The North-South Centre is the focal point of the ETH Zurich in all affairs that involve developing countries and emerging economies. The centre promotes research collaboration and capacity development in international development and cooperation covering the technical, natural, human and social sciences.

www.northsouth.ethz.ch

The Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South is an innovative research programme in the fields of global change and sustainable development. Encompassing a network of over 400 researchers active in more than 40 countries worldwide, it is dedicated to finding sustainable, practicable solutions to specific challenges of global change.

www.north-south.unibe.ch

The Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) is dedicated to promoting research partnerships with developing and transition countries. In this way, it wishes to contribute to sustainable and effective development and help find solutions to global problems.

www.kfpe.ch

Urban transformation – debating formal and informal development

Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 9:30 – 16:00 h

ETH Zurich, Main Building, Semper Aula, HG G 60
Rämistrasse 101, Zurich

Admission: Free entrance, no registration required
Conference language: English
Urban realities in developing countries

The global proportion of the urban population has already exceeded 50% and is constantly increasing. A substantial extent of growth and development in urban areas is "informal", located on the border or outside of planning and legal frameworks. In a world in which one out of three urban residents live in so-called slum conditions, the unprecedented scale, complexity and variety of both informal settlements and urban activities challenge our definition of development. Despite the existence of housing programmes, slum upgrading and governance reforms, urban informality persists and multiplies. The North-South Forum aims at addressing the interface between formality and informality in urban transformation in order to show the peculiarities and vitality of these hybrid development processes. In the quest to understand strategies of urban survival and to develop more salient views of contemporary urban realities, we aspire to broaden the prevailing boundaries of development by incorporating both informal and formal structures and processes.

Programme

9:30 Welcome address
   Barbara Becker, North-South Centre, ETH Zurich
   Ulrike Mueller-Boeker, NCCR North-South and University of Zurich
   Facilitator: Andreas Ruby, Ruby Press, Germany

Space and housing

9:40 The informal city and the global phenomenon of slums: Understanding the informal model
   Claudio Acioly, UN-Habitat, Kenya

10:10 Addis through the looking-glass
   Marc Angélil, ETH Zurich
   Zegeye Cherenet, HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

10:40 Coffee break

11:00 From social housing to the city within the city – spatial appropriations in Cidade de Deus, Rio de Janeiro
   Rainer Hehl, ETH Zurich

11:20 The informal brick industry’s ambivalent contribution to urban growth in Asia and Africa
   Daniel Wyss, Skat Consulting

11:40 Panel discussion
   – Claudio Acioly
   – Marc Angélil
   – Zegeye Cherenet
   – Rainer Hehl
   – Daniel Wyss

12:30 Lunch break

Organisation and interaction

13:30 Popular urbanisation – a comparative analysis of planetary urbanisation
   Christian Schmid, ETH Zurich

13:50 Urban development and the practice of street vending in Southeast Asia: Juggling informal rules and formal regulations
   Norman Backhaus, NCCR North-South and University of Zurich

14:10 Urbanism of fear and the gangs: How violence fabrics the city in Latin America
   Yves Pedrazzini, EPFL, former collaborator NCCR North-South

14:30 Coffee break

14:50 Last round ecology
   Alfredo Brillembourg and Hubert Klumpner, ETH Zurich and Urban-Think Tank

15:10 Panel discussion
   – Christian Schmid
   – Norman Backhaus
   – Yves Pedrazzini
   – Alfredo Brillembourg
   – Hubert Klumpner

15:50 Wrap-up and closing remarks
   Andreas Ruby, Ruby Press, Germany