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Legal Empowerment of the Poor

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LEP Conference

Legal Empowerment of the Poor: Exploring the Legal Dimension

Lund, Sweden
3-5 March 2010

The Lund University Initiative on Legal Empowerment of the Poor is organizing a conference on legal empowerment of the Poor in March 2010, which will focus on exploring the legal dimension of the initiative.

We hereby invite individuals that are interested in the topic to take part in the conference. The Conference is organized by Lund University initiative on legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP) at Lund University in collaboration with the Academic Network on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (ANLEP) at the University of Oslo.

Defined as a process which increases poor peoples' ability to use the law, the legal system and legal services in order to protect their rights and interests as citizens, 'legal empowerment' is increasingly being considered as an important tool in 'anti-poverty' research and efforts around the world. However, there have been some criticisms directed towards the framing of the legal dimension in relation to LEP. Using this critique as a foundation, the purpose of this LEP conference is to discuss and elaborate the legal dimension of the legal empowerment initiative.

Created in December 2008, Lund University Initiative on Legal Empowerment of the Poor is a strategic initiative for cross-faculty collaboration on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP). The initiative is coordinated by *LUCSUS* (Centre for Sustainability Studies). Other participants include: *Department of Sociology*, Faculty of Social Sciences; *Department of Business Law*, School of Economics; *Division for Sociology of Law*, Faculty of Social Sciences; *Department of Philosophy*, Faculty of Humanities; *Division of Social Medicine and Global Health*, Faculty of Medicine; and *Faculty of Law*.

The initiative aims at contributing to the establishment of a solid and broad foundation for research and education across these involved faculties at Lund University on the issue of legal empowerment of the poor. As a starting point, the initiative will build on the work done by the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (CLEP) and in the long run present research which aim to protect and provide opportunities for disadvantaged and excluded people to get out of poverty.