

# Sustainable Urban Growth: Addressing the Challenges of Urbanisation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

A conference organized by the Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CCRS) at the University of Zurich

*Date: September 8, 2015*

*Venue: Hörsaal KOL-F-104, Universität Zürich, Rämistrasse 71 8006 Zürich*

The population living in urban areas is expected to reach 60 percent by 2030. Urban growth is especially fast in emerging economies where the demand for energy, construction material, infrastructure and consumer goods is rapidly rising. How can the global economy cope with this growing demand without causing social exclusion and environmental disaster?

In this conference we look at the role of knowledge creation and innovation in efforts to decouple economic growth and increasing affluence from energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and the exploitation of natural resources.

Cities in the 21st century may face much greater challenges than earlier waves of urbanization in the history of mankind but they also have the potential to make life better for people in urban and rural areas alike in view of technological change and the expected demographic transition that usually accompanies the process of urbanization (rising income, education levels and employment leading to lower birth rates). Ultimately, sustainable urbanization depends on the ability of society to design rules that minimize the risks and maximize the benefits of a technologically advanced urban economy.

The workshop focuses on the role of regulation and innovation in efforts to cope with the growing challenges of urbanization in OECD and non-OECD countries.

Sponsored by: **Julius Bär**

# Programme

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- 8:30** Registration and Coffee
- 9:00** **Welcome address by Philipp Aerni,**  
Director of CCRS, University of Zurich
- 9:15** **Franz Oswald,** Professor em ETHZ,  
Chair of Architecture and Urban Design at ETH Zürich:  
«Sustainability in Search of Its Narrative?»
- 9:30** **Coping with Sustainability Challenges in Asian Megacities**  
Moderator: Prof. Ulrich Suter, President, Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences
- Anders Nordström, Head of Environment, ABB, Zürich  
Matthias Thoma, Member of the Board, Ernst Basler und Partner  
Carsten Menke, Commodity Analyst, Bank Julius Bär, Zürich  
Dagmar Vogel, Head of Financing Infrastructure, SECO, Bern
- 11:00** Break
- 11:20** **Prof. Dr. Amy Glasmeier,**  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT, Cambridge, USA:  
«The Meaning of Smart Cities»
- 12:00** Lunch Break
- 13:15** **Promoting Green Cities**  
Moderator: Peter Boswell, Consultant, USITAWI Network, Geneva
- Urs Egger, President of MyClimate, Municipality Council, Zurich  
Stephan Siegrist, Founder and Head of W.I.R.E, Zurich  
Norbert Rücker, Head of Commodity Research, Bank Julius Bär, Zurich  
Ralf Pfitzner, VP Corporate Sustainability, Siemens, München  
Lorraine Francourt, Director Sustainability, Dow Europe, Horgen
- 15:00** Break
- 15:15** **Patterns of Urban Development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**  
Moderator: Christoph Lüthi, Head of Department EAWAG-SANDEC, Dübendorf
- Jakob Granit, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Sweden  
David Signer, Journalist, NZZ, Zürich  
Oliver Karius, Partner at LGT Venture Philanthropy, Zurich  
Manuel Herz, MANUEL HERZ ARCHITECTS, Basel  
Nigist Goytom, Architect in Zurich and Addis Abeba
- 16:30** **Final Remark by Ann Miroux,**  
Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD, Geneva
- 17:00** Apéro