



CENTER FOR
REAL ESTATE

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2017 World Real Estate Forum to focus on emerging African opportunities

Global experts at May 18-19 World Real Estate Forum will explore City Futures, Innovation, Growth Markets, Cross-Border Capital, Development Opportunities

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (February 27, 2017) – Given the rapid development occurring in various economic regions of Africa, the 2017 World Real Estate Forum (WREF) will include a focus on real estate industry developments in Africa, organizers announced this week.

Hosted on May 18-19 by the MIT Center for Real Estate on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the [World Real Estate Forum](#) is an unparalleled gathering of more than 300 industry leaders, distinguished faculty, and innovative researchers who will engage in wide-ranging conversations about the global real estate industry. This year, portions of the conference will be live-streamed.

The *Growth Markets, Development Opportunities: Africa* panel will consider emerging real estate opportunities, factors that are spurring industry development, and future trends. "What this World Real Estate Forum brings to attendees is an extraordinary platform for significant real estate topics, and people to network with from across the globe. Including African Real Estate is a testament to the organizer's goal of representing the global diversity of real estate in one conference," says Bronwyn Corbett, panel moderator and CEO of [Mara Delta Property Holdings](#).

Other panelists include Yomi Ademola, country head at [Rendeavour](#) in Nigeria; Jason McCormick, managing director of [McCormick Property Development](#) in South Africa; and Thomas Reilly, managing director-Africa Real Estate of [Investec Asset Management](#) in London, England.

The World Real Estate Forum features five expert panels of industry thought leaders from over 20 countries, along with *The Edge Sessions*, a series of conference tracks in which

participants may engage directly with MIT faculty and researchers on exciting innovations in real estate.

“The MIT Center for Real Estate has a rich, 34-year history of pioneering research, providing a rigorous, multidisciplinary master’s degree program, and spurring innovation in international real estate,” said Albert Saiz, Director of the MIT Center for Real Estate and the Daniel Rose Associate Professor of Urban Economics and Real Estate. “One way we achieve our mission is by uniting industry thought leaders with MIT’s distinguished faculty, researchers, and alumni each spring.”

This year’s World Real Estate Forum panelists will come to Cambridge from all corners of the globe—including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, United Kingdom, and Uruguay—to discuss a wide range of topics that are shaping and reshaping the real estate industry:

- City Futures: From Buildings to People
- Debt, Equity and Innovation: How Global Capital Influences Future Development
- Growth Markets, Development Opportunities: Latin America
- Growth Markets, Development Opportunities: Africa
- Growth Markets, Development Opportunities: India

The Edge Sessions, led by expert faculty and researchers from the MIT Center for Real Estate, will explore cutting edge research topics such as *Real Disruption: At the Intersection of Technology and Real Estate* (Steve Weikal); *AI and the Robotic Future of Real Estate* (Dr. Andrea Chegut); *Thermoplastics: The Next Building Paradigm* (Prof. Mark Goulthorpe); *Impact Investing* (KC Hardin); *3D, Stackable, Modular: Innovation and the Global Housing Crisis* (Prof. Albert Saiz); *Re-invention: How the Innovation Economy is Changing Cities* (Prof. Dennis Frenchman); and *Securing the Cyber-Physical Infrastructure and Internet of Things* (Senior Research Scientist Michael Siegel).

The World Real Estate Forum takes place on Thursday, May 18, and Friday, May 19, 2017 at the MIT Media Lab, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Registration and additional information are available online at mitworldreforum.com.

The event, which has been gold-certified by the MIT Office of Sustainability, is sponsored by [Jones Lang LaSalle](#), the [Samuel Tak Lee MIT Real Estate Entrepreneurship Lab](#) and global law firm [Baker & McKenzie](#).

Join the conversation on Twitter – [#MITworldREforum](#).

About the MIT Center for Real Estate

The [MIT Center for Real Estate](#), founded in 1983, is home to the first-ever one-year Master of Science in Real Estate Development (MSRED) degree, as well as an integrated suite of professional development courses. The groundbreaking MSRED degree presents a program that is rigorous, concentrated, multidisciplinary, and geared toward direct application.

The MIT Center for Real Estate's pioneering research investigates the real estate transaction from initial concept to market reality, providing breakthrough knowledge to help organizations capitalize on today's dynamic markets and technologies.

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