

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.kfpe.ch)

# NORTH-SOUTH FORUM

Urban realities in developing countries

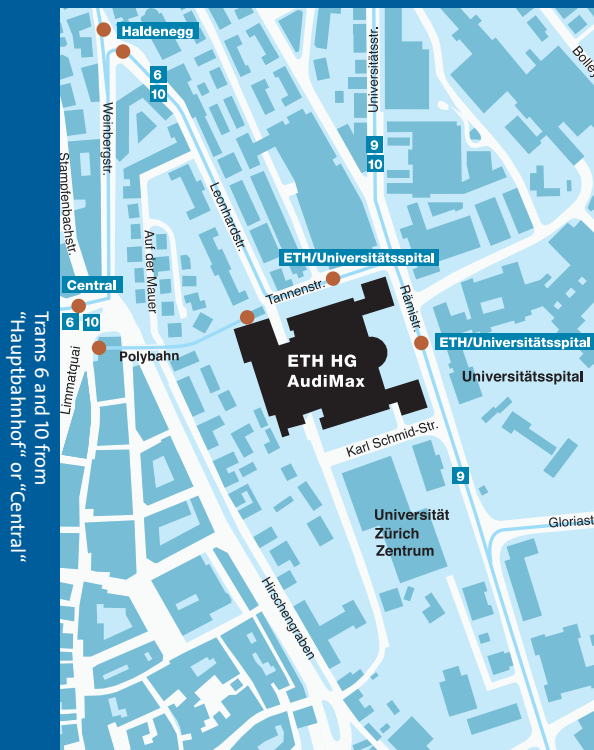
## Urban transformation – debating formal and informal development

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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



Tram 9 from "Bellevue"

north  
south  
NCCR

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Science and Policy  
Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences  
KFPE – Commission for Research Partnerships  
with Developing Countries



North-South Centre  
Research for Development

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## 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*