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Workshop “Urban Ecology of Growing and Shrinking Cities”

(August 31. – September 1, 2012), Geographical Institute, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

On your way from the 32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne 2012 join us to consider and discuss what science can contribute to develop and ensure sustainable, healthy, well functioning and liveable cities.

At present, more than half of the world population is living in cities – with a remarkably rising tendency. Increasing urbanisation, demographic change, climate change and, in many places, economic restructuring are posing new challenges to cities all over the world.

Today, sustainable urban development, which in growing cities has to follow other guidelines than in shrinking ones, means to plan for and adapt to these present and future changes. Intelligent, integrative planning concepts which meet the requirements of these different city types are needed.

The workshop focuses on the adaptation strategies and concepts needed by growing and shrinking cities worldwide to address the above mentioned challenges. The workshop brings together scientists, **especially young upcoming scientists**, practitioners and policy makers to discuss challenges and possible solutions. It will explore practical adaptation approaches and policies. The moderated sessions will each be opened by a key note speaker.

Hosted and convened by the research group Transformation of urban Landscapes (TuL) of the Geographical Institute of the University of Bochum, the workshop will take place in cooperation with SURE (Society of Urban Ecology), IALE Europe and IALE Germany (International Association of Landscape Ecology).

The workshop program includes plenary lectures and panels, poster sessions and an excursion.

Workshop registration opens November 1, 2011 with deadline for abstracts **from young scientists** 1st March 2012 (both under gi-research@rub.de). Workshop themes and key topics for presentations include:

- Ecosystem Services
- Present and future urban ecosystem based changes and adaptations: measuring, evaluating and modelling
- Climate change and adaptation of cities structure and urban nature
- Management of sustainable urban environment
- Conservation and developing strategies of urban biodiversity within landscape planning

The workshop will be held on the University of Bochum with accommodation available in local hotels. Bochum is easy to get to from Cologne or other cities in Germany with ICE-train.

Registration will include admission to workshop, welcome reception and materials.

The workshop will be held at the University of Bochum (IBZ, Internationales Begegnungszentrum – Hof Beckmann) with accommodation available in local hotels. Bochum is easily accessible by public transportation from Cologne and other major German cities with ICE-train. Registration will include admission to the workshop, welcome reception and materials. For more information please contact us via: gi-research@rub.de

TuL (Transformation of Urban Landscapes), Geographical Institute, Ruhr-University Bochum
SURE Society of Urban ecology
IALE Europe and IALE-D (Germany)

Workshop “Urban Ecology of Growing and Shrinking Cities“
(31.8.-1.9.2011) Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

First day (Friday, 31.8.2012):

- 9.00 Ice breaker – coffee session
- 9.45 Reception of workshop participants
- 10.00 – 12.30 Session 1: Key Topic Urban Ecosystem Services
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 – 16.30 Session 2:
 Climate Change and Adaptations of City Structures and Urban Nature
- 16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break
- 17.00 – 17.30 Introduction to the Field Trip:
 Ecological Aspects of Urban Transformation in the Ruhr Area –
- 19.00 Dinner

Second day (Saturday 1.9.2012):

- 8.00 – 13.00 Field Trip: Man-made Environments, Postindustrial Nature, Urban Wilderness
 and Landscaped Gardens and Parks in the Ruhr Area (Landscape Park Duisburg
 North, Industrial Forest Rhein-Elbe and Nordstern Park, Subsidence Lakes, River
 Restoration and Wetlands)
- 13.00- 14.00 Lunch break
- 14.00 -16.00 Session 3: Key Topic:
 Diversity and Multifunctionality of Urban Ecosystem: Evaluation, Modelling and
 Management
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30 – 17.15 Discussion Session:
 Workshop Results: Future Research Topics for Comparative Urban Ecology