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## **International Training on “Addressing the Urbanization challenge”**

**11.3.2014-9.4.2014**

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**Organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies**

Today, as more than half of the world's population lives in cities and urban areas, managing and developing urban areas is one of the main challenges of the developing world. According to UN-Habitat, there are 823 million living in slums. The share of slum residents in the developing world as percentage of the urban population has declined but despite this reduction, in absolute numbers, the number of slum dwellers continues to increase. The problem of slums remains as one of the greatest challenges for city managers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But more than slum upgrading, city managers and governors are faced with the need in migration absorption, social integration, job creation and specifically youth unemployment, and controlling crime and unsocial behavior. This course will provide the participants with:

- + Knowledge and skills to enable them to develop a comprehensive approach to address urban challenges and formulate citywide slum upgrading policy – that integrates infrastructure, land, environment, urban services systems as well as human capital and community development & economic activities.
- + A better understanding of public-private-community partnerships where local governments and the various stakeholders develop an "ownership" of the planning, implementation and management of an area-based development process.
- + Knowledge and skills in financial and organizational tools and how to mobilize the significant amount of resources required for such a development process and to promote and sustain implementation.
- + Tools and mechanisms which are utilized successfully for social integration and migration absorption, from working with youth till elderly.

The international training will provide knowledge and discuss the topic of urban challenges from both the international and Israeli experience.

### **Upgrading poor urban areas in the international agenda**

- + Many urban dwellers are generally facing multidimensional poverty: extreme poverty and hunger, lack of education, gender inequalities, low access to health services, environmental degradation, etc. the training will examine various methods which tackle these issues around the world.
- + With relation to slum upgrading, we will examine various strategies and focus on UN-Habitat's citywide slum upgrading and slum prevention strategies. UN-Habitat promotes different programs to support slum upgrading such as the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program, the Cities Alliance sponsored Dar-es-Salam Citywide Action Plan for the upgrading of Unplanned and Poorly Served Neighborhoods, and many other similar programs in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Malawi for example.
- + Finally, increasingly numerous civil society organizations are involved in participatory and grassroots-driven citywide and national slum upgrading programmes aiming at the improvement of living and housing conditions of the urban poor such as the Asian Coalition of Housing Rights, the Shack Dwellers International just to mention a few.

### **The Israeli experience**

Israel gained significant experience in both revitalizing poor urban areas and integrating social groups from various backgrounds and origins. Though slums and poor urban neighborhoods in Israel are different from those of the developing countries, our experience from previous trainings, showed that the accumulated Israeli knowledge on the approaches, strategies and tools is relevant for participants. Furthermore, participants benefit significantly from cross-fertilize the development of solutions and approaches by practitioners, policy makers, and decision makers involved in addressing urban challenges and the delivery

of services to the poor. More specifically, participants will benefit from getting acquainted with and getting a first-hand experience with:

- + Organizational and financial frameworks developed and implemented in Israel
- + Israel's experience in PPP and integrated approaches to upgrading poor urban areas and its adaptation to the developing world
- + The challenges intrinsic of implementing an integrated approach, of partnerships and of implementation mechanisms in urban upgrading
- + The roles played by national and local governments, private sector and civil society's in social integration and empowerment
- + Various platforms employed in Israel for youth leadership, women empowerment and strengthening of minority groups in society

### **The methodology**

Participants will attend lectures in class and on-site conferences, on-site technical visits led by experienced and knowledgeable Israeli experts and consultants. They will visit relevant experiences and get a first-hand experience with specific cases relevant to the course. Case-studies and practical examples from Israel, and other countries will be discussed and participants will engage in practical exercises throughout the program.

The following topics will be covered:

- + **Introductory Sessions:** The world of slums in an international urban development context, Integrated assets based strategic approach to urban development, migration and development
- + **Area-based Urban Revitalization – the Israeli Experience:** The Israeli context – features, processes and indicators of urban poverty; Policies and strategies: Urban Renewal, Clearance and Construction, migration absorption - and their relevancy to developing countries
- + **Implementation Mechanisms:** Local and national planning, management tools and legal frameworks; Organizational platforms for planning, implementation and management; Developing institutional capacities; The role of the different stakeholders – central and local government, civil society and private sector
- + **Slum upgrading and service delivery from different angels:** The public sector – improving living conditions, empowering communities, small-scale infrastructure development and social services through urban upgrading; the private sector – financial opportunities with benefits to the public, project management; civil society – building community resilience, participation and empowerment to ensure benefits for the community

Participants will be requested to conduct individual and group exercises. For this purpose, selected participants are required to submit prior to the training:

- + A short presentation on urban upgrading policies and strategies in their respective countries/cities
- + A case of addressing urban challenges they wish to further develop throughout the training in small groups (5-6 most relevant cases will be selected with the participants for further development throughout the training)

*Detailed instructions will be sent to the selected participants.*

*Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as in field visits.*

### **Who may apply?**

*The training targets planners, architects, engineers, economists, community workers, administrators and policy makers working in government ministries (such as local government, housing, development, welfare, health and others), in local authorities, NGOs and CBOs active in the field, as well as business organizations and academic institutions engaged with slum upgrading programs.*

### **Application Process**

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, [www.weitz-center.org](http://www.weitz-center.org). The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent as a **Word Document** attachment to our office ([ronit@weitz-center.org](mailto:ronit@weitz-center.org)) not later than January 17, 2014. Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.

### **Scholarships**

The scholarships includes: 30 days with full board, tuition, accommodation (two participants in a double room) and meals, medical insurance (not included dental services, eye glasses, chronic illnesses and pregnancy) and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. The scholarship does not include airfare or transportation costs from participants' home to Israel.

It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from March 11 (arrival day) to April 9 (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

### **Arrival and transportation**

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to the Residence in Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the training. Transportation will be free of charge only if transported by this company .

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after passing through Customs, in the gallery of level 1 (Arriving Passengers' hall, left staircase near gate 2, towards "Arbel Launch")

### **Medical Insurance**

MASHAV will provide a medical insurance for the participants for the duration of the course. It excludes dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses.

MASHAV and Weitz Center are **not** responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

### **About MASHAV**

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

### **About Weitz Center**

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

### **Additional Information**

Any additional information is available at:

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