

***IGC Cities that Work workshop, Amman, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019***

**Location:** [Al Hussein Cultural Center](#), Greater Amman Municipality

**Overview:** The chosen themes of this workshop proposal are based on various discussions with stakeholders in the Greater Amman Municipality and scoping trips to the city. Two areas have been identified as key points of policy discussion: (i) options to enhance the use of data in urban policymaking and (ii) options to improve the calculation, issuance and collection of development levies. Each theme will be the subject of a half-day workshop to be delivered consecutively, recognising that success in theme (i) is closely related to the performance of theme (ii).

The objectives of the workshop will be to convene the ideas of various participants and focus on specific remedies to challenges in each theme. All participants will be encouraged to participate in the discussions and different departments will be encouraged to take ownership of following up particular actions that arise from the workshops.

*Live translation to Arabic and English will be provided*

**Audience:** Comprehensive Planning Department, Zoning Department, GIS Department, Department of Finance, Department of Building Permits, Transport Directorate, Urban Observatory, Department of Land and Surveys, Department of Statistics, Engineering Directorate, Studies and Environment Awareness Department, others where relevant. Total of 50-55 participants.

**09:00 – 09:30:** Registration

**09:30 – 09:45:**

- Introductions and outlining objectives for the workshop

**Morning – Half day workshop:** Improving data collection and dissemination to facilitate better decision making.

**09:45 – 11:15:**

- 5 minute presentations on data collection and dissemination efforts by representatives from each of eight different departments:
  - *Comprehensive Planning Department: to discuss data archives and collaborations with local researchers and platforms like CLUSTER (Eng. Ahmad Zayed)*
  - *GIS Department: to discuss data collection, challenges and processing into Urban Layers based on the demands of various departments at GAM (Eng. Nidal Marji)*
  - *Transport Directorate: data applications to assess transport operations and policy needs (Mrs. Jane Raqqad)*
  - *Studies and Environment Awareness Department: to discuss data availability and challenges concerning GAM fleet and waste management (Eng. Omar Arabyiat)*
  - Q&A

*5 minute break*

- *Department of Studies and Design: data applications for engineering and monitoring sustainable urban infrastructure, and how projects are developed (Eng. Nehmeh Qatanai)*
- *Heritage Section: to discuss the challenges with heritage data and collaborations with various departments (Eng. Firas Rabadi)*
- *Urban Data Observatory: collecting national data to generate urban indicators that meet international standards and display the current projects by Urban Observatory (Dr. Nsir Qandil)*
- *University of Jordan: to discuss data collection and research challenges with various governmental bodies especially GAM (Dr. Deyala Tarawneh)*
- Q&A

**11:15 – 11:30:** Coffee break

**11:30 – 11:50:**

- Data for decision making ([Professor Nic Tsivanidis](#), International Economics Fellow at [Dartmouth College](#))
  - The presentation will cover: (i) using data to inform research and policy on cities, (ii) stakeholders that are best placed to collect and

use the data, (iii) methods for collection, coordination and dissemination, and (iv) fostering collaborations between researchers and policymakers.

- Q&A

**11:55 – 12:15:**

- Establishing data centres for urban research and policy ([Sebastian Kriticos](#), Cities Economist at the [International Growth Centre](#))
  - The presentatin will draw upon international experiences to offer lessons learned for establishing and/or improving institutions for city data. This includes: (i) developing concepts and objectives for independent urban data centres, (ii) improving data coordination and management practices, (iii) working with academic and research institutions, and (iv) disseminating data outputs for effective policymaking.
- Q&A

**12:15 – 12:30:**

- Wrap up of the half-day workshop

**12:30 – 13:30:** Lunch break

**Afternoon – Half day workshop:** Policy options to address challenges with development levies in Amman

**13:30 – 14:05:**

- 5 minute presentations on urban planning and municipal finance challenges by representatives from each of four different departments:
  - *Planning Department*: to present on operations and challenges of the sector with reference to financing urban growth (Nuha Qtaish, Planning Executive Director)
  - *Comprehensive Planning Department*: to present on the development levies challenges and efforts to manage urban growth (Rima Odeh, Comprehensive Planning Department Manager)
  - *Department of Building Permits*: to present on Compensation fees Formula & Area C as a case Study for Development levies calculations. (Eng. Mohanna Qattan Building Permits Manager)
- Q&A

**14:05 – 14:25:**

- Considerations for municipal finance reform ([Astrid Haas](#), Manager of the [Cities that Work](#) programme at The [International Growth Centre](#)).
  - This presentation will cover policy options and trade offs in financing fast growing cities, bringing forwards policy learnings from international experience to frame the challenges and opportunities facing Amman.

- Q&A

**14:25 – 14:35:** Coffee break

**14:35 – 15:35:**

- Break away sessions into groups:
  - Groups will be composed of members from various departments within GAM. Each group will be assigned a separate set of questions as well as a group lead and coordinator. The first 30 minutes will be used for open discussion and the last 30 minutes will be used for presentation of ideas, leaving time for open questions.
  - The purpose of the exercise is to focus the answers on potential reform options, highlighting what the pros and cons of each reform are, what the potential challenges are, information they would need to carry-out reform, and required stakeholders.

**15:35 – 15:45pm:** Coffee break

**15:45 – 16:00pm:**

- Wrap up of the workshops
- Conclusions and next steps

**Moderator:** [Astrid Haas](#), Manager of the [Cities that Work](#) programme at The [International Growth Centre](#)