

## Harmonious Urban Development



15 September – 30 November 2008  
30 October – 14 November in Nanjing, China,  
in conjunction with World Urban Forum 4

## Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development in the participants' countries.

The International Training Programmes are specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of strategic importance on different levels and who hold a position in home organization with mandate to run processes of change. This methodology is based on the assumption that your country wishes to carry out changes and is willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the participants' countries.

Training is focused on support to individual or team plans for change. The plan shall be well established in the participant's organization and is a basic part of the programme concept.



Anders Nordström  
Director General, Sida

In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. You will also find an application form.

More than half of the world's population lives in cities. The urban population in developing countries grows by five to six percent each year, which is twice as fast as in rural areas. Urbanization is increasingly important in development, and better planning methods are essential to manage the process.

The Swedish policy for global development includes support to the urban sector, and contributes to an integrated vision of planning. In addition to Sida's general development priorities, the three main reasons to support urban development are especially relevant for this course: poverty alleviation, economic growth and protection of the environment. Successful urban development demands that all programme components, activities and actors work together. This makes it possible to create the synergy that can be achieved with a holistic and integrated approach, based on environmentally sound economic and social development.



Johnny Åstrand  
Director, Housing Development & Management

## Programme Objectives

The overall aim of this programme is to improve living standards for poor people in developing countries, and thus alleviate poverty. Professionals working with urban development will be given the opportunity to participate in current policy discussions, to learn about and analyze the latest international experiences in strategies and methods. The programme will develop the participants' knowledge and awareness of sustainable urban development in their regions and their countries, and in the long term support poverty alleviation through individual and institutional capacity building.

The programme will concentrate on the needs of poor urban households and their opportunities for livelihoods, infrastructure and housing, concentrating on sustainable development for this group.

The programme will provide deeper understanding and broader frames of reference to improve the participants' chances to implement concrete activities or projects that support the urban poor to improve their living conditions. Examples of such new capacities are:

- Knowledge of urban planning, infrastructure and services.
- Knowledge of organizational issues such as municipal management, project management, leadership, forms of cooperation and involvement of the users.
- Knowledge of quality issues in planning and design, city, neighbourhood and residence level.
- Knowledge of innovative housing policies and strategies for sustainable urban development.
- Knowledge of different models for sustainable financing of housing improvements and construction.
- Knowledge of environmental and energy-use issues in planning, building and urban development.

The programme is designed to be as action-oriented as possible to stimulate the participants to make changes and improvements. The participants should actively apply their new knowledge and experiences in their home organization and to their professional sector. They will be supported by course activities, group projects and individual work.

## Programme Structure and Content

The programme will be held 15 September – 30 November 2008. Participants and teachers from HDM will meet in Nanjing, China, 30 October – 14 November, overlapping with the World Urban Forum 4.

The programme includes three phases.

- Phase 1 Introduction to WUF4 and background analysis
- Phase 2 An intense course period in Nanjing with participation in WUF4
- Phase 3 A presentation to the participant's home organization

### Phase 1 – Introduction and Background Analysis

This part of the programme 15 September – 30 October 2008 is based on distance learning. Participants will study the official WUF4 website and other sources and publications by actors at WUF4. They should be familiar with the themes and content of the forum and the practical arrangements before arriving in Nanjing.

Participants will begin their individual work with a short paper that includes a sector review of the urban development in their home countries. This description should

include key data on the population, living standards, health status, infrastructure, transport and housing as well as a narrative description. The sector review should lead to the participant identifying the problem area that should be given priority to achieve positive development in the home city. The individual work should be about five pages long and submitted to HDM before phase 2.

### Phase 2 – WUF4

Phase 2 takes place in Nanjing 30 October – 14 November 2008. The participants will systematically observe and participate in WUF4 activities, critically analyze the information and experiences presented and draft an action plan for their organization.

The course starts with a three day introduction. There will be more information about WUF4 activities and what is expected of the participants. A seminar will review the participants' preliminary work and prepare a strategy for participation in WUF and the project work, some of which will be done in regional groups. The intention is that each participant will attend at least 15 activities (round tables, keynote presentations, dialogues, networking events). Each activity will be documented systematically by the participant-expert, according to guidelines from HDM.

Participants should be as active as possible, asking questions and joining debates during the forum.

Participants will continue to work in regional groups and individually for five days after the forum ends.

1. The regional groups will analyse and summarize experiences from WUF4 and develop regional guidelines for Harmonious Urban Development.

2. Each participant will design an individual Plan of Action for continued development based on the work during Phase 1, experiences during WUF and the regional guidelines agreed by the group. The Plan of Action should reflect the participant's assessment of what new

information and experiences are relevant for the home organization and how to implement changes.

3. Each participant will prepare a presentation to the home organization.

The group work should result in a joint report of 15–25 pages. The individual Plan of Action should be 5–10 pages with a visual presentation.

The Nanjing phase ends with a seminar for participants to present and discuss their individual work.

### Phase 3 – Presentation to the Home Organization

Participants will present their experiences from WUF4 to their home organization by 30 November 2008. They have the chance to improve and finish their individual Plan of Action with comments from colleagues at home.

## World Urban Forum 4

World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4) will take place in Nanjing, China, 3–6 November.

The main theme is Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development. There are six sub-themes:

- Dialogue 1  
Socially harmonious cities.
- Dialogue 2  
Economically harmonious cities.
- Dialogue 3  
Environmentally harmonious cities.
- Dialogue 4  
Spatially harmonious cities
- Dialogue 5  
Historically harmonious cities
- Dialogue 6  
Harmonious cities for all age groups

Participants at WUF4 will spend four days identifying key issues affecting cities and exchanging experiences, good examples and policies. They will return home from WUF with information and new ideas about how to improve the living qualities of society and cities.

## Programme Management

The programme is organized by Housing Development & Management, Lund University. HDM combines research, education and action to give the poor a chance to help themselves. HDM seeks solutions to the following issues:

- Why do the poor die young?
- How can housing reduce risk for citizens?
- How can upgrading give us cities without slums?
- How can housing enable people to work?
- How can a house become a home in the city?

Housing is a powerful tool for poverty alleviation and sustainable urban development if policies, programmes and projects are based on knowledge.

HDM offers international postgraduate courses, and in 2006, conducted a follow-up for its alumni in conjunction with World Urban Forum III in Vancouver.

## Participation

Applications are invited from persons who successfully completed any of the following International Training Programmes.

- Conservation & Management of Historic Buildings
- Integrated Urban Planning
- Shelter Design & Development
- Solid Waste Management
- Sustainable Urban Water and Sanitation
- Urban Transport

Participants will be persons working with *Urban Development*, in positions with responsibility or authority for initiating organizational change.

## Application Process

**Closing date for application is  
8 September 2008**

Applications should be made on the special form and include a recent photograph and a copy of your course certificate.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be sent directly to the Programme Secretariat.

Those selected will be notified by email. When the offer is accepted, an invitation letter will be sent, containing information on the programme and practical arrangements.

Registration is necessary to attend WUF4. Applicants should also register to participate in the forum. There is no cost to register. <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=535&cid=5493>

More information about WUF is available at <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=535>

## Cost of Participation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers fellowships to cover the cost of participation and accommodation. The participation fee covers all training costs such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and some social activities. Accommodation will be in shared hotel rooms. Participants will receive a cash allowance for meals.

International travel to and from Nanjing, China will be covered by Sida. Tickets will be bought in Sweden and sent to participants.

Personal expenses, local travel and visa fees are not covered.

## Visas

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa.

Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from China must ensure that correct visas

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are obtained before leaving their home country. The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant.

## Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while in Nanjing and during direct travel to and from their home. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

## World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4)

The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

The World Urban Forum is a biennial gathering that is attended by a wide range of partners, from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities.

The Fourth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF4) will be hosted by the Government of China and will be held in the ancient city of Nanjing from 03-06 November 2008. Situated in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, the city of Nanjing dates back more than 2,000 years and is known as the ancient capital of the Six Dynasties of China. Today, home to 6 million people, it is a rapidly growing modern city and is one of the most dynamic in eastern China.

The number of people attending the World Urban Forum has risen sharply from 1,200 at the first World Urban Forum in Nairobi in 2002, to 4,400 at the second World Urban Forum in Barcelona in 2004 and 11,400 at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006. The Forum is successful because it differs from UN governing bodies. Since it is not legislative and does not follow the formal rules of procedure that usually govern official UN meetings, the working arrangements of the Forum are kept deliberately simple and relatively informal to generate a healthy and inclusive debate on urban issues. Participation is extremely open to allow effective dialogue between all actors working on urban issues.

(<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=4613&catid=535&typeid=24&subMenuId=0>)

*Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place*



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