

## CO-CONVENORS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARIES

### Urban environment and wellbeing

- Xuemei Bai, IHDP Scientific Committee member, Professor in Urban Environment and Human Ecology, Australian National University
  - Nordin Hasan, Emeritus Professor, Director, ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
  - Indira Nath, Immunology, Pathology, Communicable Diseases, Leprosy & Medical Biotechnology, Indian National Science Academy, India
  - Koichi Yamada, Professor, Senior Advisor, Office of the President, University of Tokyo.
  - Dov Jaron, Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, Drexel University, US, and ICSU Executive Board member
  - Chuluun Togtokh, Science Secretary, Sustainable Development Institute, University of Mongolia
  - Anthony Capon, Head, Discipline of Public Health Faculty of Health University of Canberra, Australia
  - Susanne Saltz, Head of the Secretary General's Office, ICLEI - local governments for sustainability
1. Human futures are urban futures. The majority of the human population is living in cities, and this share will most likely increase into the foreseeable future. Human health needs to be considered as an integral part of human wellbeing, which in turn is part of the planetary wellbeing.
  2. Cities will largely determine the future of sustainability and overall human wellbeing. Urban environment is multi-faceted, diverse, dynamic, complex, and evolving. So are its implications for human health and wellbeing, irrespective of differences in geographical, cultural, demographic and economic differences between nations.
  3. A systems approach, which reflects the complex and dynamic interaction between various aspects of urban environment and human wellbeing, both within and beyond the cities, is essential to effectively address the issue.
  4. Innovation-both scientific and technologic, and social and cultural- plays an important role in addressing human wellbeing in the changing urban context. Effectively addressing this issue requires co-design and coproduction of knowledge between scientists, engineers, urban managers and policy makers. The accessibility and communication of results should be enhanced.
  5. Long term monitoring and accumulation of data and evidence bases, both qualitative and quantitative, are important and should be fully integrated into systems analysis. Verified data should be readily accessible.
  6. Identifying commonality and transferable elements out of individual innovative practices in cities is an urgent task for the scientific community, and promoting and facilitating cross-city learning will play a critical role to harness and upscale the benefits of such an approach.

Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development | 11-15 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro

Organized by:



In partnership with:



Hosted by:



7. Cities present challenges, but also present ample opportunities. Given the speed and magnitude of the urbanization trend, there is an urgency in action. Once they are built, cities are hard to change and retrofit. There is a window of opportunity to plan and design the new cities and urban development that promotes co-benefit between sustainable cities, positive health and the wellbeing outcome. Sustainability of human health and wellbeing should be at the centre of urban planning and design.

