



For Immediate Release

**URBAN AGE ISTANBUL CONFERENCE INVESTIGATES
THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL CITIES**

**Global economic condition, climate change and
sustainability, and social cohesion key issues for cities**

London, UK – On 5 November, Urban Age will inaugurate an intensive two-day conference on the future of cities in Istanbul, an expanding metropolis and one of the world's first global cities. 100 innovators of urban change from 15 countries, half a dozen mayors, renowned scholars and authors side-by-side with architects and developers leading major urban regeneration projects around the globe will offer presentations about urban transformations in 25 cities. The conference will engage an invited audience of over 300 urban policymakers, academics, designers, planners and developers to explore the vast and complex challenge of contemporary city making and the interconnected issues of the impact of the global economic condition on world cities, the effect of climate change on urban sustainability and the role of urban design in creating socially cohesive environments.

The Urban Age Istanbul conference offers a mirror to reflect on issues of critical importance with the world's leading experts of urban change. The impact of ever-increasing and unequal sprawl on carbon emissions and sustainable city living, the exponential increase in car ownership and the debilitating effect of uncontrolled growth on basic urban infrastructure – such as public transport, water and sewer systems – are analysed in the context of a deep historical urbanism, emerging local governance structures, a challenging global economy, and new forms of multi-polar politics.

Chairman of the Deutsche Bank's Management Board and Chairman of the Alfred Herrhausen Society's Board of Trustees, **Josef Ackermann** will open the conference with the Mayor of Istanbul **Kadir Topbaş**. They will be joined by highly respected international experts including **Kemal Derviş**, former finance minister of the Turkish government and Vice-President of the Brookings Institution in Washington DC, **Howard Davies**, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and urban sociologists **Richard**

Sennett and **Çağlar Keyder** to discuss the relationship between the global economy and urban development.

Alongside many local and regional speakers, presentations will be made by the world-renowned architect **Richard Rogers**, New York Transportation Commissioner **Janette Sadik-Khan** and **Saskia Sassen**, the world expert on global cities from Columbia University. Turkey's most eminent planning historian **İlhan Tekeli** will reflect on Turkish cities, alongside leading architects and designers in Istanbul including **İhsan Bilgin** and **Korhan Gümüş**. Mayors and civic leaders of Washington DC, São Paulo, Barcelona, Bogotá and Istanbul will join policymakers, planners and architects from London, Rotterdam, the Hague, New Delhi, Philadelphia, Berlin, Beirut and Mexico City.

Additionally, newly released Urban Age research conducted by the LSE includes a comprehensive comparison of 20 indicators across the Urban Age cities, new mappings of city per capita carbon emissions and flood risk, analyses tracking recent economic shifts in cities, and detailed analysis of residential density, mobility networks and urban form in New York, Shanghai, London, Mexico City, Johannesburg, Berlin, Mumbai, São Paulo and Istanbul.

In summing up the conference aims, Ricky Burdett, Director of Urban Age, said: 'The Urban Age Istanbul conference starts from the unique and compelling nature of Istanbul to bring into focus broader emerging urban themes worldwide. We expect to highlight changes in Istanbul's priorities towards city making and how public transport offers social mobility and economic justice as well as a means to navigate complex or fragmented – and increasingly diverse – urban landscapes. Equally important are the lessons emerging from the locally based and urban-focussed cultural initiatives which are creating more inclusive, stable and sustainable places for people to live.'

Wolfgang Nowak, Managing Director of the Alfred Herrhausen Society, said: 'By co-organising the Urban Age project with the LSE, Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society is interested in developing a 'grammar of success' that makes cities work better as social, political and environmental mechanisms. The objective of the Istanbul conference is to bring together urban experiences from around the world to better understand how we can create more equitable cities for the future'.

For more information, go to <http://www.urban-age.net>

Contact:

Grup7 – Necla Yilmaz
adural@grup7.com.tr
+90 (0) 212 292 13 13

Ute Weiland
Alfred Herrhausen Society
The International Forum of Deutsche Bank
ute.weiland@db.com
+49 (30) 3407 4201

Adam Kaasa
Urban Age
London School of Economics
a.r.kaasa@lse.ac.uk
+90 (0)534 433 3073
+44 (0)20 7955 6092

About Urban Age

Urban Age engages the world's increasing urbanisation through events and research that shape the thinking of urban leaders and the practice of sustainable urban development. Initiated by the Cities Programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society, Urban Age is structured around international outreach supporting the creation of a new urban agenda for global cities. Its worldwide interdisciplinary network of urban experts lead an "on the ground" investigation of policies, developments and projects with up-to-date insights collected and shared through conferences, workshops, seminars and publications in cities as diverse as New York, Shanghai, London, Mexico City, Johannesburg, Berlin, Mumbai, São Paulo and Istanbul.

In January 2010, Urban Age will become part of the newly established LSE Cities, an international centre for urban excellence supported by Deutsche Bank. LSE Cities will carry out research, outreach and teaching activities in the urban field. Its principal aim is to contribute to knowledge production, dissemination and application critical for the development of cities worldwide, focussing on the interrelationship of physical, social, environmental and economic characteristics of cities.