



6<sup>th</sup> International Conference

## **RESPONSIVE URBANISM IN INFORMAL AREAS** TOWARDS A REGIONAL AGENDA FOR HABITAT III

**25-27 November 2014 - Cairo**

Hosted by the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering  
Cairo University, Giza, Egypt

### **1- INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Architecture at the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University (CUFE), jointly with the UN-Habitat are organizing an International Conference on “**Responsive Urbanism in Informal Areas**”, to be held during November 2014 in Cairo. This conference will also feed in the preparation of the **National Urban Forum** in 2015, and the HABITAT III in 2016. The **HABITAT III** is the third UN conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development planned with an agenda for the Arab Region. The conference is also a collaborative effort within the activities of the “Informal Urbanism Hub” of the HABITAT University Network Initiative (UNI). The activities of this (UN) Hub started in November 2013 with the academic symposium entitled “**Metropolis Non-formal – Anticipation**”, held in Munich, Germany. UNI Hub seeks to reduce the gap between academia and practice, and to strengthen the ties among all involved stakeholders to face the future challenges in cities, and particularly in informal areas.

Based on the belief of the private sector’s role in achieving social harmony in Egyptian cities, the “Egyptian Junior Business Association EJB”, is collaborating in the organization of this conference. The Business Sector in Egypt and the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** has the potential and resources - jointly with universities - to play a vital role in the implementation of urban upgrading models conceived within academia. It is expected that the discourse in this conference will open new possibilities to deal with issues of informality in Egypt and in the Arab world.

**Urbanization is a global challenge, which leads to dramatic growth of cities and urban districts.** In Arab Countries including Egypt, informal urbanism emerges as a substitute to formal city construction to address massive migration

movements from rural to urban settings; lack of affordable housing; and absence of services and infra-structure in many social settings. Many Egyptian cities fail to accommodate growth within a formal, planned urban framework due to many factors including the absence of affordable dwelling strategies; inadequacy of building and planning regulations; irresponsiveness of state actions; and lack of suitable financing policies to housing. Many such cities are resilient, and survive the challenge; nevertheless the urban and architectural product is affected by such challenges creating new patterns of informal socio-economic trends.

Therefore, the conference aims to formulate recommendations for strategies, models, and practice that integrate inter-disciplinary and inter-regional innovative approaches to the investigation of informal urbanism.

Accordingly, the main objectives of the conference are:

- Investigating the responsiveness of informal urbanism to the needs and aspirations of dwellers; by revisiting participatory approaches, tools, and processes.
- Looking at the cross cutting issues, linking them to sustainability and resilience of informal areas.
- Proposing appropriate processes of engagement for academics and professionals towards implementing upgrading and development projects in the unplanned and informally developed areas.
- Fostering the creative contribution of International academic institutions in practices and policies in the Arab Region.

Scholars, researchers, practitioners, and entrepreneurs are invited to deepen and broaden their mutual understanding of the mechanism of how these areas survived, and learn from their socio-economic resilience to practically respond to future needs and challenges.

The program will include presentations, panels' discussions, roundtable brainstorming sessions and workshops to give a platform to exchange and form new collaborations. The main activities of the conference will include the following:

- Keynote speeches: Distinguished international speakers are invited to share their expertise and insights regarding informal urbanism and its related topics
- Ph.D. Forum: where candidates can meet and be updated with the latest undergoing researches. A separate call for the forum entitled “**Innovative Participatory Approaches**” will be available online. Researches seeking to tackle new topics will have the opportunity to discover them through issues raised by stakeholders.

- Parallel presentation sessions: All presented papers are reviewed by members of an international scientific committee of experts in the field of informal urbanism.
- Exhibition: for products and services that could serve in the upgrading of the informal areas and the related topics.
- Panels' discussion: Practitioners, professionals, and academicians will share their visions and engage in a constructive discourse that enhances the application of creative ideas in upgrading informal settings.
- Round table discussions between regional and international experts will contribute to the preparation of the agenda for the ARAB REGION addressed in HABITAT III.

## 2- CONFERENCE TOPICS

Researchers and Participants who wish to attend and contribute to this event are invited to submit original authentic papers addressing one of the following three topics:

### 2-1- Policies, Governance and Planning:

- ***Innovative Policies and Strategies:*** Key actors' alternatives for informal urbanism; traditional policies versus recent visions in preparation for urban migrants in informal settlements; formalizing the informal urban sector; shift governmental attitudes: from rejection to acceptance of informal urban migrants; institutional and legal policies: the facilitators' models.
- ***Land Tenure Legislation and Squatting:*** Land ownership versus land allocation models: the provision of affordable, buildable sites; assumptions about property rights, tenure and land access in informal areas.
- ***Improving Participatory and Incremental Approaches:*** Participatory approaches: A Platform for upgrading and anticipation processes in informal urbanism; heterogeneous residents' engagement in innovative participation; the role of grass-root initiatives in planning processes; techniques and technologies promoting participation.
- ***Emerging Settlements:*** Preventive policies of informal urbanism; the emerging settlements and anticipation policies of informal urbanism; planned informal urbanism in new settlements; the Role of informal urbanism in appropriating formal planning models.

### 2-2- Resilience and Sustainability

- ***Mobility and Accessibility:*** Alternative solutions for mobility in informal settlements; Sustainable mobility approaches in informal urbanism; debate on integrating formal and informal urbanism

- **Environmental Risk Reduction:** Environmental rationales to appropriate informal urbanism; impact of environmental management in developing informal urbanism; effects of rapidly growing informal urbanism on environmental degradation; environmental impacts of informal areas on consumption and resource management; towards an environmentally efficient and responsive informal urbanism; safeguarding ecological transformation: affordable mitigations to increase resilience.
- **Integrated Infrastructure:** Integrated infrastructure applications facing the dichotomy of informal and anticipated formal expansions? Integrated infrastructure systems towards an all-inclusive responsive city?

### 2-3- Quality of Life and Social Integrity

- **Urban form and Production of Public Space:** Residents Involvement for a better quality of life; professionals' contribution to responsive urbanism; responding to socially and physically segregated cities; facing the increasing informality of formal sector.
- **Housing Upgrading Programs:** New Trends of housing programs in upgrading informal areas: *theories and application*; post occupancy evaluation for the top-down versus bottom-up housing upgrading approaches.
- **Gender, Diversity and Segregation:** Gender issues in informal areas: opportunities and constraints; reflections of diversity and urban edges on informal urbanism; implications of resettlement and gentrification on upgrading programs.

### 3- SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

The conference accepts only original, authentic work written in English. Research that was partially or fully published and or presented elsewhere is not accepted. **Full research papers** presenting new innovative results will be granted oral presentation and will be published in a high-quality proceedings volume. A 500-word Abstract is due by authors using online application format. Acceptance or rejection notices will be emailed to participants in timely fashion. Notification of acceptance will include instructions for authors.

### 4- Ph.D. FORUM

Ph.D. Candidates are invited to participate in an intellectual forum, that grants an opportunity to establish communication networks with other international students, scholars and experts in the fields of their interest. A panel of international scholars and experts in the field of informal urbanization will review the submitted abstracts and the full-length papers. Selected researchers

will be invited to present their work with special emphasis on “**Innovative Participatory Approaches**”.

## 5- CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

**Day 1:** Opening Session: Keynote speakers.

Ph.D. and Research Forum - Parallel sessions.

Scholars, entrepreneurs and practitioners panel discussions.

**Day 2:** Speakers.

Parallel Sessions for peer reviewed papers.

**Day 3:** Round Tables for the preparation of Habitat III.

Workshops, and networking events.

Closing session.

## 6- IMPORTANT DATES

Paper abstract submission deadline	April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Paper abstract Acceptance notification	May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Full paper submission deadline	August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Full paper acceptance notification	September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Ph.D. abstract submission deadline	June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Ph.D. abstract acceptance notification	September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
Conference days	November 25-27, 2014

## 7- MANAGEMENT:

### Conference Chairs:

Prof. Dr. Sahar Attia

Claudio Acioly

Cairo Universit

UN HABITAT

### Organizing Committee

Prof. Rowaida Kamel

Katja Shaefer

Ass. Prof. Ahmed Shalaby

Ass. Prof. Ingy El Barmelgy

Ass. Prof. Hebatallah Essam Khalil

Ass. Prof. Mohamed Anwar

Ass. Prof. Asmaa Abdel Aty

Dr. Sherine Gammaz

Eng. Mohamed Tarek Kamel

Eng. Ahmed Mohamed Osman

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EJB

EJB

TA. Nahla Nabil  
Arch. Noorhan Mustafa

Cairo University  
Cairo University

## **8- SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Distinguished professors, and experts will contribute in the review and evaluation of papers, The International Committee will consist of members from various Universities in Egypt, Germany, USA, UK, Morocco, Turkey, India, Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, Columbia, ...etc

## **9- REGISTRATION FEES**

- **For papers' submission and conference attendance:** 1600 L.E for Egyptians – \$250 for foreigners (fees include conference proceedings, letter of acceptance and presentation, and one day lunch).
- **For Full package registration for Egyptian organizations and institutions (3participants):** 3000 L.E. (fees include conference proceedings, letter of attendance, and 3 days lunch).
- **For individuals:** 1000 L.E for Egyptians -\$150 for Foreigners. (Fees include conference proceedings, letter of attendance, and 3 days lunch).
- **For students, and teaching assistants' staff:** 350 L.E. for Egyptians - \$50 for Foreigners (Fees include conference proceedings and letter of attendance).

## **10 – IMPORTANT LINKS**

### **CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

<http://archcairo6.cufe.edu.eg>

### **Email:**

[archcairo6@cufe.edu.eg](mailto:archcairo6@cufe.edu.eg)