

ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-Local Potential for Change

Simon Fraser University, in partnership with CUSO-VSO and the BC Council for International Education, will convene an innovative public dialogue series and collaborative learning program that engages leaders of trans-local diasporic communities in Metro Vancouver.

What is Diaspora?

Diaspora commonly refers to a dispersion of people from their original homeland. In Metro Vancouver, myriad diasporic communities from the Global South carry out significant trans-local development work in the regions, countries, and towns or villages of their origin. These efforts are as diverse as the leaders who initiate them. Some examples include: building schools in rural Pakistan, supporting local artists in South Africa, funding leadership programs in Namibia, creating female education opportunities in Southern Sudan, organizing for Haitian relief, supporting peace-building in Darfur, and initiating the purchase of goats for villagers in rural Kenya.

Who are the Trans-Local Leaders?

The individuals profiled in this series conduct activities in multiple spaces with multiple impacts around the world—both closer to home and in the Global South. The series will explore current initiatives and examine the potential of diasporic-driven development. As well, innovative diasporic leaders will be invited to participate in a series of learning events where they will have the opportunity to critically examine the impacts of their work.

Public Dialogue and Workshop Series:

Connecting the often overlooked or untold stories of trans-local leaders and learning about the impacts of their actions will occur through five public dialogue events. SFU will also host a series of learning workshops that involve university faculty, students, and trans-local leaders in sharing perspectives, experiences, theory and practice with a view to creating tools and resources that support their work.

Public Dialogues, inspired by UN Millennium Development Goals:

- **Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth**
January 19, 2011
- **Improving Health**
March 16, 2011
- **Strategies for Education**
May 18, 2011
- **Human Security and Peace-building**
July 13, 2011
- **Diasporic Contributions to Development**
September 14, 2011

All dialogues will be held at **SFU's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.**

Workshop Series themes include:

- Trans-local development and the role of diaspora
- Models of development: a critical analysis
- Engaging the Canadian public: creative strategies
- Collaborative learning exchange

Issues relating to gender equality and environmental sustainability will be prominent in all the dialogues and workshops.

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