103 million. All these cannot be absorbed by merely enlarging the cities. So, we need to rethink cities the "right" way, he argued. Over the years, cities have grown in importance in a way that seems to be blurring nation states' boundaries though not diminishing their importance. Also there is a thriving network of "global cities". Today, this network is being used by firms who have their headquarters in one city and branches in some others. In the near future, Thomas Sevcik suggested, there is a high possibility that private bodies will operate almost as nation states and provide "smart cities" because so far, nation states have underperformed, in terms of urban planning and policies.

## Plenary summary

**C**ities have often dealt with congestion and contagious disease by investing in infrastructure, like new roads and waterworks. Even in relatively *laissez-faire* places, like Hong Kong, city governments play a major role in shaping the enabling environment, either directly, by building infrastructure, or indirectly, by regulating the private sector. Often the biggest financial investments that are made by local governments and external agencies, like the World Bank, are in physical infrastructure. Housing and infrastructure are two prime aspects of city growth, both in terms of value and investment for society and economy as a whole. Housing is typically, privately built, but requires public regulation; and other infrastructure, such as roads and sewers are generally, the province of government. This makes enabling environment a topic of immense importance for researchers and city planners.

Research on housing may be guided by the intellectual needs of good housing policy. Governments have an interest in housing policy because structures can create externalities, such as fire risk and blocked views. Housing policy can be justified as a form of redistribution, which favors one form of consumption because donors prefer to see their aid used in the form of housing. Housing policy may attempt to correct market failures, such as a breakdown in lending.

Finally, housing policy may advise some other policy objective such as creating an "ownership" society. Public interventions in housing take the form of regulating prices and quantities. Price regulations are typically, rent controls. Quantity regulations take the form of restricting both unit quality (e.g. safety related regulations) or the density of units in an area. Government policies can also fund housing through public housing, tax subsidies to buyers or builders or housing vouchers. Another subject that has not been adequately studied is the impact of

policies regarding land use restrictions in the developing world. The general framework of property rights in an area also interacts with housing, creation of assets and use of assets to improve economic productivity in important ways. Thus, it is crucial to analyze the efficacy of property right laws, and ways in which one can strengthen them for the benefit of all.

Available inventories of studies suggest that public transportation can be provided at a far lower cost by using



*Young development researcher from the South debating with the panelists over the plenary discussions*

buses, and this has provided justification for the Bus Rapid Transit systems that have become popular in many cities. However, other forms of public transport that can efficiently transport people in cities require a critical evaluation. Ports, airports and other means of long distant transport are particularly, relevant in speeding the flow of ideas across nations, and therefore, a crucial aspect of economic growth. But we know relatively little about that. Understanding these options better in different contexts is an important part of thinking on transportation infrastructure.

The research on urban infrastructure and enabling environment is inadequate without a special emphasis on ways to finance these projects. Any kind of infrastructural project tends to be large in nature, but this is especially true in the case of urban infrastructure projects, which need to cater to the

needs of a highly dense population. Investments in infrastructure can create great benefits at great (and mostly, fixed and long term) costs. Most of the popular ways of financing infrastructure are public financing through taxation, public-private partnership, financing through development aid programs, and also financing through user fees.

However, a better understanding is required on the benefits and costs of these methods. A key area of research in the public-private partnership model is creation of appropriate contract and institutional framework. A crucial central theme of research is ensuring the financial viability of projects, in spite of the existing institutional inefficiencies in a particular city.

This plenary session pushed one to delve deeper into the nexus of public interventions with housing, transport and infrastructure policies. Considering the vast area of scope on these studies, it is pertinent to focus on policies enabling better living environment in cities.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Santiago Levy**  
Sector Vice-President,  
Inter-American Development Bank  
(IDB), USA

#### SPEAKERS

**Mario Pezzini**  
Director,  
Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development  
(OECD) Development Centre

**Thomas Sevcik**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Arthesia

**Anthony J. Venables**  
BP Professor of Economics,  
University of Oxford, UK  
Director,  
Oxford Centre for the Analysis of  
Resource Rich Economies, UK



## CONCLUDING PLENARY



**Eduardo Lora, Simon Snoxell, Christine Kessides and Professor L. Alan Winters**  
(From L - R) summarizing the conference proceedings at the closing plenary

## Plenary commentary

The sixth and final plenary, chaired by L. Alan Winters, Chairman, GDN Board of Directors and Professor, University of Sussex, UK, brought the convention to an end.

Urban Practice Manager at the World Bank Institute, Christine Kessides commenced the session by pointing out that cities today are faced with capacity development challenges, which are interlinked to governance and accountability. Capacity development, she explained, is the capacity of the system to implement reform (doing things differently) and innovation (doing different things). Christine Kessides suggested a few ways to improve capacity development, including knowledge exchange, proper training of city officials, directing support to local knowledge institutions, and aiming to strengthen both the supply and demand for better urban governance.

Eduardo Lora, former Chief Economist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) explicated on two global approaches to monitoring quality of

life in cities – the Quality of Life Index (QoL) and the Global Cities Index (GCI). Expounding on the merits and demerits of both methods, he demonstrated that because urban monitoring is still in its infancy, systems like the “neighborhood approach” have great potential to make urban monitoring more useful for urban planning and policy. This is because the approach, as exemplified by New Zealand and Latin American countries, sees a mix of subjective and objective indicators. The dimensions are based on public demands of locals with regards to QoL, which can provide inputs for public policy debates.

Reflection on the conference in the context of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) formed the essence of Senior Policy Analyst of CIDA, Simon Snoxell’s deliberation. It made for an engaging and suitable closing, where he clarified that ODA has become less relevant now with the reduced proportion of financial flows to developing countries. Although there have been significant reductions in poverty, its challenges are not

negligible – a large part of the world’s poor live in fragile countries. In this context, Simon Snoxell queried, “Which institution takes responsibility for the poor?” He surmised that policy frameworks need to be designed based on clear trends and conclusions from reliable data.

### CHAIRPERSON

**L. Alan Winters**  
Chairman, GDN Board of Directors and Professor,  
University of Sussex, UK

### PANELISTS

**Christine Kessides**  
Urban Practice Manager,  
World Bank Institute, USA  
**Eduardo Lora**  
Former Chief Economist,  
Inter-American Development Bank  
(IDB), USA  
**Simon Snoxell**  
Senior Policy Analyst,  
Canadian International Development  
Agency (CIDA), Canada

## Parallel Sessions

In addition to the Plenaries, various Parallel Sessions were organized at the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference, in Budapest in collaboration with GDN’s Regional Network Partners and external partners.



Research findings on ‘Urbanization Diversity and Development’ were presented by EUDN at its parallel session

### Parallel Session: Urbanization Diversity and Development

Organized by the European Development Research Network (EUDN)

Urbanization of an economy is often viewed as the expansion of well-established urban centers caused by migration from rural areas. Yet, there may be different models of urbanization depending on the relative growth rates of various urban centers within a country. Examples of two polar cases being the development of a single “mega city” on the one hand, and the proliferation of small or intermediate towns on the other.

This session focused on the determinants of these different models, as well as on some of their consequences relying on the experience of several countries in Africa and Asia, in addition to, some cross-country analyses.

### CHAIRPERSON AND DISCUSSANT

**François Bourguignon**  
Member –  
GDN Board of Directors;  
President,  
European Development Research  
Network (EUDN); and  
Director,  
Paris School of Economics, France

### SPEAKERS

**Luc Christiaensen**  
Senior Economist,  
The World Bank, USA  
**Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis**  
Senior Economist, United Nations  
Development Programme (UNDP)  
**Remi Jedwab**  
Associate Member,  
European Development Research  
Network (EUDN); and  
PhD Candidate,  
London School of Economics, UK

### Parallel Session: What’s the Scoop about the Poop?

Organized by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

In Cairo, Egypt, March 2009 the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), a nascent organization was introduced to the global development community. 3ie funds quality studies that have a real policy impact and affect many lives. In terms of standards, this means only studies that are built around a credible counterfactual with an evaluation design based on the underlying program theory to learn what works and why, are accepted. In this session, 3ie shared preliminary results from two new impact evaluations, and one new systematic review in the context of urbanization. These studies examine what works and why, in regards to effective interventions for clean water and housing upgrading for slum areas.

### CHAIRPERSON

**Howard White**  
Executive Director, International  
Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

### SPEAKERS

**Ryan Cooper**  
Executive Director,  
The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action  
Lab, Latin America and Caribbean  
Region (J-PAL, LAC), MIT, USA  
**Kaniz Jannat**  
Research Investigator,  
International Center for Diarrheal  
Disease and Research, Bangladesh  
**Ruth Turley**  
Systematic Reviewer and Information  
Specialist, Cardiff University, UK

### DISCUSSANT

**Andrea Colantonio**  
Research Fellow, LSE Cities,  
London School of Economics and  
Political Science, UK

### Parallel Session: Cities in Transition

Organized by the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education-Economics Institute (CERGE-EI) and Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC)

This panel presented several papers that were the results of the GDN Inter-regional Research Project (IRP) on 'Cities: An Analysis of the Post-Communist Experience'. The project was organized by the Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States networks. GDN funded eight studies that used the natural experiment of the move from the inherent "out-of-market-equilibrium" structure of cities in the post-communist world towards a more normal structure over the past 20 years. This was combined with a comparison to the historically determined development of comparable cities in the West. The aim was to gain insight into the important features of 21st century urban life.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Randall Filer**  
Regional Network Partner (RNP)  
Head and President,  
The Center for Economic Research  
and Graduate Education (CERGE) of  
Charles University, Prague  
and the Economics Institute (EI) of the  
Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

#### SPEAKERS

**Vojtech Bartos**  
PhD Candidate,  
Institute of Economic Studies,  
Charles University, Czech Republic  
**Tatiana Mikhailova**  
Associate Professor,  
New Economic School, Russia  
**Volodymyr Vakhitov**  
Senior Economist,  
Kyiv Economics Institute (KEI), Ukraine  
**Uladzimir Valetka**  
Deputy Director, Labour Research  
Institute, Republic of Belarus

### Parallel Session: Urban Governance

Organized by the South Asia  
Network of Economic Research  
Institutes (SANEI)

South Asian countries, in general are experiencing rapid urbanization, well ahead of the global rate of urbanization. The region is also experiencing growth of "mega cities". The number of secondary cities and small towns are also on the increase. While urbanization and economic growth are positively correlated, urbanization also accompanies problems of housing, transport, provision of water and other services, degradation of the environment, increase in crime and violence, etc. The problems become acute and complex, it is often alleged, due to absence of good governance and efficient management. It is true for mega cities, as well as for other large and small urban areas. This session dealt with good governance, which is a condition for achieving higher economic productivity.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Nazrul Islam**  
Chairman, Centre for Urban Studies  
(CUS), Bangladesh

#### SPEAKERS

**N.R. Bhanumurthy**  
Professor,  
National Institute of Public Finance  
and Policy (NIPFP), India  
**Ejaz Ghani**  
Chief of Research,  
Pakistan Institute of Development  
Economics (PIDE) (with Musleh ud Din,  
Joint Director, PIDE, Pakistan)  
**Asoka Gunawardena**  
Executive Governor,  
Marga Institute, Sri Lanka  
**Bishnu Dev Pant**  
Executive Director,  
Institute for Integrated Development  
Studies (IIDS), Nepal

### Parallel Session: The Challenges of Rapid Urbanization in Latin America

Organized by the Inter-American  
Development Bank (IDB), USA

The cities of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) face daunting challenges in decades to come. Despite being the engines of growth in their respective economies and ongoing improvements in the provision of basic services, cities in the region are still characterized by unacceptably high proportions of their population living in poverty, limited institutional capacity, and an enduring scarcity of resources to improve the quality of life of their citizens. The additional burdens of adapting to the challenges of climate change renders even more urgent the need to promote improved governance. Over 77 percent of LAC's population lives in urban conglomerates, from a population of around 460 million people. LAC is the second most urbanized region on the planet; it has four of the 20 cities in the world with over 10 million inhabitants, and 55 of the world's 414 cities with more than one million residents. Although large cities are more important in LAC than in developing countries in other regions, these big cities are no longer those with the highest rates of growth. Moreover, the region's urban population increasingly, consists of residents of intermediate size rather than large cities (Lora, 2010). Urban areas have been, and will continue to be, the focal points of economic activity; 55 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is generated by activities in the cities. This number is expected to reach 80 percent in the next 25 years. At the same time, there is a concentration of poverty in urban areas. According to ECLAC (2009), 180 million people lived in conditions of poverty in 2008 (33

percent of the total region's population) and about 66 percent of those in poverty lived in LAC cities (118 million people). In addition, it is estimated that 130 million people (32 percent of the urban population) live in informal settlements (UN Habitat, 2006).



IDB's session on 'Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative'

Due to the decentralization processes that have been taking place in the region over the last two decades, local governments have assumed greater responsibilities for the provision of social services. Nevertheless, most municipalities depend on earmarked national transfers and do not manage their own resources adequately. As a consequence, local authorities face a chronic shortage of investment resources. At the same time, there are wide asymmetries in the managerial capacities of sub-national governments, impacting their ability to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

In addition to the challenges of accelerated development, there are problems associated with climate change. Its potential effects on cities and their inhabitants threaten to undermine long-term efforts to achieve sustainable development. Changes in precipitation and increases in temperature have potential negative consequences on cities, including (i) adverse effects in food security; (ii) significant changes in water quality and quantity for human consumption; and (iii) increases in economic

damage from more intense and frequent hurricanes and tropical storms, affecting millions of people already vulnerable.

Addressing these various challenges requires a comprehensive and integrated development vision to satisfy current needs without jeopardizing the well-being of future generations. A sustainable city is one that offers a high quality of life for its inhabitants while generating lower environmental impacts, promotes sustainable urban development, is fiscally solvent and practices good governance. The session discussed these issues in detail.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Santiago Levy**  
Sector Vice-President,  
Inter-American Development Bank  
(IDB), USA

#### SPEAKERS

**Nicolás Farrán Figueroa**  
Member,  
Urban Planning, Santiago  
Metropolitan Regional Council, Chile  
**Nestor Gandelman**  
Director,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Uruguay,  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
**Eduardo Lora**  
Former Chief Economist,  
Inter-American Development Bank  
(IDB), USA  
**Juan Robalino**  
Research Fellow,  
Tropical Agricultural Research and  
Higher Education Center,  
CATIE, Costa Rica  
**Louis Lee Sing**  
Mayor of Port of Spain,  
Trinidad and Tobago

#### MODERATOR

**Ellis J. Juan**  
General Coordinator,  
Emerging and Sustainable Cities  
Initiative (ESCI); and  
Vice-Presidency of Sectors  
and Knowledge,  
Inter-American Development Bank  
(IDB), USA

### Parallel Session: Enabling Urbanization, Enabling Development in East Asia

Organized by GDN Japan and  
East Asian Development Network (EADN)



Dr. Kaoru Hayashi, Member of  
GDN Board of Directors and JICA-RI  
Advisor to GDN Japan

The panel discussed contemporary urbanization, which is now predominantly, a developing country phenomenon. Among the world's regions, rapid urbanization is taking place largely in Asia. Annual urban growth rate is highest in Asia at 2.6 percent with large cities in China and India experiencing a 4 percent increase in urban population. Projections by UN Habitat indicate that Asia will be 55 percent urban before the year 2025. By 2050, the urban population of the developing world will be 5.3 billion, and Asia alone will host 63 percent of the world's urban population, or 3.3 billion people. Urbanization has certainly supported economic growth in Asia specifically, in the last decade. It has been associated with growing markets, development of information networks, high value-added productivity, creation of jobs for millions of people and reductions in absolute levels of poverty. However, while urbanization is leading economic transformation in the region, many nations in Asia are facing the daunting task of meeting the needs of a growing population and minimizing the costs of agglomeration. As it is, developing

countries in Asia are faced with problems of weak governance structures, poor environmental conditions, and shortfalls in infrastructure and services.

Rapid urbanization, thus, is usually associated with growing problems of income inequality, unprecedented increase in slums, major backlogs in the provision and maintenance of urban infrastructure and services, increased pollution and congestion and other environmental problems. Another major concern in the Asia region is the increase in number and magnitude of urban disasters due to natural hazards. The spatial concentration of population and economic activities makes the impact and costs of disaster greater in human and economic terms. Poor urban planning in most developing countries increases their vulnerability to natural hazards. Coupled with growing fiscal deficits, climate change creates new challenges to the region in terms of innovative built technologies and financing approaches for disaster prevention, as well as financing for rehabilitation and rebuilding, in case of disaster.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Kaoru Hayashi**  
Member – GDN Board of Directors and Advisor to GDN Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency-Research Institute (JICA-RI), Japan

#### SPEAKERS

**Wan Guanghua**  
Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank, The Philippines  
**Stella Luz A. Quimbo**  
School of Economics, University of the Philippines and International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University (with Toby Melissa C. Monsod, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University of the Philippines, The Philippines)  
**Yasuyuki Sawada**  
Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo, Japan

#### Parallel Session: Measuring Agglomeration Effects and their Implications

Organized by the  
Department of Economics,  
Central European University (CEU)

This session contained three papers written by members of the Department of Economics, Central European University (CEU). The first paper looked at the diffusion of export patterns through physical space and the social network of firm managers in Hungary to identify knowledge spillovers. The second paper, using data on the software industry in California's Bay Area, estimated knowledge spillovers when firms differ in their capacity to absorb knowledge, and the resulting sorting patterns across locations with different levels of agglomeration. The third paper focused on the role of agglomeration in the heterogeneity of input prices to explain why the relative price of less tradable goods is higher in rich countries.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Anthony J. Venables**  
BP Professor of Economics, University of Oxford, UK; and Director, Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies, UK

#### SPEAKERS

**Miklos Koren**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Central European University (CEU), Hungary  
**Sergey Lychagin**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Central European University (CEU), Hungary  
**Adam Szeidl**  
Professor, Department of Economics, Central European University (CEU), Hungary

#### Parallel Session: Roundtable on Sustainable and Smart Cities

Organized by the  
Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance

In the face of growing population figures, rapid urbanization and negative consequences of climate change, the development of smart and sustainable cities has become a priority for policymakers, urban planners, and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). Today, multiple initiatives exist to assist governments and municipalities in designing smart and green solutions for problems with respect to carbon footprint, energy efficiency, transport, and housing to name but a few. The panelists – city experts from MDBs and urban planners from Austria – discussed new and innovative solutions to the challenges of growing urbanization. They provided insights into initiatives that have proven to be successful and discussed how the exchange of ideas and best practices can be strengthened throughout the world.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Hubert Klumpner**  
Designated Dean and Chair of Architecture and Urban Design, ETH, Switzerland

#### SPEAKERS

**Ellis J. Juan**  
General Coordinator, Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI); and Vice-Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), USA  
**Christine Kessides**  
Urban Practice Manager, World Bank Institute, USA  
**Volker Schaffler**  
Project Manager, Tina Vienna Urban Technologies and Strategies GmbH, Austria  
**Lloyd Wright**  
Senior Transport Specialist, Asian Development Bank, The Philippines

#### Parallel Session: Roundtable on Land Use Regulation and Urban Renewal in Latin America

Organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)



Tito Yepes from Fedesarrollo, Colombia chairing the session organized by LACEA

This session reflected on current experiences of four Latin American countries in regulating land use as a mechanism to tackle urban decay and expansion. Five urban economists debated about the instruments being used, and proposed a set of measurements of impact to help policymakers evaluate when and where to intervene.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Tito Yepes**  
Head, Urbanization Knowledge Platform for Latin America; and Associated Researcher, Fedesarrollo, Colombia

#### SPEAKERS

**Ciro Biderman**  
Professor, Center of Politics and Economics of the Public Sector, Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil  
**Cyhtia Goytia**  
Professor and Director, Master Program in Urban Economics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina  
**Alfonso Iracheta**  
Head, Interdisciplinary Program on Urban and Environmental Studies, El Colegio Mexiquense, Mexico  
**Pablo Trivelli**  
Professor U. Mayor, Santiago, Chile and Universidad di Tella, Argentina

#### Parallel Session: Urbanization in the Pacific

Organized by the  
Oceania Development Network (ODN)

"Pacific cities and towns are rapidly becoming 'hot spots' of social and environmental risk, while at the same time contributing most to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and providing the best opportunities for the Pacific people to gain employment and access to improved services"; (UNESCAP 2011). The contradictions of urban growth in the Pacific are evident in terms of economic processes, social impacts, environmental effects and political practices.

The increasing need for urban management looms as one of the most significant development issues for Pacific island countries in the 21st Century. By 2025, over half the population of most Pacific island countries will be living in urban areas. While this can produce social and economic benefits because urban areas can drive national economic growth through the provision of labor and the generation of capital as the focal points for investment, production and consumption, there are downsides as well. High urban population growth rates have created pressures which local (municipal, city and town) management and administrative structures are ill-prepared to handle. The cities and towns of the Pacific need to address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing urban immigrants before widespread dissatisfaction results in shifts away from formal government, and towards informal means of ensuring safe and secure urban living.

Urban issues also contribute to wider development concerns in the Pacific. Successful mineral development,

sustainable tourism, environmentally sound fisheries and secure agricultural development all rely, in one way or another, on well-functioning urban areas.

Added to this are the complex impacts of climate change, new aid regimes and geopolitical



Young researcher Merewalesi Nailatikau from the University of South Pacific, Fiji, presenting her paper at the ODN session

strategizing. With a growing focus on urban issues in the Pacific, this ODN parallel session presented some of these complex and diverse topics to its multidisciplinary audience.

#### CHAIRPERSON

**Merewalesi Nailatikau**  
Masters candidate, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

#### SPEAKERS

**John Corcoran**  
PhD candidate, University of Waikato, New Zealand  
**Anita Latai**  
Lecturer, National University of Samoa, Samoa  
**Niraj Swami**  
Head of Health Professions Education Unit, Fiji National University, Fiji

#### DISCUSSANTS

**Patricia Sango**  
Masters candidate, University of the South Pacific, Fiji  
**Tahere Siisialafia**  
Masters candidate, University of the South Pacific, Fiji  
**Baljeet Singh**  
Lecturer, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

## GDN AWARDS AND MEDALS COMPETITION

### Global Development Awards and Medals Competition 2011



Winners of the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition 2011 at the prize distribution ceremony held during the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference, in Budapest, Hungary

A unique contest for promoting research on development and scaling up innovative projects, the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition (AMC) was launched in 2000 with the support of the Government of Japan. By rewarding the best, young minds in groundbreaking and policy-oriented development research and deserving social projects in the South, the AMC gets to the very heart of GDN's mission. The main purpose of the competition is to channel funds to where other types of funding cannot reach.

This annual competition has become increasingly established and well-known. The 12th round of the AMC culminated at the prize distribution ceremony held at GDN's 13th Annual Global Development Conference, in Budapest. The three themes for the AMC reflected the various aspects of this year's conference on 'Urbanization and Development'. The 2011 competition received a total of 801 submissions, over 60 percent of which were from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. A substantial number of submissions (503) were received for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP). Finalists from each of the three competition categories – MIDP, Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD)



S. Chandrasekhar (center) from IGDR, India receiving the first prize in the Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development from Dr. Akio Hosono (right), Director JICA-RI

and Medals for Research on Development (MRD) were invited and sponsored to present their proposals and papers to a panel of eminent judges at the conference.

The MIDP identifies and funds innovative projects with a high potential for development impact to exceptionally marginalized and disadvantaged groups located in developing and transition countries. The **Cloth for Work** project from **Goonj**, India received the first prize (US\$30,000) in this category. The venture involves using under-utilized clothes and other old materials as a powerful and proven tool for social change, as a huge resource for rural/ slum development, and as a valuable asset for income generation.

Winning the third prize (US\$5,000) was **Development Reality Institute (DRI)**, Zimbabwe. This NGO has pioneered a catalytic

and innovative capacity building program for youth in Africa, aimed at strengthening their capacity to effectively mitigate and adapt the effects of climate change on their communities.

The Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development (ORD) is given to outstanding research proposals that seek to explore any of the research themes in an original and policy-relevant way. **S. Chandrasekhar** and **Ajay Sharma**, both from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGDR), Mumbai, India won the first prize (US\$30,000) for their research proposal 'The Commuting Worker: An Overlooked Aspect of Rural-Urban Interaction, Evidence from India'. The goal of the study is to improve our understanding of the commuting worker – specifically, in the Indian context. The second prizes were jointly awarded to **Gabriela Estrada** and **José Alberto Lara** from Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico for their proposal on 'Economic Incentives for Discouraging Urban Sprawl in Mexico City', and to **Martin Oteng-Ababio** and **Mary Anti Chama** from University of Ghana for their proposal on 'Exploring E-waste Recycling, Health and Food Security at Agbogbloshie Scrap Yard Accra'.

The Medals for Research on Development (MRD) are financed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, the Dutch Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGIS), The Netherlands and the Department for International Development (DFID), UK as part of the GDN Program. MRD prizes are awarded in three thematic categories for excellent completed research papers focusing on development undertaken by young, emerging Southern researchers. This year, under the theme 'The Enabling Environment – Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure', the first prize (US\$7,500 each) was jointly awarded to **Rivayani Darmawan**, Research Associate and PhD Candidate, University of Göttingen, Germany for her paper on 'Elite Capture in Urban Society' and **Nestor Gandelman** from Universidad ORT, Uruguay for his paper on 'Inter-generational Effects of Titling Programs: Physical vs. Human Capital'.

For the theme 'Urban Externalities (Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime) and Urban Poverty', **Zhiming Cheng** of The University of Wollongong won the first prize (US\$10,000) for his paper titled 'Layoffs and Urban Poverty in the State-owned Enterprise Communities in Shaanxi Province, China'. The second prize (US\$5,000) was awarded to **Martin Benavides** with **Juan Jesus Martin Leon Jara Almonte** (from GRADE) and **Maria Laura Veramendi**, for the paper 'Family Well-being, Women Attitudes and the Intergenerational Transmission of Violence in Urban Areas in Peru'. Finally, in the theme 'The Interactive Economy and Urban Development', the first prize (US\$10,000) winner was **Musiliu Adewole** from Covenant University, Nigeria for his paper 'Schooling Externalities in Urban Nigeria: The Social Interactive Sources'. The second prize (US\$5,000) winner was **Zheng Xu**, University of Connecticut, for 'Agglomeration Shadow: A Non-Linear Core'.

While the AMC aims to recognize innovative ideas and encourage talented early career researchers, for many of these bright young researchers, winning this competition is a stepping stone to promotion, to greater prominence for their research, and for recognition in their home countries. GDN is grateful to the Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) Fund and Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) at the World Bank who administer the funding from the Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan to GDN for the competition.

### Two-day GDN Research Communications Training for Awards and Medals Finalists



The GDN Research Communications training workshop for the Global Development Awards and Medals 2011 finalists

The preceding year, Musiliu Adewole, from Nigeria was shortlisted to the finals of Medals for Research on Development in the AMC. This year, his research paper went on to win the first prize in the same category. Musiliu had attended the Bogotá round, as well as this year's Presentation Skills Training organized by GDN, GDN's knowledge services portal.

Being an influential researcher requires one to be good at research. But often times, even great research studies lay locked within an institute's researchers without ever getting communicated beyond its immediate circle of interest. Communicating effectively is key to increasing research impact. To be effective, researchers need to be proficient communicators who can engage policymakers and the media with their research results and its implications for wider development debates. With this in mind, a special two-day GDN Research Communications Training Workshop designed for the Awards and Medals finalists was held on 14-15 June, 2012, in Budapest, Hungary prior to the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference.

Delivered jointly with CommsConsult, UK, the workshop aimed to strengthen capacities to identify key messages and tailor research for different audiences. It also targeted to develop skills, confidence and a powerful presentation for each finalist to present to the Selection Committee and other scholars at the conference.

## ■ ABOUT US

### Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) is an independent International Organization that allies researchers and institutes in development globally. GDN supports researchers in developing and transition countries to generate and share applied social science research to advance social and economic development. GDN's core business is building research capacity. Its aspiration is to achieve a critical mass of researchers who are globally interconnected and produce good research to impact public policy.

Founded in 1999, GDN is headquartered in New Delhi, with offices in Cairo and Washington D.C. GDN partners with various international donor organizations and governments, a worldwide network of research institutes, academic institutions, think tanks and more than 12,000 individual researchers worldwide. GDN also works in collaboration with 11 Regional Network Partners (RNPs). These RNPs form part of GDN's evolving and varied network.

#### Vision and Strategy

GDN's vision is to build:

**A critical mass of accomplished and renowned economists and social scientists in the developing and transition countries who are globally interconnected and produce good research to impact public policy.**

In order to achieve its vision, GDN uses a four-fold strategy to:

1. *Build research capacity in a globally interconnected way* to ensure that Southern researchers are equipped to become active participants and key players in the global research environment and to empower them as a cadre of global leaders in development research.
2. *Foster development research* by supporting research on priority policy research areas set by GDN and its partners.
3. Create an *innovative global network* that can be used to discover and interconnect researchers, knowledge, expertise and resources in development.
4. Become a *prestigious and sustainable institution* that is fit for purpose and meets recognized quality standards for research capacity development.

GDN's Global Research Capacity Building Program, launched in 2011 as the core of GDN's new strategy, promotes broadly based collaborative research as the central mode of research activity by encouraging new ways of producing, structuring, and mobilizing knowledge on important development topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, region or discipline.

This integrated program includes the Regional Research Competitions, the Global Research Competitions launched in 2012, and the Global Research Projects. It is complemented and supported by a range of networking, outreach and dissemination activities as outlined in the following sections.

### Annual Global Development Conferences

The Annual Global Development Conferences are designed to give researchers in developing and transition countries the opportunity to present their research to a global audience. GDN's Global Development Awards and Medals Competitions (AMC) culminate at this conference.



GDN Staff

The conferences provide the venue for the exchange of ideas on the most pressing development challenges with internationally influential academics, policymakers, heads of government, renowned researchers, representatives of national and international organizations, and sponsors of

research. They are essential for our understanding of development issues – in the range of issues they discuss, and the regions they represent.

### Global Policy Dialogues

A series of consultations, the Global Policy Dialogues are designed to stimulate evidence-based policy debates on global issues of interest to developing countries and to dialogue with global and regional partners in the research and policymaking community.

The Global Policy Dialogues, launched in 2009, aim to ensure that developing country perspectives remain at the core of these debates. Specifically, the consultations:

- Provide a platform for evidence-based policy debates on global issues related to development, so that there is greater clarity around the ideas.
- Ensure that Southern perspectives are articulated on the global platform.
- Help GDN partner researchers, policymakers and intellectuals in exchanging cross-disciplinary perspectives and contribute to a body of knowledge that informs policy better.

### GDNet: GDN's Knowledge Services Portal

GDNet is the knowledge management and research communications arm of GDN, and it supports researchers from developing and transition countries to communicate their findings to decision-makers. It does this by showcasing Southern research, providing members with the latest research and data, and building researchers' confidence and skills to communicate more effectively.

The GDNet knowledgebase is a comprehensive online portal containing thematically organized development research. It features more than 16,500 research papers which are accompanied by clear conclusion based summaries.

Importantly, GDNet provides extensive research communications training and mentoring at the different stages of the Global Research Capacity Building Program. This is to ensure widespread research dissemination and effective outreach to both academic and policy audiences.



**I'm very happy and honored to become President of such a thriving network that uniquely serves development through building capacity and connecting researchers and policymakers.**

*Pierre Jacquet*  
President-designate, Global Development Network



### GDN's Regional Network Partners

The Regional Research Competitions (RRCs) are managed by GDN's Regional Network Partners (RNPs), with the main purpose of identifying and unearthing talent in developing and transition countries. RRCs provide early-career researchers the chance to work under expert guidance on development topics that are particularly relevant in their regions. GDN works with RNPs covering almost every region in the world:

- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
- Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
- Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education-Economics Institute (CERGE-EI)
- East Asian Development Network (EADN)
- Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC)
- Economic Research Forum (ERF)
- European Development Research Network (EUDN)
- GDN-Japan
- Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)
- Oceania Development Network (ODN)
- South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI)

This ensures that research is generated by those best placed to understand the complexities of the challenges faced by different regions in their efforts to alleviate poverty.

### GDN Research

The GDN Global Research Agenda provides GDN with a common intellectual ground to structure its capacity building activities as distinct parts of an articulated and cohesive whole.

Developed in consultation with leading development economists, the key themes and research issues under GDN's agenda include:

- **Urbanization and Development;**
- **Development Finance;**
- **Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources;**
- **Inequality, Poverty, Social Protection and Social Policy;**
- **Rule of Law, Governance, Institutions and Development;**
- **Human Capital Formation, Education and Development;** and
- **Labor Markets, Employment and International Migration.**

GDN's Global Research Projects (GRPs) consist of 12 to 15 case studies simultaneously to explain different elements of one of the priority research areas through a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary and comparative approach. GRPs allow cross-country comparisons, benchmarking, peer-review and cross-fertilization between more experienced scholars and junior researchers working together on the same project to generate high quality research and, in many cases, create new datasets that can be used for further research.

#### Ongoing and New GRPs

- Urbanization and Development: Delving Deeper into the Nexus
- Supporting Policy Research to Inform Agricultural Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
- Varieties of Governance: Effective Public Service Delivery
- Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability

#### Completed GRPs

- Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimizing Migration's Economic and Social Impacts
- Promoting Innovative Programs from the Developing World: Towards Realizing the Health MDGs in Africa and Asia
- Impact of Rich Countries' Policies on Poverty: Perspectives from the Developing World
- Understanding Reform: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding Reform
- Bridging Research and Policy
- Explaining Growth: Generating, Sharing and Applying to Policy Multidisciplinary Knowledge for the Purpose of Development

## ■ A Word from our Conference Participants and AMC Winners



GDN and the Central European University are great partners in this search for a better understanding of how urbanization is impacting our world.

~ **John Shattuck**, Rector and President, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary

The GDN conference is a very important occasion in bringing people together. Policies are complicated and policy needs analyses of research. And coming together and doing the arguments, thinking about it is the way we make progress.

~ **L. Alan Winters**, Chairperson, GDN Board of Directors and Professor of Economics, University of Sussex, UK

It was a very interesting session on the theme of the enabling policy environment. Altogether the session was so arranged that the public benefitted from hearing the three different perspectives on the issues.

~ **Santiago Levy**, Sector Vice-President, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), USA

We're interested in how knowledge gets translated into action. So at this conference we are interested in not only the findings of the research, but also see how we can further link up the practitioners and the researchers.

~ **Christine Kessides**, Urban Practice Manager, World Bank Institute, USA

Winning the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project is so much more than just the fame in the industry. For me and my organization, it is a source of inspiration and motivation. It provides us with the encouragement and the confidence to pursue a career for the common good of humanity.

~ **Verengai Mabika**, Development Reality Institute, Zimbabwe – 3rd prize winner, Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project 2011

This Award is important to us since the jury has recognized the merits of our research agenda on the issue of workers who commute across rural-urban boundaries. We are grateful to GDN for providing us the platform for highlighting this issue.

~ **S. Chandrasekhar** and **Ajay Sharma**, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, India – 1st prize winner, Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development 2011

Winning the Medal not only recognizes my research commitment in the past few years, but also motivates me to work harder to help alleviate poverty and inequality during the radical urbanization in China.

~ **Zhiming Cheng**, The University of Wollongong, Australia – 1st prize winner, Medals for Research on Development 2011 in the theme 'Urban Externalities (Contagious Disease, Congestion and Crime) and Urban Poverty'

GDN is a big organization, a big brand. It brings you into the global space.

~ **Musiliu Adewole**, Covenant University, Nigeria – 1st prize winner, Medals for Research on Development 2011 in the theme 'The Interactive Economy and Urban Development'



## ■ CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Isher J. Ahluwalia** (GDN Deputy Chair and ICRIER, India)

**Abhijit Banerjee** (MIT, USA)

**Gerardo della Paolera** (GDN President)

**Edward Glaeser** (Harvard University, USA)

**Ravi Kanbur** (Cornell University, USA)

**Gábor Kézdi** (Central European University, Hungary)

**George Mavrotas** (GDN Chief Economist and Conference Director)

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## ■ LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (Central European University, Hungary)

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## GDN Annual Conference: Worth Attending?

A post-conference online survey was sent to conference participants to get their feedback on the efficiency and impressions of the GDN 13th Annual Global Development Conference 2012. The survey was sent to a total of 274 participants and received a 31% response rate. Highlights from the findings of the survey are:

### Quality

- **80%** of the respondents rated the overall quality of the conference (plenaries and parallel sessions) to be high (of which 52% perceived that the quality of the overall conference was very high).
- **89%** of the respondents stated that the conference was worth attending. Respondents' perceptions on whether the conference was worth attending were directly related to their view on the quality of the conference.
- **97%** of the respondents would recommend their colleagues to attend the next GDN conference.

### Networking

- **85%** of respondents found the conference a valuable opportunity to network and make new contacts. Respondents' networking experience was directly related to their perception on the right mix of participants at the conference.
- **87%** of the respondents agreed that the conference was a valuable opportunity to share information. Almost all the respondents who shared conference-related information also reported that the conference was a valuable opportunity to network.
- **52%** of the respondents had work-related follow up contact with conference participants.

### Influence on Knowledge and Action

- Almost **80%** of the respondents reported that the conference sessions informed their thinking on Urbanization and Development – the theme of the conference. Of the respondents who reported gaining knowledge on urbanization, **65%** had applied the knowledge in their individual work.
- **67%** of current GDN grantees (15% of respondent sample) reported applying knowledge gained at the conference to their work. The conference has, thus, been able to contribute to the capacity building of GDN grantees who are developing country researchers.
- All existing donors or prospective donors (6% of respondent sample) reported that they applied knowledge from the conference to their work.
- Almost **70%** of those who had applied the knowledge gained reported that the content of the conference was pertinent to their work. This finding highlights the importance of the conference topic in motivating the participants to use the knowledge and for GDN in selecting participants with similar thematic interests.

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budapest

GDN 12th Annual Global Development Conference  
Development and Growth: Driving Deeper into  
Budapest - Hungary  
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