



## Event Details

### Title of Event

In culturally informed pursuit of SDGs: A critical examination of urban innovations in Asia, Europe, and the MENA-region

### Organization Details

**Organization:** Technical University of Berlin - Campus El Gouna and University of Groningen

**Organization Country:** Egypt and The Netherlands

### Summary

This event, organized by Urban Development Department, TU Berlin Campus El Gouna and Department of Planning, University of Groningen, investigates urban innovations across diverse cultural contexts, through innovative knowledge and tools, to address evolving challenges of urbanization (Habitat iii, 2015). Since “culture embraces innovative capacity of a society” (Herbig and Dunphy, 1998: 15), we aim to demonstrate such innovative approaches as “sociocultural processes” through citizen engagement, social capital, infrastructure, and local technology. Situated within dialogues 1 and 6, we particularly focus on the interplay between culture and urban innovations, and how cultured innovation contributes to implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and SDGs. This session will suggest institutional instruments in support of urban innovations, which in turn, are informed by cultural contexts they’re embedded in. Our session represents government officials, academia, and international organisations from three broadly defined contexts: Asia, Europe and the MENA-Region. Experts with diverse cultural and professional backgrounds and balanced gender distribution, will lead an interactive session. This exchange does not only showcase the dialogue between such diverse cultures, it tracks and analyzes the different outcomes of implementing those universal development goals on this range of societies and urban contexts.

We look into the potential contributions of smart city planning and design as cultured innovation to implementation of NUA and SDGs, by revisiting the concept of ‘culture’ and ‘innovation’. Building on these conceptual blocks, we present illustrative cases in Asia and Europe as empirical insights into manifestation of cultured innovations in varied contexts and implications for policy-making and practice.

Additionally, SDGs implementation in research proposals within the MENA-Region are presented; including fieldwork design and outputs in deprived urban areas along Arab cities. Through this field work, cultural and governance challenges arise due to different cooperation frameworks between researchers, public sectors and the community, which are reviewed in the Arabic context. Cultural conflicts mediation attempts include international cooperative workshops with academic entities such as Kassel & Bauhaus universities, working on deprived neighbourhoods; where they develop innovative approaches to culturally driven solutions. Those attempts also

involve the public sector such as city councils, and international organizations such as GIZ Urban Cluster.

Through panel discussion, audience with diverse cultural and professional backgrounds response to suggested critical questions. To promote the session, we actively use our academic and professional networks, and social media targeting wider audiences. We plan to disseminate results at selected international scientific meetings.

## Other Organization name

### Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)

	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Nada	Abdrabou	Moderator	Technical University of Berlin - Campus El Gouna
2	Hassan	Elmouelhi	Speaker	Technical University of Berlin - Campus El Gouna
3	Mohab	El Refaie	Panelist	Senior Adviser Policy Framework, GIZ Egypt
4	Fatima	Al-Nammari	Speaker/Panelist	Petra University
5	Juhyun	Lee	Speaker	University of Groningen
6	Thai Nguyen	Van Quoc	Speaker	University of Groningen
7	Nguyen	Quang	Panelist	UN-Habitat Vietnam
8	Ron	Holz hacker	Panelist	University of Groningen