RESEARCH   EDUCATION   EXCHANGE

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

Conference Guiding Themes

- "Appropriate Technology"? Needs and Participation
- Towards a Sustainable Integrated Development? Partnerships and Systems
- Technology: Transfer or Co-Creation? Knowledge Sharing and Empowerment

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.

VISION FOR THE CONFERENCES OF THE UNESCO CHAIR

The UNESCO Chair works as an international cooperation platform, building bridges among disciplines and sectors. The Chair, in collaboration with partners in emerging and developing countries, aims to find adapted technology solutions to bring sustainable development to the greatest possible number of people.

The conferences organized by the UNESCO Chair aim to promote capacity-building through knowledge exchange in a spirit of solidarity. The conferences act as think tanks and bridge builders between the academic world, civil societies, local communities, research and policy making.

Biennially, an international conference focuses on a specific theme related to sustainable development, scientific cooperation and global challenges. The themes and issues are related in priority to the Chair's research sectors:

- 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

BACKGROUND

The Millennium Development Goals task force report "Innovation: Applying Knowledge in Development" emphasizes the importance of science and technology to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as defined in 2000 at the Millennium Summit when priority was given to fight poverty in developing and emerging countries. The need to give more importance to science and technology in development is one of the priorities of the Millennium Goal Project of the United Nations in 2002.

The MDGs also stress the importance of sustainability allowing the well-being of present and future generations. Sustainable development is a dynamic concept that has cut across disciplines such as economics, sociology and ecology. However, its relevance is not only for its broad disciplinary approach but also for its operational characteristics based on the reality of limited resources. From its conception, sustainable development has been seen as a concept that could lead to alternative solutions to the recurrent socioeconomic needs of developing and emerging countries and provide greater assurance that contemporary approaches to development would not deprive future generations of the resources they need for their development and truly improve their quality of life.

Science and technologies are meant to allow innovative solutions that on one hand can support the MDGs and on the other brings sustainable development to communities and countries.

Technology can be defined as the skills, knowledge and procedures used in the supply of goods and services for any given society. Technologies need to both preserve the environment and improve the quality of life. Facilitating the transfer of such technologies and helping countries make the best use of it is essential for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Therefore, the role of technology is of a specific concern for developing and emerging countries.

Before Rio+20, the UNESCO Chair felt it was necessary to gather people together in an international conference to reflect on the question of the scientific-professional partnership in order to achieve integrated and sustainable development with developing and emerging countries.

2012 TECH4DEV CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

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 reply to social needs.

The conference will look at how science and technologies can support both sustainable development in developing and emerging countries and the 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.

The three guiding themes of the conference will allow to discuss and to identify challenges and gaps to improve the contribution of scientific research to poverty reduction.

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?

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?

These themes will define the sessions at the conference and will lead to a **Round Table** including presentations and debates around the question: **Is technology enough for a pro poor development?**

OBJECTIVES

- To allow new multidisciplinary and international partnerships among researchers and knowledge users (including NGOs, private sector, public collectivities, international organizations, etc.).
- To drive new research projects and training programs with a focus on improving the appropriation of technologies for sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- To increase the awareness of knowledge exchange and participatory approaches by bringing researchers and knowledge users together at the initial stages of the definitions of research questions.
- To set new directions for research, knowledge and capacity development needs related to sustainable technologies.

OUTCOMES

- Identification of 10 gaps and needs for field applications to allow more effective exchange of knowledge. A statement will be finalized in the last session and published on the webpage of the UNESCO Chair.
- Identification/valorization of flagship research projects – as best practices/examples to show how both the advancement of development and science can be inclusive – (best practices in terms of their added value regarding methods, multidisciplinary approach, development impact, innovation, establishment of partnerships in a transdiciplinary way - i.e., involvement of stakeholders from diverse sectors such as civil societies, international organizations, decision makers, private sector, etc.).
- 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 by Springer-Verlag.
- Propose at least two new projects in collaboration with EPFL, NGOs, developing and emerging countries and beneficiaries.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The UNESCO Chair invites authors from research, industry, policy or civil societies to submit their abstracts against one of the most appropriate of the three guiding themes of the conference (additional information on the conference themes can be found further below):

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, any contributions dealing with sustainable development related to the generic themes of the conference are also welcome.

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 website.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The UNESCO Chair aims for the conference to be as inclusive and as diverse as possible. The Chair also recognizes that financial/cost constraints prevent many researchers and practitioners from developing and/or emerging countries to be able to participate. To help alleviate this constraint, the Chair may grant some financial assistance to support attendance and travel needs of candidates whose abstracts have been selected and who are scheduled to present their work at the conference. The process for application of financial assistance can be found on the conference website.

KEY DATES

- 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 show

REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird registration and payment before 31 March, 2012

- Standard   CHF 300.00
- Students, unemployed, retired   CHF 200.00
- Participants from developing and emerging countries   CHF 200.00

Registration and payment from 31 March, 2012

- Standard   CHF 400.00
- Students, unemployed, retired   CHF 300.00
- Participants from developing and emerging countries   CHF 300.00

Registration for one day attendance   CHF 150.00

TUESDAY 29 MAY	WEDNESDAY 30 MAY	THURSDAY 31 MAY
	08:30-09:30 **Reporting on Session 1** **Panel Discussion**	08:30-09:30 **Reporting on Session 2** **Panel Discussion**
	09:30-10:30 **Keynote Address 2**	09:30-10:30 **Keynote Address 3**
10:30 onwards **Registration Opens**	10:30-11:00 **Refreshments**	10:30-11:00 **Refreshments**
11:00-12:30 **Apero, Special Event and** **Poster Session**	11:00-12:30 **Session 2 – Towards a** **Sustainable Integrated** **Development? Partnerships** **and Systems** *Presentation of Selected Papers*	11:00-12:30 **Session 3 – Technology:** **Transfer or Co-Creation?** **Knowledge Sharing and** **Empowerment** *Presentation of Selected Papers*
12:30-13:00 **Introduction and** **Opening Session**	12:30-13:00 **Discussion**	12:30-13:00 **Discussion**
13:00-14:00 **Keynote Address 1**	13:00-14:30 **Lunch, Special Event and** **Poster Session**	13:00-14:30 **Lunch, Special Event and** **Poster Session**
14:00-15:30 **Session 1 – "Appropriate** **Technology"? Needs and** **Participation** *Presentation of Selected Papers*	14:30-16:00 **Round Table – Is Technology** **Enough for a Pro Poor** **Development?**	14:30-15:30 **Reporting on Session 3** **Panel Discussion**
15:30-16:00 **Discussion**	16:00-17:00 **Discussion**	15:30-16:30 **Final Session – Identify Key** **Research Areas and Gaps** **Next Steps**
16:00-17:00 **Closing and Refreshments**	17:00-17:30 **Closing and Refreshments**	16:30-17:00 **Discussion**
17:15-18-30 *Meeting of the Chairs,* *Discussants and Rapporteurs* *to prepare next day reporting* *(internal)*	17:30-18:45 *Meeting of the Chairs,* *Discussants and Rapporteurs* *to prepare next day reporting* *(internal)*	17:00-17:30 **Closing Session**
19:00-21:00 **Special Event and/or** **Reception**	19:00-21:00 **Special Event and/or** **Reception**	

The UNESCO Chair invites interested parties to participate in its support program. The conference provides an international forum and an opportunity for researchers and practitioners from academia, industry, civil societies, and local communities to exchange their experiences and develop partnerships. Each sponsor will be included, from the date of booking, in all future marketing measures. Your benefits as a sponsor of Tech4Dev 2012 include:

Platinum Partner *Starting from CHF 12,000*	**Gold Partner** *CHF 5,000 - 11,999*

Platinum Partner
Starting from CHF 12,000

Benefits include:

- Scholarships to cover the cost of conference attendance of 3-5 presenting authors from developing and/or emerging countries. Authors will be recognized as your sponsored scholar during the conference and in relevant material
- Opportunity to address the conference attendees during the opening or closing session and onsite signage
- Exhibitor table at the conference venue
- Your logo and company name on all delegate badges
- A full page advertisement in the program booklet
- One set of promotional material (flyers, brochures, products, etc.) included in delegate bags
- Prominent recognition as a Platinum Partner with your logo, company name and link through to your company website on the conference webpage, flyers, posters, etc.
- Complementary registration for 3-5 delegates

Gold Partner
CHF 5,000 - 11,999

Benefits include:

- Scholarships to cover the cost of conference attendance of 2-3 presenting authors from developing and/or emerging countries. Authors will be recognized as your sponsored scholar during the conference and in relevant material
- Acknowledgment by Chairmen during the opening or closing session including onsite signage
- Exhibitor table at the conference venue
- A full-page advertisement in the program booklet
- One set of promotional material (flyers, brochures, products, etc.) included in delegate bags
- Prominent recognition as a Gold Partner with your logo, company name and link through to your company website on the conference webpage, flyers, posters, etc.
- Complementary registration for 2-3 delegates

Silver Partner
CHF 1,000 - 4,999

Benefits include

- Scholarships to cover the cost of conference attendance of 1-2 presenting authors from developing and/or emerging countries. Authors will be recognized as your sponsored scholar during the conference and in relevant material
- Acknowledgment by Chairmen during the opening or closing session including onsite signage
- Exhibitor table at the conference venue
- A half-page advertisement in the program booklet
- One set of promotional material (flyers, brochures, products, etc.) included in delegate bags
- Prominent recognition as a Silver Partner with your logo, company name and link through to your company website on the conference webpage, flyers, posters, etc.
- Complementary registration for 1-2 delegates

Bronze Partner
CHF 500 - 999

Benefits include:

- Your logo and company name in the program booklet as well as signage during the conference
- One set of promotional material (flyers, brochures, products, etc.) included in delegate bags
- Prominent recognition as a Bronze Partner with your logo, company name and link through to your company website on the conference webpage, flyers, posters, etc.

Other opportunities include options to sponsor a social function (reception, lunch, etc.), poster sessions, travel scholarships, branding and insert of promotional material in delegate bags, advertising in the program booklet, etc. Contact Nathalie Rizzotti at nathalie.rizzotti@epfl.ch or +41 (0)21 693.60.76 for more information and/or to become a sponsor.

CALL FOR SIDE EVENTS

Side Events are specialist and/or targeted sessions that are organized by a third party and take place every day (lunch and/or evening) during the conference. Side events provide an opportunity for the participants to discuss issues that have not been fully covered during the working sessions since time is limited. Side events are meant to facilitate informal discussions between researchers (doctorates, post-doctorates, students, etc.) and practitioners (private sector, public collectivities, representatives from NGO or international organizations).

Interested parties are welcome to arrange side events. For further information please contact Nathalie Rizzotti at nathalie.rizzotti@epfl.ch or +41 (0)21 693.60.76.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Language

 The official language of Tech4Dev 2012 is English. All abstracts/papers/posters submitted must be in that language. Some oral presentations and side events can be in French.

Venue

The conference will be hosted by Cooperation & Development Center (CODEV) at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne from 29-31 May, 2012.

Travel and Accommodation

Accommodation and travel remain the individual responsibility of each participant.

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