
International Training on “Addressing the Urbanization challenge” July 21st – August 19th, 2015

Organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies in cooperation with UNESCO

Cities are currently home to nearly half of the world's population and over the next 30 years most of the two-billion-plus person increase in global population is expected to occur in urban areas in the developing world. If well managed, cities offer important opportunities for economic and social development. Cities have always been focal points for economic growth, innovation, and employment. Cities are also centers of modern living, where indicators of general health and wellbeing, literacy, women's status, and social mobility are typically highest. While cities command an increasingly dominant role in the global economy, rapid urban growth throughout the developing world is seriously outstripping the capacity of most cities to provide adequate services for their citizens. Of particular concern are the risks to the immediate and surrounding environment, to natural resources, to health conditions, to social cohesion, and to individual rights. For many observers, however, the greatest concern is surely the massive increase in the numbers of the urban poor. Many of these urban poor are living in informal settlements made up of informal housing, often called slums. According to UN-Habitat, there are 823 million people living in slums worldwide. An estimated 72% of the urban population of Africa now lives in slums. The proportion is 43% for Asia and the Pacific, 32% for Latin America, and 30% for the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Slums and the complex web of challenges causing their existence and resulting from their existence is one of the greatest challenges faced by decision makers in the urban sphere. The international training *Addressing the Urbanization challenge* is designed to empower participants to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing urbanization challenges – one that maintains financial and management mechanisms while integrating land use planning, construction of infrastructure, stimulation of economic growth, provision of social and health services, promotion of social cohesion and environmental protection.

The course aims to:

- Provide participants with knowledge, tools and strategies related to addressing urban challenges
- Inspire and energize participants to be agents for positive change in their countries
- Expose participants to new approaches and opportunities in the field of addressing urban challenges
- Present Israel as a case study from which to draw valuable lessons about addressing urban challenges
- Enrich participants with professional skills with which to develop their careers and best benefit their communities and countries
- Connect participants with an international network of professionals in their field

The program will provide participants with knowledge and tools in the following subjects:

- + Concepts in urban planning for development (land use and infrastructure planning; financial, management and organizational tools; urban branding; the triple bottom line & sustainability, asset-based development)
- + Housing (inclusionary zoning, project renewal, public housing)
- + Stimulating economic growth (LED – local economic development; support systems for innovation, entrepreneurship and SME's; conservation of the built heritage; PPP's - public-private partnerships)
- + Social Sustainability (migrant absorption, social cohesion, youth engagement)
- + Environmental services (natural resource management ; municipal water and waste management; energy issues)

The Israeli experience

Israel has gained extensive experience in both the revitalization of poor urban areas and the integration of immigrant social groups from various backgrounds and origins. Though slums and poor urban neighborhoods in Israel are different from those in developing countries, the accumulated Israeli knowledge on the approaches, strategies and tools to deal with these challenges is relevant for participants.

The methodology

Participants will participate in both classroom based lectures and study visits, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. Israeli case studies and practice will be discussed throughout the program. Additionally, participants will be required to formulate and present a project of interest relevant to the topic of this course. For this purpose, some pre-course work will be required. Detailed instruction will be sent to the selected participants.

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as during field visits.

Who may apply?

The training targets highly motivated decision makers, policy makers and professionals from the fields of urban planning, architecture, engineering, economics, community work, administration, working in government ministries (such as local government, housing, development, welfare, health and others), in local authorities, NGOs and CBOs active in the field, as well as business organizations and academic institutions engaged with urban revitalization and slum upgrading programs.

Application Process

*Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted in **WORD documents** at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronit@weitz-center.org) **not later than May 7th, 2015**. Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.*

Scholarships

*The scholarships includes: tuition, 30 days with full board accommodation (sharing a room with one other participant), medical insurance and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. MASHAV assumes responsibility for the cost of participants' medical insurance for the duration of the course **excluding costs arising from dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses**.*

MASHAV and the Weitz Center are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

The scholarship does not include flight tickets and additional out of pocket expenses. It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from 20-21.7.15 (arrival day) to 19.8.15 (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this

end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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