

Side Event: Small Towns And Informal Settlements: Can They Learn From Each Other?	
ORGANIZATION (PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS)	Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) Centre for Policy Research, India University of Burdwan Rujak Centre for Urban Studies WaterAid Bangladesh Yangon City Development Committee
DATE/TIME	26 July, 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.
VENUE	Crystal 3
DESCRIPTION	<p>The scope and rhythm of urban expansion call for renewed thinking and policies about the future city. Rethinking the Urban Agenda include embracing urbanization at all levels, understanding the urban diversity, rethinking the city and showing alternative urban areas in terms of sustainable development and climate change.</p> <p>More than half of the city dwellers worldwide live in cities of less than 500,000 inhabitants. Half of them live in Asia. Besides, the informal city constitutes 40% of the urban extension and the number of their residents is almost a billion, increasing. These two types of space are generally thought as quite different, but have similarities in terms of scale, precariousness, lack of basic infrastructure. Researches on small towns and informal settlements show different challenges and solutions that could provide new ways of thinking the city. Many sustainable innovative urban forms or adaptation to climate change can be a source of inspiration for new urban interventions.</p> <p>Metropolis being still seen as the ideal type of urbanity, from which all other urban spaces are to be considered, how these areas are places to think different sustainable urban solutions? And what can they learn from each other? This Side Event brings together researchers, practitioners, think tank, NGOs and academia to cross knowledge and skills on sustainable urban development through a renewed way of looking and thinking small towns and informal settlements, by connecting and crossing studies and policies that affect them.</p> <p>This Event will focus on alternative sanitation solutions in these areas: in-depth diagnosis and critical approaches to current practices and existing network-based solutions; suitability of existing sanitation technologies for small settlements, especially for climate and environmental resilience; and experiences for ecological transition in informal settlements and small towns, including non-network solutions, like septic tanks and septage management systems.</p>

