

Sayel Cortes

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PROFILE, EXPERTISE & SKILLS

- Over 10 years of professional experience in an international setting in the private and non-profit sector.
- Experience in project management, policy design and analysis, applied research, knowledge sharing, and program coordination with stakeholders in the public, private and academic sectors.
- Environmental Engineer with a Master in Economy, and a Master in Global Studies and Police in International Cooperation for Development, as well as training in Project Management, Team Building, Complex Systems, Scenario Analysis, among others. Currently studying a PhD on Climate Governance and Local Government Networks

Keywords

- Sustainable Development
- Climate Change
- Strategic Planning
- Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Indicators
- Urban Planning
- Sustainable Mobility
- Carbon Footprint
- NAMAs
- Climate Change Negotiations
- LEDS
- Green Growth
- Project Management
- Geographic Information Systems
- Complex Systems
- Knowledge Sharing
- Team Building
- Applied Research
- Policy Analysis
- Capacity Building

WORK EXPERIENCE

Founding Associate / March, 2017 - Present

Innovación en Política Pública y Desarrollo, A.C., Mexico City, Mexico.

- Communication Strategy
- Strategic Planning

Senior Program Officer / Sep 2014 – Jun 2017

CITYNET, Seoul, South Korea

- Capacity Building Program Coordinator: Workshop development (concept development, logistics, delivery, and evaluation), strategic planning and improvement of the program, and facilitator in Project Management themes
- Safer Cities Program Coordinator (joint program with UN-Habitat and Seoul Metropolitan Government): Coordination between international partners, strategic planning, documentation, and project support
- Managed the thematic clusters: Strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Strategic Planning

Consultant in Economy and Environmental Engineering / May 2012 – Sep 2016

Independent Consultant, México & South Korea

- Developed baseline and carbon reduction potential models to evaluate mobility and urban development policies.
- Managed knowledge sharing mechanisms for Latin America and the Caribbean in climate finance and international mechanisms.
- Developed studies related to National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

Young Professionals Program / Jul 2013 – Nov 2013

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CITYNET, Seoul, South Korea

- Research "Transport Oriented Development as an Urban Green Growth Strategy: The Human Perspective"

Policy Research in Green Growth (Internship) / Sep 2012 – Dec 2012

United Nations Development Program – Seoul Policy Centre, Seoul, South Korea

- Analyzed South Korea's Green Growth Policy

Environmental Engineer and Economy Senior Analyst / July 2009 – April 2012

World Resource Institute's EMBARQ Network – Mexico City, Mexico

Urban Mobility and Development:

- Estimated greenhouse gas emissions and cost effects of urban development patterns and its relation with urban mobility in Mexico, as part of the "Towards Low Carbon Competitive Cities" Project.
- Developed indicators to evaluate urban and socioeconomic characteristics.

Air Quality and Climate Change:

- Developed a greenhouse gas emissions baseline for the transport sector in Mexico and analyzed policies by testing different policy scenarios.
- Designed international cooperation tools for climate change such as Nationally Appropriated Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for the transport sector.

Environmental Consultant / Jun 2007 – Ago 2007

Applied Research (Environmental Division), ITESO, Guadalajara, Jal.

- Support in hydrology simulations for environmental impact assessment studies of dams.
- Took part in several parts of the environmental impact assessment mainly in hydrology section

Project Management Director / Dec 2003 – Jun 2007

CartoData SA de CV, Guadalajara, Jal.

- Managed projects from conception through development including planning, managing human and material resources, monitoring and evaluation of progress, as well as communication with clients in Mexico, USA, Canada, Spain, and Ecuador. I had over 80 people in our 3 offices under my supervision.

EDUCATION

PhD on Climate Governance and Local Government Networks /2017 – Present

Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen School of Social Sciences, Environment Policy Group

- Environmental Policy Group, PhD Representative (Sep 2018 – Ago 2019)
- Lecture on smart cities in Mexico and Asia for the course "Governance for Sustainable Cities" 2018 & 2019.

Master in Global Studies & Policy in International Cooperation for Development /2012 – 2014

Yonsei University, Graduate School of International Studies

- Received PATH: Peaceful Advancement for Transforming Humanity Scholarship, spring 2013.

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- Founder and 1st president of the Mexican Students Association, South Korea (Nov 2013 - 2014)
- Member of the Graduate Students Association (fall 2012, spring and fall 2013).

Master in Economics / 2007 – 2009

Universidad de Guadalajara (U de G) / the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)

- Thesis topic: "*Environmental Effects on Investment in a Dynamic Model of Population and Natural Resources*"
- Exchange student at the University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2009

Bachelor in Environmental Engineering / 2000 - 2004

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO)

SELECTED COURSES AND TRAINING

- **Data for Public Policy Effectiveness / 2017**
edX Verified Certificate, License Course offered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- **Results Oriented Managing of Subnational Governments / 2017**
edX Verified Certificate, License Course offered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- **Financing for Development / 2017**
edX Verified Certificate, License Course offered by the Open Learning Campus, World Bank Group
- **Policy Lessons from South Korea's Development / 2017**
edX Verified Certificate, License Course offered by the Open Learning Campus, World Bank Group
- **Project Management Techniques for Development Professionals / 2016**
edX Verified Certificate, License Course offered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- **Course "Tools and Prospective Scenarios for Political Action" / 2010**
Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean – UNDP, Bogota, Colombia
- **Complex System Course / 2006**
New England Complex System Institute (NECSI), Cambridge, MA, USA
- **Diploma in High Performance Team Building / 2006**
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), Jalisco. México
- **Diploma in Project Management using PMI methodology / 2005**
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), Jalisco, México
- **Postgraduate Studies in Environmental Impact Assessment / 2005**
Universidad Nacional del Mar de Plata, Mar de Plata, Argentina (100hr, on-line)

SKILLS

Computational Skills:

- Statistics and Mathematics software: FS-QCA, Stata and EViews (working knowledge); Matlab and Maple (basic knowledge)
- Geographic software: ArcView 3.2, ArcGIS 8.3, ErMapper, ERDAS (working knowledge)
- General software: MS Office, MS Project (advanced knowledge)

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Language Skills:

- Spanish: Native
- English: Fluent (TOEFL iBT 115/120)
- French: Intermediate
- Korean: Beginner

PUBLICATIONS

- CTS EMBARQ México. *Modelación para la Identificación de la Línea Base para la Mitigación de Emisiones de Compuestos de Efecto Invernadero para el Desarrollo Orientado al Transporte en Guadalajara*. May, 2016. Mexico. (coauthor)
<http://embarqmexico.org/sites/default/files/Resumen%20Ejecutivo%20EMBARQ.pdf>
- Martínez, Soto, Cortes, et al. *Sustentabilidad de un esquema de pensiones basado en Contribuciones Definidas Nacionales: evidencia para México de un modelo de simulación estocástica*. Revista Ciencia y Universidad No. 31. México: 2014. P. 8-50. Available at <http://cienciayuniversidad.com/images/revistas/31/1cyu31%20Soto%20Zazueta.pdf>
- Cortes, Sayel and Sun-young Park. *Transport Oriented Development as an Urban Green Growth Strategy: The Human Perspective*. Presented at Citynet Young Professional Academic Conference, available at http://citynet-ap.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/CYP-2013-Report_WebSize-Final.pdf
- Acosta, Rangel, Cortes, et al. *Ciudades Competitivas Bajas en Carbono*. Memorias del XII Seminario-Taller Internacional de la Red Mexicana de Ciudades hacia la Sustentabilidad. México: 2011. P. 237-252
- Cortes, López y Rangel. *Efectos de las Características Urbanas en la Movilidad: Cálculo de las Elasticidades entre Indicadores Urbanos y de Movilidad en la Ciudad de Mérida*. Memorias del XII Seminario-Taller Internacional de la Red Mexicana de Ciudades hacia la Sustentabilidad. México: 2011. P. 271-288
- CTS EMBARQ México. *Hacia Ciudades Competitivas Bajas en Carbono, C2C2*. Mexico, 2011.
<http://embarqmexico.org/sites/default/files/c2c2.pdf> (coauthor)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 60th ISA Annual Convention 2019, presented "A Framework to Understand How City Networks Integrate Cities in the Climate Regime: Structure" (working paper) in the panel "Climate and the City: alternative Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Transnational Climate Change Governance". March 2019, Toronto, Canada
- Utrecht Conference on Earth System Governance Conference 2018, presented "Structure of City networks and Urban Climate Actions. What Promotes City Members Activity?" (working paper) on the panel "Climate Change Governance: Polycentricity, Municipalism, Transnationality". November 2018, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- European Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Green Working Group, Panel on "Global Trends: Smart & Sustainable Cities", *Connecting Cities and Private Companies*. June 2017, Seoul, South Korea
- 6th UCLG-ASPAC Congress 2016, Sep 2016. Jeollabuk-do, South Korea
 - UN-Habitat's Urban Planning for City Leaders Pre-Congress Session (moderator)
 - UN-Habitat's Public Space Side Event (panelist).

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- 2nd Asian Women's Network Forum *Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women*. Sep 2016, Seoul. South Korea (panelist).
- "Reviewing the State of Safety in World Cities: Urban Solutions to Crime, Conflict, and Insecurity", Jul 2016. Geneva, Switzerland.
 - "The state of safety in cities: What have we learned about safety in cities over the last 20 years" (discussant).
- Cortes, Sayel. *South Korea's Role in the Global Environmental Regime: The Green Growth Initiative*. Presented at Yonsei Graduate School of International Studies Academic Conference, Dec 2013. Seoul, South Korea.

SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Red Global MX: Korean Chapter Co-founder and President (Dec 2017 – Dec 2018). Netherlands Chapter: Member (Nov 2018 – present)
- Rotary: Seoul Young Leaders Club, Co-President Feb-Jun 2017, Fundraising Chair Jan-Jul 2016. Member Sep 2015 – Jun 2017. Wageningen Bergpoort, member (Jan 2018 – Jan 2019)
- Global Ecoleader program by Ecomom Korea (Feb – Nov 2013): Staff at the Green Growth Young Summit and as an Eco-mentor for middle school students to be a global leader in the environmental field
- Environmental Network Geo Juvenil México (2011-2012): Local contact point for Mexico City
- Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (managed by UNDP México), Mexico City (2011): substitute of Social Sector Representative.
- Titlalli, Guadalajara, México (2005-2010): Co-founder. I started and led two environmental knowledge sharing platforms.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Lectured about Sustainable Cities in the course Governance of Sustainable Cities at Wageningen University and Research, 2018, 2019
- Webinar "Tool for Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Transport Oriented Development Projects" (in Spanish), Aug 2016. <http://www.ledslac.org/tool-for-estimating-greenhouse-gas>
- Lectured at the Innovative Governance of Large Urban Systems Executive Master and Modules for Global Leaders of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Seoul Module, 2015, 2016
- Facilitated modules on Project Management at international workshops for local government officials (Vietnam, 2015; Seoul, 2016), CityNet.
- Led the Spanish Club at the Graduate School of International Studies including teaching basic Spanish classes and coordinating cultural activities through the semester, Yonsei University, 2013.
- Teaching Assistant for Prof. Leonardo Gatica's Microeconomic I class at the Economics Master Program, Universidad de Guadalajara, 2008.