

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Second International Conference on Local Government

Conference Dates: October 26th-28th 2011

Venue: Durban, South Africa

Theme: Revisiting the Role of Local Government

Convener: Alexius Amtaika – University of the Free State

We are inviting scholars and local government practitioners to submit conference papers and full panel proposals for the 2011, 26th - 28th October Second International Conferences on Local Government in Durban, South Africa.

This Conference is a follow up on the First International Conference on Local Government which took place at Khon Kaen University in Thailand on the 18th and 19th November in 2010. The Khon Kaen Conference dealt with a number of issues, cardinal among them - corruption and devolution. The Durban Conference seeks to revisit the role of local government and contextualizes contemporary debates over topical issues such as development, democracy, civic education, citizen participation, nation-building, roles of political leadership, roles of public servants, roles of civic organizations, roles of the tribal chiefs, roles of the private sector, privatization, crime, urbanization and environmental matters, to mention but few roles. This has become urgently imperative due to global challenges which have put both governments and the citizens under duress and distress.

The Conference seeks to bring together academic/scholars and local government practitioners/civil servants from different part of the world to compare notes on the conceptual and practical roles of local government. As researchers, academics and scholars approach issues from conceptual perspectives and frameworks; local government practitioners/civil servants deal with practical issues and face real challenges on policy formulation and implementation which are normally overlooked in academic discussions and writings. The conference therefore offers a rare forum and opportunity to bring together different schools of thoughts on the role of local government. This is crucial as local government, the tier of government responsible for service delivery and democracy faces serious challenges of capacity not only in South Africa and Africa but also globally.

In short, the Conference seeks to address the following questions: What is the historical role of local government? How did the demands of modern living styles and standards change this role? What is the role of local government today and what needs to be done to enhance its role in promoting democracy and in improving the living standards of the citizens?

Due to plurality and divergent roles of local government the Theme of the conference has been divided into sub-themes to give room for wider participation. These include:

1. Developmental local government
2. Metropolitan municipalities
3. Local government finance/funding
4. Service delivery/service sustainability and local government

5. Municipal leadership and human resources management
6. Local government elections
7. Cooperative governance
8. E-Local government
9. Monitoring & evaluation in local government
10. Ethics in local government
11. Intergovernmental relations
12. Labour relations in local government
13. Local governance
14. Human capital development in local government
15. Participatory democracy and decentralization
16. Local economic development (L.E.D)
17. Comparative local government
18. Civic education at local government level
19. Citizen participation in local government
20. Corruption and local government
21. Urbanization, informal settlements, slums and environmental degradation.

As with our previous conference in Khon Kaen, Thailand, participants will be drawn from different parts of the world. Submitted papers will be assigned to particular panels according to similarities in theme, topic, discipline, or geographical location. Papers can also be submitted together as a panel. Additionally, selected papers will be published in book form.

This conference also has a commitment to professional development which will be fostered through workshops in writing, publishing, and conference presentation. The conference will also provide ample time for professionals from various disciplines and geographical locations to interact, exchange ideas, and receive feedback. Graduate students from across the globe are especially encouraged to attend and present papers and will be partnered with a senior scholar to encourage their own growth as scholars.

The final deadline for submitting paper proposals is June 24th, 2011. Proposals should include a 250-word abstract and title, as well as the author's name, address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation.

Please submit all abstracts to Executive Director and Convener of the Durban Conference Alexius Amtaika (Alex): amtaikaa@ufs.ac.za

A mandatory non-refundable registration fee of \$350 (R2450) for practitioners & scholars and \$100 (R700) for graduate students must be paid immediately when an abstract is accepted. This conference fee includes admission to the panels, workshops, lunch for three days, dinner on Wednesday the 26th October night and a banquet on Friday the 28th October evening.

The organizers do not provide participants with any form of funding support, travel expenses, or boarding expenses. If the conference obtains enough outside funding this will be used to help subsidize graduate students' accommodations on a competitive basis but it is not guaranteed.

For more information visit: <http://www.ufs.ac.za/ICLG>