

Examining “The Places We Live”: Slums & Urban Poverty in the Developing World

Policy Workshop, Paper Competition and Online Publication sponsored by USAID, the International Housing Coalition, The World Bank, the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Comparative Urban Studies Project, and Cities Alliance

Call for Papers: Paper Competition / Policy Workshop / Online Publication

- Win a trip to World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010
- Be published in an online publication edited by The World Bank and other sponsors
- Get invited to an interactive policy workshop with urban development practitioners in Washington, DC, in February 2010
- Deadline: Abstracts due by Nov. 16, 2009



Overview

Worldwide, approximately one billion people currently live in slums. The vast majority are in developing countries, where an estimated 1/3 of the population lives in slum conditions. The total number of slum-dwellers is expected to double by 2030, placing unprecedented pressures on cities around the globe.

USAID’s Urban Programs Team, in cooperation with the International Housing Coalition (IHC), The World Bank, the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Comparative Urban Studies Project (CUSP), and Cities Alliance, is seeking paper submissions for an upcoming **policy workshop** and **paper competition** on slums and urban poverty in the developing world. This Call for Papers is associated with both “The Places We Live” exhibit (www.theplaceswelive.com), which has been brought to Washington, DC, in conjunction with World Habitat Day, and the upcoming World Urban Forum 5, being held in March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Papers should be linked to one of the following topical areas (see www.OurUrbanPlanet.org for a more detailed description of these themes):

- The Right to the City / Bridging the Urban Divide
- Equal Access to Shelter
- Cultural Diversity & Identity in Cities
- Governance and Participation
- Inclusive Sustainable Urbanization

Papers should be policy-based and solutions-oriented and should critically examine existing projects and/or propose new strategies for tackling slum-related issues. Papers may focus on the drivers of slum formation and other forms of urban inequality and related efforts to prevent these trends, or may concentrate on ameliorating existing conditions in slums and among the urban poor. Papers that take into account the cross-sectoral nature of slum/urban poverty issues and that present replicable and scalable interventions are particularly welcome. Papers from a variety of disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary perspectives are appropriate, including (but not limited to) urban planning, economics, political science, geography, public policy, sociology, and anthropology. For more information, please contact Chris Ward (cward@usaid.gov).

Process and Timeline

- ◆ **Eligibility:** This call for papers is directed at PhD students and advanced Masters students. To be eligible, applicants should be currently enrolled in a degree or post-doctoral program.
- ◆ **Abstract Submissions:**
 - Abstracts (max 500 words) and a brief CV should be submitted to the selection committee by Nov. 16, 2009. Submissions can be made via the OurUrbanPlanet website (www.oururbanplanet.org) or sent to cward@usaid.gov.
 - Abstracts should contain a title, paper description, author name and affiliation, and specify which of the topical areas listed above the paper will most directly address.
- ◆ **Request for Full Papers:**
 - A panel composed of members of the sponsor organizations will review submitted abstracts and request full papers from approximately 15 authors.
 - Applicants will be notified in November whether they will be asked to write a full paper.
 - Completed papers should be a maximum of 20 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font) and utilize the style, spelling, usage, citation and illustration guidelines used by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (<http://www.acsp.org/publications/jper/guidelines>).
- ◆ **World Bank Publication:**
 - 5-10 of the full papers will be selected for inclusion in an online publication being compiled by The World Bank and other sponsor organizations.
 - Publication of each selected paper will be contingent upon completion of suggested revisions by the authors, should they be requested by the selection committee.
- ◆ **Policy Workshop:**
 - 3-4 of the authors selected for publication will also be invited to Washington, DC, to take part in a unique “policy workshop” that will bring together a small group of academics, policy makers and students for an interactive discussion of international urban development topics. The session will focus on bridging gaps between policy and academia, theory and practice.
 - At the conference, students will be paired with a senior development expert who will serve as a discussant for their paper.
 - Accepted papers should be submitted (using the same method as the abstracts) at least 2 weeks before the start of the conference.
 - Workshop invitees will be provided with a \$500 honorarium to help cover transportation and accommodation costs.
- ◆ **Trip to World Urban 5 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:**
 - A “Grand Prize” winner will be selected within one week of the policy workshop and will be invited to attend World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro, being held March 22-26, 2010.
 - Conference registration, roundtrip flight from the US to Rio de Janeiro, and accommodation will be provided by the International Housing Coalition.
 - While at the Forum, the winner will have the opportunity to attend various sessions, including those related to their paper topic, and report back on their experiences and impressions via the OurUrbanPlanet.org website.