

The International Development unit and the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University present:

ENGAGING DIASPORA in development

Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change

www.sfu.ca/diasporas

Public Dialogue Innovations in Poverty Reduction and Economic Development

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2010

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Venue: SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue
580 West Hastings Street (at Seymour)
Vancouver, BC V6B 1L6

This event is open to the public but **advance registration is required.**

[Click here to register](#)

Dialogue Context

Diaspora-driven development efforts based in Metro Vancouver are emerging as a powerful development resource in the global south with reverberations in Metro. While often informal or grassroots, the impact of these initiatives demonstrate benefits and unique strengths (Newman, 2004) — cultural awareness of communities of origin, experience in working in dual cultures, awareness of local issues and concerns (trans-local) and long-term personal commitments to projects and communities. Diasporic leaders have much knowledge and experience to share with other members of diaspora communities as well as with the general Canadian public who rarely learn about this work.

In this dialogue we will foreground the innovative ways diaspora-driven initiatives are reducing poverty and creating opportunities for economic development including building infrastructure, technology transfer, skills and knowledge development, institution building, fundraising and other impacts.

Themes

- Housing and Infrastructure Construction
- Investing in Small Business Opportunities
- Solidarity and Emergency Response
- Technology Transfer and Exchange

For more information, please contact Mignon Alphonso at diasporas-info@sfu.ca or call 778.782.8536

Questions

What unique understandings do the diaspora bring to development work? What are the constraints and potentials for scaling up these efforts?

Where do diaspora have a comparative advantage and can contribute most effectively to any of the wide range of development efforts?

What are the policy implications of this work for policy in the Global South and in Canada?

Join us to hear diaspora stories of innovation in emergency response and infrastructure rebuilding, micro-lending, and business development that are making a difference around the globe.

Who is Invited?

Members of diaspora engaged in development; Academics, students and members of the public interested in international and community development issues; Leaders from the Multicultural sector, International NGOs, policy makers, Faith-based organizations, planners, architects, surveyors, engineers.

According to the World Bank, in 2005, approximately 1.4 billion people in the world were living on less than \$1.25 per day. Yet poverty is about much more than having an inadequate income. The 2010 Human Development report has developed a new multidimensional measure of poverty, based on deprivation levels of health, education and living standards, and estimates that 1.75 billion people live in poverty by this measure.

While financial inputs are important, and there is a relationship between per capita income as a measure of economic growth, economic growth is not the only measure of poverty reduction.

Reducing poverty is also about creating the conditions for self-respect, for self-organizing and creating the confidence and organizational capacity to make demands on the state and to mobilize for change.

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Project partners:



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