

## **Bios of the speakers for the Sustainable City Round Table**

### **Round Table Host**

#### **Minister Juan Jose Guerra Abud, Mexico**

Mr. Juan José Guerra Abud was appointed as the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico on 1 December 2013. From 2009 to 2012, he served as the Coordinator of the Ecological Green Party at the lower house of Mexico's Congress. In 1994, he was the Minister of Economic Development of the State of Mexico.



As the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Guerra is responsible for promoting the protection, restoration and conservation of ecosystems, natural resources, environmental goods and services in Mexico, in order to facilitate their use and sustainable development. Under the leadership of the Minister, the Ministry has put priorities on the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, the prevention of pollution, and the integrated management of water resources and climate change.

### **Panelists**

#### **Gino van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI**

Mr. Begin has worked over the last 12 years towards ensuring ICLEI's quality as a responsible, professional, not for profit, local government organization in Europe and worldwide. Prior to serving as the ICLEI's Secretary General, he served as ICLEI Regional Director for Europe since 2002 and as Deputy Secretary General since 2007.



He brings to his current position a wealth of experience in coordinating and leading international institutions and organizations across different aspects of sustainable urban development. Before joining ICLEI, Mr Begin worked as advisor and as Team Leader at the EU-funded Environmental Centres for Administration and Technology in Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg, Russia for seven years.

**Bernardo Baranda Sepulveda, Director for Latin America, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy**

Mr. Bernardo Baranda is Regional Director for Latin America at the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) in Mexico City, Mexico. ITDP works in cities in Mexico promoting projects for improvements in public transport, non-motorized transport and travel demand management.



Mr. Baranda holds master degrees in transport engineering and management and implementation of development projects. He has been extensively involved in advocating sustainable transportation and has also been active in international conferences, interviews and written articles related to urban sustainable mobility.

**Boris Graizbord, Coordinator, LEAD Mexico, Colegio de Mexico (No Photo)**

Boris Graizbord is the national program director for Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Mexico. Before joining LEAD, he served twice as academic coordinator for the master's program in urban development at El Colegio de Mexico. Since 1979, he has been a research professor at the Center of Demographic Studies and Urban Development in El Colegio de Mexico. He also teaches full and short time courses at other academic institutions, including some in the United States.

Under the auspices of various organizations, he conducted research on population and environment, industrial pollution and medium-sized cities, metropolitan transport and regional development in Mexico. He has written more than 50 chapters and articles that have appeared in books and in national and international periodicals, magazines and newspapers, and has co-authored four books.

**Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Seberang Perai, Malaysia**

Madam Maimunah Mohd Sharif has the distinction of being the first woman to hold the post of Municipal President of Municipal Council of Seberang Perai on 16 March 2011. She was simultaneously also appointed as the President of the Malaysian Association of Local Authorities.



She had begun her career in Municipal Council of Penang Island since 1985 as a Town Planning Officer and rising to become the Director, Department of Town Planning since 2003. Madam Maimunah was entrusted to establish the George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) to manage all the heritage sites in Penang. She has presented many papers in seminars, forums and conferences, both in Malaysia and abroad. In the course of her distinguished career, she has received a number of honorary awards.

### **Moderator**

#### **Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, World Bank**

Dr. Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez is the Sector Director of the Sustainable Development Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean region at the World Bank. Ede has recently been announced to be the first Senior Director of one of the 14 World Bank new Global Practices on Urban, Rural & Social Development Global Practice and his appointment will be effective on 1 July 2014.



Prior to this position, Dr. Ijjasz was the Sector Manager of the Sustainable Development Unit for China and Mongolia. This position was created by the World Bank's East Asia and Pacific region to provide better management support to projects and counterpart agencies in the areas of infrastructure (transport, energy, water supply and sanitation), environment, social, rural and urban development.

Dr. Ijjasz has held various key positions in the World Bank, including the Water and Sanitation Program and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. Before joining the World Bank in 1997, Dr. Ijjasz was a senior associate with ICF Kaiser International where he provided technical and policy advisory services to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on pollution issues. He has several publications in civil engineering, physics and geomorphology scientific journals.