

Press Release

London, 15 October 2012

LONDON HOSTS GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE POLITICS, CULTURE AND ECONOMICS OF THE 'ELECTRIC CITY'

The Urban Age Electric City conference will take place in London on **6 and 7 December 2012**. Organised by LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, and supported by the Mayor of London, the conference will investigate how new technologies – from smart phones to electric bicycles - have deep impacts on the social, cultural and economic life of cities in the context of rapid urban change and the environmental crisis.

The Urban Age Electric City conference will be the eleventh in a series that since 2005 has explored the links between the physical and the social dimensions of some of the most rapidly changing cities of the world, including Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Johannesburg and Hong Kong. This year's two-day event will explore themes that connect technology, the environment and cities and will be attended by 300 invited participants and around 40 speakers drawn from cities and institutions in Asia, Africa, North and South America and Europe.

Some of the world's leading social scientists – such as Ed Glaeser, Tony Giddens and Saskia Sassen – will tackle the social, political and economic dimensions of technological change, addressing questions of adaptation and change in individual and collective behaviour. Others, including Bruce Katz of the Brookings Institution and representatives from the UK Government will explore how the economics of green cities influences the welfare and economic geography of urban areas. The impact of low-tech and high-tech solutions on urban living will be debated by city leaders and service providers in developed and developing regions, while urbanists and architects Richard Sennett, Alejandro Zaera Polo, Richard Rogers and Bjarke Ingels will explore the culture and meaning of emergent urban spaces and places. Finally, the mayors of London, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm and Barcelona will discuss how the 21st century Electric City can be effectively governed, identifying the limits and conflicts between cities and states in confronting the challenges of climate change.

LSE Cities is an international centre at the LSE, supported by Deutsche Bank, which carries out research, education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Through research, conferences, teaching and projects, the centre explores how cities can be made fairer and more sustainable for the next

generation of urban dwellers.

The Alfred Herrhausen Society (AHS) is the International Forum of Deutsche Bank, which plays a vital part in Deutsche Bank's worldwide commitment to culture and society.

Mayor Boris Johnson said of the partnership with LSE Cities on this event, "London is the ideal city to discuss this very important interaction between technology, city growth and climate change, and I am committed to supporting the debate around these issues and engaging business and entrepreneurs in devising new solutions."

Urban Age Electric City Conference

6, 7 December 2012

London

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