



International cooperation in urban and regional development: the experience of the World Cities project

Venue: Conference Centre Albert Borschette (Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels). Room 2A.

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2015

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Description: World Cities is a project of the European Union managed by the DG REGIO and supported by a Preparatory Action of the European Parliament. The project started 2015 and aims to promote the exchange of experience and best practices between the European Union and third countries on territorial development issues, including urban innovation, urban-rural partnerships, cross-border cooperation and SME development. World Cities currently involves local and regional authorities of 16 cities or regions from Europe, China, India, Canada and Japan. These pilot areas have launched various pilot projects with partners from the research and business communities (triple-helix) in order to achieve concrete benefits towards sustainable economic development. The seminar will showcase selected experiences from 8 twinning regions in the areas of *regional economic cooperation* and *urban development*, giving participants an insight into the actions of local and regional authorities towards supporting the internationalisation of their cities or regions. Experiences will be commented by UN HABITAT within the “UN Post-2015 Agenda” framework.

Agenda

14:30 – 14:40 Introduction Words by Mr Ronald Hall, Principal Advisor, DG REGIO

14:40 – 15:40 Session 1: World Cities and Regional Economic Cooperation

- Mr Fan Hengshan, Vice Secretary General NDRC, China
- Mr Mark Schneider, Manager of West Midlands EU Service, United Kingdom
- Ms Uttama Fulzele, Senior Planner, Planning Division, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, India
- Mr Neelabh Singh, Senior Director Strategic Projects, CLEAN Cluster, Denmark

15:40 – 16:00 Questions and answers

16:00 – 17:00 Session 2: World Cities and Urban Best Practices

- Mr Torben Heinemann, Head of Department, Office of Traffic Planning and Road Construction, Leipzig, Germany
- Mr Jun Nakamura, Vice Mayor, City of Toyama, Japan
- Mr Mark Boysen, Sustainability Coordinator & Energy Manager, District of Saanich, Canada
- Mr Carlos Sousa, Director, Agência Municipal de Energia de Almada, Portugal

17:00 – 17:15 Comments and reactions by Mr. Paulius Kulikauskas, Senior Inter-Regional Advisor UN-Habitat

17:15 – 17:30 Questions and answers

17:30 Closing remarks

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