



**IAI Institute on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change
in Latin America
Mexico City, Mexico, September 27-October 8, 2004**

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the National Institute of Ecology of Mexico (INE) will jointly hold an Institute on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Latin America, which will be held from September 27-October 8, 2004 in Mexico City, Mexico. An additional collaborator is the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP).

Objectives:

The overarching goal of the Institute is to catalyze stronger interactions among academics, stakeholders, and policy and decision-makers from the countries of Latin America with respect to theories, models, methods, state policies and local initiatives related to Urbanization and Global Environmental Change and to capture the benefits and mitigate negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

Programmatic Objectives:

The programmatic objective of the Institute is to provide a better understanding of the interactions and feedbacks between global environmental change and urbanization at the local, regional, and global scales. The Institute will facilitate the participants to achieve a comprehensive and integrated perspective of the interactions between global environmental change and urban areas through multidisciplinary perspectives of these issues and innovative conceptual and methodological approaches. It puts emphasis on global environmental change both as driver and outcome of human (economic, political, cultural, and social) and physical (urban structure, expansion, and land use) processes in urban areas. In this way, urbanization is viewed as both endogenous and exogenous to global environmental change, and they must be studied as a tightly-coupled system.

Institutional Objectives:

- Develop a cooperative network of professionals in Latin America that can exchange knowledge and experience in future activities, share data and promote exchange and training of local professionals, as well as the development of partnership among governments, industries and communities;
- Connect local and regional professionals and institutions in the region with initiatives and networks of other organizations dealing with the same subject (e.g. IAI, IHDP, etc);
- Inform local and regional professional on the funding opportunities available to support projects dealing with Urbanization in the region and related fields.

Program Coordination:

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Institute Program:

The structure of the Institute is designed to reflect the complex and dynamic range of societal and environmental interactions that take place in urban areas, from the global to the local level. The structure is divided in three sections:

- I. Global and Regional Issues
- II. Urban Issues
- III. Cross Cutting Topics

The first one on global and regional issues is intended to provide a general framework for the rest of the Institute. It begins with a brief introduction of those elements of the human and biophysical dimensions of global environmental change relevant to the process of urbanization. The Institute makes an effort to address the interactions between these two dimensions in the context of urban areas. The second part of this section considers the regional patterns of urbanization in Latin America.

The section on urban processes introduces the discussion at a local level. The Institute focuses first on the way cities function and the social formation and governance of the urban space. The second part discusses the environmental implications of urban processes and urban form, focusing on ecological services, urban climate, water and environmental problems.

The third section of the Institute focuses on cross-cutting issues that illustrate the interactions between the social and the natural dimension of global environmental change in urban areas. The Institute focuses on four cross-cutting topics: urban- regional interactions in the context of land use and land cover changes, vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation, health issues, and the influence and impact of global environmental change in shaping the built environment in urban areas.

The operation of the Institute is based on complementary components, lectures, discussion sessions, individual and/or group projects and hands-on exercises.

Lectures and Discussions: The center of the Institute is the lectures by invited scholars. Each lecture is designed to address the main issues of the selected topic. However, the Institute also intends to build an integrated perspective of global environmental change in urban areas. The cumulative knowledge obtained from all the lectures is intended to facilitate the achievement of that goal. The interdisciplinary perspective is conceived as a process rather than an end product. The Institute is designed as a contribution to that process. The participants are expected to continue the development of that perspective through their professional careers. Discussion time is previewed at the end of each lecture to revisit the main issues of that topic, as well as to center those issues within the general framework of the global environmental change in urban areas. This approach will assist the creation of a dialogue between the participants and lecturers and among the participants. It will also facilitate the discussion of regional and local similarities and differences, taking advantage of the participant's expertise and knowledge of their own country and urban area. Invited lecturers are also expected to provide advice to the participants on specific issues of their case study. A reader has been compiled with relevant articles on each of the selected topics of the Institute. The reader will provide additional background information to the lectures and it will be circulated to the participants at least one month before the Institute begins.

Individual and/or group projects: The development of the individual and/or group projects is intended to provide an empirical framework where the participant can apply the information and knowledge gathered from the Institute. Each participant or group of participants in the Institute will select a case study from a country or sub-region in Latin America on a topic related and relevant to the interactions between global environmental change and urban areas. The Institute will help the participants to incorporate an integrated perspective to their individual/group project. Participants are expected to use the two weeks of the Institute to improve and expand their project, taking advantage of the information and knowledge gathered from the lectures, discussions, and advice from the experts attending the Institute. The participants will make an oral presentation of their projects at the end of the Institute.

Hands-on Exercise: The Institute will provide basic training in the use of geographic information systems and remote sensing in the topics of the Institute.

Targeted Participants:

Mid-career researchers, stakeholders, and decision makers from Latin America working in the field of global environmental change or urban issues are encouraged to apply. The Institute is particularly oriented to professionals and scholars who have conducted studies, or developed projects, or have otherwise been involved in the management, planning or development of urban areas. It seeks to include a mix of participants (scientists, policy makers, stakeholders) which can encourage the work and discussion from multidisciplinary and multifunctional perspectives and in an integrated and comprehensive fashion. Applicants should have the following profile:

- Decision makers and professionals associated with Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations working in the assessment of urbanization and global change and their impacts, in the formulation and/or implementation of Government policies targeted at the region, or in the organization of the civil society for the solution of problems specific of the region. In this case, applicants are expected to show a record of working in the formulation and/or implementation of policies, in the foundation or management of Non-Governmental Organizations, or in the development of projects assessing impacts of Urbanization and Global Change in Latin America; or
- Academics working in the study of Urbanization and Global Change, assessment and its impacts in the region. Academics are expected to have a record of peer-reviewed publications in the field, and to well justify an interest in multi-disciplinary research in the area; or
- Graduate students at the Masters, PhD or Post Doctoral levels working on themes related to Urbanization and Global Change. Students are expected to have an approved thesis project in fields related to the Institute themes.

Language and Computer Requirement:

The Institute will be conducted in Spanish, although some lectures, activities and background reading will be in English; therefore participants must have sufficient command of the two languages. Participants are expected to have basic computer skills.

Selection Criteria and Process:

Applicants must:

- Researchers: to have a minimum of a Masters degree in a field that is related to the areas to be covered by the Institute;
- Policy and Decision makers: to have a minimum of a Masters degree in a field that is related to the areas to be covered by the Institute or equivalent professional experience in policy planning and resource management;
- Currently be working in the field of urban issues or global environmental change;
- Have an affiliation with an institution in a country of the Latin American region (except graduate students);
- Have proficiency in Spanish and English and fundamental computer skills.

The aim of this capacity building activity is to attract participants coming from several Latin American countries, who show a strong interest in areas related to the overall Institute theme, along with research and policy experience and the ability to communicate effectively.

Financial Support:

There are a limited number of travel fellowships available. Application for financial support will be evaluated on a case by case basis and will take into account academic and professional experience, relevance of work being developed in relation to the Institute program, as well as country, thematic and gender balance. Up to 20 participants will receive financial support. The prospect of the applicant continuing to work in this area after the Institute will be considered.

Priority for funding will be given to applicants from Latin American countries that are members of the IAI (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela).

We encourage national/international and non governmental organizations interested in fully and/or partially sponsoring their own participants to the course, as long as they can demonstrate the benefits of this training to their current programs and activities.

Application Procedure:

Applicants interested in applying are requested to submit:

1. A completed application form (see form on the IAI Institutes website);
2. Curriculum Vitae highlighting educational experience, publications, and other relevant professional experience (less than 3 pages – additional pages will not be considered);
3. A written essay (up to 1000 words) describing how the applicant's research and policy interests relate to a broad theme of the Institute;
4. Institutional letter of agreement from employer or academic institution (if student enrolled in graduate program). Letter must state the employer's agreement of the applicant's participation in the Institute;
5. Two reference letters (not from persons from the same organization) that demonstrate the applicant's qualifications and linkages to his/her home country's scientific and/or policy community. References should be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed directly to IAI by the referee to E-mail: i2004-ugec@dir.iai.int or fax: (55-12) 3941-4410.

Full attendance of the two weeks is required, as well as participation in all Institute program activities.

Application Deadline:

All application materials must be received by no later than, **August 06, 2004** at the IAI Directorate. Applications arriving after that date, or incomplete (i.e., missing some components) will not be considered. Applicants will be informed on the application selection (by e-mail or fax) by August, 2004.

Complete Applications can be sent by mail or electronically.

Mail applications should be sent to the following address:

IAI Directorate

Ref.: Application to the IAI Institute on Urbanization and Global Environmental Change

Ave. dos Astronautas, 1758

12227-010 São José dos Campos, SP

BRAZIL

Electronic applications should be sent to the IAI Directorate at email i2004-ugec@dir.iai.int the complete application should include scanned files of all the documents listed under the Application section, including signatures, in PDF format. Please use the following standard to name your files: YYY_FILE1.PDF, YYY_FILE2.PDF, YYY_FILE"N".PDF, where YYY is the initials of your name

(example: Jose Luis Sanchez: JLS_FILE1.pdf, JLS_FILE2.pdf, note that document 1 is the Application form; document 2 is the CV and so forth.

IAI Institute Website:

For further information on the IAI Institute, please visit the IAI website at www.institutes.iai.int