



Full details: www.urban-age.net/conferences/hongkong/

CONTACTS: Sarah Burrows, +852 2850 5990, sarah@communiquehk.com

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MINISTERS JOIN GLOBAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF CITIES

*Quality of life, the politics of health and the design of the
built environment are key issues for today's cities*

Hong Kong, 16-17 November 2011

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's Secretaries for Development and Food & Health, **Carrie Lam** and **York Chow**, will open proceedings at a high-level two-day event, the first international conference on cities, health and well-being organised by the 'Urban Age'. City mayors, government ministers, urban and health practitioners and academics from **Europe, the Americas, Africa and Australasia** will make over **40 presentations**, bringing international experiences to **Hong Kong**, one of the **healthiest cities in the world** according to recent LSE research to be launched at the conference. Organised by LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society in partnership with the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Urban Age conference will take place on 16 and 17 November 2011 at the Conrad Hotel, Pacific Place.

International perspectives on urban health will be provided by President of the World Health Summit, **Detlev Ganten**, **Joan Clos**, head of UN-HABITAT, the agency responsible for looking after over one billion urban dwellers who live without access to basic sanitation or welfare in the world's rapidly urbanising regions, and **Victor Rodwin**, of New York University's World Cities Project. Former Chilean health minister, **Luis Gonzalo Navarrete Munoz**, and **Stephen O'Brien**, in charge of London's largest hospital trust in East London (where the 2012 Olympics will be held), will reflect on their experiences of improving health in deprived urban areas in different geographical and political contexts. London-based urban sociologist **Richard Sennett** will be joined by **Xuejin Zuo**, a leading figure in the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, to discuss quality of life in cities, and **Lok Sang Ho**, from Lingnan University, who has developed new ways of measuring happiness in Hong Kong.

Recognising the importance of design and the built environment in creating healthy cities, world-renowned architects **Reinier de Graaf** (OMA, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture founded by Rem Koolhaas) and **Winy Maas** (MVRDV) – who have worked extensively in Asia and Europe - will consider how cities can be designed at high densities for urban well-being. Agenda-setting developer **Wang Shi**, head of Vanke Co., China's largest real estate developer, who has commissioned international architects to create new sustainable communities in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing, will compare notes with **Andrew Altman** who, as Chief Executive of London's Olympic Park Legacy Company, will describe how Europe's largest urban regeneration project is putting health and well-being at the heart of its long-term legacy strategy after the Games takes place in London next year.

Saskia Sassen, the world expert on global cities from Columbia University in New York, will make a keynote presentation on inequality in cities, as will **Sharon Friel**, a leading expert on global health inequality based at the Australian National University. These international overviews will be counterbalanced by intimate accounts of what urban existence is like for new generations of urban dwellers in Africa, Asia and South America. **Hei Wah Ho**, whose work at the Society for Community Organization has uncovered the reality of living at the margins in Hong Kong, will compare experiences with **Edgar Pieterse** of the African Centre for Cities and **Siddarth Argawal** of the Indian

Urban Health Research Centre. Urban health specialists and academics from **Mumbai, Singapore, Shanghai, New York, Vancouver, Hong Kong, Cape Town and New Delhi** will contribute to this discussion while **Christine Loh** of Civic Exchange will contextualise the international perspectives in terms of what lessons can be learnt for Hong Kong's governance and awareness of health and well-being.

Showcased at the conference will be new research from LSE Cities, including an **index of health, education and wealth for 129 metropolitan regions** internationally, as well as new mapping of social and health inequalities within Hong Kong and a detailed exploration of three urban areas on Hong Kong - **Sham Shui Po, Whampoa and Sai Ying Pun** - conducted with the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Ricky Burdett, director of LSE Cities and Urban Age, said: "With up to 70 per cent of the world's population concentrated in urban areas by 2050, global well-being will increasingly be determined by the health of urban dwellers. To date, urbanisation has been associated with improvements in income levels and health outcomes. At the same time, the pressures of urban growth have contributed to the emergence of stark social and health inequalities in cities of the developed and developing world. These issues need to be examined and this is why this event aims to be one of the most significant meetings on health and the future of the city in the 21st Century to date."

Wolfgang Nowak, Managing Director of the Alfred Herrhausen Society said "The aim of the Urban Age conference series is to develop a grammar of success for cities."

For more on Cities, Health and Well-being, see <http://urban-age.net/conferences/hongkong/>

For live streaming of the conference, please see: <http://urban-age.net/conferences/hongkong/live>

-END-

About Urban Age

The Urban Age Programme, jointly organised with Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, is an international investigation of the spatial and social dynamics of cities centred on an annual conference, research initiative and publication. Since 2005, more than ten conferences have been held in rapidly urbanising regions including New York, Shanghai, London, Mexico City, Mumbai, Johannesburg, Sao Paulo and Istanbul. The conferences operate as mobile laboratories, testing and sampling the social and physical characteristics of global cities through expert presentations and testimonials, research, site visits, mapping and informal information exchange.

ORGANISED BY LSE Cities

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science, supported by Deutsche Bank, that carries out research, education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Its mission is to study how people and cities interact in a rapidly urbanising world, focusing on how the design of cities impacts on society, culture and the environment. Through research, conferences, teaching and projects, the centre aims to shape new thinking and practice on how to make cities fairer and more sustainable for the next generation of urban dwellers, who will make up some 70 per cent of the global population by 2050.

Alfred Herrhausen Society, The International Forum of Deutsche Bank

The non-profit Alfred Herrhausen Society is the international forum of Deutsche Bank. Its work focuses on new forms of governance as a response to the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Alfred Herrhausen Society seeks traces of the future in the present, and conceptualises relevant themes for analysis and debate. It forges international networks and builds temporary institutions to help to find better solutions to global challenges. It targets future decision-makers, but also attempts to make its work accessible to a wide public audience. The society is dedicated to the work of Alfred Herrhausen, former spokesman of the Deutsche Bank board of Directors, who advocated the idea of corporate social responsibility in an exemplary manner until his assassination by terrorists in 1989.

London School of Economics and Political Science

LSE is a specialist university with an international intake and a global reach. Its research and teaching span the full breadth of the social sciences. Founded in 1895 by Beatrice and Sidney Webb, and set up to improve society and to “understand the causes of things”, LSE has always put engagement with the wider world at the heart of its mission.

URBAN AGE HONG KONG PARTNERS**The University of Hong Kong**

The University of Hong Kong, founded in 1911, is a pre-eminent international university in Asia, with more than 100 teaching departments and sub-division of studies. It has over 23,400 undergraduate and postgraduate students from over 50 countries. The University seeks to sustain and enhance its excellence as an institution of higher learning through outstanding teaching and world-class research so as to produce well-rounded graduates with lifelong abilities to provide leadership within the societies they serve. Our vision is to be amongst the top-tier universities in the world. The University is also a member of the Universitas 21 Consortium which is an international network of leading, environmental and economic characteristics of cities.