

## FREE – THE WORLD'S CITY LEADERS

**30 September 2008:**

Sydneysiders interested in the future of cities will enjoy a free opportunity to meet, speak with and listen to leaders of world cities in a free public forum, taking place next month in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Metropolis (22 – 25 October).

The series of free talks will be held all day Friday 24 October and Saturday 25, where world experts and leaders will openly discuss the major issues facing cities today.

**The Metropolis Agora Meeting Place** will be held as part of Metropolis Congress 2008, to be hosted by the NSW Government and held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The Metropolis "Agora" (ancient Greek for "meeting place") will be tailored to appeal to students and recent graduates of architecture, design, business and international relations, young professionals, students of the third age – anyone with an interest in the current affairs of world cities.

"The Agora will inspire great public debate and open discussion on the pressing issues faced by the world's major cities, including city leadership, sustainable transport, new technologies and climate change," said Sydney Metropolis Congress Director, Chris Johnson.

"Through the free **Agora Meeting Place**, the NSW Government is pleased to engage the public of Sydney with a prestigious event happening in our city.

"This is a rare chance for interested members of the public to meet and talk with the world's influential community leaders and expert thinkers who are gathering in Sydney next month," Mr Johnson said.

<b>WHAT</b>	Global Cities Showcase Agora, Friday 24 October – 11.30am – 4.30pm Super Congress Saturday Agora, Saturday 25 October - 10am – 3.30pm
<b>WHERE</b>	Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Drive, Darling Harbour
<b>FREE EVENT</b>	No bookings necessary
<b>MORE INFO</b>	For all Agora session times, complete list of speakers, and all Metropolis information visit <a href="http://www.metropoliscongress2008.com">www.metropoliscongress2008.com</a>

The **Global Cities Showcase Agora on Friday 24 October** will see world mayors from India, Asia, Africa, China and Latin America tackle the questions, "What are the three key challenges facing your city before 2030?" and "What innovative solutions are you putting into place to address these challenges?"

The **Super Congress Saturday Agora on Saturday 25 October** will feature interactive panel discussions by industry and academic leaders from global organisations and world-renowned universities. Sessions will be themed into four key areas: adapting to climate change, the future of urban technology, addressing growth in "megacities" and globalisation and city leadership.

Highlights of the Saturday Agora will include technology demonstrations by Carlo Ratti, Director of the 2007 Venice Biennale's Real Time Rome project, and presentations by Nicola Villa, Global Director, Connected Urban Development, IBSG, Cisco.

In the much-anticipated Climate Change session, the public will be able to see how Sydney measures up against the rest of the world, and how we can make a difference in adapting to urban change without compromising our environment.

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