Workshop sponsored by ECA ECSSD (Sustainable Development Department) and the LED Sub-Thematic Group at the Urban Anchor

Re-engineering the City: Approaches to Urban Regeneration in the Post-Industrial City

Wednesday, October 8, 2008
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Dermot Finch, Director, Centre for Cities, has been Director of the Centre for Cities since 2005. The Centre produces practical research on the economic drivers of urban growth and change, and policy solutions for Whitehall, cities and business. Previously, Mr. Finch was a Senior Policy Adviser at HM Treasury (1994-2005), including 3 years at the British Embassy in Washington DC (2001-04) and 2 years as a private secretary in both of Ken Clarke and Gordon Brown’s ministerial teams (1996-97). His range of Treasury policy responsibilities included financial services, the euro, productivity, enterprise and cities. Mr. Finch is from Clitheroe, Lancashire, and studied at Liverpool University (1986-89) and Queen’s University, Belfast (1989-91).

Valerie Santos-Young serves as Chief Operating Officer of the District of Columbia’s Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. In this role, she manages a team of about 70 staff and an operating budget of about $60 million to achieve goals of affordable housing creation, neighborhood revitalization and catalyzing transformative development and expanding the city’s economic base. Current projects include the 2.1 million square foot redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront, the development of a 1,200-room convention center headquarters hotel, more than $1 billion worth of urban retail and residential projects in the Columbia Heights neighborhood as well as many other public-private partnership projects. Prior to joining the Fenty administration, Ms. Young was a vice president at Jones Lang LaSalle, where she specialized in urban public-private development. Previously, she was a manager with Ernst & Young’s real estate group and an Associate with Hamilton Rabinovitz & Alschuler. She is a graduate of Santa Clara University, and earned her MBA at Harvard Business School and a MPP at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Christine Kessides has been Lead Urban Economist in the Urban and Water Group of the Sustainable Development Department, in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region, since 2005. She has led urban and municipal development sector work and business development in Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Poland and Russia. Prior to joining ECA she worked in the Urban Anchor as Urban Advisor, where she was responsible for writing the Bank's urban strategy in 2000, managed three international urban research symposia, conducted urban sector studies with particular emphasis on urban poverty and infrastructure, and was the initiator of the local economic development knowledge program. She has been a core team member on two World Development Reports, in 1994 on Infrastructure and 2003 on Sustainable Development (as author of the chapter on cities), and has published several papers on infrastructure and urban issues. She has also worked as a country economist for the Bank in the Africa and Europe regions.