

Fifth International EcoMateriales Conference



ECOMATERIALS 5

SUSTAINABLE HABITAT

OCTOBER 12th - 14th 2016, RIOBAMBA, ECUADOR

The **EcoSur** network is organizing the issue number five of the “**International EcoMaterials Conference**” in the week prior to Habitat III in the nearby city of **Riobamba**. The **Global Network for Sustainable Housing**, co-ordinated by UN-Habitat, has joined as co-organizer of the event.

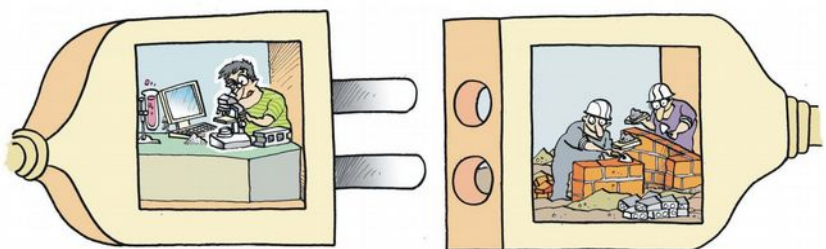
From October 12th to 14th presentations and debates will be shown on basics around the construction, maintenance and upkeep of habitat focusing on developing countries. Our view goes towards towns and intermediate cities as well as to popular neighborhoods in large cities, but focusing on small and medium scale actions with strong ties to the base. Technologies, practices and materials that can be produced or applied at local level and implemented by small and medium size actors are at the center of the conference. While we focus on “best practices” proven and well tested , the conference will also provide space for promising innovations and new developments.

This conference is a complement to **UN-habitat III** (UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) that will take place in Quito, Ecuador, with a platform for practical solutions. It is a follow-up to the previous four conferences that united several hundred participants from all over the world, presenting and debating ideas, solutions and experiences around the themes of sustainable habitat, disaster relief, know how transfer and new ways to reach sustainability.

The “**EcoMaterials**” movement has consolidated over the last 20 years. It is a good moment to look at the paths followed from the perspective of sustainability, which was the subject of the first of this series of conferences that took place in Havana in November 1998. Production and use of EcoMaterials is becoming more and more frequent in many countries and in some it has entered the formal sector with an impact in the local market. Its utilization in varied contexts, as in post disaster projects, in the fight against poverty or in formal commercial housing, has converted EcoMaterials into versatile solutions. The technologies developed do not constitute cultural, political, social or technical barriers.

The EcoMaterials Conferences are part of the international alternative movement demanding for alternative practices to be introduced into the formal housing market, as the economic, technical and social sustainability have been demonstrated. The Conference has converted into an ideal medium for multilateral contacts and interchanges among personalities and institutions which in one form or another are related with the development, production and trade of EcoMaterials. The work sessions are organized in workshops with debates on the different topics related to the Conference’s main theme: **Sustainable hábitat.**

Conexión ideal - Ideal connection





EcoMateriales II, 2001 Santa Clara, Cuba



Ecomateriales IV, 2009, Bayamo, Cuba

The goals of the conference

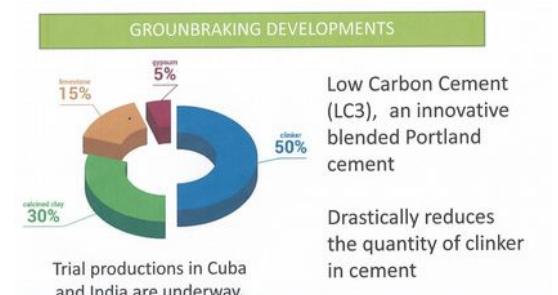
At the recent Paris conference on Climate Change, in December 2015, 195 nations recognized that national, regional and local urbanization policies are a critical tool on the way to fight climate change. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN, stated: *“We need to create low-carbon cities while also combating poverty and exclusion”.*

Practical solutions will be needed to achieve the goals set by the Paris conference and the goals that will be set in Quito. The EcoSur network organizes issue number five of the “International EcoMaterials Conference” in the week prior to Habitat III in the nearby intermediate city of Riobamba.

It is time to confront the goals of ecology and sustainability with the reality of the habitat: Can Ecology and Economy go together? Can a green product be profitable? Can a “green house” be financed by a bank and accepted by an insurance company? Can poor families aspire to strive for sustainability? Is it possible to promote local solutions in the face of global marketing? Why is post disaster reconstruction so unsustainable? Is it possible to build fast, low cost and sustainable at the same time? How far is recycling feasible? How to neutralize solid and liquid waste?

We need to search for practical solutions: We need technologies that combine ecology and economy! “green technologies” have to enter the mainstream! Life cycle analysis and natural resource management must become mandatory for political decisions! Social housing delivery must balance social, economical and ecological parameters! We need to develop efficient materials that can be used massively! We need solutions for fast and durable constructions! We need to improve the level of workmanship among builders! We need to identify sustainable and affordable waste treatment technologies!

There exist “Good Practices” that can be interpreted and applied, we want to know them: There exist social and political initiatives that raise sustainability. New investigations into cement production allow for hope. Local production can compete in the market. Composite materials open new possibilities for small scale prefabrication. There is room for traditional technologies and materials if produced with applied knowledge. Dual education programs are successful. Debris can be recycled. Efficient microbes and other biological ways to neutralize waste are available.



The methodology

For every day a theme will be set to guide the debate. The days begin with a plenary session of approximately 150 minutes organized as a discussion panel where four key note speakers make short contributions to set the theme. We count on opinion leaders from science, business and politics from all continents to present their views, concerns and ideas. This triggers a discussion facilitated by a moderator, to debate the inputs and deepen the information. Lively discussions shall be sought, aiming at enriching the controversial aspects of the theme. The public will be invited to ask questions and enter the debate.

A stand-up lunch gives the opportunity to mix and meet other participants. The poster session sets the mood to engage in discussions.

The afternoon sessions are divided in three commissions, each addressing a specific theme related to the main daily theme. While the morning sessions set the theme and provide food for thoughts, the afternoon sessions are dedicated to solutions, new scientific developments and real time experiences. The setup is the same as in the morning, selected papers are presented and then discussed in a guided debate. The key note speakers join the commissions as guests.

The Venue and Conference infrastructure

The conference centre is at the Universidad Nacional de Chimborazo University in Riobamba, 200 km south of Quito where the monumental “Habitat III” conference will take place the week after. We assume that most International visitors to Ecomaterials 5 will do it in combination with Habitat III.

Transport from Quito to Riobamba is easy on the Panamerican highway. There exists a collective taxi service which seats four passengers comfortably, with pick up at Quito hotels and delivery to Riobamba hotels in 3 hours for 20 USD. Pullman type-buses leave frequently from the bus station located in the south of Quito for a 4 hour-trip for 5 USD. On Saturday after “Ecomaterials 5” the conference organizes a special bus service to Quito, combined with sight-seeing, including a visit to the refuge at 4'800 meters altitude that is the starting point to climb the Chimborazo volcano.

Acomodation:

There is a wide selection of Hotels available from modest to comfortable, starting at 25 USD per night. Numerous restaurants offer many kind of dishes at modest prices. Within the city, taxis are the common way of transport, a ride costs 1 to 3 USD. The venue of the conference is a short ride from all town hotels. Just across the Conference venue there is a large shopping mall.



Presentation of papers and abstracts

Papers should not exceed 10 pages in format DIN A4 with 2 cm margins all around, including images, graphics and tables; text in 11 points size Arial. The paper includes a 250 word abstract and 3 to 5 keywords as reference starting the abstract. Papers can be sent by e-mail to the Organizing Committee, written with a word processor.

Papers will be published in electronic format to be delivered to participants as part of the information provided at the conference and they will be made available on www.ecomateriales.org

Deadlines for abstracts for papers or posters

Deadline for abstracts delivery is **June 30, 2016**. Authors will be informed of acceptance by the Scientific Commission during the month of July.

Papers accepted by the Scientific Committee must be delivered the latest on **August 30, 2016**.

Papers that are not received within this time frame won't be included in the Conference's documents.

Languages

The Conference is bilingual. Official languages will be Spanish and English. The conference's rooms will have simultaneous translation facilities.

Registration fees

Payment can be made by PayPal or by bank transfer. Please write to ecomat5@ecosur.org for details in bank transfer)

	If paid before July 31	If paid before September 30	Paid at the conference (cash)
Delegates and authors	200 USD	225 USD	250 USD
Accompanying persons	50 USD	50 USD	50 USD
Students	100 USD	100 USD	125 USD

Registration includes participation in the working sessions, documents, welcome cocktail, stand-up lunch during the conference and dinner during closing ceremony. Accompanying persons are invited to the welcome cocktail and the farewell dinner.

Organizing Committee

Co-Presidents: Paul Moreno, Fundación EcoSur Ecuador
Bernardo Rhyner, EcoSur network
Diego Barahona, Universidad Nacional de Chimborazo

Scientific Committee

President Kurt Rhyner, Prof. Dr. Arch. (EcoSur)
Members Fernando Martirena, Prof. Dr. Cs. (CIDEM)
Andrés Olivera, Prof. Dr. Arch.(UCLV)

Practical Information

Our conference travel agency offers tour packages including transport, hotel and conference registration and is pleased to assist with special reservations and travel arrangements, including local tourism and international flights to and from Quito or Guayaquil. Our special packages :

The package includes registration at the conference plus the following services:	Modest hotel	Medium hotel	Comfort hotel
No transport included Hotel in Riobamba, 4 nights with breakfast double occupancy single occupancy	Package 1.1. 380 400	Package 1.2. 475 523	Package 1.3. 540 652
Pickup at your hotel in Quito Transport Quito-Riobamba-Quito 4 nights double occupancy with breakfast double occupancy single occupancy	Package 2.1. 450 470	Package 2.2. 545 593	Package 2.3. 610 722
One night at hotel in Quito Transport Quito-Riobamba-Quito 4 nights double occupancy with breakfast double occupancy single occupancy	Package 3.1. 485 505	Package 3.2. 609 699	Package 3.3. 745 972
Extra night in Riobamba double occupancy single occupancy	Extra R1 25 30	Extra R2 49 61	Extra R3 65 93
Extra night in Quito double occupancy single occupancy	Extra Q1 35 43	Extra Q2 64 106	Extra Q3 135 250

Hotels in Riobamba: Riohotel (Modest) / El Molino (Medium) / Hacienda Abraspungo (comfort)
Hotels in Quito : San Francisco (Modest) / Sebastian (medium) / Patio Andaluz (comfort)
For late reservations the Hotel might have to be changed.

Please take into account discount for early cancellation according to the preceding table
(-50 \$ until July 31 / -25 \$ until Sept. 30 for delegates)

Contact with the organizers

Relevant information about the Conference is available at the conference website:

www.ecomateriales.org

You can contact us at: ecomat5@ecosur.org

Twitter: @EcoSur

Facebook: /EcoSurNetwork

This is a unique opportunity for practically minded decision makers to combine their visit to UN-habitat III with an update on the state of the art in reducing the ecological footprint of their cities, neighborhoods and projects.