



Call for Papers

Urban Development and Economics in the Developing World

7-8 August 2018, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Cities have played a significant role in driving economic development and offering better lives across the developed world. Many developing countries are poised to experience a dramatic increase in urbanization over the next few decades, bringing with it important opportunities as well as significant challenges. Harnessing the potential of urbanization to contribute to economic development is critical and raises questions of fundamental policy importance. How can cities be made more productive and efficient? How can the quality of city life be improved? These questions are crucial to the developing countries and can be answered when evidence-based research meets policy-making needs.

To promote the exchange of new research and ideas among researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners in the field, the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in partnership with Shanghai Institute of National Economy of Shanghai Jiaotong University and Institute of World Economy of Fudan University, is organizing the subject conference.

Confirmed keynote speakers at the conference include: Gilles Duranton (University of Pennsylvania); and Loren Brandt, (University of Toronto).

We invite submissions of unpublished papers in urban economics relevant to urban development in the developing countries, especially in Asia. The papers presented at the conference may be considered for a symposium in a highly ranked field journal.

Work of interest includes, but is not limited to, the following questions and topics:

- What national policies and institutions strengthen and weaken urbanization?
- How have urban planning and/or land use regulation affected city development?
- What are appropriate housing policies for cities in developing countries?
- Various efforts, such as infrastructure and commuting system improvement, in reducing congestion and improving city accessibility and mobility
- How to improve provision of education, health services and other public goods in cities?
- How can digital technologies improve urban planning and, more generally, urban outcomes?
- Challenges in reducing pollution and managing environment in cities
- Urban crimes and public policies
- Agglomeration economies and learning in cities
- Should policy promote the development of mid-size cities?

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Interested authors should submit a draft paper or a two-page proposal by **28 February 2018** to Mr. Yi Jiang and Ms. Iva Sebastian-Samaniego (email: yijiang@adb.org; isebastian@adb.org) with “UrbanEcon_Submission_[your last name]” in the email’s subject line. While priority will be given to completed paper, proposals should include the title of the paper, author(s), affiliation, and contact information, and should address the main question(s) to be examined, relevant literature, unique contribution to the literature, and methodology to be employed.

Papers and proposals will be selected in terms of originality, analytical rigor, and policy relevance. Authors of accepted papers and proposals will be contacted by 15 April 2018. ADB will cover registration, flight and hotel costs for one presenter of every accepted paper.