



## UNESCO CHAIR IN TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

### 2012 International Conference TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A WAY TO REDUCE POVERTY?

May 29-31, 2012 | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2011**

<http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2012Tech4Dev>

As a UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development, Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV) has the pleasure to announce that an international conference concerning **Technologies for Sustainable Development: A Way to Reduce Poverty?** will take place at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland on 29-31 May, 2012.

Whilst scientific research can be crucial in guiding innovation and development throughout the world it remains often too detached from reality, particularly in developing and emerging countries. Thus, the challenge is to link scientific research and development practices in order to develop a win-win situation in which science and technologies can assist practitioners as well as respond to social needs.

The conference will look at how science and technologies can support both sustainable development in developing and emerging countries and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as defined by the United Nations in 2000. It will bring researchers and practitioners together in order to bridge the gap between the two communities, focusing on collaboration, methodologies, instruments and policies that could be used and/or encouraged. The possibility of a universal tool and policies for science, technology and innovation that could be of assistance in future collaborations will also be introduced.

The conference will offer unique opportunities for the acquisition of skills, information-sharing and networking and will be conducive to:

- Improving research adapted to the beneficiaries;
- Enhancing research practices;
- Developing better integrated and interdisciplinary research;
- Involving professionals and practitioners in these efforts.

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## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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The UNESCO Chair invites authors from research, industry, policy or civil society to submit their abstracts against one of the most appropriate of the three guiding themes of the conference (additional information on the conference themes at the foot of the document):

- Theme 1: "Appropriate Technology"? Needs and Participation  
Theme 2: Towards a Sustainable Integrated Development? Partnerships and Systems  
Theme 3: Technology: Transfer or Co-creation? Knowledge Sharing and Empowerment

These themes should stimulate discussion in order to identify methods and instruments which would effectively contribute to improving scientific research and poverty reduction. The abstracts can either offer examples and pilot experiences of concrete applications or provide reflections on these issues. Abstracts should be based on North-South/South-South collaborations and/in partnerships involving a diversity of actors. For all three themes, abstracts should emphasize how science and technologies can support development projects in terms of:

- Best practices and their added value as regards to methods;
- More effective exchange of knowledge to identify field application gaps;
- Lessons learned and challenges;
- Methods and instruments of implementation, transfer of knowledge and know-how.

In principle, whilst abstracts should focus on the four main research sectors of the UNESCO Chair, the list below is not exhaustive. Consequently, any contributions dealing with sustainable development related to the generic themes of the conference are also welcome:

- 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** production

Abstracts **in English** of a maximum of **500 words** should be submitted online no later than **15 December 2011**. Some financial assistance may be available for authors from developing and/or emerging countries. Instructions and guidelines for submission of abstracts and application for financial assistance can be found on the conference webpage.

A selection of the best papers presented at the conference will be subject to a further peer-review with a view to publication in an edited volume (Springer-Verlag).

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## CONFERENCE THEMES

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### Theme 1: "Appropriate Technology"? Needs and Participation

This theme will focus on how to ensure that technologies for sustainable development are more effectively appropriated whilst responding to the social needs and the realities of the beneficiaries. Full papers and posters will need to reflect on such questions as:

- What defines "appropriate" technology?
- How did the research support the development of such an appropriate technology?
- How were the beneficiaries involved in the development of the technology?
- How did the beneficiaries accept to use the technology?
- How did the research take into account the social and beneficiaries needs?
- How do we ensure participation of the concerned stakeholders?
- How can research be better adapted to contexts?

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## CONFERENCE THEMES (Cont.)

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### Theme 2: Towards a Sustainable Integrated Development? Partnerships and Systems

This theme will discuss interdisciplinary research and the establishment of partnerships in a cross disciplinary way (i.e., involvement of stakeholders from diverse sectors: civil society, international organizations, decision makers, private sector, etc.). Full papers and posters will need to reflect on such questions as:

- What kind of system can be developed to encourage and implement an interdisciplinary approach?
- How can these partnerships help new directions for research, knowledge and capacity development needs related to sustainable technology?
- What kind of mechanism can support a multidisciplinary implementation and sustainable development?
- What kind of partnership can ensure economic, social and environmental long term system supported by technologies?

### Theme 3: Technology: Transfer or Co-creation? Knowledge Sharing and Empowerment

This theme will explore ways of improving transfer and supporting co-creation of technologies. It will reflect on which methods and instruments are the most appropriate to guarantee the sustainability of the transfer, analyze its impact on society and what can be done to promote the exchange of knowledge. Full papers and posters will need to reflect on such questions as:

- What can be done for a better co-creation of technology?
- How can we better exchange North-South and South-South knowledge?
- How can local knowledge be valorized in scientific research?
- How can we improve intellectual cooperation and information diffusion?
- What can be done to exchange best practices?

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## KEY DATES

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- 15.12.11 Deadline for submission of abstracts (500 words)
- 15.01.12 Decision to authors and guidelines for full paper submission and posters
- 29.02.12 Deadline for submission of full papers
- 31.03.12 Deadline for early bird registration and accepted authors of full papers/posters
- 31.03.12 Final notification of acceptance
- 14.05.12 Deadline for submission of slide shows

***For further information on the conference, registration, abstract submission guidelines and application for financial assistance please visit the conference webpage at:  
<http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2012Tech4Dev>***