Estimates are that by 2050 the majority of the world’s population will live in cities. Urban settlements will range in size, but projections are there will be more than 40 mega cities over 10 million persons. The majority of this growth will occur in Asia and Africa. Tomorrow’s cities may look more like Tokyo, huge and sprawling than Amsterdam or Washington D.C. low in profile and relatively compact. Urbanization takes energy, energy embodied in the built environment, in the sources of economic development, in the food that is eaten, and in the power sources required. What will three decades of rapid urbanization mean to the rest of the world and the existing energy system? How precisely do we know about the energy use consequences of this development path? Drawing on a voluminous literature on energy futures combined with case studies of the development path of individual countries, the talk will explore the opportunities and challenges arising from an era in which energy policy equals a policy of global urbanization.

Friday, April 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM
Funger Hall, Room 108
2201 G St, NW
RSVP here

Dr. Amy Glasmeier
Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

Energy Policy = Urban Policy: Are We Prepared?

Amy Glasmeier is professor of economic geography and regional planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She runs LRISA, the Lab on Regional Innovation and Spatial Analysis, in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. Glasmeier is a founding editor of the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, Society and she serves on numerous journal editorial boards and organizations. Glasmeier’s research focuses on the spatial interactions of economic actors and structures including firms, industries, institutions and the state in the provision of economic opportunity for communities and individuals. She is currently writing a textbook on the Economic Geography of the Global Energy Economy where she is capturing the interplay among resources, technology, state-led development trajectories and the challenges of the resource curse, path dependence and technological lock-in. Glasmeier holds a professional Masters and PhD in Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.