



AFRICITIES SUMMIT
NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006

« **Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments** »

Local Economic Development is YOUR Business - Furthering the Local Economic Development Agenda in Africa

Date: Wednesday, September 20
Time: 15.00 – 18.30
Venue: Room B

Sponsorship:

Cities Alliance and the Municipal Development Partnership, two of the leading proponents of local economic development (LED) have joined forces to sponsor this event to bring together leading policy makers, advisers and practitioners to exchange experiences and leading thinking in designing and operationalising LED strategies.

Purpose of Session:

African Mayors and Local Governments recognize they have both the moral and democratic responsibility and the mandate to improve their local economies, enable job creation and reduce poverty. Now is the time to build on LED experiences from Africa, and beyond, so these goals can be achieved. The first need is to share experiences and knowledge of LED models and institutional frameworks, the first two priorities of the UGLG-A LED Action Plan. Attend this session and discover leading practices and take this opportunity to define and influence Africa's LED agenda!

This is a timely moment to discuss LED because:

- UCLG-A has identified LED and city strategic planning as one of its six priorities
- National and Local Governments understand that unemployment and underemployment in both urban and rural areas is becoming a key problem
- Decentralization is enabling local government partnerships to engage in new activities such as strategically planned LED
- Policy makers are increasingly aware that national and sectoral interventions are not sufficient to enable sustainable economic development.
- Donors are increasingly interested in supporting LED and sub-national activities
- Practical experience, tools and methodologies are being exploited and adapted across the continent enabling learning, sharing and scaling up.

Now then is the right time to see how LED can be scaled up in communities, large and small across Africa. This session aims to broaden the understanding of LED and aims

to give guidance to national and local governments, donors and the MDP on what you, the participants of the session, consider to be priority next steps to achieve this goal.

Local Economic Development is YOUR business!

Description of the Event

The session will be divided into four parts. Participants will hear to a series of short and highly focussed interventions on LED.

- The first background section will be a brief discussion of global and pan-Africa LED
- Keynote speakers will then present case studies on LED from both national and city level perspectives. (Benin, Mali, Nigeria and South Africa).
- The third session will focus on two specific methodological applications of LED principles. The ECOLOC LED methodology being run by the MDP in West and Central Africa will be shared together with the integration of LED into city development strategies by Cities Alliance.
- The fourth section will involve interaction between the panellists and the audience with a view to identifying key actionable items to further the LED agenda in Africa.

Opening Remarks:

- **Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Government-African Chapter (UCLG-A)
- **Mr. Peter Beez**, Economist, Swiss Development and Cooperation

LED Context and Session Overview:

- **Ms. Gwen Swinburn**, LED External Adviser, Municipal Development Partnership
The session will be facilitated by Gwen Swinburn

Keynote National and City LED Experiences:

- **Mr. Alistair Fray**, Senior Manager, LED Support, Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG), South Africa
- **Mr. Nicephore Soglo**, Mayor, City of Cotonou, Benin
- **Mr. Kader Dicko**, Koutiala Municipality, Mali
- **Mr. Ibrahim Sadisu**, Chairman, Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC), Karu, Nigeria

LED Frameworks: Examples:

- **Mr. Francois Yatta**, LED Special Adviser, Municipal Development Partnership
- **Ms. Pascale Chabrilat**, LED Officer, Cities Alliance

Discussion and Recommendations

Supporting Documents for discussion at the Session: All presented at Africities!

- ***Furthering the LED agenda in Africa: Draft Discussion Paper. MDP***
- ***Managing the Economy Locally in Africa: ECOLOC Handbook: Part 2 “Planning through Dialogue” MDP***
- ***Understanding Local Economies: A Resource Guide. Cities Alliance***