



## News Release

### Impressive speaker roster to attract global city leaders to Toronto for inaugural summit

March 20, 2014

**TORONTO, ONTARIO – Mar. 20, 2014** – The Global City Indicators Facility is proud to present the inaugural Global Cities Summit in Toronto. The Summit will convene global leaders from the world's cities, businesses, UN and other international agencies, universities, planning and design professionals, on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Toronto, Canada. The Summit will be an opportunity for cities and their partners to learn, share, and exchange experiences across a wide spectrum of big ideas and innovative solutions for cities under the theme: ***Getting on Track: Sustainable & Inclusive Prosperity for Cities.***

**Globally standardized urban metrics are providing city leaders with the comparative knowledge needed to build more sustainable and prosperous futures.**

A preeminent group of speakers from around the world will convene in Toronto to discuss big ideas and innovations for cities. Speakers will be coming from cities around the world including New York, Beijing, Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Seattle, Chicago, Ottawa, Geneva, Paris, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Eindhoven, Cape Town, Niagara Falls, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Milan, Los Angeles, Rotterdam, Makkah, Riyadh and Helsinki. Plenary and panel sessions will focus on a number of topics including: city data, ISO international standards for cities, smart cities, urban resilience, mobility, competitiveness, governance, and more.

#### **Keynote Speakers Spotlight:**

The Global City Indicators Facility is thrilled to present three Keynote Speakers:

1. From New York City, **Saskia Sassen**. Saskia Sassen ([www.saskiasassen.com](http://www.saskiasassen.com)) is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair of the Committee on Global Thought,

Columbia University ([www.cgt.columbia.edu](http://www.cgt.columbia.edu)). First known for her classic book, *The Global City* (Princeton University Press, 1991/2001) and *Cities in a World Economy* (now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition), she is published widely and her books are translated into over 20 languages. Professor Sassen is chosen as one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers by *Foreign Policy* (2011). She is also a Senior Fellow of the Global Cities Institute at the University of Toronto, Canada.

2. **Doug Saunders.** Doug Saunders is a Canadian-British author and journalist. He is the author of the books [Arrival City: The Final Migration and Our Next World](#) (2011) and [The Myth of the Muslim Tide](#) (2012) and is the international-affairs columnist for [The Globe and Mail](#). He served as the paper's London-based European bureau chief for a decade, after having run the paper's Los Angeles bureau, and has written extensively from East Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, the Middle East and North Africa. He writes a weekly column devoted to the larger themes and intellectual concepts behind international news, and has won the National Newspaper Award, Canada's counterpart to the Pulitzer Prize, on five occasions.
3. **Brock Carlton.** Brock Carlton is the Chief Executive Officer for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Since joining FCM 21 years ago, Mr. Carlton has channeled his leadership abilities towards local government issues domestically and internationally. He chairs the [Municipal Infrastructure Forum](#) and the National Forum on Housing and the Economy and is a founding member of the Board of Directors for the [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness](#). Internationally, Mr. Carlton has represented Canada on the OECD Urban Municipal Development Secretariat's Sustainable Cities Working Group. He is currently Secretary General, North America for [United Cities and Local Government](#). He has lived and worked in Kenya, China and Namibia.

### **Panelists and Thematic Speakers:**

#### **Senator Art Eggleton – Toronto**

Senator, Canada  
Chair, Global City Indicators Facility  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada

#### **Saskia Sassen – New York City**

Professor, Sociology  
Co-Chair, Committee on Global Thought  
Columbia University  
New York City, United States of America

#### **Matthew Lynch – Geneva**

Project Director, Urban Infrastructure Initiative  
World Business Council for Sustainable  
Development  
Geneva, Switzerland

#### **Biyu Wan – Beijing**

Chief Engineer, MOHURD, China  
Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development,  
People's Republic of China  
Beijing, China

#### **Gora Mboup – Nairobi**

Chief, Global Urban Observatory  
UN-HABITAT  
Nairobi, Kenya

#### **Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu – Niger State**

Governor, Niger State  
Minna, Nigeria

**Tinashe Mushayanyama – Johannesburg**

Director, Strategic Information & Research  
City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Dave Welsh – Seattle**

Senior Standards Program Manager, Corporate  
Standards  
Microsoft Corporation  
Redmond, United States of America

**Eng. Ahmad Hussain Alkhlagi – Makkah**

Office of the Mayor, Makkah, Saudi Arabia  
Head, Makkah Urban Observatory  
Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia

**Maurizio Bevilacqua – Vaughan**

Mayor, City of Vaughan  
Vaughan, Canada

**Robert Cameron – Cape Town**

Professor, Public Administration  
University of Cape Town  
Cape Town, South Africa

**Alan Broadbent – Toronto**

Chairman & Founder, Maytree  
Chairman, Avana Capital Corporation  
Toronto, Canada

**Mohamed El-Sioufi – Nairobi**

Coordinator, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch,  
UN-HABITAT  
Coordinator, Global Housing Strategy  
Chalmers 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Visiting Professor  
Chair, Urban Revitalization of Mass Housing  
international competition  
Nairobi, Kenya

**Maarten Hajer – Amsterdam**

Director, Netherlands Environmental Assessment  
Agency  
Professor, Public Policy, University of Amsterdam  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Jacques Lair – Paris**

Chairman, Technical Committees ISO/TC 59/SC 17  
& ISO/TC 268  
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)  
Paris, France

**Ron Baker – Austin**

Distinguished Engineer  
Chief Architect for Smarter Cities & Operations  
IBM  
Austin, United States of America

**Harry Verhaar – Eindhoven**

Head, Global Public & Government Affairs  
Philips Lighting  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

**Joseph Pennachetti – Toronto**

City Manager  
City of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada

**Eng. Abdulrahman Alsultan – Riyadh**

Director, Research & Studies  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Hazel McCallion – Mississauga**

Mayor, City of Mississauga  
Mississauga, Canada

**Carl Bodimeade – Niagara Falls**

Senior Vice-President, Hatch Mott MacDonald  
Chair, Ontario Coalition for Sustainable  
Infrastructure  
Niagara Falls, Canada

**Shanfeng Dong – Beijing**

General Manager  
Bluepath City Consulting  
Beijing, China

**Chris Kennedy – Toronto**

Professor, Civil Engineering  
Director, Cities & Engineering Management,  
University of Toronto  
President-elect, International Society for Industrial  
Ecology  
Toronto, Canada

**Andrew Laing – New York City**

Global Practice Leader, Strategy Plus practice  
AECOM  
New York City, United States of America

**Helen Santiago Fink – Paris**

Senior Programme Officer, Buildings and Cities  
Acting Head, Built Environment Unit  
United Nations Environment Programme  
(UNEP/DTIE)  
Paris, France

**Federico Parolotto – Milan**

Co-Founder & Senior Partner, Mobility in Chain  
(MIC)  
Co-Founder, Flow(n)  
Milan, Italy

**Leslie Woo – Toronto**

Vice-President, Policy, Planning & Innovation  
Metrolinx  
Toronto, Canada

**Nico Tillie – Rotterdam**

Landscape Architect & European Union Liaison, City  
of Rotterdam  
Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture, Delft  
University of Technology  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**Vicente Guallart – Barcelona**

Chief Architect, Barcelona City Council  
Founder, Institute of Advanced Architecture of  
Catalonia (IAAC)  
Founder, Guallart Architects  
Barcelona, Spain

**Daniel Hoornweg – Toronto**

Associate Professor & Jeffrey Boyce Research Chair,  
University of Ontario Institute of Technology  
Chief Safety and Risk Officer, Government of  
Ontario  
Toronto, Canada

**Michinaga Kohno – Tokyo**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Michi Creative City Designers Inc.  
Tokyo, Japan

**Bernard Leservoisier – Paris**

Secretary, ISO TC268 & TC268 WG1 Management  
Systems  
AFNOR Group – AFNOR Standardization  
Paris, France

**Patricia McCarney – Toronto**

Professor, Political Science  
Director, Global City Indicators Facility  
Director, Global Cities Institute  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada

**Roger Sherman – Los Angeles**

Co-Director, cityLAB  
Adjunct Professor, UCLA  
Principal, Roger Sherman Architecture + Urban  
Design  
Los Angeles, United States of America

**Richard Stren – Toronto**

Emeritus Professor, Political Science & Public Policy  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada

**Richard Sommer – Toronto**

Dean, Professor of Architecture & Urbanism  
John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape  
& Design  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Canada

**Hector Lostri – Buenos Aires**

Architect, Undersecretary of Urban Planning  
Ministry of Planning and Public Works,  
Autonomous City of Buenos Aires  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Noah Toly – Chicago**

Associate Professor, Urban Studies and Politics &  
International Relations  
Director, Urban Studies Program  
Wheaton College  
Wheaton, United States of America

**Ari Jaakola – Helsinki**

Statistics and Information Services, Urban Facts  
City of Helsinki  
Helsinki, Finland

The Global Cities Summit will also feature an **Innovations Marketplace** (trade exhibit) showcasing an exclusive number of leading innovators with sustainable and cutting-edge solutions for cities.

The Global Cities Summit positions Toronto as a leader in standardized metrics and innovative solutions for cities.

For more information about the Summit and its speakers, please visit the Summit website at:  
<http://globalcityessummit.com/Home.aspx>

**About the Facility:**

The Global Cities Summit is presented by the Global City Indicators Facility, in partnership with the University of Toronto. Launched in 2008, the Global Cities Indicators Facility (GCIF) responds to the urgent need for a globally standardized set of city indicators. The GCIF hosts a network over 250 member cities across 81 countries and provides a globally standardized system for data collection that allows for comparative knowledge and learning across cities globally.

**Media contact:**

Helen Ng, Program Coordinator  
Global City Indicators Facility  
[Helen.ng@globalcities.ca](mailto:Helen.ng@globalcities.ca)  
416-966-2368

Rachel Gilmour  
[rgilmour@andlogistix.com](mailto:rgilmour@andlogistix.com)  
416-593-7744