



Still Pictures/Robert Harding

2014 International Conference

UNESCO CHAIR IN TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

4-6 June 2014 | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: 14 OCTOBER 2013

<http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2014Tech4Dev>

The UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development hosted by the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) is pleased to announce that the third **International Conference on Technologies for Development: What is Essential?** will take place at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland on 4-6 June 2014.

Innovative technologies have a central role to play in the effort to alleviate poverty in this world. Innovative technologies should also mean appropriate technology in the sense that they should be socially, culturally, environmentally and economically accepted by the stakeholders. However, what are the key factors that will determine whether or not a technology succeeds in its intended role to reduce poverty?

It has been argued that success depends on developing an entire value chain from the technical design to the deployment business model, including manufacturing, logistics, commissioning, usage, maintenance, waste and recycling. This requires an interdisciplinary approach and partnerships with global and local players in the private sector and with public authorities and civil society. However, it is inevitable that a compromise will have to be found between the adaptation of a technology to a specific local context and the objective of large-scale deployment. This leads us to the key question of the third UNESCO Technologies for Development Conference: **What is Essential?** Is it the invention and development of appropriate technologies? Is it the creation of value chains? Is it local capacity building? Is it the partnership between key stakeholders? Or most likely a combination of several factors?

The conference – held in English – will offer a high-level platform to take part in cutting-edge discussions in the field of technologies for development, to share information and to network.

Call for Abstracts

The UNESCO Chair invites authors from research, industry, policy or civil society to submit their abstracts under one of the **three guiding questions** of the conference.

1. What are the needs for essential technologies?

How can we define essential technologies? Why are they essential? Are essential technologies those that meet the basic needs of the poorest segments of the population? What kind of needs require what kind of technologies? Who defines the needs and who will have access to these technologies? What are the technical challenges?

2. What are successful processes to develop and deploy essential technologies?

Successful innovation for development will move closer to the context of Base of the Pyramid (BoP) users. Do successful processes consist of co-creating products and services by developing and testing them in the local context of developing countries, which is often characterized by poor infrastructure, unreliable energy supply, no water, bad transport or limited digital access? Are *Living Labs* the key to success? What frameworks, incentives, catalysts and policies are needed to foster the required innovations and collaborations at all levels of the value chain?

3. How can we evaluate the impact of technologies? How does impact measurement drive innovation?

How can we evaluate the impact of technologies on the ground? To what extent did they contribute to poverty reduction? What are the methodologies available? What process will be used to collect data and measure impact? What are the deciding factors for technological breakthrough? What can we learn from failures? What is the role of impact funding in sustainable development?

Submitted abstracts must focus on one of the three main questions and on one of the following core areas:

- Technologies for sustainable development of habitat and cities
- Information and communication technologies for the environment
- Science and technology for disaster risk reduction
- Technologies for sustainable energy
- Medical technologies

The abstracts can either offer good examples and pilot experiences of concrete applications or provide reflections on these issues. Abstracts need to be based on North-South or South-South collaborations. Abstracts in English of a maximum of 500 words using the prescribed template have to be submitted online no later than **14 October 2013**.

Some level of financial assistance may be available for authors from developing or emerging countries.

Instructions and guidelines for the submission of abstracts and the application for financial assistance can be found on the conference website: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2014Tech4Dev>

A selection of the best papers presented at the conference will be subject to further peer-review as we aim to publish an edited volume with Springer-Verlag.

Key Dates for Abstract Submission

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Deadline for abstract submission + grant application (if applicable) | 14 Oct 2013 |
| Decision notified to authors along with guidelines for full paper submission and poster specifications | 11 Nov 2013 |
| Deadline for submission of full papers | 13 Jan 2014 |
| Final notification of acceptance, including financial assistance (if applicable) | 10 Mar 2014 |
| Deadline for early bird registration and accepted authors of full papers/posters | 30 Apr 2014 |
| Deadline for submission of PowerPoint presentations by accepted authors of full papers | 25 May 2014 |

General Information

- Authors are invited to submit brief abstracts for paper and/or poster presentations relevant to the Conference Themes. For paper presentations, presenters will be requested to give a 15 minute presentation at the conference, followed by a discussion. For poster presentations, presenters will be requested to be available to discuss their work during refreshment breaks.
- The selection of papers for presentation at the conference will follow a two stage process: (i) initial screening based on submitted abstracts; a conditional acceptance will be issued and (ii) final selection based on full manuscript, in accordance with guidelines to be distributed at time of notification of conditional acceptance.
- The selection of posters will be based on the submission of an abstract only. Poster presenters are not eligible for any form of financial assistance.
- The Scientific Committee cannot guarantee that the authors will be granted their preferred choice of presentation. The decision of the Scientific Committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- All presenting authors who are accepted for either a full paper or poster presentation **MUST** be registered and the conference fees fully paid up (if applicable) **no later than 30 April 2014**.
- If for whatever reason an abstract must be withdrawn, please contact the Conference Secretariat.

Notification of Acceptance

- Receipt of abstract submission will be acknowledged via an automated email.
- The Scientific Committee will review all abstract submissions. Abstracts will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
 - Relevance to the conference themes;
 - Innovative concept and research questions versus an extension of existing work;
 - Originality of the methodology including North-South, South-South partnership;
 - Contribution to the discipline as a whole;
 - Clarity and understandability.
- Successful authors will be invited to submit a full paper by **13 January 2014**, in accordance with full paper guidelines to be distributed when the time comes.
- Poster presenters will be notified by **11 November 2013** along with technical specifications.



Still Pictures/Robert Harding

2014 International Conference
UNESCO CHAIR IN TECHNOLOGIES
FOR DEVELOPMENT: WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?
4-6 June 2014 | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

CALL FOR SESSION LEADERS: 15 SEPTEMBER 2013

<http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2014Tech4Dev>

The UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development hosted by the Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) is pleased to announce that the third **International Conference on Technologies for Development: What is Essential?** will take place at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland on 4-6 June 2014.

Innovative technologies have a central role to play in the effort to alleviate poverty in this world. Innovative technologies should also mean appropriate technology in the sense that they should be socially, culturally, environmentally and economically accepted by the stakeholders. However, what are the key factors that will determine whether or not a technology succeeds in its intended role to reduce poverty?

It has been argued that success depends on developing an entire value chain from the technical design to the deployment business model, including manufacturing, logistics, commissioning, usage, maintenance, waste and recycling. This requires an interdisciplinary approach and partnerships with global and local players in the private sector and with public authorities and civil society. However, it is inevitable that a compromise will have to be found between the adaptation of a technology to a specific local context and the objective of large-scale deployment. This leads us to the key question of the third UNESCO Technologies for Development Conference: **What is Essential?** Is it the invention and development of appropriate technologies? Is it the creation of value chains? Is it local capacity building? Is it the partnership between key stakeholders? Or most likely a combination of several factors?

The conference – held in English – will offer a high-level platform to take part in cutting-edge discussions in the field of technologies for development, to share information and to network.

Conference Themes

1. What are the needs for essential technologies?

How can we define essential technologies? Why are they essential? Are essential technologies those that meet the basic needs of the poorest segments of the population? What kind of needs require what kind of technologies? Who defines the needs and who will have access to these technologies? What are the technical challenges?

2. What are successful processes to develop and deploy essential technologies?

Successful innovation for development will move closer to the context of Base of the Pyramid (BoP) users. Do successful processes consist of co-creating products and services by developing and testing them in the local context of developing countries, which is often characterized by poor infrastructure, unreliable energy supply, no water, bad transport or limited digital access? Are *Living Labs* the key to success? What frameworks, incentives, catalysts and policies are needed to foster the required innovations and collaborations at all levels of the value chain?

3. How can we evaluate the impact of technologies? How does impact measurement drive innovation?

How can we evaluate the impact of technologies on the ground? To what extent did they contribute to poverty reduction? What are the methodologies available? What process will be used to collect data and measure impact? What are the deciding factors for technological breakthrough? What can we learn from failures? What is the role of impact funding in sustainable development?

Call for Session Leaders

We invite you to submit a proposal to organize a breakout session. Each 2 hour breakout session will be the occasion for 6 selected authors to present their papers followed by a discussion. The sessions are the core of the conference and are intended to be an opportunity for participants to play a role in generating new knowledge. The Session Leader will report back to the Plenary Moderator, participate in the Plenary Session and present the main results of the breakout session. The selected Session Leaders will be part of the Scientific Committee of the *UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development Conference: What is Essential?* As a Member of the Scientific Committee the Session Leader will collaborate closely with the Conference Organizers regarding the review process to select the papers that will be presented as well as contribute to the overall organization of the conference. Please note that Session Leaders do not present a paper of their own.

Sessions can be proposed to explore one of the three guiding questions in one of the following core areas:

- Technologies for sustainable development of habitat and cities
- Information and communication technologies for the environment
- Science and technology for disaster risk reduction
- Technologies for sustainable energy
- Medical technologies

Proposals for breakout sessions should be submitted online using the prescribed template no later than **15 September 2013**. These must indicate: 1) Title of session including a leading question; 2) Rationale and aim of session; 3) Session outline; 4) A short description of the topics covered; 5) Contact information including name, affiliation, email, mailing address and a CV of the Session Leader. Please note that sessions can also be co-organized by two Session Leaders if they are from different institutions, located in a developed and developing/emerging country.

Instructions for submission of a proposal to organize a breakout session can be found on the conference website: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2014Tech4Dev>

The Session Leaders are responsible for:

1. Disseminate Call for Abstracts in their own networks between 26 September-10 October 2013.
2. Reviewing and selecting the session papers (including the application for financial assistance) in collaboration with the Conference Organizers.
3. Informing the paper applicants before 11 November 2013 about the acceptance or the (justified) rejection of their proposal.
4. Distributing the accepted papers of all the presenters within the session before 15 April 2014.
5. Reminding the presenters to submit their PowerPoint presentations before 15 May 2014.
6. Reminding the presenters about the maximum length of their presentation (15 minutes) and encouraging them to read each other's papers in advance of the session.
7. Chairing the Session, including a short introduction on the main goal of the session, a short introduction of each of the paper givers, managing the time schedule, leading the discussion, rounding up, then reporting back and participating in the plenary session.
8. Providing support for the elaboration of the final publication of the selected papers (Springer-Verlag).

Costs

The Conference Organizers will cover the following expenses of the Session Leader and her/his co-organizer (if applicable):

- Conference registration fee
- An economy class, round-trip air ticket to Geneva up to a maximum of CHF 1'200.- (if from outside Switzerland) or first class train travel to Lausanne (if within Switzerland)
- Accommodation from Tuesday 3 June to Saturday 7 June 2014 with breakfast included (maximum 4 nights booked and paid directly by the conference organizers).

Key Dates for Session Leaders

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Deadline for submission of Session Proposal | 15 Sep 2013 |
| Decision to Session Leaders | 25 Sep 2013 |
| Disseminate Call for Abstract in own networks | 26 Sep – 10 Oct 2013 |
| Review abstracts and inform up to 20 authors to develop full paper | 21 Oct – 4 Nov 2013 |
| Notify authors of selected papers | 11 Nov 2013 |
| Review papers and select 6 papers to be presented in Breakout Session | 17 Jan – 3 Mar 2014 |
| Final notification of acceptance along with decision for financial support | 10 Mar 2014 |
| Distribute accepted papers of all presenters within the session | 15 Apr 2014 |
| Remind paper presenters about the length of presentation and to send PowerPoint presentation by email to the Conference Organizers and the Session Leader | 15 May 2014 |
| Participate at the Conference | 4 – 6 Jun 2014 |