Program

Legend: Cotonou, Benin | Ben Guerir, Morocco | Kumasi, Ghana | Only on site

Timezone: GMT+1

May 23, 2023

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM — **Welcome services**

09:00 AM - 09:12 AM — BENIN | **Opening Ceremony**

09:12 AM - 09:15 AM — BENIN | **Dadaforisation: From Data to African Smart Cities**

The challenges related to the accelerated demographic expansion observed in Africa would find their solutions in the new ICTs developed over the last decades. Indeed, the emergence of the Internet of things, the development of artificial intelligence, the digitization of the economy, the digital transformation of traditional services has led to the production and use of an infinite amount of data that will be useful in building citizen-centred smart cities.

Jérôme CHENAL - Director of the Centre of Excellence in Africa

Claude BORNA - Managing Director and Chief Innovation Officer at Sème City Development Agency

09:15 AM - 09:32 AM — BENIN | **The African city of 2043 as imagined by African youth**

You are invited to take a twenty-year leap into the future with Rebecca, a 12-year-old learner in the TINPHA programme initiated by Sème City. Welcome to the year 2043 in Cotonou, where vibrant neighborhoods, innovative mobility and fully digitalized services are flourishing in African cities at the service of a sustainable and inclusive living environment for citizens.

Rebecca - Learner in the TINPHA program

09:32 AM - 10:15 AM — BENIN | **The politician and the architect**

Whereas the African city is in the process of transformation to address the urban challenges it faces, the public sector is going more and more importance to collaborative work with the private sector. The relationship between public and private actors is being shaken up. This evolution of collaboration methods is stimulating, particularly with regard to the technological evolution that allows the city to be reconsidered in an innovative way.

José TONATO - Minister of Living Environment, Transport in charge of Sustainable Development of Benin

Romaric ATCHÉ - Architect, Global Arch Consult

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM — **Coffee break**

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM — BENIN | **Collective Intelligence: youth, robots and the African city of tomorrow**

Second academic year students of Africa Design School, the first design school in Benin, will present the result of a Datavisualization workshop on relationship between mobility data and data collected in the experimental eco-city of Sème One, the first campus of the Sème City project.

Second academic year students of Africa Design School

12:00 AM - 02:00 PM — **Lunch break**

02:00 PM - 02:32 PM — MOROCCO | **Resilience and adaptation of African**

This keynote speech will explore the challenges faced by cities in Africa, including rapid urbanization, climate change, and economic disparities. The keynote will highlight the importance of building resilience in African cities to ensure that they can withstand shocks and stresses while continuing to provide essential services and opportunities for their residents. It will also discuss successful examples of resilience-building efforts in African cities and offer insights into how these efforts can be scaled up and replicated in other cities across the continent. The keynote will emphasize the urgent need for a collaborative and coordinated approach to building resilient African cities that can thrive in the face of adversity.

Hassan RAZIONE - Director of the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (SAP + D) at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

02:32 PM - 03:00 PM — BENIN | **The professional and the opinion leader Digital technologies and infrastructures**

Innovation at the service of the city and its users is a key issue in addressing the urban challenges of the century and can take economic, social and even ethical questions.

Join two key players in the construction of new models of cities in Africa who will analyze how NICTs work in the urban question.

Marc-DESILA - Artificial intelligence engineer, content creator on Youtube and teacher

Caren KATAMY - Director of Services for the Sahel (Société des Infrastructures Numériques du Bénin)

02:32 PM - 04:15 PM — BENIN | **Workshop - Towards sustainable and healthy living environments in Africa: Public health and territorial planning policies connections**

This workshop will gather researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders from different sectors of society with a common interest in environmental determinants of health in African cities. Thus, it will be an opportunity for transdisciplinary knowledge-sharing, allowing participants to gain an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to integrating health into spatial planning agendas - starting by the right data for evidence-based decision-making.

Luc Gnegbenou - Full Professor in Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Director of Institut Régional de Santé Publique

Vitor Pessoa Colombo - Lecturer and doctoral assistant at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

02:32 PM - 03:00 PM — MOROCCO | **Urban geoinformation and its applications in African cities**

This keynote speech will delve into the critical role of geoinformation and geospatial data in informing urban planning and development decisions in African cities. The keynote will showcase successful applications of geoinformation in African cities and highlight the potential for technologies to improve urban services, infrastructure management, and disaster preparedness. The speech will also address the challenges and barriers to the adoption of geoinformation technologies in African cities. Ultimately, the keynote will emphasize the need for collaborative efforts and public engagement approaches to leverage geoinformation to address urban challenges and support sustainable urban development in Africa.

Mounia CHEKRATA - Senior Lecturer in machine learning for Earth observation and Geomatics - Bordeaux INP

03:00 PM - 03:32 PM — MOROCCO | **The rural to the rescue of the urban**

This keynote speech will highlight the importance of building strong partnerships between rural and urban communities and showcase examples of successful collaborations that have resulted in sustainable and equitable urban development. The aim of this speech is to inspire new thinking and action and to promote greater collaboration in the field of urban-rural linkages in shaping the future of cities.

Lamia ZERHOUNI - Professor at the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (SAP + D) at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

03:15 PM - 04:15 PM — BENIN | **Data protection in African cities of tomorrow**

Whereas the notion of smart cities places the user at the centre of the city's activities, the alliance between digital technology and innovation will make it possible to improve the comfort and quality of life of the populations that are becoming more and more precarious and consumers of data.

In this context, the regulation of data in Africa will have to be established as an essential tool in the fight against all forms of acts that would affect the security and well-being of populations.

Marc-André LONO - Managing Director at Information Systems and Digital Agency - Benin

Robert ADJAGO - General Manager of IDEOS, Benin

04:15 PM - 04:45 PM — BENIN | **Coffee break**

03:30 PM - 04:00 PM — MOROCCO | **Coffee break**

04:00 PM - 05:30 PM

MOROCCO | **Remote sensing and smart GIS**

This session will examine the latest developments and applications of remote sensing and smart GIS technologies in the context of African urban environments. The session will feature papers that explore the use of these technologies for urban and smart GIS for urban planning, environment monitoring, disaster management, and public health. The session will also feature case studies and theoretical frameworks. This session aims to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to share the latest research and innovative approaches to using remote sensing and smart GIS to address the challenges of sustainable urban development in Africa.

Rida AZMI - Postdoc fellow at the Center of Urban Systems (CUS) at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Mounia CHEKRATA - Senior Lecturer in machine learning for Earth observation and Geomatics - Bordeaux INP

MOROCCO | **Sustainable mobility for African cities**

This session will explore the latest developments and trends in sustainable mobility for African cities. With a focus on innovative technologies and strategies, this session will discuss the challenges and opportunities for sustainable mobility in African cities, and the potential benefits of implementing smart mobility solutions in the region, including intelligent transportation systems, electric vehicles, and shared mobility services. The session will also feature case studies and theoretical frameworks. The session aims to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to share the latest research and insights on how smart mobility solutions can contribute to the sustainable urban development of Africa.

El Bachir DIOP - Researcher at the Center of Urban Systems (CUS) at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

MOROCCO | **Data-driven methods for urban planning**

In this session, we will present papers that explore the use of machine learning, deep learning, and other data-driven techniques can be used to address the unique challenges facing African cities, such as rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, and racial urbanization. Topics will include the use of satellite imagery and other geospatial data to inform urban planning decisions, the application of social media data to better understand urban dynamics, and the use of machine learning to predict urban growth patterns. The papers will provide valuable insights for researchers, planners, policymakers, and researchers in Africa.

Ali A-Ali Abdul Abdulkareem - Assistant Professor at University Moulay Ismail of Meknes

Stéphane TEKOUABOU - Researcher at the Center of Urban System (CUS) of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

04:45 PM - 05:15 PM — BENIN | **Restitution workshop - Towards sustainable and healthy living environments in Africa: Public health and territorial planning policies connections**

This workshop will gather researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders from different sectors of society with a common interest in environmental determinants of health in African cities. Thus, it will be an opportunity for transdisciplinary knowledge-sharing, allowing participants to gain an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to integrating health into spatial planning agendas - starting by the right data for evidence-based decision-making.

Luc Gnegbenou - Full Professor in Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Director of Institut Régional de Santé Publique

Vitor Pessoa Colombo - Lecturer and doctoral assistant at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

May 24, 2023

08:30 AM - 09:00 AM — **Welcome services**

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM — BENIN | **Duidah city transformation**

The development of the coastal city of Guidah in Benin is a key challenge for the Beninese government, which is developing several projects, including the design and development of the Marina hotel complex and the Sème City campus, a 340 ha eco-city. Closeup on the construction of a smart city which will contribute to developing the tourist and economic attractiveness of Benin.

Christian HOUETCHENOU - Mayor of Duidah

Halim ASSOUMA - Head of Management and Planning of Sème City

Olaychrista FALADE - Associate Architect Colibri Architecture

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM — BENIN | **Coffee break**

09:00 AM - 09:45 AM — MOROCCO | **The use of spatial data analysis for risk management**

In this session, we will explore the crucial role of spatial data analysis in managing risks in African cities. Using real-world examples, we will examine the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of spatial data analysis in risk management in African cities. We will highlight how spatial data analysis can help decision-makers to better understand and mitigate risks such as natural disasters, crime, and disease outbreaks.

Hicham BAHI - Assistant Professor at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Willy Franck SOB - Founder of SeGon Family

09:45 AM - 10:30 AM — MOROCCO | **Agadir Smart City: An intelligent environment for a sustainable and resilient city**

During this session, we will examine the key features and successes of the Agadir Smart City initiative, including the use of renewable energy, smart waste management, and digital infrastructure. The speaker will also discuss the potential for Smart Cities to drive economic growth and address pressing urban challenges, while creating a more livable and sustainable urban environment.

Ismail EL OMARI - Architect, Agadir City Councilor, and member of the urban planning & smart city committee

09:00 AM - 10:30 AM — MOROCCO | **Women's entrepreneurship in the city**

This panel session will explore the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs in African cities. We will discuss the unique barriers that women face in starting and growing their businesses, including access to capital, discrimination, and cultural biases, and the role of supportive ecosystems and networks. Drawing on a case study from an African city, we will examine the impact of women's entrepreneurship on the local economy, including job creation, and promoting social change. Ultimately, we will highlight the vital role that women's entrepreneurship plays in building more inclusive and sustainable African cities.

Asmaé AZMI - Academic researcher in the field of management

BENIN | **Session 1: The effects of port activities on transport, mobility, and urban form case study cities: Accra, Lomé, Djibouti**

In port and maritime geography, ports play an important role in the economies of cities and act as catalysts and niche development in specific economic sectors, transportation, and urban form. This session will examine the port-city relationship of three port cities i.e., Lome, Djibouti, and Tema.

Augustus ABABIO-DONKOR - Transport Analyst, Lecturer & Research Coordinator, Regional Transport Research and Education Centre, Kumasi (TRECK), KNUST

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM — MOROCCO | **Coffee break**

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM — BENIN | **Coffee break**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM — BENIN | **Collecting data to improve basic urban services in Africa Mobility - Health - Urban management**

By enabling better management of services such as energy, urban mobility and waste management, ICTs play an important role in the development of African cities. The optimisation of public services requires the mobilisation of data produced by users in order to improve the living quality of populations on the continent.

Join the discussion between public actors, start-ups and entrepreneurs in Benin who are designing and using innovative digital solutions to improve the quality of life of populations.

Roland HOUNGBAGO - Entrepreneur, Co-founder of the Pharmeo application

Gilles AMOUSSOU - General Manager of the Waste Management Company

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM — MOROCCO | **Cloud computing for urban planning in Africa: the case of GEE**

In this tutorial, we will explore the potential of cloud computing for urban planning in Africa, with a focus on the Google Earth Engine (GEE) platform. We will provide an overview of GEE and its capabilities and demonstrate how it can be used to analyze and visualize urban data. We will also discuss the benefits and challenges of using cloud computing for urban planning in Africa, including issues related to data accessibility and scalability. The tutorial will provide participants with a better understanding of how to use cloud computing tools like GEE to improve urban planning outcomes in Africa.

Rida AZMI - Researcher at the Center of Urban Systems (CUS) at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

MOROCCO | **Urban extension modeling with GIS5**

This tutorial will explore how GIS5 can be used to analyze urban growth patterns and predict future urban expansion. The tutorial will cover both long-term and short-term modeling, suitability analysis, and spatial regression. We will also discuss the potential applications of these models in urban planning and policy decision-making. By the end of the tutorial, participants will have gained practical skills in using GIS5 for urban extension modeling and be able to apply these techniques to their own work.

Youssua LAHBOUB - Project manager at SAIN/SOP

MOROCCO | **Workshop session**

Workshop session on different areas of urban planning in Africa.

Stéphane TEKOUABOU - Researcher at the Center of Urban System (CUS) of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

12:30 AM - 02:30 PM — **Coffee break**

02:30 PM - 04:30 PM — BENIN | **African Cities Lab: A gamechanger that transforms African cities**

Presentation of the African Cities Lab project. The project from Angolanians and Francophone Africa are collaborating to create an African digital education platform on urban development, offering quality MOOCs and online continuing education for professionals. It also serves as a forum for the exchange of digital educational resources and management and governance of African cities to promote sustainable urban development.

02:30 PM - 04:00 PM

MOROCCO | **Digital transformation and digital governance**

In this session, we will showcase recent research and innovations in the field of digital technologies and strategy urban citizenship, participation, and governance in Africa, and the challenges and opportunities that arise from these changes. Topics will include the role of digital platforms in promoting citizen participation and engagement, the challenges of bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to digital technologies, the ethical implications of digital governance for democratic decision-making and accountability. The session will provide insights for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners working at the intersection of digital technologies and urban governance in Africa.

El Bachir DIOP - Researcher at the Center of Urban Systems (CUS) at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Mounia CHEKRATA - Senior Lecturer in machine learning for Earth observation and Geomatics - Bordeaux INP

MOROCCO | **Architecture and urban development**

This session will examine the intersections of architecture and urban development in Africa, design, planning, and development of sustainable and livable urban spaces in Africa. The session will explore the challenges and opportunities in Africa, including urban morphology, housing, public spaces, heritage conservation, new city developments, and the impact of colonialism on the spatial history of theoretical and practical approaches to urban development, interdisciplinary dialogue and exchange of ideas among practitioners, policymakers, and scholars, and to promote innovative approaches to architecture and urban development in the African context.

Hicham BAHI - Assistant Professor at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

MOROCCO | **Socioeconomic challenges of African cities**

This session will address the complex and diverse socioeconomic challenges that shape the urban lives of urban populations in Africa. The session will feature papers that explore a range of topics, including poverty, inequality, unemployment, COVID-19, unemployment, and social exclusion, with a focus on urban youth. The aim of this session is to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to share insights and experiences on the socioeconomic challenges and solutions that can help to address the socioeconomic challenges facing African cities.

Asmaé AZMI - Academic researcher in the field of management

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM — MOROCCO | **Coffee break/Posters**

Posters presentations on different areas of urban planning in Africa.

04:30 PM - 05:00 PM — BENIN | **Coffee break**

05:00 PM - 06:00 PM — BENIN | **Restitution of the Hackathon (Innovation Lab)**

Optimizing drinking water management is the new eco-city of Sème City. As part of the African Cities Lab - 2023 Summit, a hackathon was organized with 12 teams of 5 people. The objective is to find digital solutions to reuse the grey water of the future Sème City campus. The restitution is an opportunity for the 5 finalist teams to present their solutions to a multidisciplinary jury.

05:00 PM - 05:30 PM — MOROCCO | **Closing remarks**

05:30 PM - 06:00 PM — MOROCCO | **Award ceremony**

06:00 PM - 06:15 PM — BENIN | **Key note - plenary session**

Rebecca - Learner in the TINPHA program

06:30 PM - 07:30 PM — **Closing Cocktail**

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Confederazione Svizzera
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Sème City

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