

Future African city alternatives to creating mere replicas of Dubai, Shanghai and Singapore

Issued by [Spintelligent](#)

12 Oct 2016

African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit to gather developers, investors and planners

“New forms of urban planning in African cities seem to be dedicated to transforming them into replicas of Dubai, Shanghai and Singapore,” says Professor Vanessa Watson, of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, University of Cape Town. According to Prof Watson, the main challenge of the real estate sector on the continent currently is “to find approaches to real estate development which are not only for the wealthy, and which find architectural and planning approaches which are not simplistic ‘cut and pastes’ of cities elsewhere in the world.”

Prof Watson is part of an exciting speaker line-up at the upcoming **African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit** in Cape Town from 2-3 November with a contribution that will focus on “*African cities for sale. World-class, smart, eco or just profitable?*” She explains: “Rapid growth of African cities means that urban development is required, but noting that the vast majority of this growth is of poor and unemployed households. The very small urban middle-class offers limited opportunity for real estate aimed high-income households. Finding housing models for lower income households is absolutely possible and offers far greater opportunity.”



Other exciting speakers on the programme include:

- Eng. Jose Miranda, Regional Director Africa, Aurecon, South Africa, who will be part of a presentation entitled: “*What makes an \$800-billion project in Africa?*” about the international, award-winning General Master Plan for Luanda City (2030 Luanda Plan) outlining the sustainable transformation and development plans.

Says Eng. Miranda: “Water, energy and sanitation are fundamental needs for all human beings. Preserving Luanda’s natural environment, whilst providing the people of Luanda with a future city they will benefit from, is an important priority to Aurecon within the Luanda City Master Plan or Plano Director Geral Metropolitano de Luanda (PDGML). As part of the strategic city and provincial wide infrastructure planning service provided, we attempted to ensure the people of Luanda and surrounds have access to energy, drinkable water, sanitation, and increased waste recycling.”

- “There seems to be a measurable disconnect between the public sector and private sector regarding city planning,” says Albert Smuts, Architect and Director, Fieldworks Design Group, who is part of a panel discussion on “*Making African cities of tomorrow inclusive*” at the event next month. He adds: “There is very little in the form of readily available land intended for private development within our urban centres, and in turn governmental city planning suffers because of the consequential sprawl.”

He continues: “The rate of urbanisation in Africa far exceeds that of the western world, which means that unprogrammed, unprotected open land becomes quickly commoditised. This exacerbates issues associated with the expansion of suburbia and urban sprawl.”

More headline speakers at the **African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit** are:

- Tim Harris, CEO, WESGRO
- Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, UCLG-A*

- Lekwalo Mosienyane, Director, Business Botswana
- Mokena Makeka, Founder & Principal, Makeka Design Lab, South Africa
- Kecia Rust, Director & Founder, Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa/Secretariat to the African Union for Housing Finance, UN-Habitat, South Africa
- Amine Turki, Secretary General, Africa Union of Architects, Tunisia

**UCLG-A: United Cities and Local Governments of Africa*

The **African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit** will gather the full spectrum of the continent's real estate sector and will assist African cities and governments to secure international investment for commercial real estate development and infrastructure projects that will contribute to Urban Development Plans (UDPs).

The **African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit** is organised by Spintelligent, leading Cape Town-based trade exhibition and conference organiser, and the African office of Clarion Events Ltd, based in the UK.

Spintelligent is well known for organising exhibitions and conferences across the continent in the infrastructure, energy, mining, agriculture and education sectors. Longstanding flagship events by Spintelligent include African Utility Week, East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC), West African Power Industry Convention (WAPIC), Agritech Expo, DRC Mining Week and EduWeek.

UCLG Africa

The UCLG Africa is the patron of the upcoming **African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit** in Cape Town. The UCLG AFRICA is the umbrella organisation and the united voice and representative of local government in Africa. It is an institution that gathers 40 national associations of local governments from all regions of Africa as well as the 2,000 cities that have more than 100,000 inhabitants. Therefore UCLG AFRICA represents nearly 350 million Africans citizens.

Dates for African Real Estate & Infrastructure Summit 2016:

Showcase and conference: 2-3 November 2016

Location: CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa

Website: <http://www.african-real-estate-summit.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ARES_Summit

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8518271>

Media contact:

Senior communications manager: Annemarie Roodbol

Telephone: +27 21 700 3558

Mobile: +27 82 562 7844

Email: annemarie.roodbol@spintelligent.com

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>