

## **West Africa High-Level Peer Exchange on “Government Enablement of Private Sector Lending for Affordable Housing: Bio Data of Presenters**

### **Pierre David, Executive Director, CMHC International, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

Mr. David was appointed Executive Director, CMHC International in April 2002. Prior to joining CMHC as Director, Canadian Housing Export in 2000, Mr. David held several positions in Canada and abroad for the Canadian International Development Agency. He was Director General of the Industrial Cooperation Program, which supports efforts by the Canadian private sector in emerging and developing countries. He was also Counsellor and Consul as well as Regional Director for West Africa at the Canadian Embassy in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 1987 to 1990.

Mr. David is on the Executive Committee of the International Union of Housing Finance. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA in International Administration from the École des hautes études commerciales de Montreal.

### **Ms. Debra L. Erb, Director of Housing Programs, Overseas Private Investment Corporation**

Ms. Erb is Director of Housing Programs for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a U.S. government corporation focused on supporting U.S. investment in developing markets. In this capacity, she is responsible for program development, investor development and marketing, as well as credit structuring and analysis for housing sector projects. Ms. Erb has over 20 years' direct experience in mortgage lending in the U.S. plus 8 years of international housing finance experience. Her international experience includes being President of Mortgage Finance International, a boutique consulting company that worked with all aspects of mortgage finance in emerging markets. She was also President of Societas – International Institute for Real Estate Finance, a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration (International Non-Profit Management) from George Mason University, and a B.A. in International Business Communications from the same university.

### **Ms. Jay Thakar, Director Business Development, CMHC International, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

Ms. Thakar was appointed Director Business Development, CMHC International in 2002. To date the Corporation has worked with over 25 countries (most of them emerging economies) assisting them in enhancing their housing finance system.

Prior to the current position, Ms. Thakar was responsible for facilitating Canadian housing industry in their export activities in Asia. Ms. Thakar has obtained extensive experience in the housing and housing finance area through several positions held at CMHC over the past twenty years.

With her background in Architecture and Urban Planning, Ms. Thakar has helped CMHC and large local developers in the development of integrated communities that addresses the needs of a broad spectrum of society since her arrival to Canada in late '70s.

### **Mr. Robert Buckley, Urban Housing Advisor, the World Bank**

Mr. Buckley is the Urban Housing Advisor at the World Bank where he has worked for 20 years. He helps prepare projects and write studies and papers such as the recent one - Thirty Years of World Bank Shelter Lending: What Have We Learned. He has taught at a number of

universities, and worked at both the Urban Institute and HUD where he was Chief Economist. He has worked in Ghana on the loan program leading to the establishment of the Housing Finance Company.

**Mr. Satya Vejella, Project Finance Adviser, UN-HABITAT**

Mr. Satya has been working as Project Finance Adviser, with the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF) of Human Settlements Financing Division of UN-HABITAT, since October 2004. Satya is responsible for providing assistance in packaging of bankable slum and urban upgrading projects and introduction of finance products for the poor in four SUF pilot countries in Asia and Africa. Until September 2004, Satya worked as a senior member of the Indo-USAID Financial Institutions Reform and Expansion (FIRE) Project, a joint program of Governments of India and United States, for a period of ten years. He worked extensively with several cities in the areas of: development of large scale bankable infrastructure projects, credit ratings, development of municipal bond market in India, and introduction of private sector participation in urban infrastructure. He also worked with several governments in the areas of: transformation of Mumbai city into a world class city, establishment of project development funds, pooled finance framework for small and medium cities, restructuring of institutional framework for service delivery, and policy framework for improved water and sanitation.

Satya has a post-graduate degree in housing and urban planning and a graduate degree in civil engineering, with a rich professional experience of more than fifteen years in development and financial sectors.

**Mr. James Hokans, International Development Consultant**

Mr. Hokans has over 20 years of international development experience managing housing, economic development and urban management programs primarily in Eastern, West and Southern Africa. He has also worked in Haiti, Pakistan and Indonesia. As a resident chief technical advisor, he worked for seven years in South Africa and was instrumental in establishing a national wholesale finance facility investing in micro-finance businesses in that country. Previously, he served as a policy advisor to the first minister of housing in post-independence Namibia, and Mr. Hokans helped establish the Ford Foundation's first Urban Poverty Program in Eastern and Southern Africa. James Hokans received his M.Sc. in Economics and Public Policy from the London School of Economics (LSE) and his B.A. in history from Dartmouth College. He also holds a certificate in Project Management from the Business School at the University of Cape Town.

**Ms. Kakra Hayford Taylor**

Ms. Hayford-Taylor is a Ghanaian national and was educated as an architect at the University of Science and Technology. She practiced as an architect since 1977 and as an independent consultant since 1986. Since 2000, she has written on Housing and related finance issues for UN Habitat as an international consultant. She lives in New York with her husband and five children.

**Mr. Chris Williams, Special Advisor to Executive Director, UN-HABITAT**

Mr. Williams has previously served as the Acting Director of the Human Settlements Financing Division, launching its Slum Upgrading Facility and the first Peer-Exchanges that took place in East Africa.

Mr. Williams worked in the Office of the Executive Director from 2002-2004, as the Political Affairs Officer. His portfolio included the Iraq Programme, Palestinian Trust Fund, Development Bank Relations, and Fund-raising. He worked from 1999-2001, in Kenya, India, the Philippines, South Africa, and Namibia, as the Policy Coordinator for the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. From 1995 to 1998, he served as Research Coordinator for the Community Development Programme documenting operations in Ecuador, Cost Rica, Ghana, and Uganda. Prior to joining UN-HABITAT, Mr. Williams worked as an activist and educator in East Africa and the United States. A native of New York, he holds degrees in sociology, public policy, and economics and has recently completed his PhD from New School for Social Research in New York.

#### **Ms. Valerie Patrick**

Ms. Patrick, a Canadian national, joined UN-HABITAT in 2004 as a project development advisor with the main task of designing and developing the implementation plan for the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF). Prior to joining UN-HABITAT, she worked for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's International and Social Housing Divisions. She has also worked in the finance sector in London, U.K. She has worked in four countries in Africa, Europe, and North America, and participated in several UN and CMHC missions in Asia. She is a graduate of University of Warwick, U.K, with a Masters Degree in Business Administration, and a Certificate in Housing Finance from Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania.

#### **Mr. Olivier Hassler, Senior Housing Finance Specialist, the World Bank**

Mr. Hassler, a French national, holds a Master degree in economics and the Diploma of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, and worked for a long time for Crédit Foncier, a French financial institution specialized in mortgage finance, especially for lower income households, and municipal finance. He was mainly in charge of the funding and capital markets operation of the Company, the first issuer of mortgage bonds in France. He also had responsibilities in regulatory issues and in real estate portfolio management. He joined the World Bank in 2001 as a senior housing finance specialist. He has carried out missions or studies in more than 30 countries, in Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, South Asia, and Africa.

#### **Mr. Robert Dubinsky, CEO, International Housing Coalition**

Mr. Dubinsky is CEO of the International Housing Coalition, a non profit organization that advocates for Housing for All as an essential element to ending poverty worldwide.

Mr. Dubinsky has extensive experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of housing and urban development programs in the United States and around the world. For more than 20 years he has managed for USAID and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) housing and municipal development programs in countries in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. He has extensive practical experience in real estate, low income housing development and housing finance.

#### **Mr. Larry English**

Mr. English is the Director for Program Design and Development for HFHI Africa and the Middle East. Larry is South African. He is an Architect and Urban Designer/Planner by background. He has undertaken a wide range of appointments in the fields of Socio-Economic & Development Planning, Planning Policy, Urban Design & Spatial Frameworks, Social Housing and Architectural Projects across Africa. Larry helped to establish Habitat for Humanity South

Africa and served on the International Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity International. He joined HFHI in 2001 to provide impetus to urban housing development and is currently overseeing the development of programs across 23 countries.

**Mr. Alioune Badiane, Director of the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States, UN-HABITAT**

Mr. Badiane is the Director of the Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States of UN HABITAT. He is a Senegalese national and a Senior Urban and Regional Planner with 25 years of experience in central and local governments and at international level. He worked with his home Government of Senegal and with the City of Dakar as Director General and Principal Policy Adviser, prior to joining UN- HABITAT. He has also served as Chief Technical Adviser for the Government of Haiti and as Regional Coordinator for Africa of the World bank- UNDP- UN-HABITAT Urban Management Programme. Mr. Badiane is a two-term elected Municipal Councilor in his hometown Mecke and belongs to many development associations. He is a graduate of Laval University, Québec, Canada, and Hunter College of City University of New York, USA.

**Christine Auclair, Private Sector Focal Point, UN-HABITAT, Kenya**

Christine Auclair holds a Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Planning from the French Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Paris VIII with a thesis on the private sector's contribution to the housing sector in India. She joined UN-HABITAT in 1994, working in the area of urban policy analysis. From 1994-1997 she served as an urban indicators and monitoring specialist in the Urban Indicators Programme and then at the Global Urban Observatory from 1998-2005 to carry out quantitative and policy analysis, working with a network of national and local urban observatories. She contributed to the State of the World's Cities Report editions of 2001 and 2004 as joint task manager. She joined the Partners Section in 2005, now responsible for the Business Partnership for Sustainable Urbanization and Private Sector Focal Point.