



WIEGO General Assembly 2010

Belo Horizonte

Public Event “Inclusive Cities for the Working Poor”

Co-Sponsors: Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and the Department of Political Science, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)

Master of Ceremony: Professor Marlise Matos (UFMG)

In 2008, for the first time in history, the majority of the world’s population lived in urban areas. In the global South, this rapid urbanization has not been accompanied by industrialization with the urban poor largely surviving through work in the informal economy. Of the urban population in the developing world, estimates suggest 2 in every 3 people work in the informal economy and 1 in every 3 people live in a slum without access to adequate shelter, water, or sanitation. Yet city governments, pre-occupied with competing for foreign investment and ‘world class city’ status, largely neglect informal workers and slum dwellers, and often actively evict them. Reducing urban poverty requires reversing this exclusionary trend. What is called for is a fundamental rethinking and reshaping of urban priorities, plans, regulations, and policies to incorporate the working poor.

The public event “Inclusive Cities for the Working Poor” grapples with this challenge. Representatives of membership-based organizations of informal workers, researchers and public officers will share their experiences and ideas.

AGENDA

DATE: 22 April 2010

VENUE: Auditorium Sonia Viegas - UFMG

9h00 – Opening speeches by Marty Chen, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing and Marlise Matos, Federal University of Minas Gerais

9h30 DIALOGUE 1: Inclusive Urban Planning and Policies

Inclusive Cities require an inclusive approach to urban infrastructure and services delivery, urban regulations and laws, urban spatial planning and zoning. In sum, they require urban policies that can help bridge the urban divide and include the working poor. This session profiles challenges to inclusionary urban planning as well as some good practice examples of inclusionary practices.

Chair: Prof. Heloísa Costa, Geography Department – UFMG

- Popular Shopping areas in Belo Horizonte: Rethinking the Use of Public Space (Brazil) – Prof. Magda Neves, Universidade Católica
- Waste Pickers in Peru: Law Mandating Inclusion of Waste Pickers in Solid Waste Management – (TBC), LAWPN, Peruvian Movement of Waste Pickers
- Self-Employed Women in India: An Inclusive Approach to Basic Infrastructure Services for the Working Poor – Renana Jhabvala, Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA)
- The “World Class Cities for All” Campaign – (TBC), StreetNet International

Question time

10h50 - Cultural intervention – *Até Tú* SLU Theatre Group

11h10 – Coffee break

11h30 DIALOGUE 2: Strengthening the Livelihoods of the Working Poor

Strengthening the livelihoods of the working poor in the informal economy is fundamental to pro-poor growth and poverty reduction. Through collective action and negotiation with state authorities and middle men, the livelihoods of the working poor can, and have been, strengthened. This session profiles and examines interventions by and for construction workers, home-based workers, and waste pickers that have resulted in securer livelihoods.

Chair: tbc

- Upgrading the Skills of Construction Workers (India) – Manali Shah, SEWA
- Moving Waste Pickers Up the Value Chain: The Case of the Plastic Recycling Plant of CATAUNIDOS (Brazil) – Madalena Duarte, MNCR-LAPWN
- The SWaCH Cooperative in Pune, India: Achievements and Challenges – Laxmi Narayan, KKPKP

Question time

13h30 - Lunch

14h30 DIALOGUE 3: Participation in Urban Systems and National Policy Processes – Hearing the Voices of the Working Poor

Inclusive Cities require that representatives of the working poor have opportunities to influence policy and planning processes and to collectively voice their concerns. This dialogue explores experiences of participatory governance in the management of the solid waste sector and in the development of national policies.

Chair: Prof. Marlise Matos UFMG

Section 1 – Participation and Social Inclusion in the Solid Waste Sector, Brazil

- Solid Waste Management in Belo Horizonte – Luíz Gustavo Fortini, Superintendent of Public Cleaning, SLU
- The National Waste and Citizenship Forum: An Assessment – Sonia Dias, WIEGO
- Minas Gerais State Waste and Citizenship Forum – Fabiana Goulart, FELC MG/ NGO INSEA
- Municipal Waste and Citizenship Forum: Strengthening the Waste Picker Cooperatives – Nely Medeiros, FMLC BH/Coopersoli Barreiro

Question time

15h45 - Coffee break

Section 2: Participation and National Policies – Promising Examples

- The Universal Health Scheme in Ghana – Kofi Asamoah, Ghana Trade Union Congress

- The National Street Trade Policy in India – National Alliance of Street Vendors in India - tbc

Question time

Closing

Cultural performance – *Parangolé* Theatre Group (kindly supported by VINA Engeneering)

Please Join Us Immediately Following the Public Event at the School of Fine Arts - UFMG

The School of Fine Arts is hosting an exhibition and book launch for ***Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans***. The opening of the exhibition will immediately follow the Public Event.

The book and exhibition ***Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans***, offers a fresh look at street traders' lives, the role they play in city life and their contribution to its economy.

Warwick Junction is a vibrant street trading area situated in the primary transport hub in Durban, South Africa's second largest city. On an average day 400000 commuters walk through the area and it is where nearly 8000 street traders ply their trade. This is the context of the exhibition and book: it is where a small dedicated team of local authority officials, street traders and their leaders worked for more than a decade tackling what seemed insurmountable urban management and design challenges.

The visual and written account *Working in Warwick* hopes to help 're- imagine' the informal economy but also to inspire local authorities and planners as they deal with the challenges and opportunities presented by the informal economy. In early 2009 the city council announced its plans to build a shopping mall in the centre of Warwick, threatening the livelihoods of all the street traders and this international model of street trader management and support. The book and the exhibit have become part of the strong call to the city to reconsider its plans.