

BetterCity BetterLife

World Habitat Day
4 October 2010



Century Square, Pudong, Shanghai, China. Photo © Shutterstock

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



“With half of humanity now living in an urban environment, the world is at the dawn of a new urban era. Expo 2010 in Shanghai, under the theme “Better City, Better Life”, is the first global exposition dedicated to the potential and the problems of urban living in the 21st century.”

– UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2009

“While liveable cities depend upon rational economics, that is just one leg of the stool. If our cities are to be truly sustainable and harmonious, we must improve the lives and well-being of everyone, especially the urban poor. We must not continue to consume natural resources at rates that deny opportunity to our children and grandchildren.”

– UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka, 2009

Introduction



We are pleased to announce that the global observance of World Habitat Day this year will be held at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. Hosted by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development and the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Urban and Rural Construction and Transport, the celebration of World Habitat Day will be a major concluding highlight of the Expo at which the United Nations has its own pavilion.

The Shanghai World Expo presents an excellent venue for the global observance because its theme, *Better City, Better Life* makes it the first global exposition dedicated to the potential and the problems of urban living in the 21st century. The Expo, 1 May to 31 October 2010, is expected to attract over 70 million visitors to an array of cultural programmes and events organized by exhibitors from around 200 countries and 50 international organizations. It will show exciting new ideas to make our cities much better places at a time it is projected that in the next generation, 70 percent of humanity will be living in towns and cities. The Urban Best Practices Area will show leading case studies from cities around the world.

The United Nations Pavilion will depict the theme, *One Earth, One UN*. Coordinated by UN-HABITAT as the lead UN agency on urban matters, it will showcase the best of the United Nations in making our urban environments better and smarter when it comes to reducing poverty, crime, fuel consumption, pollution, waste, and so many of

the ills that afflict our daily lives, especially in the developing world. The exhibitions will display our knowledge, many best practices, and our unity of purpose in bringing the new *World Urban Campaign* for better, more sustainable cities to a wide global audience.

The *Better Cities, Better Life* theme highlights our vision of a sustainable urban world that harnesses potentials and possibilities, mitigates inequalities and disparities, and provides a home for people of all cultures and ages, both rich and poor.

The global observance of World Habitat Day will be closely linked to a special meeting on the *Livable City in a Harmonious Society* hosted by the city of Hangzhou and co-sponsored by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and UN-HABITAT. It is one of six major such discussions on key urban topics including sustainability, urban development, the environment, economy, cultural heritage, science and innovation. The meetings will culminate in a Summit Forum at the close of the Expo on *Urban Innovation and Sustainable Development* attended by world leaders, city mayors, and other global urban movers and shakers.

Raise awareness in your city

- organize a world habitat day event 2010

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 2009 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, *Better Cities, Better Life*.

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 the World Habitat Day theme 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 are mailed to our partners including governments, inter-governmental organizations, private sector and non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies, information offices and country offices.

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. We will also 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 2009

| YEAR | THEMES | VENUE | CHIEF GUEST |
|------|---|-----------------|---|
| 2009 | Planning Our Urban Future | Washington D.C. | Shaun Donovan, Secretary of State, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary |
| 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 |
| 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 | Secretary General, United Nations |
| 1992 | Shelter and Sustainable Development | UN, New York | Secretary General, United Nations |
| 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 | Secretary General, United Nations |
| 1986 | Shelter is my Right | Nairobi | USG, UNCHS (Habitat) |

An occasion to honour the best

Habitat Scroll of Honour Award Winners 1989 to 2009

2009

Peter Oberlander, Canada

Un Techo Para Mi Pais, Chile

Rizhao Municipal Government, China

CEMEX, Mexico

The City of Grozny, Russia

The Saudi Al-Medina Al Munawarah Local Urban Observatory, Saudi Arabia

The Alexandra Renewal Project, South Africa

The City of Malmö, Sweden

Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Children (UWESO), Uganda

Jan Peterson of Huairou Commission, United States of America

Neal Peirce, Journalist, United States of America

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 Bolivar, 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

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

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

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

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

Fu-Nan River Comprehensive Revitalization
Project Chendu, China

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

The late Sidhijai Tanphiphat, Thailand

Ministry of Local Government and Housing,
Zambia

The SISCAT Group, Bolivia

Jnos SZAB, Budapest

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

Housing Development Administration,
Turkey

1993

Cités Unies Developpement, 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



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

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

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

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

Global Ccelebration of World Habitat Day, 2009. Washington DC, USA. Photos © UN-HABITAT



Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2009 in Washington D.C., United States of America

The global observation of the 2009 World Habitat Day, held at the magnificent National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. on 5 October was a success that set new standards. Hosting the celebrations for the first time ever in the United States, the Obama Administration transformed World Habitat Day into a World Habitat Week, significantly raising awareness for sustainable urbanization at home and abroad.

A US Honorary Committee for World Habitat Day was established, co-chaired by Valerie Jarrett, Advisor to the President and Melody Barnes, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council. Comprising key Members of Congress, the Brookings Institution, Woodrow Wilson Center, US Conference of Mayors, Business Civic Leadership Conference, American Planners Association, and Habitat for Humanity International, among others, the Committee organized high level events on 5 October and thirty affiliated events from 1 to 8 October.

The climax of celebrations was a video message from President Barack Obama. The President said that his administration was looking towards stronger partnerships with other organizations in addressing the challenges facing American people, including housing. It was only through partnerships that the challenges could be addressed, on its own the US government could not succeed.

“World Habitat Day is a good chance to look into the problem of people without housing and how to help them,” he said in the video-taped message to participants marking the one-day occasion at a colourful ceremony at the National Building Museum in Washington.



UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs Anna Tibaijuka during the 2009 World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington DC, USA. Photo © UN-HABITAT



He added that World Habitat Day 2009 came at a critical time when many people were faced with the spectre of homelessness.

Obama’s message was underscored by the chief host, US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, and the Co-Chairs, Valerie Jarrett and Melody Barnes. Ambassador Susan Rice, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations gave a keynote address at the opening while Ann Marie Slaughter, Director, Office of Policy Planning, presented the perspective of the Department of State at a dinner. The main sponsor of the event, The Rockefeller

US President Barack Obama gives a keynote address on the occasion of World Habitat Day 2009. Photo © BSHF

Foundation, was represented by its President, Dr. Judith Rodin, who presided over the ceremony and delivered a powerful call to action for our urban future. Their remarks were augmented by statements from Adolfo Carrion, Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs and Jonathan Reckford, President, Habitat for Humanity International.

In his opening address Secretary Donovan said: “We face the largest wave of urban growth in human history. For the first time ever, more than half of our global

population lives in metropolitan areas. By 2030 almost five billion people will live in urban areas. With each of these developments come enormous challenges to deliver health care services and safe drinking water; to provide reliable, energy-efficient transportation". He announced that he would lead the US delegation to the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in Brazil in March 2010.

Ambassador Rice warned of the challenge facing humanity in general over housing. "About one sixth of humanity now lives in slums and the figures are set to rise in the near future and it is going to be a huge challenge addressing this issue," she said.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT urged senior officials to make the political case for urbanization. She explained that the choice of the 2009 theme reflected the fact that in many parts of the world, urban planning systems had changed little and that in some cases they contributed to the problems rather than helped solve them.

"It is clear to us at UN-HABITAT and to our partners in government, municipalities, and at the community level that current approaches to planning must change and that a new role for planning in sustainable urban development has to be found," she said.

Highlights of the occasion included presentation of the Scroll of Honour Awards, the highest tribute of the UN system for achievements by individuals, cities or institutions in the cause of human settlements. They also included presentation of the World Habitat Award by the Building and Social Housing Foundation and a moving statement from American musician, Jon Bon Jovi whose charitable work includes significant donations for housing for low-income families. He offered a powerful combination of humour and serious soul-searching as he walked the audience through a narrative of how he became involved in efforts



World Habitat Award winners during the global celebrations in Washington DC, USA. Photos © UN-HABITAT



World Habitat Day global celebrations in Washington DC, USA. Photos © UN-HABITAT

to improve access to affordable housing.

By tradition, World Habitat Day is also used to launch the agency's biennial flagship publication, the Global Report on Human Settlements 2009. In keeping with past years, the report's theme on *Planning Sustainable Cities* was consistent with the theme of World Habitat Day.

While in Washington, Mrs. Tibaijuka called on the Secretary General of the Organization

of American States, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza, and addressed a reception of the American Planners Association and the Association of Colleges and Schools of Planning.

The Secretary-General's message on World Habitat Day 2009

The theme of this year's observance of World Habitat Day, Planning our Urban Future, is meant to underscore the urgency of meeting the needs of city dwellers in a rapidly urbanizing world.

The major urban challenges of the twenty-first century include the rapid growth of many cities and the decline of others, the expansion of the informal sector, and the role of cities in causing or mitigating climate change. Evidence from around the world suggests that governments at all levels are largely failing to address these challenges. Urban sprawl and unplanned development are among the most visible consequences. Hundreds of millions of urban dwellers are also increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels, coastal flooding and other climate-related hazards.

A troubling trend has emerged in many cities in developed and developing countries alike: the growth of up-market suburban areas and gated communities, on the one hand, and the simultaneous increase in overcrowded tenement zones, ethnic enclaves, slums and informal settlements, on the other. Stark contrasts have also emerged between technologically advanced and well-serviced business sectors, and other areas defined by declining industry, sweatshops and informal businesses.

Better, more equitable urban planning is essential. New ideas from smart cities around the world are pointing the way toward sustainable urbanization. But there is far more to do. Urban poor need improved tenure and access to land. All cities need safer and more environmentally friendly public transport, housing security, clinics and public services. There is also a need to mobilize financing for urban development.

Planning is at the heart of this agenda. But planning will work only where there is good urban governance and where the urban poor are brought into the decisions that affect their lives. And planning will work best only where corruption is honestly tackled. United Nations bodies such as UN-HABITAT can provide vital help with capacity building, research, and knowledge management and exchange.

At the dawn of this new urban age, we recognize the problems and we know how to tackle them. We understand perhaps more clearly than ever before that no-one can be excluded, especially the poor. On World Habitat Day, let us pledge to do our part to follow through on our plans for a better, greener, more sustainable future for our increasingly urban planet.



Statement of the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka on the occasion of World Habitat Day 2009

We have chosen the theme, Planning our Urban Future, for World Habitat Day 2009 for a simple but very important reason: In many parts of our world urban planning systems have changed very little. Indeed, they are often contributors to urban problems rather than tools for human and environmental improvement.

It is clear to us at UN-HABITAT and to our partners in government, municipalities, and at community level that current approaches to planning must change and that a new role for planning in sustainable urban development has to be found.

Yet to blame urban planners and their plans for our urban problems is like turning back the clock and going back in history to a time when no-one could have foreseen the problems we now face.

It is a fact that slums are the worst manifestations of urban poverty, deprivation, and exclusion in the modern world. And it is a fact that today we have the technological know-how such as satellite-based Geographical Information Systems – undreamed of until not so long ago – the power, and the money to plan effectively for the targets established in the Millennium Declaration.

Many of the ills of urbanisation have been conveniently left at the doorstep of urban planners and planning. However, there are many reasons why that job may not result in a better living environment for all. In many countries planning has not been very powerful and developers, the private sector and individual citizens – who do not have the public good uppermost in their considerations – are relatively

unconstrained in their activities. Powerful economic interests may feel threatened by planning recommendations. Politicians may not have an adequate sense of the public interest or plans may not reflect their priorities. Alternatively, planners may not have adequate training and their advice may be good or bad, taken or ignored. Plans may be unrealistic, given their resource requirements. Plans may not reflect the priorities of community groups. On top of all this, the implementation authority may be fragmented among jurisdictions.

In trying to correct these deficiencies, planning has opened itself to public participation and preference and to taking a more realistic view of the limits of the possible, while factoring in the resources likely to be available for implementation.

Yet, in today's world, despite many success stories that have come about due to planning's ability to reinvent itself, it would appear that the planning function still falls short in some parts of the world. Slums are multiplying, urban crime is rampant, development keeps sprawling, transport efficiency is declining, energy costs are rising, and health problems are increasing, while many citizens are walling themselves off from others. What's happening here? Has planning failed and does it need to be replaced by a more effective function?

Actually, there is no replacement for planning. It is a function that results from our uniquely human ability to anticipate consequences. As the world grows more and more urban, it is vital that, as governments



accept urbanisation as a positive trend, planning fulfils its proper role in guiding urban development when it comes to improving access to services, and economic and social opportunities.

Urban planning will therefore have to continue to adapt so it is able to carry out its much-required effective role in shaping a positive urban future.



Mr. Claudio Castro, Un Techo Para Mi Pais (Chile)
 For providing over 42,000 homes for the poor in 15 Latin American countries



Mrs. Cornelia Oberlander on behalf of the late Peter Oberlander (Canada)
 A founding father of UN-HABITAT for a lifetime of promoting the urban agenda around the world



Mr. Israel Moreno-Barcelo, Cementos Mexicanos - CEMEX (Mexico)
 For helping more than one million poor people build their own homes, and more

Scroll Of Honour
 award winners 2009



Neal Peirce (United States of America)
 For a lifetime of journalism dedicated to reporting cities for a better urban future.



Mayor Yang Jun of Rizhao Municipal Government (China)
 For transforming their city into a green home with new housing and infrastructure



Mr. Larsanov Mamed, the City of Grozny (Russia)

For resurrecting their war scarred city and providing new homes for thousands



Mayor Abdulaziz Al Husaiyen of Al-Medina Al-Munawarah (Saudi Arabia)

For pioneering a Local Observatory System now used elsewhere in the country and in the Middle East for smart urban planning



Mr. M.K. Lekgoro, the Alexandra Renewal Project (South Africa)

For helping thousands of poor people move into better homes and boosting health, water and electricity services.



Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, the City of Malmö (Sweden)

For its innovative, holistic approach to becoming a 21st century eco-city.



Mrs. Rose Tumusiime, Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Children - UWESO (Uganda)

For providing water, health and sanitation to orphans and vulnerable children.



Jan Peterson, Huairou Commission (United States of America)

For championing the rights of grassroots women and their movements for better human settlements.

Celebrations around the World

UN-HABITAT thanks all who participated in organizing these celebrations that raised awareness of this day. Below is a summary of over 110 activities from 48 countries. We believe that each celebration stimulated advocacy to help achieve the Habitat Agenda in the communities involved.

AFRICA

BOTSWANA

The Department of Housing under the Ministry of Lands and Housing commemorated World Habitat Day in Chobe District.

CAMEROON

The Concerned Minds for Habitation Securities celebrated the World Habitat Day with several activities including a radio quiz with questions on the year's theme, a football match between the youths in Yaounde neighbourhoods, and a week of lectures to students of Government Bilingual High School Etoug-Ebe on *Shelter is my right; Our neighbourhood; Urbanization and citizenship; and Planning our Urban Future*.

GHANA

Action for Community Development marked World Habitat Day with a forum to build the capacity of the youth on Climate Change, an event that brought together youth groups from and around Tamale.

KENYA

The national celebrations were organized over four days by the Ministry of Housing of the Government of Kenya together with partners from the municipal council of Mombasa, the Architectural Association of Kenya, Ministry of Lands, Kenya National Housing Cooperative Union, Rent Restriction Tribunal and UN-HABITAT. Guests included the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister and Assistant Minister

of Housing, the Minister for Local Government, Ambassadors, the local Mayor, District Commissioner, local area Member of Parliament, Provincial Commissioner and other dignitaries. Leading up to World Habitat Day, activities held include a tree planting exercise, mini league football matches at primary schools and a clean up campaign.

The Kariobangi South Welfare and Slums Housing Association (KASWESHA Housing Cooperative Society) organized football matches, tree planting, a public forum, entertainment, and a graduation ceremony for Youth studying ICT at KASWESHA Community Resource Centre

Rachuonyo Skills Development initiative in collaboration with Oyugis town council organised awareness raising activities in Oyugis town and its environs, among them

tree planting, essays from primary and high schools on the WHD theme, and a litter collection public awareness campaign to show young people the importance of keeping their cities clean. There was also a special workshop and football matches.

Genesis Arts Creations, a youth serving, community based organization in Nakuru that addresses socio-economic health and governance issues in the community through the use of art and theatre in a participatory and interactive model, marked World Habitat Day with discussion forums and activities in the low income settlements of the town.

The Samaritan People Vision, a non-governmental organization based in Nairobi East District held a three-day training program for community based organizations, self help groups, women groups, and other community leaders and representatives on strategic planning for their respective organizations.

Peponi House school pupils in Nairobi used the UN-HABITAT Kids' Survey to generate discussion on



World Habitat Day celebrations in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo © UN-HABITAT

the state of their city and how to improve it. They put on World Habitat Day t-shirts for the whole day to raise awareness of the theme on planning better cities.

MALAWI

The national celebrations in Malawi were held in the town of Liwonde where the chief guest was the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. Other events were a press conference, live radio debate, schools design competition and articles on the theme of WHD featuring in national newspapers. At the event the Minister launched the Malawi Housing Profile Study Report an analysis of the delivery of housing in Malawi, the bottlenecks experienced and possible solutions. The report was supported financially and technically by UN-HABITAT.

The Concerned Youth Organisation based in Blantyre, Malawi held a live radio call-in programme that brought experts and Government officials from the City Assembly, Police Services, the Housing Corporation together to discuss the theme *Planning our urban future* with a special focus on Blantyre's community safety, security awareness, crime management, domestic violence and child abuse.

NIGERIA

The Rural People Encouragers Network held a retirees' camp and launched a children's forum known as the Nigerian Child Forum for children to air their views on how to end poverty. The event was marked at the Ula-Ehuda Community, the headquarters of Akoh clan, Ahoada East Rivers State.

The Global Grassroot Youth Forum held a sensitization programme to create awareness on the life of urban and rural settlers and bring the work of the UN-HABITAT closer to the people of the South-South Region (Niger-Delta) and the Cross River State.

Toris School, in Okearo Agbado Ogun state in Nigeria, celebrated World Habitat Day with a walk around the community and cleaning of designated roads and drainages to educate the community on the



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

need to clean and preserve the environment. Pupils also took part in the World Habitat Day Kids' Survey.

RWANDA

The commemoration in Rwanda took place in the city of Ruhengeri in Musanze district. The Minister of Infrastructure, Linda Bihire graced the occasion. Activities began with a presentation of the progress report from the urban studies of the Town of Ruhengeri and Reorganization of the Tetagoshe district, written by local research departments. The Mayor of Musanze District invited the population of the town of Ruhengeri to take part in the WHD activities by giving names to the streets and the various stages of the process of reorganization of the Tetagoshe district.

TANZANIA

World Habitat Day was celebrated under the leadership of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development. The Minister's address which outlined government programmes and policies on human settlements issues was televised throughout the country. Celebrations held at the Court Yard Hotel Conference Hall, Dar es Salaam, were attended by the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Dr. Alberic Kacou and UN-HABITAT staff. There was an exhibition followed by the official opening of an 11-storey building owned by the National Housing

Corporation at Kariakoo. The Minister inspected improvements by the Community Infrastructure Upgrading Programme in Manzese and handed over certificates of occupancy and title deeds to house owners.

TOGO

The main celebration of World Habitat Day was held in Dapaong and involved administrative authorities and politicians, professionals, civil society and communication specialists. The main activities included campaigns to promote the importance of respecting, maintaining and safeguarding the urban environment; conferences and debates on the topic of the day, a construction materials exhibition; concert of songs and a fashion show and sporting events, including a cross-country race and football.

Organization S.A.I.D - TOGO, an association of young volunteers that offers training to vulnerable people to improve their socio-economic and cultural living conditions organized a football festival which brought together teams from the five districts of Lome and aired a television broadcast of the message of UN-HABITAT Executive Director. The message on the English Magazine of the National Television TVT launched a debate on this year's topic and introduced the concept of the WHD to the citizens of Togo.

TUNISIA

A workshop was held on Monday 5 October in Tunis and attended by a number of leading urban architects, professionals, specialists and housing technicians. The event was opened by Mr. Slaheddine Maalouche, the Minister of Equipment, Housing and Land Planning.

UGANDA

Tororo Municipal Council, about 300km east of Kampala held celebrations where the chief guest was the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, Prof. Gilbert Bukenya. Events included the laying of a foundation stone for the UN-HABITAT funded slum upgrading project in Tororo municipal council; launch of the Slum Upgrading Strategy for Uganda; and exhibitions by the central and local governments, private sector, NGOs, financial institutions.

The East African Sustainability Watch (SusWatch) Network commissioned a rapid assessment study in August 2009 in Busia, Homa Bay and Musoma. This study, carried out to highlight the status of the housing situation in fast growing and secondary towns in the Lake Victoria basin, aimed at reawakening political and other stakeholders' interest to take action to address the housing gap as an obligation.

The Youth Initiative for Aids Prevention Uganda hosted Music Dance and Drama activities for communities and an inter schools debate on this year's theme. Football and netball matches also took place in the first week of October with the final played on October 6.

ARAB STATES

KUWAIT

The Ministry of Public Works and State for Municipality Affairs and UN-HABITAT Kuwait Office organized a two-day workshop to discuss future planning trends and sustainable cities. A number of experts participated.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment celebrated World Habitat Day in a ceremony held at Mushrif Park, Dubai. The ceremony featured workshops focusing on agricultural sustainability, comprehensive infrastructure planning and community-building from a social-behaviour perspective.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

The Emergency Architects Australia marked World Habitat Day at the Sydney Architecture Festival. The architects used the day to build awareness of WHD to promote the needs of the urban poor throughout the world. Teams of volunteers built models of housing types showing people how these were used in the Solomon Islands relief missions to rebuild schools and housing destroyed by a recent earthquake. The association's presentation in Conversation Corner highlighted the need for people to be involved in finding solutions to the problems of shelter.

BANGLADESH

Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh called upon their friends to symbolically celebrate WHD by wearing green and blue on 5 October and submit photographs

of themselves, their friends or colleagues dressed in these colours.

CAMBODIA

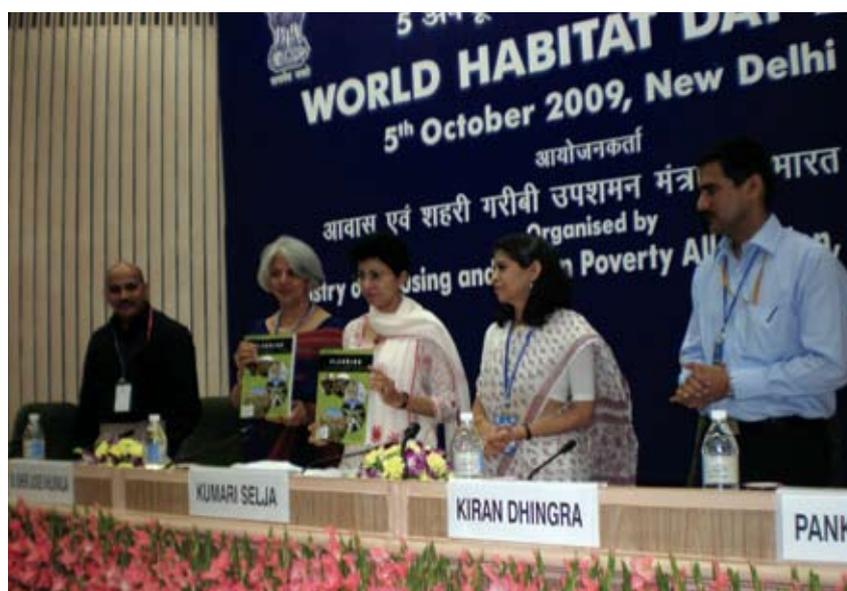
Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh called upon their friends to symbolically celebrate WHD by wearing green and blue on 5 October and submit photographs of themselves, their friends or colleagues dressed in these colours.

INDIA

The main celebration saw the launch of the Habitat Report in New Delhi by the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ms. Kumari Selja. Copies of the report were presented to the present dignitaries. Some 400 people attended the function.

The Centre for Environmental Management conducted a one day workshop focusing on Urban Settlement and Waste Management. They also organised painting competition for school and engineering college students which drew some 1,000 participants.

The Institution of Engineers, West Bengal State Centre, under the initiative of the Architectural Engineering Division, organized a conference in Kolkata. Prof. Saugata Roy, the Minister of State, Department of Urban Development, Government of India launched the Programme.



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

Habitat for Humanity India celebrated World Habitat Day at Bangalore with over 300 invitees, comprising of corporate patrons, volunteers, government representatives and community. They also launched Women Build project, to mobilize resources and link women donors with women savers.

The department of Architecture, Integral University in Lucknow organized an exhibition by students on issues related to urban planning and a presentation of technical papers by experts in the field of urban planning and faculty members of different departments.

Bhagidari Jan Sahyog Samiti, an NGO in New Delhi, organized celebrations at the Auditorium, India International Centre, in New Delhi. Justice M.C.Garg, a judge of the Delhi High Court was the chief guest. A seminar was also organized and an award presented for Best Practice in the City, among other events.

Osmania Medical College Doctors' Forum, a body of doctors of the institute concerned with Health and Development, organized a roundtable in Hyderabad.

The Local Governance Network in Bhubaneswar organized a round table with a focus on Climate Change, Good Governance, Heritage and Culture, and Urban Mobility.

The Phagwara Environment Association in Punjab organized a number of events including a State function held at Blood Bank Building, Phagwara.

Oxfam India organised a number of events in various cities including a public opinion and signature campaign in Agra and Lucknow, poster exhibition, public awareness and signature campaign in Allahabad, a public awareness rally in Bhopal and a human chain formation in Indore.

In Tamil Nadu, a one-day workshop received enthusiastic participation of students and faculty members from various Architecture, Planning and Interior Design Institutions in and around Chennai.

Urban Professionals of Orissa, India celebrated World Habitat Day at Bhubaneswar on 8 October 2009 with a workshop.

INDONESIA

Celebrations were held in Palembang, South Sumatera. Outdoor activities included a fun bike to promote cycling within the city and a People's Festival featuring a traditional boat festival along the Musi River.

Habitat for Humanity Indonesia marked WHD with the launch of the "West Java Disaster Response" rebuilding project. The project is Habitat's response to the earthquake

(magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale) that struck the area 200 km southeast of Jakarta in early September.

The Provincial Government of Yogyakarta held celebrations in the months of October and November. The events included an award ceremony, TV talk show, exhibitions, press conferences, regional seminar and workshop.

IRAN

UN-HABITAT organised a "Youth Competition on Architecture, Settlement and Urban Identity in the Persian Gulf Region" as a side event of the International Conference on Architecture, Settlement and Urban Identity in the region. The exhibition featured a display of the artistic ability of the youth in the fields of painting and photography focussing on *Identity and City, Architecture and Settlement, Climate and Human Kind*.

The Municipality of Tehran held a conference and festival for children. The Conference and Specialized Panels focusing on *Planning Our Urban Future* was attended by university professors, Tehran Municipality Executive Directors, environment officials from all 22 districts of Tehran, directors and deputies of civic architecture and urbanization departments, NGO activists in environment affairs, university students and others interested in environment and sustainable development issues.

JAPAN

UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan, supported by Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, UN-HABITAT Fukuoka Office Cooperating Committee, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Fukuoka International Association, Fukuoka Asia Urban Research Center, and the UN Association of Japan Fukuoka Head Office, organized World Habitat Day 2009 Fukuoka International Symposium *Planning Our Urban Future - Bridging the Urban Divide*. The symposium's aim was to raise



"My City, My Hope", a painting by Aftonia Nabila entered into the World Habitat Day 2009 children's painting competition held in Jakarta, Indonesia.



"Right of way" by Rosangela Tenorio.



"Green Street" by Anna_Dupleix



"Right of way" by Rosangela Tenorio.



"Yesterday's Trees" by Colin Finch

World Habitat Day photo competition held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

awareness of the need to improve urban planning.

MALAYSIA

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia organised several programmes including a photography competition, a house building project and an asset management workshop for local authorities.

Habitat for Humanity and Ministry officials undertook repairs on homes over six weeks in Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and Kuala Terengganu from September to October.

MONGOLIA

Habitat for Humanity Mongolia held a special house dedication ceremony to celebrate the approximately 200 Habitat homes built over the past summer.

NEW ZEALAND

The University of Auckland organised a series of activities including a photography competition, a debate at Fale Pasifika on *Sustainability puts a handbrake on growth*, an interactive exhibition on the theme of World Habitat Day at the George Fraser Gallery, a clothing and food drive for the homeless in Auckland at the Main Student Quad, an exhibition of shortlisted works from the Open Architecture Challenge, an exhibition of projects by students in the Master of Architecture program at the NICA Student Centre and the launch of the *Sustainability Careers Role Models* project at Powhiri on the Waipapa Marae.

PAKISTAN

The Institute of Planners Pakistan, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of Engineering and Technology and Sheher Saaz (Pvt.) Ltd. jointly organised a forum in Lahore.

PHILIPPINES

Vice President Noli De Castro, who is also the chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, led the main celebration of the World Habitat Day in The Philippines with key note

speeches at two events showcasing sustainable urban development and human settlements.

As in past years, the Home Development Mutual Fund (more popularly known as Pag-IBIG Fund) Philippines, through its North Luzon Group headed by Atty. Vilma Q. Flores, disseminated information and other materials to raise awareness about urban settlements on the World Habitat Day.

Celebrations were also held in Balanga, a town in the province of Bataan.

SRI LANKA

Aware of the urgent need for housing in the country, Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka organized a media launch of a research report called *Defining indicators to measure adequate housing in Sri Lanka 2009* as well as a Habitat house build.

The Women's Bank, a women-led cooperative savings and credit programme for low-income communities, commemorated World Habitat Day and their achievements towards improving the lives of the poor, especially in informal settlements. This year, the song, dance and colourful festivities were even more special for several hundred residents who benefited from collaborative projects of Women's Bank and UN-HABITAT in 2009.

THAILAND

The main World Habitat Day celebrations in Thailand were held at the UN Conference Centre (UNCC), where Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, delivered the keynote address.

Commemorations for World Habitat Day culminated in a regional workshop on pro-poor housing finance jointly organized by the Government Housing Bank and ESCAP on 15 October.

Through a photo exhibition by Habitat photojournalists, Habitat for Humanity Thailand painted a picture of how lives of families are transformed through owning a home. The exhibition at Siam

Paragon, a popular up-market shopping mall in Bangkok, was on display from 1 to 4 October.

EUROPE

ARMENIA

The activities in Armenia included rebuilding of houses to support low income families by Habitat for Humanity Armenia and a televised broadcast on National TV of Habitat for Humanity Armenia foundation activities in Armenia. Other activities included a joint visit by the representatives of the Ministry of Urban Development and local authorities to communities, the opening of the "Lori-Prod-Expo" trade-exhibition of construction and design materials made from the local raw materials in Vanadzor city, and a round table discussion on *Planning Our Urban Future*, held at the Ministry of Urban Development focusing on the development of housing.

AUSTRIA

The City of Vienna and its Best Practices Centre, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and the metropolis held an event on 5th of October. An exhibition was also held in September and October under the title: *In Zukunft Stadt* (In the future, the city). Best Practices were presented and promotion of a call by UN-HABITAT to submit Best Practices for the Dubai International

Award for Best Practices in Improving the Living Environment and for the UN-HABITAT Best Practices database.

BELGIUM

On World Habitat Day 2009, UN-HABITAT became the first UN agency to fly its flag at the European Parliament in Brussels with a lively debate on urban matters and a three-day exhibition carrying the message that governments have to pay ever closer attention to rapid urbanisation in Europe and around the world. Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT said the occasion served to open the door to the newly elected European Parliament for UN-HABITAT and broaden knowledge about urban issues in Europe and the world at large. It also served to help bring the agency into a closer working relationship with the European Union's executive body, the European Commission. She cited the strong commitment of Ms. Eva Joly, MEP, Chair of the Development Committee of the European Parliament, and MEP Jan Olbrycht, spoke at length about European urban policy. The European Union, the world's biggest trading bloc, established at the European Parliament a body called the *URBAN Intergroup* (previously known as *URBAN-Housing*) to ensure that urban problems are incorporated in



Lecture of cities of the future in the museum, held during the World Habitat Day celebration in Moscow, Russia.



European Parliamentary decisions. With over 60 MEPs working in 22 Parliamentary Committees and representing all European political groups, the *URBAN Intergroup* was formally approved for the 2009-2014 Parliamentary term. It is now working in close liaison with UN-HABITAT. Ms. Björk-Klevby, and Mr. Jean Bakole, Director of UN-HABITAT's Brussels office also met with Mr. Luis Riera Figueras, Director of Policy Development and Thematic Issues in the EU's Development Directorate, Mr. Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Jean-Michel Baer, Director of Science, Economy and Society in the Research Directorate. In the talks with Mr. Figueras, they agreed to organize a joint meeting of the European Commission, and UN-HABITAT in 2010 with non-EU State Norway as an observer. They also agreed to set up a new strategic partnership. With Mr. Van den Brande they signed a memorandum to set up pilot projects in developing countries. The cooperation will focus on a Mayor's Pact, a decentralised development "bourse", and UN-HABITAT tools to assist the Committee of the Regions. The Committee will circulate the agency's capacity building guidelines to local authorities in Europe. In her talks with Mr. Baer, they agreed to improve research cooperation and to align the Habitat Agenda



more closely with European policy. A further meeting was also held during the World Habitat Day celebrations with Mr. M. Bontemps, Deputy Director-General, Belgian Development Cooperation.

Seminars were held on *Addressing the challenges of rapid urbanisation by improving urban planning and policy and Sustainable cities and climate change: better planning for a livable urban future* .

A press conference was held to launch the UN-HABITAT's *Global Report on Human Settlements –Planning Sustainable Cities*

World Habitat Day celebration at the European parliament, Brussels Belgium.

Photo © UN-HABITAT

CROATIA

A round table *Dialogue on the urban development* - with citizens for citizens, was held in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb to celebrate World Habitat Day. Special attention was given to the state of affairs in city parks and alternative solutions offered for better social, health, educational, cultural, agricultural and ecological urban life in the years ahead. The round table was a culmination of activities organized by the national youth council in

Croatia and Zagreb City Council, supported by UN Global Compact members from Croatia.

GERMANY

The Research Institute and the Department of Geography at the University of Leipzig held an exhibition of information and charts for a day to create awareness for the students and fellow citizens of Leipzig about the World Habitat Day theme.

ITALY

Sapienza Università di Roma, in its capacity as a "Millennium University" held a public celebration on October 5 and a *slum target* session of its Millennium Development Goals course on the theme of the interconnection between the Millennium Declaration slum target, slum regularization and upgrading, and participatory urban planning.

ISRAEL

The Association for Environmental Justice in Israel (AEIJ) celebrated World Habitat Day with a special session in the Israeli Parliament (The Knesset) on the issues of dangerous deterioration of the environmental infrastructures in the urban sites of the Arab sector of Israel. The occasion saw the declaration of the establishment of the *Strategic Council for Environmental Risks and Population*, an initiative of AEIJ, an NGO that seeks to cooperate with government authorities in establishing sustainable solutions for and with vulnerable groups.

ROMANIA

Over 250 local and international volunteers gathered in Romania on October 5 for a weeklong build to complete 10 homes in Beius, Bihor county. The Big Build, which started on October 5, marked the observance throughout the week and accommodated various groups of volunteers who worked on the construction of homes for orphans.

RUSSIA

The UN-HABITAT Moscow project office hosted a seminar on urban observatories which brought



World Habitat Day celebrations in Argentina.

together representatives of the Russian cities of Kazan, Yaroslavl and Togliatti. In addition, the project office and the world-famous Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts partnered to hold a drawing contest for children titled "Cities of the Future". The contest was preceded by lectures for children in various museum halls with a focus on works of art devoted to cities and their future.

UKRAINE

An international conference was held in Kiev on October 5 to celebrate World Habitat Day. For the first time in Ukraine, World Habitat Day was marked by the State Committee of Ukraine for planning and architecture, together with the Municipal Management Center (Habitat).

UNITED KINGDOM

The International Art and Architecture Research Association (IAARA) hosted a two day meeting under the themes *Climate and Comfort, Architecture and Settlement, and Identity and City* to discuss issues relating to energy use in cities. This multi-dimension event was organized and hosted by the University of Westminster. The *Human Habitation* event focused on architecture, settlement and urban identity of the Persian Gulf Region, an area that covers some of the most ancient civilizations in the world.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

Network Habitat Argentina organized an event at José León Suárez City on October 5. Participants included Chamber of Deputies and Chamber of Senators, social organizations, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, public organizations, universities and centers of research, international organizations in Argentina and social movements.

A seminar was held in Buenos Aires at which a representative of the July 13th Human Settlements Movement addressed the importance of social and sustainable human settlements, urban reform and the right to the city.

BRAZIL

The UN-HABITAT office in Rio de Janeiro held a seminar entitled, *The Right to the City* in the municipalities of Conleste (Consortium of the East of Rio de Janeiro). Representatives of the Federal, State and Local Government, the UN, academics, civil society and NGOs held a lively discussion.

The Organization for Environmental Preservation organized the First Festival of Children's Culture in Brazil to commemorate World Habitat Day. The aim of this festival was to give children the means to

develop their capacity and skills to identify, defend and communicate their identity and culture in their relationships with other children – between rural and urban regions, states and countries – and with adults. The festival took place from 8 to 10 October, 2009, in the Colegio Estadual José Valente e Ginásio Domingos Xavier Nunes.

BOLIVIA

The Faculty of Architecture of the Universidad Mayor de San Andres, La Paz Bolivia organized a photography contest, related to the topic of the World Habitat Day. There was an exposition of the pictures on October 4. The objective of the contest was to represent the problems of social housing within environmental, cultural and architectural city-planning contexts.

CHILE

In Santiago, Habitat for Humanity gathered members from different organisations to celebrate World Habitat Day. The UN-HABITAT 2009 Global Report on Human Settlements was launched through a special feature in Chile's national newspaper, interviews on TV and radio and a press release.

COLOMBIA

The National Habitat Committee held a seminar in Bogotá to mark World Habitat Day and start plans for the World Urban Campaign. The following day a conference organized by the Universidad La Salle en Bogotá was held on the 2009 theme, *Planning our urban future*. The National Congress of the Colombian Society of Architects held a similar conference.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Habitat for Humanity and Centro Leon in the Dominican Republic held a digital photo exposition and discussion forums in the city of Santiago, on October 6. The purpose of this event was to reflect about the grave housing problem in the country and stimulate a greater understanding of collective responsibility for the future of urban areas.

ECUADOR

Many activities were held in Ecuador. These included one-day forum which gathered municipal technicians, researchers, UN staff, members of the academia, and students. The highlight was the presentation of the Ecuadorian winner of a grant from the UN-HABITAT Youth fund. On the eve of World Habitat Day, school pupils put on a special play for parents and teachers. There was also an exhibition of drawings and paintings in Santo Domingo square, located in downtown of Quito.

MEXICO

An open forum for public discussion and analysis took place from October 5-7 at the Laboratorio de Arte Variedades (LARVA) in Guadalajara. It sought to facilitate working relations between public actors, and government, and to define emerging solutions to support the city's evolution. The event focused on systems of action, development, community participation, economy, and planning in Guadalajara Metropolitan Region, and explored the alliances and commitments necessary to fulfil the needs of city citizens.

VENEZUELA

The Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the Central University of Venezuela, in Caracas, held a conference to assess the lessons learned from an April workshop at

the university on social housing in the metropolitan area of Caracas. The World Habitat Day conference was presided over by Teolinda Bolivar, a teacher who won the 2003 Scroll of Honor Award.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

Home Ownership Alternatives Non-Profit Corporation (HOA) hosted an event in Toronto in recognition of World Habitat Day and in celebration of their selection as a finalist for the 2009 World Habitat Award. HOA is dedicated to making home ownership possible for low and moderate income families.

The University of British Columbia hosted a Campus event on Monday, October 5. It showcased the University's historical and current contributions to the Human Settlements issue, including the work of the late Dr. Peter Oberlander, the Habitat Exchange portal at the university. Local humanitarian groups were invited to provide information and share their opportunities and experiences.

Habitat for Humanity Canada and Genworth Financial Canada launched the third annual Meaning of Home Contest – a national contest that challenges pupils across the country to express how important the home is in shaping their lives and the lives of others.



World Habitat Day celebrations in Canada.

Mayor David Miller and Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti (Ward 7 York West), Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee signed the City of Toronto's new Housing Charter to mark the United Nations' World Habitat Day.

The Canadian Urban Institute, the country's applied urban policy institute based in Toronto, marked World Habitat Day 2009 by holding a special roundtable breakfast seminar on the theme of *Rivers in the City: Perspectives from Cuba and around the World*.

UNITED STATES

Alabama

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Birmingham Habitat for Humanity celebrated the successes of Habitat partners around the world. The featured speaker for this event was the Director of Habitat Macedonia.

California

Thomas Calabro from TV's *Melrose Place* and Trevor Donovan from *90210* came to the Habitat for Humanity San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys build site in Pacoima on October 6 to celebrate World Habitat Day. The stars engaged in good competitive fun as they challenged their fans to support the American Dream 5K Walk which was held in Pacoima on October 10.

Washington D.C.

Besides the main celebration, there were other events in Washington.

Habitat for Humanity advocates created a photo mosaic that was sent to the White House to deliver a message to Congress to make housing a priority and to pass legislation that would prioritize adequate and affordable housing.

The International Housing Coalition together with Aspen Institute and Habitat for Humanity hosted a discussion on *Urbanization, Slums and US Foreign Assistance*. This discussion focussed on challenges faced by developing countries with respect to urban poverty and rapid growth of slums.

In collaboration with the Rockefeller

Foundation, CHF International and the Comparative Urban Studies Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC launched a speaker series on *The Road to Rio* (venue of next World Urban Forum) to bring together representatives from governments, multi-lateral institutions, NGOs and other civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to focus on the pressing urban issues that face the world today. The speaker series was intended to pave the way for productive policy and good practice discussions and create greater public awareness of the challenges and opportunities presented by global urbanization.

The Urban Land Institute in Washington DC held a discussion on *Sustainable Suburbs: Developer's Perspectives on Transportation and Compact Growth*. Speakers and panellists included Ellen Dunham-Jones, Georgia Institute of Technology; Marilee Utter, Citiventure Associates, Mark Schneider and Fourth River Development. Supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and ULI Trustee Jim Curtis as part of the ULI National Transportation Policy Dialogue, the forum explored how to leverage transportation and land use investments to promote sustainable growth in the suburbs. Over 110 people drawn from the private and public sectors, including the federal government, participated in the event.

The National Building Museum together with Cities Alliance, USAID and the World Bank organised an exhibition at the National Building Museum. This multimedia exhibit featured residents' experiences in slums around the world: Nairobi, Caracas, Mumbai, and Jakarta.

Habitat for Humanity organized an event *Whose American Dream: Moving Towards a Balanced Housing Policy* at the National Press Club involving 100 policy makers, housing practitioners and academics to discuss US housing policy in the wake of one of the nation's most severe economic recessions.

Under the leadership of Steve Jordon, the Business Civic

Leadership Center convened its Fourth Session of the Global Corporate Citizenship Conference, *Development Opportunities in Emerging Markets*. The two-day event featured a series of keynote addresses and working panels designed to guide the development efforts of US corporations working in emerging markets.

Paul Farmer, President of the American Planners Association (APA) and Anna Tibajjuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT held a Webcast to launch UN-HABITAT's Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities. Together with Chase Rynd, CEO of the National Building Museum, they also presided over a reception at the National Building Museum for the APA and its affiliate, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning which was attended by over 500 participants.

The Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation hosted an event and panel discussion focused on Creating sustainable global cities.

The District of Columbia Office of Habitat for Humanity organized a volunteer build-day on DC Habitat's 53 home developments in Northeast Washington.

The United Nations Federal Credit Union held a Seminar on *Making Cities Productive and Equitable through Financial Literacy* at the Organization of American States offices. Key speakers included Carlos Calderon, CEO of the Organization of American States, Michael Connery, President and CEO of the Union, Sylvia Martinez, Senior Policy Advisor at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Louisa M. Quittman, Director of Community Programs at the US Treasury Department, Joseph Filipski, Foreclosure Prevention Specialist of NeighborWorks America and David Casserly, Assistant Director of JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

An event on *Grassroots Women and Affordable Housing, Creating Sustainable Communities: From*



World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington, D.C.
Photos © UN-HABITAT/Nathan Kihara



Local to Global Perspectives was held at the Washington Legal Clinic for Homelessness. The Haurou Commission, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, and People's Movement for Human Rights Learning organized two roundtable discussions on affordable housing.

A policy seminar on *Urbanization, Slums and US Foreign Assistance* was held at the Institute for International Economics. Peter Kimm, Chairman of the International Housing Coalition welcomed around 150 policy makers, students, and development practitioners.

The Cities Alliance hosted the UN-HABITAT Working Group on Urban Children and Youth. Participants reviewed the status of urban youth research and laid the structure and groundwork for the launch of a collaborative network.

Voice of America interviewed Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on its live, African Affairs television program. She answered questions about urban development, the future of cities in Africa and the role of the United Nations.

The President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Hon. Peter Goetz held a special World Habitat Day meeting of the group at the German Embassy. UN-HABITAT was represented by Ms. Axumite Gebre Egziabher and Mr. Markandey Rai.

Florida

Thuy Ma, the founder of Tweeprints in Tampa, Florida organized a local awareness-raising event for the World Habitat Day 2009. Ms. Ma, an architect with a passion for greeting cards design, invited about 30 artists, designers, architects from different parts of the country to design a Thank You card. Profits made from the sale of these cards were to be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and Flagler Habitat for Humanity organised a Media Day which brought the local media together to cover the



World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington, D.C.
Photo © UN-HABITAT

events of the day as well as having them volunteer for the day. Media representatives built side by side with partner families and volunteers to give them firsthand knowledge of the work that homeowners and community volunteers put into these houses. Invitees included the local Brighthouse Networks station, Daytona Beach News Journal, WNZF, the Beach Radio Stations and Brady Publishing.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Okaloosa County Habitat in observance of World Habitat Day took part in an all Women Build to increase awareness and encourage volunteerism. A local musician, Cheryl Jones of Jones & Company, wrote a song specific to the building of Habitat homes and in honor of the work that is completed by Habitat. A video production was made of nearly 80 local ladies to produce the one of a kind song along with Jones & Company band. Construction started in mid October and is expected to continue for approximately six months.

Hawaii

The School of Architecture, University of Hawaii at Manoa hosted a public forum at the school's auditorium. This public forum explored how Hawaii's unique island values can redefine a new planning framework. The panel featured leaders in sustainability, Hawaiian culture, community activism, globalization, and resource development.

Georgia

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Habitat for Humanity International organised an *Affordable Housing and Sustainable Community Development* panel discussion on the Georgia Technology University campus. The purpose of the panel discussion was to address the progress of affordable housing and sustainable community development.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Habitat for Humanity

International and New World Homes, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Atlanta and other local stakeholders took part in the *Planning Our Urban Future* event as part of the World Habitat Week celebrations.

Volunteers from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Atlanta, and Habitat for Humanity Atlanta took part in a Home Build event as part of the World Habitat Week celebrations. The event took place at the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Warehouse. During the event, volunteers built walls to anchor general construction related work areas and were trained on the basic skills associated with building a home.

Pennsylvania

A group, Urban Design Associates, based in Pittsburgh provided sleeping bags to the homeless and showed the Executive Director's speech on video.

Mississippi

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson celebrated World Habitat Day by staging the demolition of a blighted property at 1516 Wood Street in Jackson. Speakers at this event included Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson Executive Director Cindy Griffin, Mayor Harvey Johnson, Senator Hillman Frazier, Southeast Regional Office HUD Deputy Regional Director Patricia Hoban-Moore, and Brad Davis with the Office of Senator Thad Cochran.

North Carolina

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Habitat for Humanity of High Point, Archdale, and Trinity addressed the need for affordable housing in the local community by holding a kick-off ceremony for the building of a new home for a local family. Employees from HUD were on site volunteering on this day during which the walls for a new house were raised. This house was the sixth out of 11 houses in the Washington Terrace area to be completed, Habitat's 71st home in the High Point Community.

The U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development, Mechanicsville Community Association, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, Knoxville Habitat for Humanity, and the Knox County School System celebrated improvements to the quality of life enjoyed by residents of the revitalized Mechanicsville. Speakers included Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's CEO Alvin Nance, Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Knox County Schools Superintendent James P. McIntyre, Knoxville Habitat for Humanity CEO Kelle Shultz, HUD Field Office Director Mark Brezina, and residents of the revitalized Mechanicsville.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and partners participated in a fundraising reception at the offices of Askew Nixon Ferguson, a Memphis architecture firm in Tennessee. Partners include Memphis Habitat for Humanity, West Tennessee Chapter of American Planning Association, and Mortgage Bankers Association and all local branches of HUD national partners. Secondary partners include Baron McCormack Regan, Coalition for Livable Communities, Memphis

Design Center, CDC Council, City of Memphis, Shelby County, Urban Land Institute, American Institute of Architects and other architects, planners and stakeholders involved in the Affordable, Green and Sustainable Urban Development initiative. Models of Habitat's green buildings were built and the Habitat-produced slideshow presented. Representatives from HUD and other supporting organizations made brief comments. Local folksinger Valerie June performed.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity Affiliate organised a tour of 12 Habitat Homes in Timberwood Subdivision and Timberwood Park. The event was attended by partners who assisted in developing the project including the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Metro Government of Nashville/ Davidson County, Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, Pinnacle Financial Partners, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. Chris McCarthy, Habitat Nashville CEO, spoke.



Habitat Scroll of Honour and World Habitat Award winners during the World Habitat Day celebrations in Washington, D.C. Photo © UN-HABITAT

Better **City** Life
Better **Life**

World Habitat Day
4 October 2010

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