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 - 09:10 AM — BENIN | **Opening Ceremony**

09:10 AM - 09:15 AM — BENIN | **Datafication: 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. Nevertheless, the adoption of these technologies in Africa is characterized by a fragmented equipment, some shopping sprees, etc. 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 - 09:30 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 32-year-old learner in the TRIMA programme initiated by Sème City. Welcome to the year 2043, where eco-neighbourhoods, smart networks, 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 TRIMA program

09:30 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 giving 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 regard to the new governance model that allows the city to be reconsidered in an innovative way.

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

Romaric ATOKE - Architect, Global Archi 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, are presenting the result of a Datacollaboration workshop on relationship between robots and data collected in the neighbourhood eco-city of Sème City, 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 - 02:30 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 discuss the importance of resilience and adaptation in these cities, highlighting the potential for innovative solutions and the importance of collaboration and opportunities for their residents. It will also discuss successful examples of resilience-building in African cities and offer insights into how these efforts can be scaled up and replicated across the continent. Ultimately, 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 RADDINE - Director of the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (UAP + 3) at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

02:15 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 raise economic, social and even ethical questions.

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

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

Caren KATANY - Director of Services for the State (Société des Infrastructures Numériques du Bénin)

02:15 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. They, 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 agenda - starting by the right data for evidence-based decision-making.

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

Lilian Pessoa Colombo - Lecturer and doctoral assistant at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

02:30 PM - 03:00 PM — MOROCCO | **Urban geoinformation and its applications in African cities**

This keynote speech will delve into the critical role of geospatial data and technology 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 these technologies to improve urban services, infrastructure, and overall quality of life for residents. The speech will also discuss the challenges and opportunities for the adoption of these technologies. Ultimately, the keynote will emphasize the need for collaborative efforts and public engagement approaches to leverage geoinformation to address urban challenges and ensure sustainable urban development in Africa.

Yasmina CHERKAOUI - Senior Lecturer in machine learning for Earth observation and Geomatics - Bordeaux INP

03:00 PM - 03:30 PM — BENIN | **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 towards addressing the unique challenges of the rural-urban interface in shaping the future of cities.

Salma ZERROUNI - Professor at the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (UAP + 3) 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 increasingly more and more producers 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.

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 in remote sensing and smart GIS, with a focus on technologies in the context of African urban environments. The session will feature papers that explore the use of remote sensing and smart GIS for urban planning, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and public health in African cities. The papers will include 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 transport sustainable urban development in Africa.

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

Yasmina CHERKAOUI - Senior Lecturer in machine learning for Earth observation and Geomatics - Bordeaux INP

MOROCCO | **Sustainable mobility for African cities**

This session will explore the latest advancements in sustainable mobility for African cities, with a focus on innovative technologies and strategies. This session will feature papers that explore the challenges and benefits of implementing smart mobility solutions in the region, including intelligent transportation systems, electric vehicles, and sustainable urban planning. 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 more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable transportation in African cities.

Ali 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 data-driven methods in urban planning and design. The papers will focus on how data can be used to address the unique challenges facing African cities, such as rapid urbanization, inadequate infrastructure, and rapid urbanization. Topics will include the use of satellite imagery and machine learning to inform urban planning and decisions, the application of social media data to better understand urban dynamics, and the use of data-driven models to predict and manage urban growth. The papers will provide valuable insights for urban planners, policymakers, and researchers in Africa.

Ali BAHI Abdel Abdéllaoui - Assistant Professor at University Moulay Ismail of Meknes

Stéphane TÉKOUÑOU - 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. They, 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 agenda - starting by the right data for evidence-based decision-making.

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

Lilian Pessoa Colombo - Lecturer and doctoral assistant at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

May 24, 2023

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

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

The development of the coastal city of Ouidah in Benin is a key challenge for the Beninese government, which is developing several projects, including the design and construction of a new port and the creation of a tourist city. The port project, a BIM file exists by City Creaxe on the construction of a smart city which will contribute to developing the tourist and economic attractiveness of Benin.

Christian HOUETCHENOU - Mayor of Ouidah

Justin ASSOUMA - Head of Management and Planning of Sème City

Olayimika FALADE - Associate Architect Colonic 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 diverse and rapidly growing urban landscapes of Africa. 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.

Yochem BAHI - Assistant Professor at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Willy Franck SOB - Founder of Gaïam 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 explore the Agadir Smart City project, a groundbreaking initiative including the use of renewable energy, smart waste management, and advanced mobility solutions. The presentation will demonstrate the potential of Smart Cities to drive economic growth and address pressing urban challenges, while creating a more livable and sustainable community in Agadir.

Ismail EL OMARI - Architect, Agadir City Councillor, 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, and how these challenges can be addressed through supportive policies and ecosystems and support networks. Drawing on a case study from an African city, we will examine the ways in which women-led businesses are driving economic growth, creating jobs, and contributing to the overall vitality of the city. The panel will argue that women's entrepreneurship plays a building more inclusive and sustainable African cities.

Hamat AZMI - Academic researcher in the field of management

MOROCCO | **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 node development in specific economic sectors and locations near ports or array centers. This section discusses the port-city relationship of three port cities (i.e., Lomé, 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 — BENIN | **Unlocking Africa's Tourism Potential: The Power of social media Data-driven Strategies**

By building new cities models in Africa to improve the living environment of the population, urban actors are aiming at a significant objective: make African cities the most pleasant living places in the world.

The new tourism actors, agencies, influencers or tourism project owners are anticipating this long-term objective and are helping to discover Africa and its opportunities by using social networks as tourism promotion.

With these new players, discover how social network data is reinventing tourism in Africa.

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 optimization of public services requires the mobilization of data produced in order to improve the living quality of populations on the ground.

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 cities.

Roland HOUNGBADJI - Entrepreneur, Co-founder of the Pharmapi application

Jules APOLINGOU - 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, using Google Earth Engine (GEE) as a case study. The tutorial will provide an overview of the GEE capabilities and demonstrate how it can be used to analyze and visualize urban spatial data. We will discuss the benefits and challenges of using cloud computing for urban planning in African cities, including issues related to data accessibility and scalability. The tutorial will be ideal for participants will have a better understanding of how to use cloud computing tools like GEE to improve urban planning outcomes in Africa.

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

MOROCCO | **Urban extension modeling with QGIS**

This tutorial will explore how QGIS can be used to model and simulate urban extension and sprawl patterns and predict future expansion, with a focus on techniques such as cellular automata, agent-based modeling, and spatial regression. We will also discuss the potential of these methods for informing urban planning and policy decisions in African cities. The tutorial will be suitable for participants who have gained practical skills in using QGIS for urban extension modeling and are interested in applying these techniques in their own work.

Youssou LAHBOUB - Project manager at MAGROOV

MOROCCO | **Workshop session**

Workshop session on different areas of urban planning in Africa

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

GHANA | **Session 2: Public transport system and public health risk**

Rapid population growth and urbanization are stimulating growth in African cities. The informal and inefficient public transport system in most African cities has created vehicular traffic with its associated externalities. This section investigates the public transport systems and the major public health hazard of transport in Africa.

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

12:30 PM - 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: Six institutions from Anglophone and Francophone Africa are collaborating to create an African digital education platform that will transform the teaching of urban planning, design, and governance in Africa. The platform will function as a forum for the exchange of digital educational resources and management and governance of African cities to promote sustainable urban development.

03:30 PM - 04:00 PM

MOROCCO | **Digital transformation and digital governance**

In this session, we will showcase recent research that explores the ways in which digital technologies are being used to enhance citizen participation, and governance in Africa, and the challenges and opportunities associated with these changes. Topics will include the role of digital platforms in promoting citizen engagement and participation, the challenges of bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to digital technologies, and the implications of digital technologies on decision-processes and civic participation. The papers will provide important insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working at the intersection of digital technologies and urban governance in Africa.

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

Yasmina CHERKAOUI - 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 urbanism, with a focus on how these disciplines can shape the built environment and livable urban spaces in Africa. The session will feature presentations on a wide range of topics, including urban morphology, housing, public spaces, heritage conservation, new city planning, and sustainable urban development through a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives. The aim of this session is to foster a multidisciplinary dialogue among scholars, practitioners, urban designers, planners, and scholars, and to promote innovative approaches to addressing the complex challenges of urban development in the African context.

Yochem BAHI - Assistant Professor at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

MOROCCO | **Socioeconomic challenges of African cities**

This session will address the complex and diverse issues that affect the social and economic well-being of African cities and communities. The session will feature papers that explore a range of topics, including poverty and inequality, the impacts of 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 and to propose innovative strategies and policies that can address the socioeconomic challenges facing African cities.

Hamat AZMI - Academic researcher in the field of management

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM — 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 in the new eco-city of Sème City. As part of the African Cities Lab - 2023 Summit, a hackathon was organized with 12 teams of 3 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 TRIMA program

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

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As part by
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