



THE CITIZEN CITY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ELR
Rio de Janeiro, May 9 and 10, 2008.

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the first **Citizen City International Symposium on Employer of Last Resort**, sponsored by the National Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES). During this event we endeavor to bring together the expertise of policy advisors, researchers, members of government and civil society organizations so as to promote a much-needed dialogue in this policy area.

The purpose of this gathering is to document the significance of *Employer of Last Resort* and employment guarantee policies for economic and social policy making. Our goal is to discuss and evaluate experiences with job guarantee programs from around the world, with an emphasis on India, South Africa and Argentina. Exchanging ideas and sharing knowledge will contribute to current efforts of Brazilian academics and policy makers to develop a job guarantee program to be implemented in Brazil. In its initial phase, it is envisioned that this program would be introduced in the seven largest metropolitan regions in the country where the problems associated with high unemployment and underemployment are mostly concentrated.

The Brazilian Job Guarantee Program will consist of temporary work being offered by the public sector to every unemployed worker willing to work for the basic wage set for the program. Work opportunities will be offered in public works and social services, designed to benefit the poor communities from within which beneficiaries will be recruited, through an Applied Work Program. The Applied Work Programs will focus the program works on activities that generate the necessary physical and social infrastructure to improve the living conditions of poor communities and will also provide skills creation through training to the inhabitants of peripheral metropolitan areas. The Applied Work Programs in peripheral areas will directly contribute to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment through direct job creation. In addition to generating jobs, the implementation of these programs will contribute to the reduction of a number of social ills such as urban violence, drug use, poor health, insufficient sanitation, and inadequate housing, faced by poor metropolitan communities of Brazil.

The Symposium will be attended by a large number of Brazilian as well as international researchers and policy makers, many of who are members of the global network of Economists for Full Employment, directly involved with a variety of facets of job guarantee programs from around the world. In addition to Brazilian academics and experts on macroeconomics, government authorities, labor union and community leaders will attend the meeting with the goal of discussing the Citizen City program, the proposed job guarantee program for Brazil.

We hope that you can attend our symposium and help us produce and exchange new, useful ideas about job generation policies.

For information concerning logistical and other arrangements kindly contact Daniel Conceicao via e-mail <dncd49@mail.umkc.edu>

Sincerely,

Jose Carlos de Assis
President of the Brazilian Institute for Full Employment