

Future City Forum + WaterfrontExpo 2010: Global knowledge applied locally

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How can cities stay up to date and remain economically competitive at a time of major financial constraint and mounting pressures to upgrade their infrastructure and built environment, create wealth and employment, house their citizens, and meet ever tougher environmental obligations?

Future City Forum + WaterfrontExpo 2010, a major 2-day international conference to be staged from 24-25 November at The Mermaid Theatre, London, will enable public and private sector organisations engaged in urban and waterfront regeneration, retrofitting and development to draw on global experience and best practice to address the financial, economic, social and environmental challenges facing their towns and cities.

The event will be opened by UK Transport Minister Norman Baker MP, and is supported by the London Development Agency, The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Gateway to London, and the Institute for Sustainability. Continental European cities involved include Ghent, Hamburg, Stockholm, San Sebastian and the state of Montenegro.

The comprehensive case study-based conference and seminar programme will be delivered by leading experts and will cover a range of key topics, including: low carbon regulation and legislation; professional standards for assessing sustainability; retrofitting existing buildings and infrastructure; low-carbon developments designed to boost the local economy; and the role of waterfronts in sustainable urban regeneration.

Alongside the main programme on Day-1, a dedicated investment stream sponsored by Colliers International, will be of direct interest to public and private sector organisations seeking detailed information on new types of urban regeneration funding vehicles, including TIF (Tax Increment Finance), JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas programme) and LABV (Local Asset Backed Vehicles).

Commenting on the event, conference director Ian Harper said: “At a time of great financial constraint and mounting environmental obligations this event will have direct and practical relevance to all those involved in urban regeneration, retrofitting and development. If Europe’s and the world’s cities are to meet the growing challenges to their economic, social and environmental sustainability, it is vital to understand what types of funding are available, and how the lessons and best practice of their counterparts can directly assist their own actions.”

Conference & seminar programme

The practically focused conference and seminar programme will give delegates every opportunity to explore and analyse key issues in depth and detail:

Day-1

SESSION 1: Funding and finance; Regulation and legislation; Professional standards for assessing sustainability.

SESSION 2: Retrofitting cities: Adapting the existing infrastructure and built environment to meet low-carbon requirements.

INVESTMENT STREAM: Running in parallel to Sessions 1 and 2, this will cover new types of urban project finance, including TIF, JESSICA and LABV.

Day-2

SESSION 3: Sustainable and low carbon developments in the regeneration of the local economy.

SESSION 4: The waterfront as a catalyst for sustainable urban regeneration.

SESSION 5: Concluding Round Table Discussion & Debate Forum. (Chairman: Peter Head OBE, Director, Chairman of Global Planning, Arup, and Chairman of the Institute for Sustainability)

The presenters

Alongside leading UK experts in the field of regeneration and project finance - who include Peter Head, Director and Chairman of Global Planning at Arup and Chairman of the UK Institute for Sustainability - presenters from continental Europe and elsewhere include:

- Branimir Gvozdenovic, Minister of Economic Development, Republic of Montenegro
- Juergen Bruns-Berentelg, CEO, HafenCity Hamburg GmbH
- John Campbell, Chairman and CEO, Waterfront Toronto
- Laurens Knecht, Managing Director, Eneco, Netherlands (Clean Tech Delta, Rotterdam)
- Krister Lindstedt, White arkitekter AB, Stockholm
- Arantza Tapia - Councillor for Mobility and Territorial Planning in the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, Spain

Networking Reception

All participants including the media will be invited to attend the Networking Reception at the venue at the end of the first day.

Site visit/Study tour programme

On Friday 26 November there will be a FREE-to-DELEGATE programme of Site visits/Study tours to key London developments, including a guided tour of the site of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Full programme and speaker details can be seen at: www.futurecityforum.com

Event heritage

This event has been developed by the organisers of the successful WaterfrontExpo event series. Since its launch in London in 2003, WaterfrontExpo has been hosted by a number of cities including Amsterdam, Riga, Glasgow, Lisbon and Liverpool and has become a key event for senior professionals from the public and private sectors involved in urban and waterfront regeneration and development.

Further Information:

- The dedicated event website at: www.futurecityforum.com which contains full details and background information about the event.
- Journalists can register to attend the event by contacting Ian Harper: ian@mediageneration.co.uk or tel: +44 (0) 1347 868571 or +44 (0) 7989 912186.