IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Side Event Advertisement

Friday, 12 May 2017, Venue: Conference Room 14
Time: 1.00 – 1.45 pm
United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya

Cycling towards more healthy, accessible and socially inclusive urban areas

Organized by University of Nairobi (C4DLab), UN-Habitat, Institute for Transport and Development Policy (ITDP), Cycloville Kenya, Nairobi City Council, Kiambu County Government, Public Bike System Company (PBSC)

Background

Mobility is a problem for many urban centers – particularly those in the developing world where transportation is often expensive, unreliable and inefficient. A paradigm shift towards more people-centered mobility is needed. Urban centers need to promote non-motorized transport – not only to ensure accessibility to economic opportunities, but also to achieve healthy communities, lowered C02 emissions, and reduced traffic. Bike share is emerging as a cost-effective and sustainable transportation solution that improves urban mobility. Cycling offers affordable, safe, and green transit for residents and ensures sustainable and just cities. This session intends to discuss cycle-inclusive planning and its positive impact.

The session will demonstrate how cycling and bike share programs contribute to meeting NUA, SDGs and Paris Agreement. The following Pecha Kucha style presentations are part of the programme:

1) Maina Gachoya from ITDP will provide a global framework on cycle sharing and its potential to be a feeder system to public transport.

2) Tanya Castle, Public Bike System Company (PBSC) from Canada, will remotely present on how the company promotes innovative bike share solutions in different cities around the world.

3) A representative from Nairobi City County (NCC) will introduce how Nairobi works towards promoting Non-Motorized Transport – incl. the placemaking week (http://www.sutp.org/en/news-reader/nairobi-placemaking-week-for-our-public-spaces.html).

4) Eng. Njeri Mburu Gatabaki, Kiambu County Executive Member for Roads, Transport, Public Works and Utilities will introduce how the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in Ruiru town has incorporated technical designs for Non-Motorized Transport.

5) The University of Nairobi has recently set up a bike share program – supported by UN-Habitat (http://bikeshare.c4dlab.ac.ke/) – and will brief participants on progress.

6) From the grassroots perspective, Cycloville Kenya will introduce its Women's Bicycle Program, which intends to increase the number of female cyclists, empower women as leaders within the cycling movement, and increase women's access to bikes. The project works with female riders in Mathare, the second largest slum in Nairobi.

Relevance to the GC26 theme:
It is time for a paradigm shift towards a more demand-oriented framework, e.g. promotion of walking and cycling in the context of better urban planning – focusing on transport modes that are available to all. It is very positive that cities in the developing world are illustrating a growing interest in creating and implementing cycling infrastructure and facilities. This session proposes to look at different contexts – and will discuss best practice examples on promoting cycling in challenging environments.

Objective(s):
- To promote cycling as a key measure towards sustainable mobility in developing city context sand to identify measures on how to enhance the bike-friendliness of a rather bike-unfriendly environment
- To discuss how cycling enhances the accessibility level, urban safety, vibrancy and inclusivity of a city
- To discuss ways of cycling-inclusive planning in developing countries that lead to higher levels of cycling with positive effects on people's welfare, health and the environment

- To discuss the potential of bike share systems in developing city contexts, e.g. as a feeder transport to Mass Rapid Transit systems
- To highlight the empowering potential of enhanced cyclability for urban women and girls
- To generate partnerships ranging from local to global stakeholders with a shared interest in addressing cyclability in challenging contexts

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