

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA
2018**

Introduction

The University of Technology, Jamaica will be our hosts for the 8th Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF2018) to be held from 27th-29th June 2018 at the UTECH campus, Jamaica. Co-hosts include the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) based at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional and international organizations. The Forum brings together land use practitioners, municipal managers, policy makers, academics and allied professionals in an effort to address urban issues in the region.

This year's theme is *Forming the Informal*. This theme aims to confront the ostensibly oppositional notions of the formal and informal and how we respond to the urban condition in the Caribbean. Historically, the consideration of the city has been predicated on the idea of a formal spatial structure evolving from and responsive to notions of order and regulation. However, one of the most evident common characteristics of all Caribbean cities is the prevalence of informality whether, spatial, social, economic etc. Under this theme, a range of sub-themes can be addressed in relation to issues of heritage, history, housing, infrastructure, policy etc with view to informing a contemporary understanding of the Caribbean urban condition.

Conference Objectives

The conference will address the gambit of issues relating to the relationship between formality and informality in the Caribbean urban sector. Through presentations, workshops and discussions, the forum will:

1. Explore the evolution of cities and settlement in the Caribbean
2. Examine the challenges and opportunities that arise from various modes of informality
3. Discuss methods of measuring formality and informality

Specific activities, which will also be accomplished at or immediately before the CUF 2018 are:

1. Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Planning Association (CPA);
2. Business meeting of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Associations
3. Project meeting /training in Problem Based Learning (CITYLABS CAR)
4. Panel on the redevelopment of Bermuda post Hurricane Irma
5. Panel on the Caribbean Development Bank's Urban Policy

Thematic Areas

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

The formal/informal city

There have been indigenous communities in the Caribbean countries and little is known on the nature of their settlements. The most recognized form in human settlement is often the grid arrangements which had its origins in colonial times and persists today. However, many areas developed informally leading to urban sprawl due to a range of factors, in particular, in inability of the State to exert regulatory control. What are some of the strategies which are being put in place for regulation of development in the Caribbean?

The formal/informal actor

It is well recognized that complex environmental problems cannot be solved by enhanced scientific information alone; rather, the existing body of knowledge must be translated into effective actions broadly accepted by society. This translation occurs through communication between multi-scale actor

networks, both formal and informal. Over the past decade there has been a significant move (globally) towards understanding these networks in environmental fields and how, specifically, the informal networks often drive change. Nowhere is this more evident in the development and operation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), where collaboration is a necessity to ensure long term sustainability. How do informal networks operate and have they been successful in the Caribbean? Is there a happy balance between the informal and formal that is required for full functioning of the society?

Managing informality

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), a key output from Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016, has recently concluded in Quito, is the international framework guiding urban planning and management for the next two decades and environmentally sustainable development is key to its implementation. It speaks extensively on the need to provide opportunities for persons living slum and informal settlements equivalent to those in the formal system. How has the issue of informality been addressed in the Caribbean public policy in light of meeting its commitments to local, regional and international agreements? **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are the universally agreed guide to development up to 2030. The issue of informality has been recognized in the SDGs. Under Goal 8: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*, target 8.3.1 measures *Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex*. Similarly, under Goal 11: *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*, target 11.1.1 measures *Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing*.

Social Equity: Measuring change

Informality, in economics, is the collection of firms, workers, and activities that operate outside the legal and regulatory frameworks. It is easy to define however difficult to measure given by nature they are working outside of the legal and regulatory frameworks. Informal settlements also leads to inequity in service provision as formal authority face challenges in operation. Is human development taking place equally in formal and informal settlements? Is there a transition from the informal to the formal? What are the spatial manifestations of the formal and informal?

By Design; past, present and future strategies

How has the formal and informal nature of cities evolved historically, what are the architectural and urban design strategies that have been deployed and how responsive have they been in addressing sustainable development? How might urban development evolve? What opportunities and strategies might be employed in the future?

Submission Criteria

Submissions are invited under the following criteria:

Papers:

For acceptance to present at the conference, an abstract must be submitted. These should (a) state the problem being addressed; (b) describe the activities in the paper has addressed the problem and; (c) the relevance of the paper to the theme and/or sub-theme. Abstracts must be original and not submitted to other conferences or publications. Abstracts should be submitted in UK English using MS Word or equivalent format using Arial font size 10" and 1" margins, single spacing and not exceed more than 300 words.

Architectural/Urban Design/Urban Planning Projects:

A description and sample image of an architectural/urban design/ urban planning project. The description should outline the following: (a) location, (b) client or commissioning agency (c) whether built or unbuilt (d) relevance to the conference themes. Projects from architectural, urban design and urban planning students are welcomed and student projects should be clearly indicated. Combined text and images of submissions should be forwarded in single page pdf format

Papers and Project submissions should include:

1. Title of the proposed presentation;
2. The sub-theme to which it relates;
3. Name(s) of author(s); (no more than 3)
4. Position or title of author(s);
5. Author(s) employer or affiliated institution;
6. Contact details including - e-mail address, telephone/fax numbers and postal address;

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to:

Papers and Presentations Sub-Committee

Email: cuf2018@utech.edu.jm

Deadline: April 9th 2018.

Feedback on acceptance of abstracts will be provided by April 16th 2018

There will be a review process for Authors who wish to present papers for publication.

Questions?

For further information on general conference as well as the events being held prior to CUF2018, please contact:

Dr. Carol Archer

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