



Cities - Magnets of Hope

# World Habitat Day

2 OCTOBER 2006



“In endorsing the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders committed themselves to improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Reaching this goal will mean tackling some of the world’s most critical social, economic and environmental challenges.”

- *UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 2006*



## Introduction

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

UN-HABITAT is delighted to announce that the Italian city of Naples has been designated to spearhead the 2006 global celebration of World Habitat Day on Monday 2 October. The theme of the occasion decreed by the United Nations to reflect on the state of human settlements around the world, this year will be Cities, magnets of hope.

This year, I have also accepted to personally attend the World Habitat Day Celebrations in Kazan, Russia, which are expected to take place on 4 October 2006.

The theme, chosen by the United Nations, is to remind all of us that the world is witnessing the greatest migration in its history of people into towns and cities. In 1950, one-third of the world's people lived in cities. Just 50 years later, this rose to one-half and will continue to grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050. Cities are now home to half of humankind.

In September 1997 Naples hosted the second meeting on Child-Friendly Cities promoted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNCHS (as UN-HABITAT was then known), the Italian Committee for UNICEF and the Municipality of Naples.

The Child-Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) sought to unite local governance institutions, local authorities, civil society, international agencies and stakeholders (children, adolescents, women, etc.) in forming strategic partnerships that defend the rights of children at the local level. A primary goal of the CFCI was to help municipalities implement child-centred programmes based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UN-HABITAT appreciates the help it has continued to receive from Italy over the years, the latest of which is an 8.5 million US dollar allocation from the Italian Government for a social and housing integration programme for tens of thousands of war refugees and other vulnerable people in Serbia.

The funds received on 27 December 2005, are the second allocation of a total of 15 million euros Italy is disbursing for the programme. The first portion of the funding was disbursed a year ago. The programme aims to provide some 670 new homes for 3,000 refugees and vulnerable people, to build institutional capacities for social housing development, assist the social and economic integration of refugees and displaced people, and help boost the development capacity of local governments in their development planning and municipal information systems.

UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Capital Investments, has been implementing the programme with the Municipalities of Cacak, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Nis, Pancevo, Stara Pazova and Valjevo.

Known as the Settlement and Integration of Refugees Programme in Serbia (SIRPS), it was initiated in a memorandum UN-HABITAT's Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka signed with the Government of Italy in September 2002.

The celebration of World Habitat Day in Naples this year will further cement the growing relationship the agency has enjoyed with Italy over the years.

Naples, host city of World Habitat Day 2006 is a crossroads of trade, culture and innovation. It is a bustling city that will set many future trends.



## **Raise awareness in your city - organise a World Habitat Day 2006 event**

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 in 2005 around the world in this report.

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

### **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 the targets on slums and access to water and sanitation 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 publicise, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in the lives of slum dwellers and the level of access to water and sanitation in your community.
5. Organize competitions to find solutions to human settlements and urban problems. Essay and painting competitions help create awareness and enhance 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 Millennium Development Goals.

### **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](mailto:whd@unhabitat.org) providing as many details as possible about the event. And once World Habitat Day is over, please report back to us with brief details of media coverage and photographs if possible. We will post these on the World Habitat Day page of our website and in the final report to all our partners. Thank you for your continued support.

## World Habitat Day Global Observances from 1986 to 2005

Year	Themes	Venue	Chief guest
2005	The Millennium Development Goals and the City	Jakarta	President Susilo Bambang Yudoyono*
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 UAE
1997	Future Cities	Bonn	Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development, Germany
1996	Urbanization, Citizenship and Human Solidarity	Budapest	Minister of the Interior, 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 ***
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)

## UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award- Winners 1989 to 2005

### 2005

Ms. Rose Molokoane, South Africa  
The Municipal People's Government of Yantai, China  
The Municipal Basic Information  
Research (MUNIC), Brazil  
The Municipality of Kazan City, Russia  
Sarvodaya Shramandana Movement,  
Sri Lanka's largest NGO  
Professor Johan Silas, Indonesia  
Jakarta Metropolitan City, Indonesia  
Tengku Rizal Nurdin North Sumatra  
Governor (posthumous)

### 2004

Xiamen Municipal People's Government, China  
Centre for Development  
Communication (CDC), India  
President Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique  
The Big Issue magazine, United Kingdom  
Prime Minister Rafic 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. Mthembu-Mahanyele, South Africa  
Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative,  
Council (WASH), Switzerland  
Ms. Zena Daysh, Commonwealth Human  
Ecology Council (CHEC), UK  
Ms. Teolinda Bolivar, Venezuela  
His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej,  
the King of Thailand

### 2002

C2C between Nakuru, Kenya and Leuven, Belgium  
Brazilian Institute of Municipal  
Administration (IBAM), 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 and The Cooperating  
Committee for Japan Habitat Fukuoka  
Office (Special Citation), Japan

### 2000

Ms. Ana Vasilache, Romania  
Ms. Caroline Pezzullo, United States  
Mrs. Jacqueline da Costa, Jamaica  
Women and Peace Network, Costa Rica  
Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, 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  
Valdimir A. Kudryavtsev, Russia  
Association des Habitants del Mourouj 2, Tunisia

### 1997

Sen. Oscar Lopez Velarde Vega, Mexico  
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 Dveloppement, 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

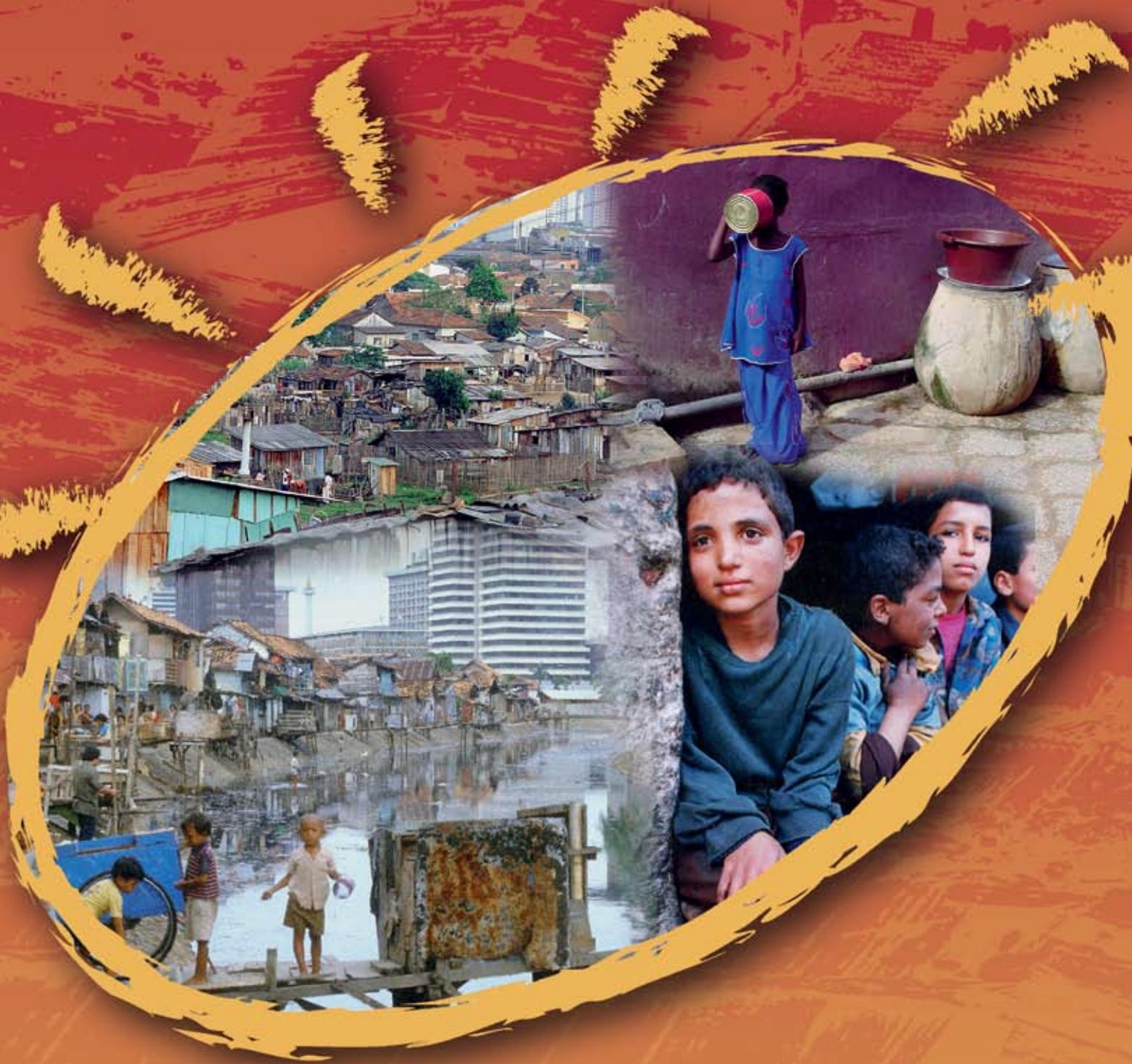
Ministry of Housing and Human  
Settlements, Costa Rica  
Urban Development Authority, Singapore  
Cooperative Housing Foundation, United States  
National Housing Development Authority, Sri Lanka  
Housing and Urban Development  
Cooperation, India  
Housing Development Finance Corporation, India  
Sengki Land-sharing Project, Thailand  
Projet Assistance IECOSAT, Burundi  
Institute for Building Materials, Viet Nam  
Hon. 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  
(ASCO) 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



The Millenium development Goals and the City

**Report on World Habitat Day 2005**

## Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2005, Jakarta, Indonesia

The global observance of World Habitat Day in 2005 was celebrated by more than 1,000 people from Indonesia and abroad at a low cost rental apartment complex in the Chenggareng district of West Jakarta. The theme was Millennium Development Goals and the City. The event was inaugurated by Indonesia's Vice-President, Mr. Jusuf Kalla.

Jakarta with over 10 million people has a high population density, averaging 14,000 people per square kilometre and rising to 30,000 in some areas. The city is also blighted by traffic congestion, poor sanitation, and water and air pollution. Governor Sutiyoso outlined the municipal plans to improve Jakarta, including providing almost 12,000 housing units to meet the housing needs of low and middle-income households. He welcomed the support of UN-HABITAT to help build an environmentally friendly city.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, highlighted the results of a number of seminars held in September in the lead-up to World Habitat Day. They focused on how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Indonesia, and particularly targets 10 and 11 on improving the lives of slum dwellers and halving the population without access to safe water and sanitation. He said he hoped that, "by 2010, 200 cities in Indonesia will no longer have slum related problems, and by 2015, this number will increase to 350 cities. It is hoped that the rest will be free of such problems by 2020."

Mr. Asyari, Indonesia's Minister of Housing, said some 800,000 new housing units are needed every year, excluding the backlog 40.5 million units and the stock of sub-standard housing that needs to be improved. To meet the slum target, 1 million homes would be needed per year up to 2020, he said.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, condemned the bomb attacks in Bali on 1 October. She commended the late North Sumatra Governor, Tengku Rizal Nurdin, whom she said "so kindly gave of his time to personally show me the devastation caused by the tsunami". The late Governor, who died an air accident barely a month before World Habitat Day, was posthumously awarded the Scroll of Honour for his "unstinting and tireless leadership in bringing relief to tsunami and earthquake victims".

Mrs. Tibaijuka said that UN-HABITAT had chosen The Millennium Development Goals and the City as the 2005 theme because by the year 2050, six billion people – or two-thirds of humanity – would be living in towns and cities

"We realise, five years into the implementation process that not everyone especially the urban poor, knows enough about the goals"  
- Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka





*This slum in Jakarta is just a stone's throw away from the central business district. Photo: Topfoto Image Works*

“By applying the MDGs in cities, particularly in the poorest slums and overcrowded informal settlements, their impact will have a positive multiplier effects well beyond the immediate neighbourhood,” she said. “The Millennium Development Goals will be won or lost in urban slums. We must work together and this way, not only will we help the poorest people, but we make our cities more inclusive, safer and cleaner for everyone. It is in the end a win-win situation for all.”

The highlight of the celebrations was the presentation of UN-HABITAT’s Habitat Scroll of Honour and the World Habitat Awards by the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom.

After the award giving ceremony, Mr. Ong Keng Yong, the Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations, Mr. Djoko Kirmanto, Indonesian Minister of Public Works, Mr. Mohammad Asyari, Indonesian Minister for the People’s Housing, Mr. Sutyoso, Governor of Jakarta Metropolitan City, Mr. Ngurah Swajaya, Director for UN Economic, Development and Enviromental Affairs, at the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Mrs. Tibajuka took part in a forum on enhancing global partnership in order to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region. The session was chaired by Mr. Nico Barito from the Association for Provincial Governments of Indonesia.

The occasion wound up with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a Slum Upgrading Facility in Indonesia aimed at mobilising domestic and international funds for low cost housing and urban infrastructure and other programmes related to the provision of adequate shelter for all.



“ Translating the MDGs into reality in a practical and workable way is the real development challenge”  
**- Jockin Arputham,  
 Founder of the National  
 Slum Dwellers Federation in  
 India.**



## **A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan**

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The theme of World Habitat Day 2005, The Millennium Development Goals and the City, highlights the importance of managing rapid urbanization and reducing urban poverty. Recent research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people, or two-thirds of humanity, will be living in towns and cities. If present trends continue, more than half of these people could be living in slums.

On the other hand, the slums and pockets of poverty that exist even in rich countries are located in well-defined spaces where all the MDGs can be tackled together, where economies of scale can be realized, and where one intervention can have a multiplier effect.

The build-up of slums and informal settlements occurs in large part because of policies and exclusionary practices that deny public services and basic facilities – including water, sanitation, health and education – to informal settlements that are deemed illegal. Moreover, community-based efforts to redress such problems often face political and bureaucratic obstacles.

But evictions and demolitions are not the answer to the challenges of rapid urbanization. We must have pro-poor, participatory urban development in which women and men are empowered to manage their communities, and where development is carried out with respect for human rights and in accordance with international law.

The lead city for this year's observance of World Habitat Day is Jakarta, chosen to highlight the cooperation that has brought relief to the survivors of the 2004 tsunami. In Jakarta and Banda Aceh, and in all the Indian Ocean countries hit by that catastrophe, recovery efforts are moving beyond immediate disaster mitigation and humanitarian relief, and are now focused on establishing sound physical and land-use plans and using appropriate building technologies to protect new settlements and people from similar threats in the future. This approach encompasses land and property administration, local governance, institutional development, capacity building and the special needs and concerns of women. Amid the ongoing hardship, there are signs of hope that we can help build new lives and new opportunities.

We need to give the millions of slum dwellers who are suffering from the slow-motion tsunami of rapid urbanization the same chance. On World Habitat Day, I call on the international community and all cities around the world to increase their efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular to the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.



### **A message from the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive-Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka**

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The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October each year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements, especially the living conditions of the urban poor and their basic right to adequate shelter.

The theme of World Habitat Day this year is The Millennium Development Goals and the City. If we can achieve the goals in our towns and cities, the impact will be enormous, especially in the burgeoning slums and informal settlements of the developing world. Already, almost half the global population lives in urban areas. And nearly a third of them, about 1 billion people, live in the unhealthy deprivation of slums. Trends show that 90 percent of global population increase in years to come will be in the cities Africa, Asia and Latin America, where large majorities live in slums, with little access to water, sanitation and other basic services. Cities, therefore, provide an important platform for achieving the Goals.

The goals and their targets are aimed at eradicating poverty, environmental sustainability, achieving universal primary education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, fighting AIDS, malaria and other diseases – all features of slum life. Slum upgrading and slum prevention are, therefore, critical to attaining the goals. People in slums are crying out for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Goal 7, Target 11 commits world leaders to achieving a “significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.” But UN-HABITAT considers this far too modest. It covers only a fraction – just 10% – of the world’s slum dwellers. Since it was set in 2000, the global slum population has already grown by 200 million people.

If current trends continue, by the 2020 target deadline, the number of slum dwellers will have reached 1.6 billion. Furthermore, individual countries have no way of determining their share of the 100 million people involved. This dictates a much broader and more ambitious approach to achieve the Cities without Slums target of the Millennium Declaration adopted by world leaders in September 2000.

We must understand that there will always be a continual flow of poor people into urban areas. Their considerable contribution to the economy is rarely matched by their access to services. These services require a substantial increase in pro-poor investment.

UN-HABITAT’s Slum Upgrading Facility is a new programme to unlock capital for pro-poor investment. It promotes and coordinates partnerships to mobilise domestic and international funding for affordable low-income housing and urban infrastructure in the developing world.

The quest for funding urban poverty reduction is also highlighted in our new Global Report on Human Settlements 2005 on Financing Urban Shelter. The report analyses the impact of

current shelter financing systems on low-income households. By identifying the financing mechanisms that work for the poor, this report will help governments at the central and local levels, as well as nongovernmental and international organizations reduce urban poverty.

UN-HABITAT is launching the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Jakarta to remind the world that countless thousands of homes were destroyed in December 2004 by the tsunami killer wave that so devastated Indonesia's Banda Aceh coastline and other Indian Ocean countries. To date, UN-HABITAT and UNDP have jointly mobilized more than 20 million dollars for shelter and community rehabilitation in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Solutions to land tenure and relocation are central to long term recovery in these countries. UN-HABITAT remains committed to seeing this recovery through.

As we come together like never before for the tsunami victims, so must we join hands and forces in making urban poverty history. We have to confront the "soft tsunamis" of our world, such as HIV/AIDS, hunger and waterborne diseases that kill thousands of victims. We must keep the Millennium promise and give all our support to the new global partnership for development – the eighth goal – between rich and poor countries.

## Scroll of Honour Award Winners 2005



Ms. Rose Molokoane, a South African veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, is cited “for her tireless struggle to bring land and homes to the poor”. One of the most internationally recognized grassroots activists involved in land tenure and housing issues, Ms. Molokoane is one of two national chairpersons of the South African Homeless People’s Federation. The federation has helped more than 150,000 squatters, the vast majority women, pool their savings. In recent years it has helped build over 15,000 new homes, secured more than 1,000 hectares of government land for development, and built many community centres.



The Municipal People’s Government of Yantai in eastern China’s Shandong Province with a population of more than 1 million people is awarded “for transforming Yantai into a safer, greener and better serviced city”. Over three years since 2002, the municipal authorities invested RMB 600,000,000 (USD 74 million) in a major renovation that started with a big publicity campaign and personal visits to the owners and residents of illegal buildings who were provided temporary accommodation. Underground water, heating gas and telephone and electricity conduits were channelled to each home. Roads were newly paved, buildings restored, and new residential blocks constructed. City parks were overhauled creating better leisure and recreation space.



The Municipal Basic Information Research (MUNIC) department in Brazil, set up in 1999, is awarded “for keeping Brazilians in tune with the Millennium Development Goals at city level.” The programme pays particular attention to Target 10 on reducing by half the population without access to drinking water and sanitation by 2015. Conferences on MUNIC findings are held regularly around the country to ensure that the Government, municipalities, city officials, and urban residents are properly furnished with up-to-date information on housing, housing policies and programmes, financing and public services. With teams in 27 states, more than 1,000 specially trained technicians each year gather information on the country’s towns and cities and produce detailed annual reports.



The Municipality of Kazan City on the Volga River deep in the Russian heartland, is awarded “ for providing new housing and infrastructure for its poorest residents” during a post-Soviet Slum Liquidation Programme started in 1996 and completed in 2004. The city, which this year celebrated its 1,000th birthday, has a population of 1.1 million people. Financed largely by funds derived from oil sales, corporate and property taxes, investments and credits, new homes, roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure has transformed the once dilapidated downtown area.



Sri Lanka's largest Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), the Sarvodaya Shramandana Movement founded in 1958, is awarded "for the immediate rescue and rehabilitation of those worst affected by the tsunami." With a well-established network created to improve human settlements nationwide, it was able to intervene effectively. Within hours of the disaster, it opened a national operations centre that provided half a million dollars worth of humanitarian aid in the first three months. The movement is now focusing on the longer-term rehabilitation requirements. A major part of its work for the past 20 years has been devoted to building peace in the country's civil war through its Peace Secretariat.



Professor Johan Silas of Indonesia is awarded "for years of research and work dedicated to providing affordable shelter for the poor". Indeed, Professor Silas and fellow team members at the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh (ITS) count among their achievements a means of building a decent, serviceable new home in less than ten hours with simple material, tools and skills. In less than two months, about 1,000 of these units were built in Calang in Aceh Jaya, a Sumatra island town virtually destroyed by the tsunami. Professor Silas has constantly sought new ways of improving village housing in East Java, the most populated province in Indonesia.



Jakarta Metropolitan City is awarded "for successfully improving slums, and building new infrastructure to create an inclusive, cosmopolitan city". During two terms under the leadership of Governor Sutiyoso, Jakarta has been transformed in a safer, better serviced, and greener city. Slums have been improved, and many of the poorest provided new housing on specially allocated land, the city's anti-flooding canal system has been upgraded, its parks improved, and major public facilities have been reconstructed under a proven track record of public-private partnerships. Governor Sutiyoso, a retired Army Lieutenant-General, served his first term as Governor of the capital with its five mayoral districts from 1997-2002. His current term of office expires in 2007.



The UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour award is conferred posthumously on North Sumatra Governor Tengku Rizal Nurdin "for showing unstinting, tireless leadership in bringing relief to tsunami and earthquake victims" in the aftermath of the twin tragedies of the tsunami and the earthquake in North Sumatra's district of Nias up until the day he died in an aircraft accident on 5 September 2005. Appointed as the Indonesian province's Governor for a second term (2003-2008), he was considered the "father of good governance" of North Sumatra for his drive to create a government that was transparent, open, people oriented and trustworthy. Although Pak Rizal, as he was more affectionately known, was the most senior leader in the province with a population of 12 million, he was considered a very approachable and soft-spoken person. He leaves two daughters, Tengku Armilla Madiana and Tengku Arisma Mellina and his wife, Siti Mariam.

## Celebrations around the world

### Afghanistan

The World Habitat Day ceremony in the capital, Kabul, was cancelled because of a terrorist bombing attack just days prior to the occasion. Nevertheless, the staff of UN-HABITAT in Afghanistan volunteered to commemorate by doing manual labour with local people in the slums of Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Farah, Kandahar, Bamyan, Herat, Parwan, Panjshir and Kapisa. The initiative that was hailed by community members, mayors, and governors. In Farah, staff visited a neighbourhood water supply project funded jointly by the local municipality and UN-HABITAT. The objective of the project is to supply potable water to 1,000 internally displaced families.

### Argentina

Various NGOs, expert groups and civil society in organizations in Argentina used the occasion of World Habitat Day to issue a statement of concern at the state of urban reform in the country.

### Bangladesh

At the national level, the Government Administration and local Municipalities led a World Habitat Day rally with participants drawn from the local communities, students, NGOs, political and community leaders as well as government officials. It also organized a seminar on healthy urban housing. The NGO, MASES (Manab Sheba Shangstha - Save The Human Being) which focuses on urban and rural housing, sanitation and safe drinking water, held seminars, a rally and symposium to mark World Habitat Day 2005. A children's drawing exhibition on the environment and healthy housing was organized at Keshabpur municipality, Jessore prefecture.

### Belgium

The UN-HABITAT Brussels Liaison Office to the European Union arranged a European

celebration of World Habitat Day 2005 in collaboration with the Regional United Nations Information Centre (RUNIC). There was a presentation of UN-HABITAT's Global Report on Financing Urban Shelter. The guest of honour was Mr. Abdou Abarry, Ambassador of Niger to Belgium and the EU. Presentations were given by senior EU officials, academics and civil society representatives.

### Benin

The Government of Benin held a week of conferences, public meetings television and radio programmes to mark World Habitat Day 2005 theme on the Millennium Development Goals and the city. The formal ceremony on 3 October was personally launched by the Minister of the Environment, Habitat and Urbanism. Daily events ranged from concerts in the slums to seminars on urban poverty. The Union for the Dignity and the Development of the Underprivileged Family Communities of Porto-Novo (UDUCP) and the Benin Association for the Well-being of Orphans and Abandoned Children (ABEEA) celebrated World Habitat Day with a conference on poor health from water and degradation of the urban environment.

### Bolivia

La Paz municipality marked World Habitat Day with an outdoor public meeting in one of the main city squares and a seminar on the right to shelter. It invited officials from government and NGOs.

### Botswana

The Housing department of the government of Botswana commemorated World Habitat Day.

### Brazil

The Caixa Economica Federal in cooperation with the Ministry of Cities and the Ministry of

Social Development linked its 2005/2006 Caixa Best Practices in Local Management Award to this year's World Habitat Day celebration.

## Burundi

The Head of State presided at the special World Habitat Day ceremony in Gatumba, 15 km from Bujumbura. In the build-up to the day there was a nationwide television and radio debate on applying the Millennium Development Goals to cities in Burundi. Participants discussed how ECOSAT, a social building a housing company created with donor support in 1987, could join UNDP and UN-HABITAT in further enhancing the cause of human settlements in Burundi. ECOSAT won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award in 1991.

## Cambodia

At a special ceremony in the capital Phnom Penh, Mr. Kep Chuk Tema, Governor of Municipality of Phnom Perth and Mr. Mann Chhouern, the Vice-Governor gave special presentations on urban poverty in Cambodia and ways to tackle it.

## Cameroon

World Habitat Day celebrations in Cameroon were organized by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MINDUH) in collaboration with the UNDP. The MINDUH Department of Housing and Architecture, the prime mover of the activities, contacted all the ten provinces in the country to raise awareness of theme on The Millennium Development Goals and the City. The main activities to mark the day were held in Yaoundé and were widely attended. Top government officials including four cabinet Ministers, the Mayor of Yaoundé, the Director of Housing and Architecture were present at the event.

## Canada

In Vancouver, host city of the third session of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Forum in June 2006, young people arranged special World Urban Cafés by Internet link-up to mark World Habitat Day. The idea was to give youth a forum to discuss ways of bringing ideas into action. Using the Internet, they engaged international, national and the regional

youth in urban sustainability dialogue and strategy development concurrent with the World Urban Forum 2006. The Vancouver Working Group explored the ways in which youth are directly involved and affected by each Millennium Development Goal.

## Chad

Chad marked World Habitat Day by a cultural programme centred on a poetry competition for young people on the theme in the capital city, Ndjamena. There was a football match for men, a women's basketball match and a marathon race. There was also a special seminar, a nationally broadcast radio and television debate with senior government officials and development partners on the Millennium Development Goals and how they can be locally applied at city-level.

## China

The Council of Human Settlements, a national NGO specializing in human settlements and environment research and development discussed actions to implement the MDGs in China. It also organized a WHD exhibition in Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province at its annual human settlements forum 24-26 September 2005.

The China Housing Industry Association, a large non-governmental organization that promotes ecologically sound housing also arranged a series of awareness building events.

## Colombia

In Bogota, the Mayor, academic experts and local authorities held a World Habitat Day seminar on applying the MDGs in Colombian cities.

## Congo

In October, the city of Brazzaville marked its 125th anniversary and the city authorities hosted a double birthday with World Habitat Day celebrations.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The Union Générale des Sociétés Cooperatives

Mutualistes et Associatives (UGSCOMA) held two World Habitat Day events. On Saturday 1 October, there was by senior officials to various slums, followed by a news conference on the theme, The Millennium Development Goals and the City, a youth football match and an evening reception. On Monday 3 October, the occasion was marked by a special parade of school children, a film and a reception with speeches by the local representatives of UGS COMA and UN-HABITAT. The Minister of Urban Affairs and the Habitat, Hon. John Tibasima Ateenyi, delivered the keynote World Habitat Day speech.

## Egypt

The Ministry of Education and the Governor of Alexandria marked World Habitat Day in an awareness raising campaign for school children about the Millennium Development Goals, slums and clean water. A symposium on slums was held on 2 October.

## Eritrea

In Eritrea, the Ministry of Public Works presented a nationwide television and radio show to mark World Habitat Day. It also arranged a seminar with the participation of UN and local government representatives discussed shelter provision for internally displaced persons, slum upgrading and other human settlements problems. Banners were flown in the main streets of the capital Asmara to mark World Habitat Day.

## Ethiopia

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Action-Professionals' Association for the People APAP broadcast a World Habitat Day programme carrying the statements of UN Secretary General Kofi Anna, the Executive Director, Mrs. Tibaijuka, and an interview with APAP's Executive Director, Mr. Ato Debebe Gebriel. This was followed by a panel discussion with Mr. Ato Kebede Abebe, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Dr. Solomon Mulugeta, of Addis Ababa University and Mr. Gebriel of APAP. They focused on the Millennium Development Goals and housing, international and national human rights instruments on the right to housing, state obligations on the right to housing, urbanization and its effect on

the expansion of slums. APAP is a local human rights NGO established in 1993 to disseminate legal and human rights knowledge among the Ethiopian public, as well as lower level judiciary and law enforcement agencies. It also used the occasion to hand out leaflets in Addis Ababa on the right to housing.

## Fiji

The Fiji Local Government Association held a two-day convention in the town of Ba. The Convention was opened by the Minister of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment. The messages of the TIN Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN- HABITAT were read out. The convention on innovative local government covered decentralization, squatter settlements and pen-urban upgrading, municipal finance, good governance and other urbanization issues. It was also an occasion to gain support for the Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign. The event was attended by government and municipal officials, NGOs and local urban experts and observers. The Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International Secretariat (FSPI) and FemLINK Pacific, held a nationwide radio show on how the Millennium Development Goals apply to women, women in local government, why women should vote, and pro-poor participatory budgeting. The Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment and the Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign published articles in the Fiji Times on Monday 3 October. The Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign screened awareness raising movies on the Millennium Development Goals the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji International School.

## Ghana

The Accra Metropolitan Assembly celebrated World Habitat Day focusing on the theme of Achieving improvement in the lives of slum dwellers in Accra. The event was organized in a slum within the metropolis.

## Haiti

The Urban Development and Slum Improvement Department marked World

Habitat Day with an awareness raising campaign 3-5 October on the challenges and perspectives of urban space in Haiti, where the number of people living in urban areas is expected to rise from 40 percent currently to 60 percent of the population by 2015. For Haiti, there was a nationwide media campaign 26 September - 5 October, after which a weeklong photographic exhibition was held at the science faculty at the State University of Haiti. There was also a special two-day on the evolution of urbanization in Haiti.

## Hungary

A series of seminars, arranged by the Habitat Information Office in Budapest, were held to mark World Habitat Day 2005. They focused on ensuring that the Habitat Agenda is applied to the planning and implementation of new urban policies in the region that are expected to conform with European Union guidelines. The celebration afforded an opportunity to publicize the Habitat Agenda.

## India

World Habitat Day was widely celebrated in India in 2005. In New Delhi, the Centre for Human Settlements International (Northern India Chapter) and the University of Birmingham Alumni Association, (India Chapter) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), held a World Habitat Day panel discussion.

The City Managers' Association Orissa (CMAO) together with the Housing and Urban Development Department of the State Government held a special workshop for city managers.

The Habitat Centre for Human Settlements International (CHS-Habitat) in Kolkata invited local communities including slum dwellers, administrators and politicians to join hands to work towards the Millennium Development Goals. Particular attention was given to targets 10 and 11 on halving the population without access to clean water and improving the lives of slum dwellers. Participants were given a chance to make contributions on how they can jointly improve their habitat. Keynote speeches were given by Dr. Pabitra Gin, Director of Centre for Economics, University of Calcutta, and Professor

K.P. Bhattacharjee, Executive Director, Centre for Human Settlements, and by Sri Gora Chand Mondal on behalf the Mayor. Local communities were invited including slum dwellers, administrators and politicians to join hands to work towards the Millennium Development Goals. Particular attention will be given to targets 10 and 11 on halving the population without access to clean water and improving the lives of slum dwellers. Participants were given a chance to make contributions on how they can jointly improve their habitat.

The Krityanand UNESCO Club in Jamshedpur, India organized a one-day conference involving members of communities, industry authorities, media and press, and builders on as apart of a campaign to encourage tree planting for a balanced urban environment.

A special seminar in Chennai organized by the School of Architecture and Planning at Anna University.

The Uttar Pradesh Housing and Development Board, the Uttar Pradesh Regional Chapter, and town and country planning organizations organized a seminar inaugurated by the Principal Secretary of the Housing and Urban Planning Government of Uttar Pradesh. The seminar was attended by prominent town planners, engineers, administrators, architects, builders, social scientists and other experts.

Other events were organized by the Institution of Engineers in Kolkata, the Allahabad Centre for Research and Development and the Osmania Medical College Doctors' Forum in Hyderabad.

## Indonesia

The Global Observance of World Habitat Day was hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta (see page ... for details).

## Italy

The Centre for Urban Research for Developing Countries of the Department for Territorial and Urban Planning organized an event to commemorate World Habitat Day at the University of Rome architecture faculty. It held a special seminar on the Millennium Task Force report *A Home in the City*.

## Japan

CITYNET worked with its members to organize activities to mark World Habitat Day in many towns and cities in Japan.

UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) coordinated an expert group meeting in Fukuoka on the theme, Towards Sustainable Cities - Indicator Assessment for Sustainable Cities. As a side event, the 5th World Habitat Day children's drawing contest on Disaster-Resilient Communities was held.

## Kenya

The Ministry of Lands and Housing hosted this year's 2005 national celebration of World Habitat Day at a glittering celebration at the Makadara Stadium in the Municipality of Mavoko. The event included speeches by the Minister for Lands and Housing, the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Water and Irrigation, the Minister for Planning and National Development, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Lands and Housing, the Representative of the Government of Kenya to UN-HABITAT, the Representative of UN-HABITAT, and His Worship, the Mayor of Mavoko. There were choirs, traditional dances, drama and comedians to mark the occasion.

The Nairobi Working Group on Youth used the occasion for an Internet link-up at the One Stop Youth Centre downtown with counterparts in Vancouver to see how young people from different parts of the world can bring ideas into action at the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver.

The Alfaer Jekeko International Institute and Consultancy Centre (AJIIC) together with women's groups involved schools and used drama, poetry and song to raise awareness of the theme of Millennium Development Goals and the City.

The Kamukunji Riverside Tailoring and Ironing Society, a welfare group based in Gikomba area in Nairobi, marked World Habitat Day with activities at the grass roots level. The celebrations were held in the informal settlements of Majengo and Pumwani in Nairobi at the historic Kamukunji grounds and the Child Survival Primary School respectively.

The Kariobangi South Welfare and Slum Housing Association held a World Habitat Day local clean-up, tree planting and entertainment programme.

The People Ready in Developing Education (PRIDE-Mathare) non-governmental organization organized a procession and free medical camp within Mathare slum to help create awareness of water and sanitation problems.

In Siaya district, the Siaya Youth Groups Organization organized plays and sports matches to raise awareness of problems faced by youth in cities such as HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

The Soweto Youth Group Kibera who live in one of the largest slums of the Africa organized a clean-up campaign and staged plays to explain through drama, the importance of living in a clean environment.

Others who held events included the Kangemi Women's Empowerment Centre and the local church in Kiprerer.

## Lesotho

The Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with Maseru City Council and other stakeholders celebrated World Habitat Day with a series of seminars, speeches by senior leaders, and a city clean-up campaign. The Minister of Local Government officially inaugurated the newly paved road system serving Maseru East. The Water and Sewerage Authority sensitized the public on the importance of access to adequate, safe and clean drinking water particularly those residing in the Maqalika Dam catchment area.

## Liberia

World Habitat Day was celebrated in Liberia at a glittering ceremony with high-level dignitaries at the Monrovia City Corporation Hall. They held formal presentations of the messages of the UN Secretary-General, Mrs. Tibaijuka, and launched the UN-HABITAT rapid urban profile programme. They also held a seminar on localizing the Millennium

Development Goals in Liberian urban centres.

## Madagascar

World Habitat Day in Madagascar focused on the bustling east coast city of Vatomandry, where the population has suffered repeatedly the devastating effects of cyclones. The idea was to promote new housing programmes in the area. The National Guild of Architects held a formal ceremony to offer its services in promoting the Millennium Development Goals at local level, and a nationwide publicity campaign was held.

## Malaysia

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Eastern Regional Organization For Planning and Housing in Malaysia held a national conference to mark World Habitat Day.

## Maldives

The Maldives Housing and Urban Development Board spearheaded the World Habitat Day celebrations.

## Mexico

World Habitat Day 2005 was marked by a glittering array of events that culminated in the presentation of the National Habitat Prize by President Vincente Fox. Another highlight was a video news conference with ministers and senior officials from the Latin America region who commented on how various countries are meeting their obligations under the Millennium Development Goals. The Ministry of Social Development held a conference on urban transport in Puebla State, and also released a series of publications, including the latest data gathered by Local Urban Observatories.

The Habitat International Coalition (HIC), an independent, international, non-profit movement of some 400 organizations and individuals working in the area of human settlements, used the occasion to launch its Housing and Land Rights Day 2005: The Right to the City.

## Mozambique

World Habitat Day 2005 was celebrated

in Mozambique with several activities organizing by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Government and Local Authorities. The event was an occasion to reinforce an awareness raising campaign that is being held in Mozambique to mainstream the MDGs, and to discuss the implications of rapid slum growth in many cities.

## Namibia

The National Habitat Committee (NHC) through the Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD) commemorated the World Habitat Day in each of the 13 political regions of Namibia with a series of events ranging from tree planting and site clearance for urban services, to television and radio talk shows. The ministry provided N\$ 10,000 to fund the events, along with t-shirts and relevant awareness raising materials.

## Nepal

The Nepal International Consumers Union held a seminar to mark World Habitat Day.

## The Netherlands

The Dutch Habitat Platform arranged an interactive 'fair' focusing on targets 10 and 11 of the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the number of people without access to clean water and improve the lives of slum dwellers. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands and the Minister for Housing Spatial Planning and Environment opened this year's World Habitat Day celebrations in The Netherlands.

## New Zealand

A media campaign was organized to sensitize the public on the theme of World Habitat Day.

## Nigeria

The Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (FMHUD), in collaboration with UN-HABITAT Programme Support Office in Nigeria, arranged a major national World Habitat Day celebration that included nationally broadcast speeches by senior officials and a panel discussion. Key messages were delivered by Dr Olusegun Mimiko, Minister of Housing

and Urban Development, the FMHUD Director of Urban and Regional Development, the IJNDP Resident Representative, and keynote lecture by Ms. Aisha Ibrahim, Senior Adviser to the President on the MDGs. There was a play on the state of Nigerian cities, and an exhibition at which various groups dealing with human settlements in Nigeria showcased their activities, achievements and best practices in line with the theme of the celebration. The Government designed a special World Habitat Day poster carrying a message about the theme in the three major languages of the country, Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. In a follow-up, to the day's events, the National Network Television Service devoted its Tuesday Life show to a panel discussion on the Millennium Development Goals and the City aimed at making the public more aware of urban management, good governance and urban poverty reduction. The panelists included the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the Habitat Programme Manager, an NGO representative, and a human settlements specialist.

World Habitat Day was also celebrated at the State level in Nigeria. The Development Initiatives Network (DiN), a registered non-governmental organization based in Lagos with a focus on policy research and advocacy on problems such as urbanization, marked World Habitat Day with the release of its new working papers on Urban Sustainability in Nigeria. It presented current thinking and ideas on how urban challenges in Nigeria can be addressed through improvements in policy making, project implementation and resource use. The DiN was an NGO delegate at the 20th Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in April 2005.

In Abuja, the NGO ACT RIGHT INTERNATIONAL organized a rally and seminar to raise local awareness.

In Delta State, the African Initiative for Environmental Sustainable Network in Ughelli held a World Habitat Day seminar focusing on urban decentralization in the region, unplanned urban settlements and access to water and sanitation.

The Youth Welfare Forum for Sustenance of the Nation held a lecture with participation from some 30 local governments in Oyo State.

The National Union of Tenants organized a

series of events including an assembly of Union members also attended by government officials, representatives from civil society, the private sector and the wider public. The highlight of the celebrations was the launch of an Urban Slum Upgrading programme. Other events were organized around the country by the Nigeria Grassroots Youth forum and the Community Urban Settlement Initiative.

## Norway

For the fifth time, World Habitat Day 2005 was celebrated with a conference in Oslo organized by Habitat-Norway in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development. The Norwegian Minister for Housing was invited to open the conference and representatives from UN-HABITAT, Cities Alliance and a housing cooperative in Tanzania were invited to speak.

## Pakistan

The National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), the largest rural support programme in Pakistan whose activities include low-cost sanitation and housing aimed at creating neat and clean towns and villages in Pakistan marked the day. The SKYIANS welfare organization also held a series of events including essay and poster competitions.

## Palestine

World Habitat Day was celebrated in the Palestinian Territories in a special media blitz in which the messages of the UN Secretary-General and UN-HABITAT's Executive Director were widely publicized.

## Papua New Guinea

The Department for Community Development held an awareness raising campaign to publicize the Millennium Development Goals.

## The Philippines

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council spearheaded the Government of the Philippines'

commemoration of World Habitat Day. World Habitat Day was celebrated with a month-long campaign that focused on deepening and expanding the localization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG5) in cities. Philippine Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Noli de Castro, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, together with the mayors and local champions from the 14 MDG Localisation Resource Cities held a news conference to mark the occasion. In Leyte Province, the Harigi Han Leyte Youth Development Inc. organized a forum and exhibition.

The Rhema Foundation, which supports multidisciplinary programmes in housing, education and health care in rural and urban communities, held a variety show on the theme of World Habitat Day.

## Rwanda

Rwanda took its national World Habitat Day celebration this year to the eastern border town of Gisenyi, and publicized the occasion in national and radio television debate with the Minister of Infrastructure.

## Senegal

The NGO Enda (Environmental Development in Action) organized commemorative events with public institutions and civil society focusing on the theme of World Habitat Day.

## Sierra Leone

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance spearheaded World Habitat Day in Sierra Leone. A series of meetings were planned as well as a poster and publicity campaign. A message from the Minister of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance was nationally broadcast on radio and television, including a special programme on the selected slum areas of Kroo Bay, Susan's Bay and Moa Wharf.

## Somalia

World Habitat Day was marked in Hargeisa and Garowe and involved local communities in a clean up operation.

## South Africa

South Africa's Department of Housing led the World Habitat Day celebrations.

## Spain

World Habitat Day was celebrated by the City Council of Madrid at a seminar covering key issues on this year's theme, the Millennium Development Goals and the City. The event was designed as a meeting point for key actors in the shelter sector. The aim was to identify good practices and learn from failures. The conference was promoted by the City Council of Madrid and organized by the Federation of Non-Governmental organizations in Madrid. The Department of International Cooperation in the City Council of Madrid reaffirmed its continued support to UN-HABITAT programmes around the world.

## Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, World Habitat Day was celebrated nationwide under the auspices of the Ministry of Housing in association with the Sustainable Cities Programme. The World Habitat Day activities included a national programme on 3 October and a number of activities at city level commencing from the 26 September. The main event was a seminar with the Minister of Housing. Other guests of honour included the minister of Urban Development and Water Supply, the Mayor of Colombo and the Resident Representative of the UNDP. There were speeches by the winners of an essay competition and art competition conducted among schools in Sri Lanka. At the city level seminars were held.

The Women's Bank in Sri Lanka celebrated this year's World Habitat Day on the 3rd and 4th of October with the Prime Minister as the chief guest. An estimated 30,000 member families of the organization participated in two days of events.

## Sudan

The Minister of Environment and Physical Development gave a nationwide television address on the Millennium Development Goals and their application at the local level. Regional Physical Planning Department

Directors held seminars to discuss partnerships and empowering city managers.

## Switzerland

Urbanistes sans Frontières, a Swiss non-governmental organization that promotes exchange of information and best practices on post conflict and natural disaster reconstruction, organized a workshop on the theme of World Habitat Day. An international major international conference in Geneva was held on the theme, Sustainable Urbanization: Promoting new alliances to manage the present and the future.

## Tanzania

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development gave a nationwide television and radio broadcast marking World Habitat Day. Special messages by the Minister and housing directors were carried in the national press. A series of visits was arranged for senior officials to see at first hand new low cost urban housing developments.

## Thailand

During the week of World Habitat Day 3-8 October UN-HABITAT launched its Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and Cities without Slums programme in Thailand. The first of these events was the celebration of the Baan Mankong Programme that was engaged in 2003 under the auspices of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. In preparation of the official launch, model homes were built in Sanam Luang to show how the programme would bring new benefits.

## Togo

The National Consumer and Environment Association of Togo organized public awareness raising gatherings and broadcast radio and TV messages. This included a nationally broadcast public awareness seminar with some 150 participants on World Habitat Day to sensitize the public, key partners and organizations dealing with urban issues. The Prime Minister's Special Advisor on Administrative Affairs, Dr. Agokla Kossi Mawuli, delivered the keynote speech.

## Uganda

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications arranged a panel of experts to address the World Habitat Day theme on the Millennium development Goals and the City in a nationwide television programme. It also joined Kampala City Council in a clean-up campaign of the city's Kisenyi slum. Kampala also hosted a workshop on the theme, Cities without Slums, and the Ministry published a special WHD issue of its Shelter Newsletter. Kampala City Council held a workshop to review the performance of partners and stakeholders in the Cities Without Slums strategy. It drew wide coverage in the local media.

## Ukraine

The Municipal Management Centre (Habitat) in Ukraine this year conducted eight international conferences around the country to mark World Habitat Day on the theme, Ukraine-Habitat — Best Practices. The idea was to share the experience of cooperation between local authorities and organizations of the UN System in Ukraine, aimed at poverty eradication, solving major local problems and ensuring the sustainable development of human settlements of Ukraine.

## United Kingdom

To mark World Habitat Day 2005, the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London organized a lunchtime panel discussion, jointly with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Homeless International (HI). The event was titled From Aspiration to Implementation: The Challenge of the Millennium Development Goals in Cities of the South. Speakers included Caren Levy (DPU), David Satterthwaite (IIED) and Ruth McLeod (Homeless International).

## United States

In New York, Habitat for Humanity International, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and UN-HABITAT, with generous support from the Rockefeller foundation, brought together UN diplomats and representatives from faith based and civil society organizations to take part in

voluntary activities with families at a New York City worksite in Harlem. There was a discussion on Building Urban Partnerships to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of The Earth Institute who is also Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

on what central and local governments are doing towards the realization of MDGs.

The city of Los Angeles celebrated World Habitat Day with a City Council resolution calling for formal recognition of the occasion. The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH), with support from the Ford Foundation, joined UN-HABITAT and the City of Los Angeles to mark World Habitat Day. Los Angeles City Councilman, Mr. Eric Garcetti, Chair of the Council's Committee on Housing, Community, and Economic Development introduced the resolution. NPACH urged the community to celebrate by volunteering time, donating to homeless service agencies, and asking their elected officials to support policies dedicated to eliminating homelessness and poverty.

## Yemen

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways organized a two day workshop on issues relating to the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat agenda. Ms. Yasmin Awadi, General Director of the Ministry of Public Works and Roads outlined government plans to assist poor people living in the slums of Sana'a while the keynote address of the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen, Ms. Flavia Pansieri, focused on applying the Goals at local level. The Chairperson of the National Women's Committee, Ms. Rashida explained women's housing rights and the problems affecting Yemeni women due to lack of housing and recommended the establishment of special laws to protect widows and divorcees.

## Zambia

Zambia celebrated World Habitat Day with a march to a settlement where water infrastructure was recently installed for some 20,000 people who only recently were without access to clean water. Guests included the Minister of Local Government and Housing, the Mayor of Lusaka and the area councillor. They addressed the gathering

“Our research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people - two-thirds of humanity - will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements slums of the developing world.”

*- Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.*



**UN-HABITAT**

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