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PLANNING

OUR URBAN FUTURE

WORLD HABITAT DAY

5 OCTOBER 2009

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OUR **URBAN** FUTURE
World Habitat Day | 5 October 2009



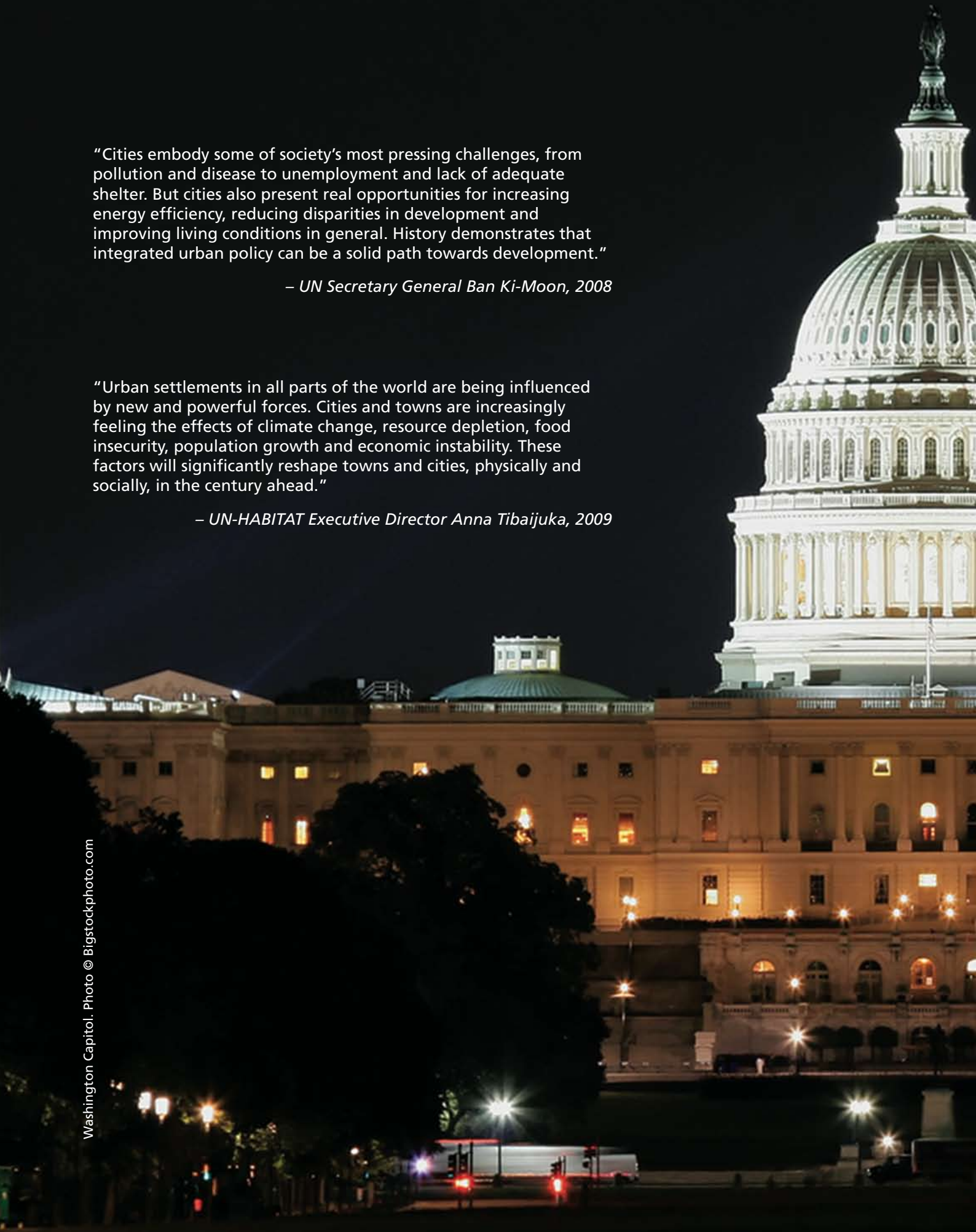
UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

"Cities embody some of society's most pressing challenges, from pollution and disease to unemployment and lack of adequate shelter. But cities also present real opportunities for increasing energy efficiency, reducing disparities in development and improving living conditions in general. History demonstrates that integrated urban policy can be a solid path towards development."

– UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2008

"Urban settlements in all parts of the world are being influenced by new and powerful forces. Cities and towns are increasingly feeling the effects of climate change, resource depletion, food insecurity, population growth and economic instability. These factors will significantly reshape towns and cities, physically and socially, in the century ahead."

– UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibajuka, 2009





I ntroduction

The decision by the Obama Administration to host the Global Observance of this year's World Habitat Day in Washington, D.C., reinforces UN-HABITAT's long relationship with the United States. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has played a seminal role in key global conferences organized by UN-HABITAT reflecting the nation's long-standing commitment to affordable housing and sustainable urbanization. These include Habitat II, in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996, the General Assembly Istanbul+5 special review session in 2001, and sessions of the World Urban Forum.

World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington, D.C. come at a time when the United States has increased its financial support to UN-HABITAT and called upon the organization to execute strategic foreign assistance projects. In 2009, the US Congress doubled general purpose voluntary contributions to the organization. The United States also supports UN-HABITAT's housing and urban development projects in a number of countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan and Sri Lanka and for the

Palestinian people. Cooperation agreements with US Agency for International Development for country projects are valued at over USD70 million. The organization also collaborates with the Millennium Challenge Corporation to promote security of land tenure.

World Habitat Day celebrations in the United States also highlight significant cooperation with US corporations, private foundations, mayors, and non governmental organizations. UN-HABITAT works with Coca Cola in India to promote clean drinking water, with Google Corporation in East Africa to strengthen water utility operators, Bank of America in Central America to improve affordable housing, and with the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington to strengthen the Habitat Business Forum. UN-HABITAT also enjoys support from the Rockefeller Foundation, US Conference of Mayors, US League of Cities, Habitat for Humanity, Brookings Institution, Harvard University, Woodrow Wilson Center, among others.

Raise awareness in your city - organize a World Habitat Day event 2009

World Habitat Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight key human settlements issues. We would like to thank all our partners who in past years have organized awareness raising activities on the day and have described the celebrations that took place around the world in 2008 in this report.

This year, we again call on our partners in central government, local government, civil society the private sector and the media to take part in organizing activities to raise awareness and stimulate debate on the important theme of *Planning our Urban Future*.

Guidelines

As a guide, here are some of the activities that you can help organize:

1. Use mass media, particularly newspapers, radio and television, to draw attention to World Habitat Day celebrations. If possible, issue press releases, display posters, organize press conferences, and broadcast video and audio spots.
2. Draw attention to the problems and issues on this year's theme, particularly urban safety, crime prevention and social justice through press articles, radio and television documentaries and panel programmes with policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.
3. Organise public information campaigns, and use popular theatre to create awareness of the problems and issues.
4. Use the occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in urban safety and social justice, particularly urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human-made disasters in your community.
5. Organize competitions to find solutions to human settlements and urban problems. Essay and painting competitions help create awareness and enhance of the World Habitat Day them in education and schools and colleges.
6. Organise fund raising, recreational or entertainment activities like football matches, or concerts, and use the proceeds to upgrade and extend services for poor communities.
7. Encourage postal authorities to issue special World Habitat Day stamps.
8. Education authorities in collaboration with local and national authorities can encourage the introduction into the school curriculum of teaching programmes about urban safety.

UN-HABITAT support

To support city and country-level activities, UN-HABITAT will compile an information kit including a poster, and a short video on the theme for use by any partner planning a World Habitat Day event. Information kits will be mailed to partners, Embassies and High Commissions, Inter-governmental Organizations, United Nations Information offices, UNDP country offices and other UN agencies.

Keep us informed

Please let us know if you wish to organize a local awareness-raising event by sending an e-mail to whd@unhabitat.org providing as many details as possible about the event. And once World Habitat Day is over, please provide us brief details of media coverage and photographs if possible. We will post these on the World Habitat Day page of our website www.unhabitat.org, which receives millions of visitors and include them in the final World Habitat Day report, which is sent to all our partners. Thank you for your continued support.



World Habitat Day

global observances from 1986 TO 2008

YEAR	THEMES	VENUE	CHIEF GUEST
2008	Harmonious Cities	Luanda	President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos
2007	A Safe City is a Just City	The Hague	Ms. Ella Vogelaar, Minister for Housing, Communities and Integration Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation
		Monterrey	Minister for Social Development, Ms. Beatriz Zavala Peniche
2006	Cities Magnets of Hope	Naples	Vittorio Craxi, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Multi-lateral affairs, Italy
		Kazan	Kamil Iskhakov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in Far East Federal Region and President of the United Cities and Local Government Euro-Asia Regional Section
2005	The Millennium Development Goals and the City	Jakarta	President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
2004	Cities - Engines of Rural Development	Nairobi	President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya
2003	Water and Sanitation for Cities	Rio de Janeiro	Mayor of Rio de Janeiro
2002	City-to-City Cooperation	Brussels	H.R.H. Prince Philippe
2001	Cities without Slums	Fukuoka	Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture
2000	Women in Urban Governance	Jamaica	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land and Environment
1999	Cities for All	Dalian	Minister of Construction, China
1998	Safer Cities	Dubai	Director General Dubai Municipality UA
1997	Future Cities	Bonn	Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development, Germany
1996	Urbanization, Citizenship	Budapest	Minister of the Interior and Human Solidarity, Hungary
1995	Our Neighbourhood	Curitiba	Mayor of Curitiba
1994	Home and the Family	Dakar	President of Senegal
1993	Women and Shelter Development	UN, New York	SG, UN
1992	Shelter and Sustainable Development	UN, New York	SG, UN
1991	Shelter and the Living Environment	Hiroshima	Mayor of Hiroshima
1990	Shelter and Urbanization	London	Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe
1989	Shelter, Health and the Family	Jakarta	President of Indonesia
1988	Shelter and Community	London	Archbishop of Canterbury
1987	Shelter for the Homeless	New York	SG, UN
1986	Shelter is my Right	Nairobi	USG, UNCHS (Habitat)



Habitat Scroll of Honour Award

Winners 1989 to 2008

2008

The ancient canal city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province, eastern China

The bustling port city of Zhangjiagang in Jiangsu Province, also in eastern China

The city of Bugulma in the Tartarstan Republic of western Russia.

The capital of Rwanda, Kigali.

The City of Juarez

Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation awarded to the Nanjing Municipal Government

2007

The Nanning Municipal People's Government of China

Dr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana, Cuba

Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, The Netherlands

Lieutenant-General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, Pakistan

The Palestinian Housing Council

Russia, the Stavropol City Administration's project

The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme from Tanzania

2006

The National Cities Conference Programme, Ministry of Cities Brazil

The Yangzhou Municipal People's Government of China

The French firm Veolia Environment, France

The Government of Alexandria, Egypt
Cardinal Renato Martino, President

of the Political Council for Justice and Peace

Pag IBIG Fund, The Philippines

Federation Yaroslavl City Administration, Russia.

2005

The Municipal Basic Information Research, Brazil

The Municipal People's Government of Yantai, China

The Municipality of Kazan City, Russia

Ms. Rose Molokoane, South Africa

Sarvodaya Shramandana Movement, Sri Lanka

Professor Johan Silas, Indonesia

Jakarta Metropolitan City, Indonesia

North Sumatra Governor Tengku Rizal Nurdin (posthumous), Indonesia

2004

Xiamen Municipal People's Government, China

Centre for Development Communication, India

President Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique

The Big Issue magazine, United Kingdom

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (Special Citation), Lebanon

2003

Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Canada

Weihai Municipal Government, China

Mr. German Garcia Duran, Colombia

Ms. Nasreen Mustafa Sideek, Iraq

Pamoja Trust, Kenya

Mrs. Sankie D. Mthembi-Mahanyele, South Africa

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Switzerland

Ms. Zena Daysh, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, UK

Ms. Teolinda Bolívar, Venezuela

His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand

2002

City-to-City cooperation between Nakuru, Kenya and Leuven, Belgium

Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration, Brazil

Baotou Municipal Government, China

CITYNET based in Yokohama, Japan

Dutch Habitat Platform, The Netherlands

Mayor Joan Clos, Spain

ENDA Tiers Monde, Dakar, Senegal

Ren Frank, USA

John Hodges (Special Citation), United Kingdom

2001

Hangzhou Municipal Government, China

Ms. Pastora Nuez Gonzalez, Cuba

Bremer Beginenhof Modell, Germany

Fukuoka City, Japan

Father Pedro Opeka, Madagascar

Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction, Switzerland

Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), UK Asiaweek Magazine, Hong Kong Chairperson



Pervious Habitat Scroll of Honor winners. Photos © UN-HABITAT

The Cooperating Committee for Japan Habitat Fukuoka Office (Special Citation), Japan

Fu-Nan River Comprehensive Revitalization Project Chendu, China

The late Sidhijai Tanphiphat, Thailand

Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Zambia

The SISCAT Group, Bolivia

Jnos SZAB, Budapest

2000

Ms. Ana Vasilache, Romania

Ms. Caroline Pezzullo, United States

Mrs. Jacqueline da Costa, Jamaica

Women and Peace Network, Costa Rica

Ms. Mary Jane, The Philippines

International Union of Local Authorities, based in The Netherlands

Ms. Sheela Patel, India

Mr. Charles Keenja, Tanzania

Ms. Mmatshilo Motsei, South Africa

Mayor Mu Suixin, Mayor of Shenyang, China

Forum Européene pour la Sécurité Urbaine, France

Prof. Akin L. Mabogunje, Nigeria

Vladimir A. Kudryavtsev, Russia

Association des Habitants del Mourouje, Tunisia

1997

Sen. Oscar Lopez Velarde Vega, México

Mother Center Stuttgart, Germany

South African Homeless Peoples Federation, South Africa

Mayor Huang Ziqiang, China

Reinhard Goethert and Nabeel Hamdi, United States, Britain

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

Mr. Peter Elderfield (Special Citation), United Kingdom

Mr. Radinal Mochtar, Minister of Public Works (Special Citation), Indonesia

1996

Hou Jie, Minister of Construction, (Special Citation), China

Peter Kimm (Special Citation), United States

Mohamed Hashi, Mayor of Hargeisa, Somalia

1995

Comunidades Programme State

Government of Cear, Brazil

Foundation in Support of Local Democracy, Poland

Urban Community Development Office, Thailand

Mr. Gangadhar Rao Dattatri, India

Projet de Taza, Agence Nationale de lutte contre l'Habitat Insalubre (ANHI), Morocco

La cooperative des veuves de Save Duhozanye, Rwanda

Shanghai Municipal Housing Project, China

Mr. Joe Slovo (deceased), South Africa

1994

Mr. Qassim Sultan, United Arab Emirates

Bank Tabungan Negara (State Housing Bank of Indonesia)

Indonesia Programme d'Habitat Cooperatif, Senegal

Mr. Jorge E. Hardoy (deceased), Argentina

1999

Ms. Habiba Eid, Egypt

Mr. Bo Xilai Mayor of Dalian, China

National Slum Dwellers Federation, India

Mr. Alvaro Villota Berna, Colombia

President Rudolf Schuster, Slovak Republic

Mr. Pierre Laconte, Belgium

Mr. Millard Fuller, USA

Hon. Kwamena Ahwoi, Ghana

Operation Firimbi, Kenya

1998

Programa de Mobilizaco de Comunidades, Brazil



The 2006 World Habitat Day celebrations, the Hague, Netherlands. Photos © UN-HABITAT

Housing Development Administration,
Turkey

1993

Cités Unies Développement, France

Build Together Programme, Namibia

**Mr. Anthony Williams Bullard,
United Kingdom**

1992

Intermediate Technology Development
Group, United Kingdom

Shenzhen Housing Bureau, China

Habitat International Coalition, Mexico

**East Wahdat Upgrading Project,
Jordan**

Earthquake Emergency Reconstruction
and Rehabilitation Programme, Nepal

**Rural Housing Reconstruction with
Appropriate Technologies, Ecuador**

Namuwongo Upgrading and Low-Cost
Housing, Uganda

**New Urban Communities in Egypt,
Egypt**

World Relief El Salvador Housing

Reconstruction Project, El Salvador

Woodless Construction Project, Niger

Mr. Laurie Baker, India

Mr. Yona Friedman, United States

Mayor Jaime Lerner Curitiba, Brazil

Mr. Rozanov Evgueni Grigorievich,
Russian Federation

Mr. John F.C. Turner, United Kingdom

1991

Ministry of Housing and Human
Settlements, Costa Rica

**Urban Development Authority,
Singapore**

Cooperative Housing Foundation,
United States

**National Housing Development
Authority, Sri Lanka**

Housing and Urban Development
Cooperation, India

**Housing Development Finance
Corporation, India**

Sengki Land-sharing Project, Thailand

Projet Assistance IECOSAT, Burundi

Institute for Building Materials, Viet
Nam

Tamako Nakanishi, Japan

11 Arch. Leandro Quintana Uranga,
Venezuela

1990

Lord Scarman, United Kingdom

**Tangshan Municipal Government,
China**

Construyamos, Colombia

Craterre, France

Stone Town Conservation and
Development Authority, United Republic
of Tanzania

**Human Settlement Foundation,
Thailand**

31-03 American Society of Clinical
Oncology, Chicago, ILL. United States

1989

Mr. Otto Koenigsberger, United Kingdom

Mr. Hassan Fathy, Egypt

Mr. Lauchlin Currie, United States

**Habitat for Humanity International,
United States**

G

lobal Observance

of World Habitat Day 2008 in Luanda, Angola

Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos joined senior officials of his government on Monday October 6 for the global celebration of World Habitat Day 2008.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka called on the Angolan authorities to allocate 10 percent of their oil income to upgrade their towns, cities and villages for the benefit all, especially the poorest of the poor and with respect for the human rights of all. She said she was pleased that the Angolan authorities were using the occasion of World Habitat Day to announce a series of important

social housing initiatives.

“We commend you Mr. President and Honourable Ministers, for the importance that the Government of Angola attaches, among other urgent priorities, to the delivery of social housing and basic services, like water and energy for Angolan families,” she said in her keynote address.

In her address, Mrs. Tibaijuka pledged UN-HABITAT’s support for the new Angola Slum Upgrading Programme and the new National Social Housing Programme.

“We are here to help you as you requested, especially with some of the technical and institutional

aspects of this process. And in taking up your request, UN-HABITAT is confident that the Government of Angola will ensure that this excellent rehabilitation programme will forge ahead on the basis of equity, fairness and in full respect for human rights – especially for the poorest of the poor and people living in urban slums,” she said. “I believe it will also take into account the special challenges and needs of women, and the children they support.”

She cited at length the lessons to be shared on World Habitat Day. These included the problems arising from the global mortgage finance crisis in the developed world, to China’s exemplary urban modernisation plan.

“We in the United Nations system have a responsibility to remind all countries, whether rich or poor, that they are not immune from the impacts of poverty. And that is why, as we all worry how the global financial crisis will hit us as ordinary people, we must remind all again that investment in basic urban services and adequate shelter is essential. When we get it right we derive economic, social and health benefits for all,” she added.

“Mr. President, I do not have to tell you that 85 percent of the Angolan population representing some 7.5 million of this country’s growing number of urban dwellers live in slum conditions. For a country rich in natural resources, especially oil, we are sure that the means are there to address these needs now that this country has earned its rightful place as a country at peace,” Mrs. Tibaijuka



UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs Anna Tibaijuka during the 2008 World Habitat Day celebrations in Luanda, Angola. Photo © UN-HABITAT

said. "Let me therefore make a proposal for your consideration: Make this day historic by allocating just 10 percent of the country's oil revenue for the delivery of harmonious cities and towns in this country!"

In response, President dos Santos agreed with the UN-HABITAT request that the government set aside 10 percent of its oil income for social housing, adding that his government had committed itself to providing some 1 million housing units in the current 4 year term, and that it was waging a what he called a sustained war against chaotic urbanisation.

"Urbanisation comes with challenges but we are prepared to face them," he said

Mrs. Tibaijuka also conferred the World Habitat Day awards. She said it was not by coincidence that this year, for the first time, the highest award conferred by the United Nations system in this field – the Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation – went not to an outstanding individual, but to a Chinese city, Nanjing. At the next level, the cities of Shaoxing and Zhangjiagang were given the Habitat Scroll of Honour Award, along with the Rwandan capital, Kigali, the Tatarstan



World Habitat Award 2008 winners. Photo © BSHF

city of Bugulma, in the Russian Federation, and the City of Juarez, a major Mexican city on the United States border.

Scores of cities, schools, universities, governments, non-governmental organizations around the world used the World Habitat Day theme, harmonious cities, to take stock of the state

of their towns and cities at a time of rapid urbanisation caused by unprecedented urban growth and migration. A special message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon read out in Luanda was also disseminated at other World Habitat Day events around the world.

See: www.unhabitat.org/whd



Participants at the World Habitat Day global celebrations in Luanda, Angola. Photo © UN-HABITAT



World Habitat Day celebrations in Angola. Photos © UN-HABITAT

In UN-HABITAT's home country, Kenyans celebrated World Habitat Day against the backdrop of traditional pomp and glamour provided by bull fighting teams in Kakamega, the provincial headquarters of Western Province.

In Bahrain, the Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa hailed the occasion at a special ceremony.

Also in Luanda, the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom, a key partner of UN-HABITAT presented its World Habitat Awards to two organisations that have shone in their endeavours to address the issue of human settlements.

The two organisations feted were the *Champlain Housing Trust - Community Land Trust Innovation*, of the United States, and a typhoon damage limitation project in Viet Nam.

Established in Burlington, Vermont in 1984, the Champlain Housing Trust (CHT) was an early pioneer of the community land trust approach of providing affordable housing in perpetuity. CHT's homes are, on average, affordable to households earning only 57 per cent of the area's median income and it has over 2,200 properties for low-cost home ownership and rental. Over 200 community land trusts have now been established throughout the United States, with pilot schemes currently being carried out in both Canada and the UK.

This Development Workshop France programme has worked over many years with families and local governments in Viet Nam to apply key principles of safe storm and flood resistant construction, both to existing and new homes, as well as to community buildings. Over 1,300 cyclone-resistant houses have been provided to

date through the programme, with many other households choosing to use the construction techniques.

The Foundation is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.



The Secretary-General's message on World Habitat Day 2008

Many of the world's most pressing challenges – poverty, natural disasters, escalating prices for food and fuel – have important links with rapid urbanization.

Urbanization changes forever the way we use land, water and energy. Done well, it can bring people choices and help them thrive. Done poorly, it reduces safety, despoils the environment and exacerbates the marginalization of those who are already suffering and excluded.

The theme of this year's World Habitat Day is *Harmonious Cities*. Our rapidly urbanizing world cannot claim to be harmonious if slum-dwellers do not enjoy opportunities to find jobs and improve their living conditions. Nor will it be harmonious if the growth and expansion of urban areas comes at the expense of the natural environment. The Millennium Development Goals call for a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. As of 2005, slightly more than one third of the



urban population in developing regions lived in slum conditions. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion was over 60 percent, meaning that large investments will be necessary, for example to provide access to water, sanitation, durable housing or sufficient living space. But even in that region, and in others where deprivation is not as acute, simple, low-cost interventions could go a long way.

Cities have tremendous potential to be places where balanced development prevails, where diverse people live in harmony, and where healthy living conditions coexist with low levels of energy consumption, resource-use and waste. As we observe World Habitat Day, I call on all partners and stakeholders to do our utmost to realize this potential, and to build decent living conditions for all women, men and children in a way that also preserves our natural heritage and promotes greener and smarter growth.

Statement of the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka on the occasion of World Habitat Day 2008

Today we mark World Habitat Day at a time when the majority of the world's people are living in towns and cities. The process is accelerating and this transformation has a direct bearing on the strategies that we must adopt to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

The other historic turning point is that the number of urban slum-dwellers worldwide has broken the 1 billion mark, making it clear that the urbanization of poverty is arguably one of the biggest challenges facing development today.

This is why we chose the theme *Harmonious cities* for World Habitat Day 2008. We need to raise awareness of the problems of rapid urbanization, their impact on the environment and the consequences and challenges of spiralling urban poverty.

No longer can we turn a blind eye to the plight of slum-dwellers living in life-threatening conditions. Nor can we hide from the fact that urban poverty and urban inequalities are on the rise around the world, in developed and developing countries alike. We have both a moral and an ethical responsibility to make our cities more harmonious by making them more inclusive. It is a societal



imperative that we fight urban poverty and squalor if we are to secure urban safety and security.

Our experience working with Governments, local authorities, communities and the private sector around the world gives us good insights into tackling these challenges. Even if we do not have all the answers, it enables us to ask some of the right questions.

It is also no coincidence that climate change is now coming to the forefront of international debate at the same time, and at virtually the same pace, as the world becomes urbanized. Cities consume upwards of 75 per cent

of all energy and contribute to an equally substantial amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Cities must therefore be an integral part of any mitigation efforts.

Reducing cities' contribution to climate change and vulnerability to the effects thereof must be viewed as a historical opportunity to improve the living conditions of all men and women, including the most vulnerable sectors of our urban populations. Both adaptation and mitigation efforts require improved land-use planning, more robust infrastructure and smarter construction. I can think of no better initiative than to combine these efforts to make our cities and towns greener, safer and more equitable. My message to you today is that the challenges of climate change and urban poverty are inextricably linked and both depend on making our cities more harmonious.

Scroll Of Honour

award winners 2008



Mrs. Wenxu Wang, vice mayor of Shaoxing Municipal Government

The Shaoxing Municipal Government for preserving a unique cultural and historical heritage at a time of rapid urbanization

Mr. Lin Xiaoke, Vice Mayor of the People's Government of Zhangjiagang City

The People's Government of Zhangjiagang City for setting a new trend in integrated urban-rural development and management



M.C. María del Rosario Díaz Arellano – General Manager Municipal Institute of Planning

The City of Juárez for the innovative steps taken to help thousands of flood victims rebuild their homes and lives



Farit Gatin, Head of the Executive Board Bugulma city Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan

The Bugulma Municipal District for creatively giving its citizens a cleaner, cheaper water supply



Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kakira, Mayor, City of Kigali, Rwanda

The City of Kigali For its many innovations in building a model, modern city

Photos © BSHF

Celebrations around the World

UN-HABITAT thanks all who participated in organizing these celebrations that raised awareness of this day. We received 62 activities, summarized below, from 36 countries. We believe that each celebration stimulated advocacy of the habitat agenda in the communities involved.

AFRICA

ANGOLA

The global observance of World Habitat Day was held in Luanda on 5 October 2008. The celebration was graced by Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka Executive Director UN-Habitat, representatives of key UN-Habitat partners, ministers and other international invited guests (details in the Global Observance page).

BENIN

The government of Benin organized a *National Habitat Week* from 4 to 10 October 2008 at Lokossa, a town in Southern Benin. The activities included a debate on Harmonious Cities, the World Habitat Day 2008 theme and the presentation of both the Secretary General and the Executive Director's statements.

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso in 2008 marked World Habitat Day with a week of special activities from 4 to 11 October with strong backing from the Government to ensure that awareness was raised on the state of the country's urban development.

BURUNDI

The Government of Burundi, a country wracked by 10 years of conflict, used World Habitat Day celebrations to commence the construction of major public works projects, including a new canal to improve water and sanitation delivery. At colourful ceremonies, dancers and government figures alike broadcast the message about harmonious cities widely to ensure as broad an outreach to the public as possible.

CAMEROON

The Concerned Minds for Habitation Securities (COMIHAS) organized a week-long programme that started with a call-in programme on national radio, Radio Environnement in Yaounde. The programme ran from 29 September to 4 October 2008. During the programme, quizzes about World Habitat Day, UN-HABITAT, COMIHAS and general knowledge on environmental issues were sent out to the public. On 4 October, COMIHAS organized a community service event with members of the environmental club of Government Bilingual High School, Essos-Yaounde at Mimboman neighbourhood in Yaounde. The climax of the programme was a celebration of World Habitat Day on 6 October at

Government Bilingual High School, Essos-Yaounde, which featured a speech by the UN-HABITAT Programme Director, a sketch by Environmental Club members, a paper presentation on the theme of *Harmonious Cities* and awarding of prizes to winners of the World Habitat Day radio quiz.

CHAD

The Government and UN-HABITAT lined up five days' activities in the towns of Njaména, Sarh, Abéché and Doba to mark World Habitat Day. These included: exhibitions, youth activities including football and basketball matches as well as concerts. Also held was a press conference by the Minister of Housing, a day long conference by UN-HABITAT's Habitat Programme Manager and the Mayor of Njaména. On the actual day of World Habitat Day, a speech by the Housing Minister, statements by the UN Secretary General and the UN-HABITAT Executive Director were read.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Groupe d'Action pour le Droit, a non-governmental organization in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was selected to host the World Habitat Day 2008 in Goma town. The World Habitat Day was marked by raising awareness on urban issues like the access of women to land. There was also a demonstration on how to produce combustible briquettes, an alternative to charcoal, to help save the trees in the Virunga National Park in North Kivu Province.

ERITREA

The local Habitat Programme Manager displayed posters in the main venues of the capital and distributed printed materials and T-shirts to government partners.

GHANA

In Ghana, a durbar (special festival) was organized where speakers talked about what a harmonious city means to them and what their organizations are doing to make their city harmonious. Speakers were selected from various organizations across society and age groups. Other activities that took place included a round table discussion, a float through the principal streets of Accra with placards and television coverage, articles in newspapers and an exhibition.

KENYA

Kenyans marked the World Habitat Day on Monday 6 October against the backdrop of traditional pomp and glamour provided by bull fighting teams in Kakamega, the provincial headquarters of Western Province. Gathered dignitaries included the Minister for Housing, Mr. Soita Shitanda, Assistant Ministers, Members of Parliament, diplomats and other top Kenya government officials.

The Minister launched the construction of 80 housing units in Amalemba, Kakamega by the National Housing Corporation and the construction of an access road to Maraba slum in the town.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's and UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibajuka's messages were read by Mr David Kithakye of UN-HABITAT, who added that the post election crisis in Kenya earlier in the year was a symptom of the inequalities within urban centres. He said UN-HABITAT would sign a memorandum with the Ministry of Local Government to support a City Development Strategies programme.

The Kariobangi South Welfare & Slums Housing Association in Nairobi marked the World Habitat Day and Global Poverty Day by hosting football matches between a team of elderly women and Nairobi East councillors. The first match took place on October 4 at KCC playground next to KCC Factory in Kariobangi South Location, while the second was on October 18. The second served as the main activity to mark the Global Poverty Day.

LESOTHO

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's speech, read by UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie was broadcast on national television on Monday October 6. Other World Habitat Day activities were celebrated towards the end of October, since the first Monday of October in Lesotho always coincides with the country's national celebration of independence. The main issues observed were culture and its impact on the city of Maseru, and solid waste management and its impact on the city's environment.

LIBERIA

A march was organized in Monrovia on October 6, by student and youth groups, members of the slum dwellers and the

tenants associations and partner associations, from Broad Street to the Monrovia City Hall. This was followed by a workshop at the Monrovia City Hall on the Theme: Urbanization in Liberia, Challenges and Prospects. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's message was delivered at the workshop as well as the statements of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibajuka.

LIBYA

Over 200 participants drawn from the universities, public and private sector, foreign missions, international companies and other UN agencies joined in the celebration for World Habitat Day in Libya. In a speech read on her behalf, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibajuka, noted that the number of urban slum-dwellers worldwide has broken the 1 billion mark, terming this a historic turning point. Dr. Ahmad Al-Muktar Al Tumi, chairman of Urban Planning Agency in Libya gave the keynote address touching on the pertinent issues on urban planning and development while Prof. Adnan Ali Husnein from Al Hosn University in the United Arab Emirates gave a special lecture on urban heritage. He said more awareness needed to be created on the significant historical values that the many Libyan cities possess.



World Habitat Day celebrations in Tanzania. Photo © UN-HABITAT



World Habitat Day celebrations in Libya.

Photo © Urban Planning Authority

The event was composed of a morning activity and an afternoon celebration where in the morning a city walk programme to the historical red castle (Assai Al Hamra) and old town (Medina) were organized with the *Urban heritage of Libyan cities* being the adopted local theme based on the global theme of *Harmonious Cities*.

MALAWI

The national commemoration of World Habitat Day in Malawi was held on 6th October in a township called Area 24 in the capital city Lilongwe. The activities included: a Press Release, a Press Conference and a Public Debate. The public debate, based on the theme *Harmonious Cities*, was broadcast live on national radio. The activities at the venue of the commemoration included an exhibition by the Water Users Association, drama and dance highlighting the theme of in 2008's World Habitat Day and official speeches.

The Lilongwe Water Board and the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) printed on their water and electricity bills respectively the World Habitat Day messages in English and vernacular languages.

Action Aid Malawi supplied hundreds of World Habitat Day T-shirts.

A local observance of the day spearheaded by the Blantyre City

Assembly and the Concerned Youth Organisation was also held in Blantyre.

NAMIBIA

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, decided that instead of giving money to the 13 regions for the World Habitat Day, it would build a community center in the informal settlement area of Okahandja. Alternative and locally available building materials were used to construct the center, while community members who were trained specifically for the task were responsible for the construction.

The event was held in October. The Minister handed out certificates to trainers of trainers and officially handed-over the brick making machines to communities. These machines were purchased by UNDP through a one-off grant from the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund. Since inception of the pilot project, UN-HABITAT, through its Habitat Programme Manager has been providing technical and advisory assistance.

NIGERIA

The Rural People Encouragers Network of Ahoada in Rivers State of Nigeria organised activities that were held from September 30 to October 6, 2008. These activities included the repair of houses in the Ubarama, Odieke Ubie and

Ekpena communities and a debate that was held at Ahoada. Notable people invited to attend the debate included the District Police Officer of Ahoada and the Ahoada East and West Local government chairmen.

On 6 October 2008, WEP in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Federal Road Safety Commission, the Police and members of the Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP) numbering over 500 participated in the *Walk for Harmonious Cities* organized by WEP. The walk started from Area 1 under the bridge through Area 2, 10, International Conference Centre, Radio House, Nigerian Television Authority and ended up at the headquarters of the Federal Capital Development Authority

The President of the Global Grassroot Youth Forum in Nigeria invited two schools to raise awareness on World Habitat day through football matches, dance, debate, table tennis and swimming competitions. The organization moved from school to school to create awareness about safeguarding the habitat and about the work of the UN-HABITAT. The high point of the Habitat celebration was the presentation of certificates and trophies to the winners.

Also on the cards was a Jumat

service at the central Mosque. Prayers were offered for the continual survival of the Habitat, as well as a Sunday habitat service held in over 20 Churches across Nigeria with the main service at the famous Hope Waddell Parish of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. On Monday 6 October, activities included lectures, paper presentations; TV broadcasts as well as a press conference and a gala night. Messages from the UN Secretary General and UN-HABITAT Executive Director were also read.

Harsichord, a Nigerian firm specializing in organizing seminars, workshops, conferences, concerts and other events, invited 20 primary and 20 secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State to participate in an essay competition and a seminar at Ibom Hall in Uyo, the capital of Akwa Ibom state. The topics for the essay was *Housing and Urban Development* in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria for primary schools and *Affordable Housing; An Avenue to Attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria* for secondary schools.

RWANDA

On behalf of Linda Bihire the Minister of Infrastructure, Eng. Albert Butare, the Minister of State in charge of Energy stated his country's commitment to transform slums. He said that Rwanda's Vision 2020 aims at increasing habitation of city dwellers from 18 to 30 percent and increasing rural habitation to 70 percent that include almost 22 percent inhabitants in decent settlements (Imiduguddu). In the Vision 2020, Rwanda aims at developing City Master Plans for 18 cities and increasing accessibility to safe water and electricity.

TANZANIA

As part of preparations for World Habitat Day 2008, the local Habitat Programme Manager briefed the New Minister for Housing, Lands and Human Settlements

Development on UN-HABITAT activities in Tanzania. The minister invited stakeholders to participate in a public event which was held in one of the slums or upgraded areas in Manzese. There were exhibitions, public address of various representatives and a site visit on 5 October. The Minister visited various projects/programme, including visiting the Citywide Slum Upgrading office, Community Infrastructure Upgrading Programmes and slum areas..

UGANDA

The Youth Initiative for Aids Prevention (YIAP- UGANDA), a local community based organisation working in Mukono district, hosted youth football, netball and dancing competitions in Mukono district on September 27-28, as they fundraised to rehabilitate 30 houses for orphans and widows in the Ntenjeru sub county. One of the guests was Mr. Wali Christopher, one of Uganda's delegates to the World Habitat Day celebrations in The Hague, Netherlands in 2007.

Foundation for the Rural Housing (FHSE-UGANDA), a non-profit making National Non-governmental Organisation, organized a pre-UN World Habitat Day event that involved the construction and launch of a rural model house at Rubongi Sub county in Tororo District, Eastern

Uganda. The beneficiary of this model house was a widow within the project area.

ZIMBABWE

The Combined Harare Residents Association joined Zimbabwe and the rest of the world in commemorating the World Habitat Day and focused on quality, accessible and adequate service delivery and sustainable city development and planning.

The Government of Zimbabwe and key stakeholders including members of parliament, councillors, engineers, architects, housing co-operatives and quantity surveyors met to discuss housing needs in Zimbabwe with a view to finding solutions for any loopholes that may exist in the housing regulations and policies. The meeting also discussed cheaper models to provide water, sewer, roads and electricity.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Emergency Architects Australia organised the World Habitat Day events to run alongside the World Architecture Day and The Sydney Architecture Festival. The celebrations held at Customs House, Circular Quay, Sydney, were



World Habitat Day celebrations in Tanzania. Photo © UN-HABITAT

a collaboration between Australian Architecture Association, Royal Australian Institute of Architects New South Wales (NSW) Chapter, NSW Architects Registration Board, UNSW Faculty of the Built Environment, NSW Government Architect and Sydney City Council. EAA presented a large scale working model, details of projects to date and information on UN World Habitat Day events around the world.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

CAMBODIA

A spot show on national TV relating to the theme was aired. Also held was a banner show along main streets in the cities and a press release to all the local media. The Municipality and NGOs organized a half day event to celebrate the event.

INDIA

Manipur University's Department of Housing and Urban Development observed World Habitat Day at State Guest House the Chief Town Planner, N. Gitkumar, the Department Director M. Joy. Manipur University, professors and experts spoke on the occasion.

The Trust for Regeneration of Environment and Economy (TREE) in collaboration with the department of Architecture celebrated the World Habitat Day 2008 in Bhubaneswar, the state capital of Orissa on the theme *Harmonious Cities* through various competitions, including poster painting and collage. There were special lectures, bulletins and films shown to mark the day

A local organisation, BHAGIDARI JAN SAHYOG SAMITI in collaboration with several partners held World Habitat Day celebrations in New Delhi. The main objective of the programme was a seminar to draw attention to the problems and issues in harmonious cities, the theme for World Habitat day this year.



Focus was on environmental sustainability, equity, gender parity, pro-poor growth and participatory governance. Some 2,000 participants, including policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives attended. A parallel seminar took place on Solutions to human settlements and urban problems.

A national event, GlobalBuild, was organized by Habitat for Humanity India to run between September 29 and October 6. The event was designed to provide a grassroots level, hands-on house building opportunity to volunteers from around the world in aid of a community of migrant and poor families desperately in need of simple and affordable housing. These families live in a slum within the Bhalaswa Resettlement Colony in New Delhi.

The Kriyanand UNESCO club in Jamshedpur organized a one-day conference and training programme under the theme *Harmonious Cities*. The overall purpose of the programme was to ensure environmental sustainability of urban areas.

Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) also organised a Painting Competition for the Differently Abled Children.

Besides, a design idea competition was also organised. The theme of the competition was to invite designs of a Low Cost House suitable for rural areas providing cost-saving, energy & time efficiency and disaster resistant construction techniques. Architecture, engineering, planning students, practicing engineers, architects, consultancy firms, government, public and private sector institutions were all invited to compete.

The Institute for Regional Development Studies at Kanpur, organized an interdisciplinary and theme-oriented panel discussion to raise awareness about the problems of slums, degrading urban environment and massive rural-to-urban migration and over-urbanisation in the developing world. A diagnostic spatial-functional approach was used to promote integrated and balanced socio-economic urban growth. The panel consisted of academics of various disciplines, community representatives, youth and planners.

The City Managers' Association of Orissa observed the World Habitat Day in Orissa. The main objective of the event was to enable city managers - both elected and officials - understand the essence of World Habitat Day. The



World Habitat Day celebrations in Indonesia.
Photo © UN-HABITAT

association released a newsletter focusing on best practices in the urban sector and organised a discussion on the theme, *Harmonious Cities*. It developed a background paper, literature and case studies for dissemination among members, officers of local authorities, senior government officials, citizens, politicians, non-governmental organizations, local urban experts and media representatives.

The Institution of Engineers (India) Kolkatta celebrated World Habitat Day with a lecture by Suresh Chand Thukral, a Fellow of the institution, on the topic *How to achieve Harmonious Cities*, at Jammu Centre of the Institution, New Delhi. The topic focussed on Human Habitation and Valuation of Tangible Assets. A lecture on the topic *Need of living in Harmony* was given as well. A write up on the World Habitat Day was sent for publication in the two leading daily news papers.

IRAN

Urban Environment and Sustainable Development Organization of Tehran Municipality celebrated for the first time, the World Habitat Day, by presenting special programs

on the theme *Harmonious Cities*. The conference on the urban environment was an excellent opportunity for experts, local government and academics to discuss the urban environment and harmonious cities. A *Green children's festival* was also organized, aimed at creating a culture of urban environment protection for children.

JAPAN

UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific joined the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to host a World Habitat Day symposium entitled, Establishing *Harmonious Cities* in East Asia. The symposium on 6 October was supported by the Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Fukuoka International Association, Fukuoka Asia Urban Research Center, and the UN Association of Japan Fukuoka Head Office. And in keeping with a tradition established here, the 8th World Habitat Day children's drawing contest was organized with schools in the region. The contest was backed by the Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Kyushu Electric, Co., Ltd. The winners' work will be published in the 2009 UN-HABITAT Original Calendar.

MALAYSIA

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia held a pre-launch in August 2008 of the World Habitat Day celebration, where a local celebrity was appointed as the ambassador for the Ministry's programmes. A short video was played to introduce the programmes for the celebration, namely article writing competition, photography competition. The winning photos were showcased at an exhibition in November. Residents of apartments of the People's Housing Programme, one of Malaysia's initiatives to provide affordable and quality living to people of the lower income group,

were also involved in cleaning up the surrounding area and tree planting activities.

PHILIPPINES

Pag-IBIG Fund, one of the recipients of the 2006 Scroll of Honour Award, promoted awareness of the theme of Harmonious Cities through Ms. Vilma Q. Flores, Vice President of North Luzon Group, with her radio program over DWBL on AM Radio Philippines, a regular Saturday feature supported by Federacion Internacional de Abogadas (FIDA), Philippine Chapter. The theme was also promoted by Xevera Subdivision, an economic-housing complex that literally rose from the ashes in Barangay Calibutbot, Bacolor, Pampanga, under the leadership of Delfin Lee, a developer who, through harmonious relationships among the private sector, government sector and various non-government organizations, has come up with a sustainable project that will help decongest highly-urbanized areas.

SRI LANKA

The Ministry of Housing & Common Amenities and the Ministry of Urban Development & Sacred Area Development jointly organized the World Habitat Day 2008 under the theme Harmonious Cities with emphasis on rapid urbanization and its implications on the environment, growth of slums and urbanization of poverty. A comprehensive programme was planned with the participation of relevant stakeholders. The main target areas were addressing environmental implications related to rapid urbanization, mobilization of housing finance for low income categories, improvement of living conditions in underserved settlements, tenurial rights and awareness creation among school children and general public on technological advances in the fields of cost effective construction, alternative construction materials & energy sources.

THAILAND

In Bangkok, Thailand, seven free online Quick Guides were launched for World Habitat Day. They are intended to help policymakers deal with the key issues of housing urban poor in the Asia-Pacific region. The Quick Guides, developed jointly by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UN-HABITAT, are in response to the unprecedented growth of slums and squatter settlements in the region that now house over 500 million people. See also, <http://www.housing-the-urban-poor.net>

EUROPE

BELGIUM

In Brussels, the capital of Europe, two World Habitat Day events were held. The first was a collaboration between the UN-HABITAT Liaison Office to the EU and Belgium and the International Union of Tenants (IUT), which also marks International Tenants day on 6 October. A conference themed *Decent and Affordable Housing for the European Cities* was held at the European Parliament.

The second event organised by UN-HABITAT Brussels Office was the European celebration commemorating World Habitat Day at the UN House in Brussels, supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Angola in Belgium. Statements of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka were delivered. Attending and speaking at both events were Ambassadors, members of European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, Civil Society and local and international journalists, some of whom spoke on the global and European challenges of sustainable urban development and solutions adapted to harmonious urban development in our towns and cities.



World Habitat Day celebrations in Tehran, Iran.

POLAND

The UN-HABITAT office in Poland organized a one-day conference in Warsaw entitled *Environmentally Harmonious Cities: Coping with urbanisation and climate change*. Three panels of the conference focussed on: developing and implementing a long-term environmental vision for the city: challenges, approaches and tools; the responses of local authorities and civil society in tackling climate change: integrated policy development and innovative practices in Poland, and environment, health and harmony: the health dimension in sustainable urban development.

The event was held under the patronage of two Polish ministries: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Infrastructure.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

On World Habitat Day, World Wide Networking Argentina organised a forum *Social Habitat for an Urban and Rural World* which was held at the House of Representatives conference hall in Buenos Aires Argentina. The forum took place from 10 to 1 o'clock and the issues discussed included socially, economically and environmentally sustainable integral solutions to the housing problem. A press conference was addressed by Margarita Beveraggi - President of commission of House of Deputies, Estela Belizan - Coordinator Human Settlement, María Costa Pinto - Director information center of United Nations.

COSTA RICA

The local Habitat Programme Manager joined efforts with networks and institutions including the National Institute for women, Municipal Consultancy and Promotion Institute, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements, Women and Cities Network and municipalities in organizing a forum that emphasized the role of the local governments towards attainment of harmonious cities for women.

The organizers aimed to generate constructive discussions through demonstration of initiatives and good practices in the region on the role of local governments facing the insecurity and urban violence with a gender and sustainable urban development perspective.

COLOMBIA

Habitat School at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, celebrated World Habitat Day by hosting an international seminar *Popular Habitat: Reasons for Existence and Perspectives on the Creation of an International Laboratory of Popular Habitat*. Better known by its Spanish name, Escuela del Habitat, the institution is one of the six schools of the Faculty of Architecture in Medellin. For over twenty years, local and Latin-American professionals, technicians, civil servants, community leaders and academics have been trained or involved in the discussions of local development and practically all its related themes, in the development of an international cooperation agreement with the Institute for Housing Studies at Rotterdam. The international programme also provided opportunities to establish not only Dutch – Latin relations but also south- south cooperation.

Another event was organised at the Faculty of Law of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana with the participation of some universities, the national government, the local governments, the private sector, and civil society around

the discussion of the construction and accomplishment of the right to the city and its relevance to harmonious cities.

MEXICO

Celebrations in Mexico were held in the city of Chihuahua. A video conference with all the Habitat Programme Managers in the region and a regional celebration was held.

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

Habitat for Humanity of Yuma, Arizona, a strong advocate for moving families from substandard living to the American dream of home ownership, observed World Habitat Day by launching its Build on Faith campaign. In her speech read during the launch, the board chairman, Kathi Marcus, defined Habitat for Humanity Yuma as an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 250,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1 million people.

Albany Technical College volunteers - students, faculty and staff worked with Flint River Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the Woodland Oaks subdivision in south Dougherty County and painted the new Habitat offices on Pine Avenue. According to Habitat for Humanity, more than 1.6 billion people are suffering from some sort of shelter deprivation in the world. Without access to adequate shelter, clean water or sanitation, upwards of 10 million people die each year from preventable diseases. Many of them are infants.

In New York City, the UN-HABITAT office and NGO Committee on Human Settlements jointly hosted two public programs: A breakfast

forum at Fordham University, followed by an afternoon forum in the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. These programs brought together regional experts, to focus on how New York City is pioneering new methods to promote harmonious cities, through collaboration of government, non-profit organizations, and private corporations.

The Virginia Commonwealth University of Richmond, Virginia organized an ice cream social event to raise awareness of World Habitat Day and raise money for charity.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty organised a free audio training session on The Human Right to Housing. The human rights system provides an important framework for connecting civil rights issues with economic and social justice. This webinar shared basic information about the human rights framework and its applicability to domestic issues of affordable housing and homelessness.

In Florida, the Florida Coalition for the Homeless and the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition organized the second joint state-wide conference, titled *A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together* focusing on the housing and community needs of Florida's most vulnerable populations. The conference provided opportunities for participants to meet national experts, discuss critical issues with State and federal representatives and network amongst a broad spectrum of professionals sharing in the vision of a home for all Floridians. Other highlights included a city-wide bus tour of supportive housing programs, an awards ceremony and reception, as well as an opportunity for participants to receive 14 hours of Continuing Education Units.

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UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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