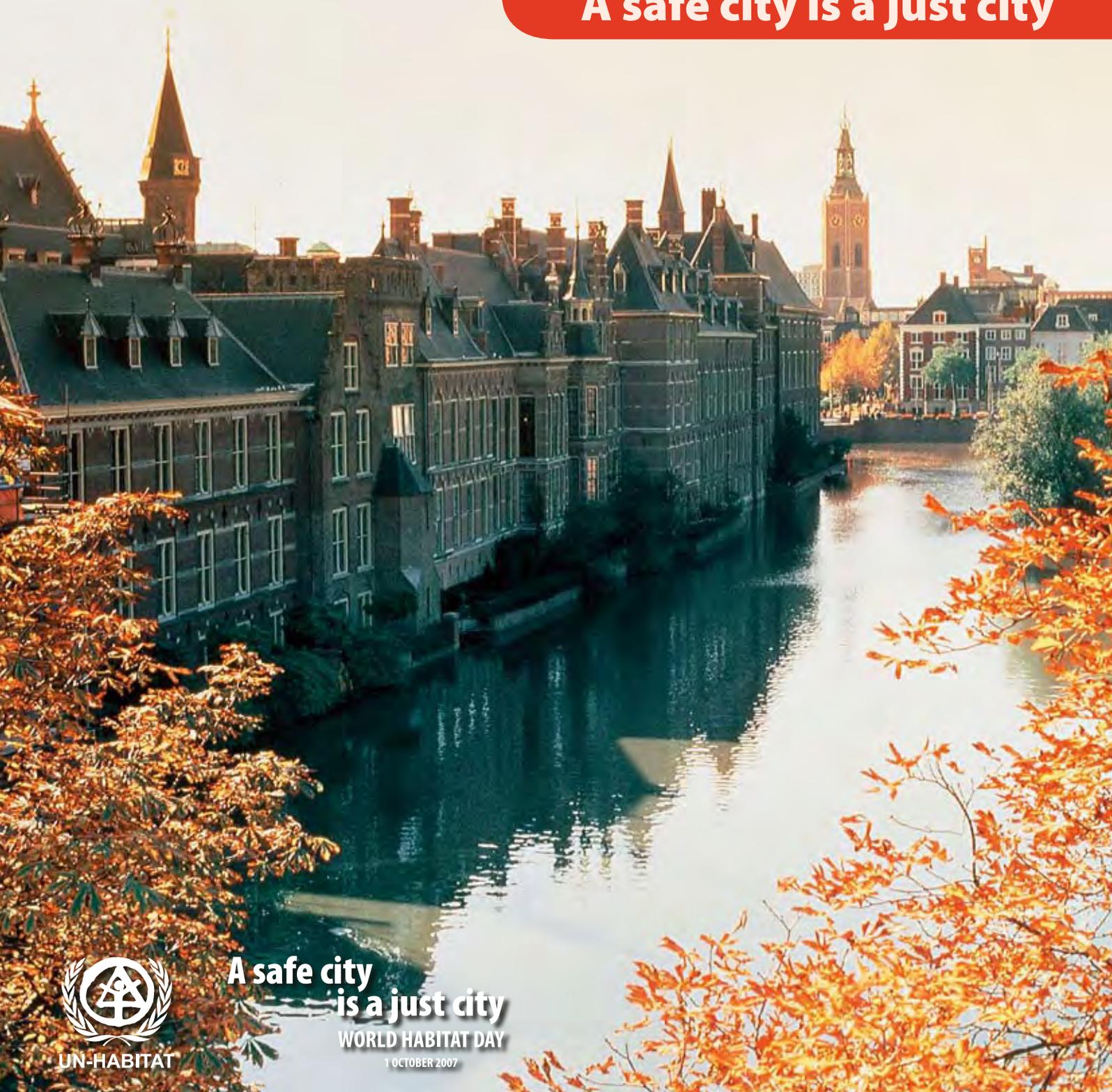


World Habitat Day

1 October 2007

A safe city is a just city



UN-HABITAT

**A safe city
is a just city**

WORLD HABITAT DAY

1 OCTOBER 2007

“There are many other billions of people suffering from lack of affordable housing – all the facilities which make our lives decent. We must work together and generate the political will to have a smooth implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and I will work very closely, and harder than before.”

— *UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, 2007*

“We are now at a very significant turning point in history: The year 2007 will be the year in which for the first time, half of humanity will be living in towns and cities. It marks the beginning of a new urban era. It is projected that by 2030 that figure will rise to two-thirds. The cities growing fastest are those of the developing world. And the fastest growing neighbourhoods are the slums.”

— *UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka, 2007*



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 pleased to announce that the Dutch city of The Hague has been designated to spearhead the 2007 global celebration of World Habitat Day on Monday 1 October. The theme of the occasion decreed by the United Nations to reflect on the state of human settlements around the world, this year is *A safe city is a just city*.

This year, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT will also attend the World Habitat Day celebrations in Monterrey, Mexico, which are expected to take place on 4 October 2006.

The United Nations chose this year's theme in order to raise awareness and encourage reflection on the mounting threats to urban safety and social justice, particularly urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human-made disasters.

One of the most significant causes of fear and insecurity in many cities today is crime and violence. Between 1990 and 2000, incidents of violent crime per 100,000 persons increased from 6 to 8.8. Recent studies show that over the past five years, 60 per cent of all urban residents in the world have been victims of crime, with 70 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Clearly, crime, whether violent or not, is a growing and serious threat to urban safety all over the world.

Another significant threat to urban safety today is forced eviction and insecurity of tenure. Incidents of forced eviction are regularly reported from all parts of the world. They are often linked to bulldozing of squatter settlements and slums in developing countries, as well as to processes of gentrification, beautification and urban redevelopment in both developed and developing country cities. Forced evictions have been highly publicized in recent years, partly because freedom from forced eviction has become recognized as a fundamental human right within international human rights law.

Disasters, natural and human-made, are yet another current threat to urban safety. Recent evidence suggests that natural and human-made disasters are increasing in frequency the world over, and that this trend is partly linked to climate change. From 1975 to 2005, the number of disasters in the world increased from 100 to 400 per year. Hurricane Katrina, the Asian Tsunami and the Pakistan Earthquake are some of the recent disasters that exposed our woeful lack of preparedness.

Combined, these three threats to urban safety currently pose a huge challenge to both national and city governments, and this is the reason behind the United Nation's choice of the theme *A safe city is a just city* for this year's World Habitat Day.

UN-HABITAT has collaborated with the Government and people of the Netherlands for a long time. In 2003, a significant programme, known as the *Partnership Programme between the Government of The Netherlands and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT*, was initiated. This was an innovative multi-year funding agreement covering a wide range of programme activities. Through this programme, the Government of The Netherlands generously provided a total of Euro7,830,537 over a three-year period (2003-2005), for which we are very grateful. This voluntary contribution funded six clusters of programme activities, some of them closely linked to the 2007 World Habitat Day theme.

The first cluster on *Urban Youth Development Policies* included a project on Social Crime Prevention. The second cluster relevant to the theme of the 2007 World Habitat Day was on *Slum Upgrading and Improvement in Land Tenure Security*, which encompassed three projects: Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, Cities Without Slums Sub-Regional Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as Law and Land Reform Review in Latin America, Southern Africa and Asia. All these projects have enhanced our understanding of different dimensions of urban safety and social justice.

UN-HABITAT has also cooperated with the Netherlands Habitat Platform on a number of activities, including celebrations of the 2006 World Habitat Day. The Netherlands Habitat Platform is one of the most vibrant national advocacy organizations that support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The Netherlands, and The Hague, as home of the International Court of Justice, is a particularly appropriate location for the celebration of this year's World Habitat Day. It provides a suitable context within which to reflect on this year's theme, which focuses on urban safety and social justice.

The Netherlands is also an appropriate location in another very important sense, being a country that has taught the world how to mitigate the impacts of flood disasters through efficient and effective water engineering and land management, thus significantly enhancing the physical safety of cities and other human settlements.

Monterrey, in Mexico, where the World Habitat Day will also be celebrated on 4 October 2007, is the city that gave to the world the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development. We are very grateful for the generous invitation by the Government of Mexico. The Government of Mexico's recent voluntary contribution of US\$200,000, is also a sign of the country's strong support for the UN-HABITAT and its role in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region where a number of threats to urban safety, including urban crime and hurricanes, are particularly significant. Monterrey is therefore an appropriate location to reflect on these issues as well.

Some of the most significant advances in improving security of tenure for the urban poor have been in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Recent studies have shown that while 30 years ago the most significant fear among the urban poor in this region was forced eviction, today this source of insecurity has been reduced significantly but has been replaced by fear of criminal violence.

The celebration of World Habitat Day in The Hague and in Monterrey this year will further cement the growing relationship the agency has enjoyed with The Netherlands and Mexico over the years.

Raise awareness in your city - organize a World Habitat Day 2007 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 around the world in 2006 in this report.

This year, we again call on our partners in central government, local government, civil society the private sector and the media to take part in organizing activities to raise awareness and stimulate debate on the important theme of *A safe city is a just city*.

Guidelines

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

1. Use mass media, particularly newspapers, radio and television, to draw attention to World Habitat Day celebrations. If possible, issue press releases, display posters, organize press conferences, and broadcast video and audio spots.
2. Draw attention to the problems and issues on this year's theme, particularly urban safety, crime prevention and social justice through press articles, radio and television documentaries and panel programmes with policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.
3. Organise public information campaigns, and use popular theatre to create awareness of the problems and issues.
4. Use the occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in urban safety and social justice, particularly urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human-made disasters in your community.
5. Organize competitions to find solutions to human settlements and urban problems. Essay and painting competitions help create awareness and enhance of the World Habitat Day 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 will be mailed to partners, Embassies and High Commissions, Inter-governmental Organizations, United Nations Information offices, UNDP country offices and other UN agencies.

Keep us informed

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

World Habitat Day Global Observances from 1986 to 2006

Year	Themes	Venue	Chief guest
2006	Cities Magnets of Hope	Naples	Vittorio Craxi, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Multi-lateral affairs
		Kazan	Kamil Iskhakov - Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in Far East Federal Region, President of the United Cities and Local Government Euro-Asia Regional Section
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 2006

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 (MUNIC) 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
Tengku Rizal Nurdin North Sumatra
North Sumatra Governor Tengku Rizal
Nurdin (posthumous), Indonesia

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 ASH), Switzerland
Ms. Zena Daysh, Commonwealth Human
Ecology Council (CHEC), UK
Ms. Teolinda Bolívar, Venezuela
His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand

2002

City-to-City cooperation between
Nakuru, Kenya and Leuven, Belgium
Brazilian Institute of Municipal
Administration (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, 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 Mourouj2,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 Tanphihat, 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
Rural Housing Reconstruction with
Appropriate Technologies, Ecuador
Namuwongo Upgrading and Low-
Cost Housing, Uganda
New Urban Communities in Egypt, Egypt
World Relief El Salvador Housing
Reconstruction Project, El Salvador
Woodless Construction Project, Niger
Mr. Laurie Baker, India
Mr. Yona Friedman, United States
Mayor Jaime Lerner Curitiba, Brazil
Mr. Rozanov Evgueni Grigorievich, Russian Federation
Mr. John F.C.Turner, United Kingdom

1991

Ministry of Housing and Human
Settlements, Costa Rica
Urban Development Authority, Singapore
Cooperative Housing Foundation, United States
National Housing Development
Authority, Sri Lanka
Housing and Urban Development
Cooperation, India
Housing Development Finance Corporation, India
Sengki Land-sharing Project, Thailand
Projet Assistance IECOSAT, Burundi
Institute for Building Materials, Viet Nam
Tamako Nakanishi, Japan
11 Arch. Leandro Quintana Uranga, Venezuela

1990

Lord Scarman, United Kingdom
Tangshan Municipal Government, China
Construyamos, Colombia
Craterre, France
Stone Town Conservation and Development
Authority, United Republic of Tanzania
Human Settlement Foundation, Thailand
31-03 American Society of Clinical Oncology
(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



Cities, Magnets of Hope

Report on World Habitat Day 2006

Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2006, Naples, Italy

The global observances for World Habitat Day in the Italian city of Naples began on Sunday 1 October 2006 with the opening of an exhibition that contextualized the development plans of the city within the larger context of urbanization all over the world. The exhibition was held in the 13th Century Castel del'Ovo.

Early on Monday 2 October 2006, Mrs. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, joined Mayor Rosa Iervolino Russo on a visit to a school in an underprivileged area that had recently been burnt and vandalised. On meeting the school children, Mrs. Tibaijuka expressed her solidarity with the people of Naples, pointing out that the UN stood for peace and security, and that on this particular day it was important for people everywhere to learn to live in harmony.

The World Habitat Day celebrations included seminars and debates on the theme, *Cities, Magnets of Hope*, and drew more than 300 participants. At the opening ceremony, Mayor Russo welcomed the delegates, pointing out how Naples shared many of the problems of cities all over the world which needed innovative inclusive social and economic strategies. The President of the Province of Naples, Riccardo di Palma pointed out that the population of greater Naples had almost reached 4 million people. He therefore welcomed the catalytic role of the UN in raising the awareness of these local issues so that long-term solutions could be found for the good of the people of Naples.

Vittorio Craxi, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Multi-lateral affairs, highlighted the relationship of the Italian Government with UN-HABITAT. He emphasized that social equity was one of the fundamental premises of local democracy and inclusive cities. It was the only way to avoid any prospect of future social conflict in urban areas.

Each year, to encourage best practices on how to manage the urban environment, UN-HABITAT awards the Habitat Scroll of Honour during the World Habitat Day celebrations. Last year, amongst the award winners, who attended the Naples event, were Cardinal Renato Martino, who was recognized for his commitment to improving the plight of slum dwellers; the National Cities Conference Programme of Brazil, who won the award for promoting the participation of the poor in urban policy-making. The French firm Veolia Environnement and the Governorate of Alexandria, Egypt, received an award for their notable public-private sector collaboration to deliver solid waste management for the city of Alexandria.

In keeping with tradition, at the same ceremony, the Building and Social Housing Foundation presented its World Habitat Awards to the Johannesburg Housing Company for enabling the building of housing and the Aga Khan Foundation's Building and Construction Improvement Programme in Pakistan

For centuries, Naples has been a crossroads of the Mediterranean, a welcoming city, drawing people from every corner of the world
Photo: © UN-Habitat/Francisco Vasquez



Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2006, Kazan, Russian Federation

Global Observance of World Habitat Day was also held in the Russian city of Kazan. The city was awarded a Scroll of Honour in 2005, the same year it celebrated its millennium anniversary, for the tremendous amount of work to provide new housing and infrastructure for its residents, including the poorest in the most trying times. The *Slum Liquidation Programme*, which started in 1996 and completed in 2004, improved housing for around 100,000 people and revitalised the historic centre of the city. The programme delivered new homes, roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure and has transformed the once dilapidated downtown area.

The Kazan celebrations, coinciding with the general assembly of Euro-Asia Regional Section of World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments, brought together mayors from all over Russia. Key guests at the ceremony included Sietske Steneker, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Russia, Il'sur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, Rustem Minnikhanov, acting President of the Republic of Tatarstan and Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan, Farid Mukhametshin, Chairman of State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, and Kamil Iskhakov - Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in Far East Federal Region, President of the United Cities and Local Governments Euro-Asia Regional Section.

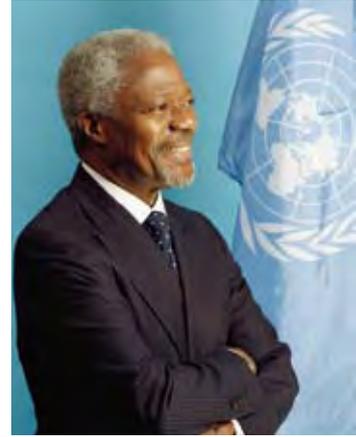
Highlights of the Russian celebration included presentation of several awards. Kamil Iskhakov, a former Mayor of Kazan, presented diplomas to 15 Russian cities for their contribution to urban development. Mrs. Diane Diacon, Director of the Building and Social Housing Foundation presented World Habitat Awards to Johannesburg Housing Company for providing affordable, safe rental housing for low-income families and to the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan for its Building and Construction Improvement Programme in Northern Pakistan. Princess Zahra Aga Khan received the award.

Mrs. Tibajjuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, presented Scrolls to Yangzhou Municipality in China's Jiangsu Province for conservation of the old city and improving the residential environment, Pag IBIG Fund for making the dream of affordable housing a reality for hundreds of thousands of households in the Philippines, and Yaroslavl City in central Russia for delivering high quality fresh water to its entire population.

Delegates were given tours of Kazan's rehabilitated areas and cultural heritage sites, participated in a seminar on *Achieving Sustainable Development of Cities* and enjoyed children drawings on the theme of *Cities – magnets of hope*.



The historic east-west trading hub on the Volga River, Kazan, has provided new housing and infrastructure for its poorest residents through a Slum Liquidation Programme started in 1996 and completed in 2004.
Photo: © Elvira Shafiera



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

By the year 2050, some 6 billion people representing two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. Never before in history has the world witnessed such rapid urbanization. Neither has it witnessed such a swift rise in the absolute numbers of people migrating. The two phenomena - migration and urban growth - are strongly linked, mainly because the majority of people on the move go for the bright lights of the city.

As we reflect on the theme of this year's observance of World Habitat Day, – *Cities, magnets of hope*- we must also bear in mind that cities can also be places of considerable despair. Never before has the world witnessed such a large proliferation of urban slums. Today, 1 billion people, or 1 of every 3 urban dwellers, live in slums. If municipalities and governments fail to manage urban growth and migration sustainably, this number is expected to double in the next 30 years.

Almost everywhere, cities are the destinations for people escaping poverty, conflict and human rights violations, or simply those looking for ways to build better lives. While many migrants head to the North, South-South migration also presents tremendous challenges. Major cities such as Dakar, Jakarta, Johannesburg or Rio de Janeiro, to cite just a few examples, are having trouble accommodating new migrants when so many long-standing citizens are already struggling.

These and other challenges came into sharp focus at third session of the World Urban Forum held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2006. That meeting made it clear that UN Member States, along with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens all over the world need to galvanize their strength as never before in the quest for sustainable urbanization and inclusive cities. On World Habitat Day, I urge all involved to work in partnership to manage one of the key challenges confronting humanity in the 21st century.



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

Every year on the first Monday in October we use World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of the world's growing cities and our planet's rapid and irreversible urbanisation. We worry not only whether we can manage this growth, but also how we can do it positively in a way that makes cities inclusive, welcoming places for all.

As populations increase and more and more people migrate, cities lure us to their bright lights. Like moths to a flame, we also worry about getting burnt. How many more people will end up in the developing world's growing slums? Will there be jobs, shelter, water, electricity, health services, for all? Will we be able to cater for their basic needs even if we cannot do the impossible and meet the aspirations of all?

Rapid and irreversible. Those are the trends today of the greatest rates of migration and urbanisation the world has known. According to the latest UN research, international migrants numbered 191 million in 2005: 115 million lived in developed countries, and 75 million in developing countries. Half of these people on the move, it is noted, are women.

As we reflect on the theme of World Habitat Day 2006, *Cities, magnets of hope*, I wish to draw your attention to some new facts about the urban world in which we live. These have just been published in our latest State of the World's Cities 2006/7 report: Some time during the course of next year, demographers watching urban trends will mark it as the moment when the world entered a new urban millennium with the majority of people living in towns and cities for the first time in history.

The year 2007 will also see the number of slum dwellers in the world reach the 1 billion mark – when on average one in every three city residents will be living in inadequate housing with none, or few basic services.

It is still unclear how this will influence government policies and actions, particularly in relation to Millennium Development Goal 7, Targets 10 on water and sanitation, and 11 aimed at improving the lives of slum dwellers.

But it is important to understand that the growth of cities is not just a phenomenon of migration from rural to urban areas. It also entails international migration – people seeking a better life in other countries both in the north and in the south. Whether they are fleeing conflict, disasters or simply seeking a better life somewhere else, the number of people on the move today is greater than ever before.

It is very difficult to stop the flow of people into cities and towns. Urbanisation is one of the most powerful, irreversible forces in the world. It is estimated that 93 percent of the future urban population growth will occur in the cities of Asia and Africa, and to a lesser extent, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Migration too is one of the great irreversible forces and one likely to grow. Frequently discussions on how to manage it are steeped in controversy and rancour. This is in part because policy making and coordination at the international, national and municipal level is lacking.

Some countries complain about the brain drain, but there is also the fact that the remittances immigrants send home could be far larger in financial terms than gross overseas development aid or foreign direct investment. Thus, it is a question of striking a balance.

Cities make countries rich. Countries that are highly urbanised have higher incomes, more stable economies, stronger institutions. They are better able to withstand the volatility of the global economy than those with less urbanised populations. Urban-based economic activities account for up to 55 percent of Gross Nation Product (GNP) in low-income countries, 73 percent in middle-income countries and 85 per cent in high-income countries.

And major contributors here are the migrants who helped build many of the world's greatest cities, the people who had the courage to pack up and move. We need to look at ways of making our cities inclusive places able to provide for all.

Instead of building fortresses, we need to build more bridges.

Scroll of Honour Award Winners 2006



Brazil

The National Cities Conference Programme of the Ministry of Cities in Brazil was awarded for impressive work in promoting the participation of ordinary people in urban policy-making. The creation of the Ministry of Cities in 2003 and the annual National Cities Conference has revolutionized social participation in Brazil resulting in far-reaching impacts on pro-poor innovations in urban planning and housing. The partners in this initiative are the local communities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, professional, academic and research organizations, labour unions, and government officials. All contribute to decisions on policies executed by the Ministry.



China

The Yangzhou Municipal People's Government in China's Jiangsu Province was awarded for conservation of the old city and improving the residential environment. With a population of 1.28 million people, Yangzhou has been transformed from a shanty town into a clean, modern city within five years. A total of US\$770 million has been invested in solving housing problems for over 148,000 people through the renovation of 3,050 housing units in the city centre, and construction of 33,000 units of affordable houses. The Municipality has invested US\$2 billion for the construction of infrastructure and has guaranteed the supply of water, electricity and gas mainly to the poor. Through cooperation with local real estate development companies, the Municipality offers land buyers low prices and waives government fees to enable land ownership.



France and Egypt

The French firm Veolia Environment and the Governorate of Alexandria were awarded for exemplary public and private sector collaboration in Alexandria's solid waste management. This first Public Private Partnership of its kind in the Egyptian waste management sector was signed in September 2000 and launched in 2001 for a period of 15 years. It is run jointly and successfully by the Governorate of Alexandria and a private firm, Veolia Environment, a leading private provider of environmental services to municipalities and industry. The main objective of the partnership is to provide integrated management for the one million tons of waste generated every year by over five million inhabitants, for the whole Governorate of Alexandria, from collection and cleaning to treatment, and final recycling.



Italy

Cardinal Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, was personally awarded with the 2006 Habitat Scroll of Honour for his tireless work to help improve the plight of slum dwellers around the world. One of the most senior Vatican officials, Cardinal Martino has repeatedly pledged the continued support of the Roman Catholic Church to help improve the plight of slum dwellers around the world. He personally intervened with the Kenyan government in 2004 to prevent the mass eviction of people living in Kibera, a crowded Nairobi slum

that is home to over 700,000 people, through which the authorities had intended to build a new city bypass. He has served in many countries including Nicaragua, the Philippines, Lebanon, Canada and Brazil.



The Philippines

Pag IBIG Fund based in the Philippines is nominated for making the dream of affordable housing a reality for hundreds of thousands of households. The fund was set up in 1979 and sustained for 27 years. It offers a rich variety of housing solutions with special attention for investments of Filipino migrants working overseas. By its very name, which stands for *Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikaw, Bangko, Industriya, at Gobyerno*, Pag-IBIG Fund works towards making a reality the vision of a home for every Filipino family. Created on June 11, 1978, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) has a two-pronged mandate: generation of savings and provision of shelter for the Filipino workers.



Russian Federation

Federation Yaroslavl City Administration in central Russia is cited for delivering high quality fresh water to its entire population. Yaroslavl is situated on the Volga River. For over 50 years, the water supply was not only inadequate but highly polluted and contaminated by effluent from the big industries in central Russia and raw sewage. The Yaroslavl city administration determined to provide clean water to all its residents and constructed three water supply stations, over 80 boosting pump stations and several sewage treatment plants. Disposal of untreated sewage into the Volga has stopped. Partners in the project were the European Union, and experts from American, Dutch and German companies, Moscow and Moscow.

Celebrations around the world

Argentina

To celebrate World Habitat Day, the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Buenos Aires, organized a workshop entitled, *Integrated Response to the Housing Problem in Argentina*. The main themes discussed were the urban land reform; the right to the city; human settlements; social, economic and environmental sustainability; the housing shortage and the current housing laws in Argentina. Among the participants, were the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Argentina, the dean of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Buenos Aires and a representative from the International Alliance of Inhabitants.

Australia

The convener of a global project - Global Studio - organized a series of talks from August to mid-November around the world on the World Habitat Day theme - Cities, magnets of hope.

Brazil

The Brazilian Institute of Architects (Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil - IAB), a Habitat Agenda Partner, held a round-table session about the Architecture of the City.

Burkina Faso

The Ministry for Housing and Urban Development in Burkina Faso held activities for eight days to celebrate the World Habitat Day. These included television spots highlighting the theme of Cities-magnets of hope, special publication of the minister's message in the local dailies, letters from readers on why they were drawn to the city, a press conference, and a sanitation campaign on selected neighborhoods in Ouagadougou.

Cambodia

In Phnom Penh, the day was marked by a presentation of the messages of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the UN-HABITAT Executive Director which were reported also by the local TV, radio, and newspapers. The event was led by the municipal government, cabinet ministers and other top government officials, international/local NGOs, and community members. A land title

was issued to 140 families in a slum community and loans given for small businesses and housing in six communities. Other events included an exhibition of community products - One Product for One Community; visits to sites of good practices in some communities. Governor of Phnom Penh Municipality spoke to all the local authorities on government policy to improve 100 slums every year over a five-year period as announced by the Prime Minister in May 2003.

Cameroon

The local NGO, Kids4Peace Cameroon, held a children's art competition in Yaounde. Street children and orphans painted their dream cities to show what most migrants want when they leave rural districts for the city.

Canada

A coalition of housing organizations and tenants advocacy groups under the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations in Canada launched a campaign on World Habitat Day to draw attention to the inadequate supply of affordable housing.

Chad

The government of Chad planned a series of events to mark World Habitat Day 2006 in the capital, N'djamena, and the three secondary cities of Abéché, Doba and Sarh. The highlight of the celebration was a nationwide television speech on 1 October by the Minister of Regional Planning on the theme. Visits to specially selected districts in each city, and a national conference was held in N'djamena on cities and the role they can play in providing young people, especially women, with better employment prospects.

Costa Rica

Forums and roundtables were organized in Costa Rica on the occasion of World Habitat Day. Among the main themes discussed were the need for action to attain the Millennium Development Goals at city level, urban viability, sanitation and slum upgrading.

Colombia

In Bogotá, a workshop was held on the

current status of social housing in Colombia by several of its actors and stakeholders including the government, academia and developers. Among the speakers, were the Vice Minister for Housing, representatives of local Universities, UN-HABITAT representatives and other institutions involved in social housing promotion, financing and development.

Cuba

The main activities were organized by the National Institute for Housing and the National Committee of Habitat. Participants included UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative and the Director of Urbanisation from the Institute for Physical Planning. The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the National Habitat Awards. The event was widely covered by local television and radio.

Democratic Republic of Congo

In the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Habitat Day celebrations in Baraka and Fizi districts were led by the local NGO, EMO-BARAKA (Union pour la Promotion du Paysan). A football tournament, a conference on the theme, documentary screening and a social reception were among the organized activities.

Ecuador

In Quito, the inhabitants of the Vista Hermosa neighbourhood supported by the NGO Quito para Todos (Quito for all) and UN-HABITAT used the opportunity of World Habitat Day to strengthen their campaign to claim back public space by organizing a cultural event with films on urban issues. Activities included tree planting in the park, local artists teaching children, flea market and a musical and puppet show. The event, which publicized the rehabilitation of a local street as a public space, was attended by the neighbours of Vista Hermosa, local authorities and was covered by national media. Future projects include road safety improvements by reorganizing current traffic patterns.

A Cooperation agreement was signed between the cities of Esmeraldas and Cuenca to promote cultural and commercial exchange between the mostly "amerindian" population (Cuenca) and "afro-ecuadorian" population (Esmeraldas).

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the event organized by UN-HABITAT included the production of a special magazine for the occasion with articles on the WHD theme, messages from the Ministry of Works and Urban

Development, the UN's Secretary-General and UN-HABITAT's Executive Director. Officials, youth representatives, and professionals and the public marked the day on the streets of Addis Ababa.

Fiji

The Fiji Association of Architects held a series of activities including a forum where local and overseas architects made presentations on urban sustainability to the public and government ministries. Various NGOs also made presentations on poverty alleviation and public discussions were held on how best to address the side effects of cities being 'Magnets of Hope'.

Ghana

In Ghana, seven days of activities were held organized by a committee from several ministries and UN-HABITAT. The Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment appeared on a nationally televised programme to discuss the theme, Cities, magnets of hope; the ministry hosted a huge news conference attended by 120 people from different organizations; a round-table discussion was held where various papers were presented by representatives from human settlements and urban development fields; a discussion basic services to urban populations involving various stakeholders was televised nationally; and various interactive radio talk shows in local languages discussed the theme of WHD.

Guatemala

In Guatemala, more than 3,000 people demonstrated in the streets of Guatemala City. The demonstrators chanted slogans against forced evictions and advocated for the formalization of "illegal" settlements. The march arrived at the Palace of Justice where a delegation of the protesters entered the National Congress Premises and delivered a proposed housing and land reform bill. The proposal included the creation of a Ministry of Housing financed by 5 per cent of the national budget. The bill stated that the housing deficit gap can be closed in 20 years.

Haiti

The theme of *Cities, Magnets of Hope* took on a local flavour in Haiti who focused on information for better human settlements planning. An exhibition and conference were organized by the Ministry for Planning and International Cooperation and UN-HABITAT where the Minister for Planning and International Cooperation asked participants to reflect on the human habitat in general and in particular on the effects of migration in cities. The

need to get information from the grassroots to promote efficient and effective planning to tackle growing cities was highlighted by UN-HABITAT.

India

Many celebrations were held in India. The Trust for Regeneration of Environment and Economy (TREE) with Regional Science Centre (RSC) celebrated World Habitat Day at the RSC, Bhubaneswar with an open house quiz and a film show.

The Centre for Urban Studies of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) jointly with Centre for Human Settlements (International) Northern India Chapter, and Association of British Scholars in India organized a panel discussion in New Delhi.

The Osmania Medical College Doctors' Forum in India organized an awareness programme in Hyderabad, capital of the Andhra Pradesh province of India including a media briefing focusing on the theme, Cities - magnets of hope. In Orissa, City Managers' Association Orissa (CMAO) association with the state government's department of Housing and Urban Development organized an event to raise the awareness of City Managers of the essence of World Habitat Day, released a special edition of a newsletter focusing on Best Practices in the urban sector and awarded city managers for their contribution to the sector. The Institute for Regional Development Studies in Kanpur hosted a panel discussion with speakers drawn from different professions to celebrate the World Habitat Day. The basic deliberations of the panel centered on the problems of urban sprawl, slums, urban water supply and solid waste disposal. Panelists also put forward recommendations for improving the quality of urban environments to realize the potential of urban areas as magnets of modern life.

Habitat Technology Group (HTG) in Thiruvananthapuram held a rally to campaign against child labour construction and involved school children, politicians, architects, urban planners and the general public in their activities.

The Krityanand UNESCO Club NGO, Jamshedpur, which focuses on community development, organized a one day conference in Jamshedpur under the theme *Joining Hands to Work Towards the Millennium Development Goals*. The conference focused on access to clean drinking water, education to save water for the future.

Indonesia

A series of workshops started as early as 22 August

2006 on lessons learned from Aceh and Nias Reconstruction, organized by UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Housing. Other activities included a seminar on post disaster reconstruction in Jakarta by the East Asia Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (EAROP) and Golkar Party, a workshop in Jakarta on the roadmap to slum upgrading by UN-HABITAT, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Public Works, in Jakarta and another on tropical eco-settlements was by the Human Settlements Research Center and the Ministry of Public Works in Bali. The actual day was marked in Solo in Central Java, which has a pro poor policy and programme on local economic development and slum upgrading.

Italy

The Global Observance of World Habitat Day was held in the Italian city of Naples – (see page 10)

Japan

UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, supported by Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Cooperating Committee of Habitat Fukuoka Office, UN Association of Japan Fukuoka Head Office and the Japan Habitat Association, organized a symposium on the theme of WHD. It focused on makes cities *Magnets of Hope*. Mayor of Sorsogon City in the Philippines, a profession from the Department of Urban Engineering, University of Tokyo and other experts, participated as panelists. A press tour for foreign press was organized to show why Fukuoka which was listed as one of "the World's 10 Hottest Cities" in a recent Newsweek Magazine.

The sixth World Habitat Day Children's Drawing Contest on in Asia and the Pacific was organized under the theme *Our City: What We Wish to Leave for the Future* with support from local partners and Educational Boards; and a series of exhibitions were held throughout Japan.

Kenya

In Nairobi, more than 300 young people gathered World Habitat Day at the One Stop Youth Centre to share their stories, exchange views on matters of concern to them. The Centre is a collaborative project between UN-HABITAT and the Global Partnership Initiative on urban youth development in Africa. In Kibera, the largest slum in the country, a community group, Action for Life Kibera, held an urban cafe with representatives from more than 20 groups in their network on how best to involve the community and especially the youth in improving their environment, organized a clean

up in Kibera and staged a theatre performance on environmental sanitation and management.

Also in Nairobi, Poverty Reduction Network (POREN-KENYA) a community based organization working in Nairobi and rural areas visited Kiambu slums in the city to educate residents on the need of improving sanitation, income generating projects, housing among others. The Uranga Entity Institute held a series of activities including a visit to the Kayole residential area housing over 100,000 people, a special newsletter, football tournament and pictorial collection highlighting the problems faced by people living in such low-income areas. The Kamukunji Riverside Tailoring and Ironing Society in Nairobi organized five day activities including seminars in informal settlements. The Kariobangi South Welfare and Slums Housing Association (KASWESHA) organized a series of activities including tree planting, and a massive clean up in different areas of the Kariobangi South Location. The association was supported by several private and public sector partners including the Nairobi Hospital who held free medical camp to over 600 members of the community. Finally, Edu Africa Theatre Initiative (EATI) a volunteer, non-profit community-based youth organisation performed a puppet play to raise awareness and discussion on the WHD theme.

In Eldoret, school children, their parents and the general public mingled freely with cabinet ministers, top civil servants to commemorate the occasion. The event was presided over by Housing Minister, Mr. Soita Shitanda and included theatre, music and poetry. Ministries for Land, Local Government and Planning and National Development also took part. Other activities included the laying of a foundation stone for a Training Centre for Appropriate Building Materials and tree planting, clean up.

In Kisumu, seminar was organized in Kisumu on Human Settlements in cities and urban centers.

A youth organization - Nyeri Municipality Youth Initiative-Kenya, held discussions and staged plays and dances to inform and educate people living in local slum areas on enhancing, maintaining and sustaining the urban environment.

The Shihome Women's Society, an organisation under Quaker Friends Church based in Western Kenya organized a clean up of the locality, an interdenominational football match, and presented awards for the best women in self employment.

The Siaya Youth Groups Organization (SIYO), a rural-based umbrella Youth group from Siaya District in Nyanza Province organized awareness raising campaigns.

Lesotho

The celebrations held in Lesotho coincided with the country's 40th independence anniversary celebrations. Messages on WHD were disseminated to the local media.

Liberia

UN-HABITAT organized an awareness building workshop; radio talk shows; community awareness and the President's message was among those read at the official WHD ceremony.

Madagascar

The Ministry of Decentralization and Territory Management led the national celebration on Madagascar's capital Antananarivo. The ministry organized an event called *Open Doors* where the private sector, NGOs, professional associations and other stakeholder discussed issues on human settlements with the concerned authorities, the community, students and media. National policy on territory management and habitat was highlighted at the ceremony created awareness of sanitation problems and urban violence.

Malawi

World Habitat Day events were spearheaded from the country's economic capital, Blantyre with two high profile events - the official opening of a new housing complex for the urban poor with 450 homes of which 85 percent of the beneficiaries are women and the presentation of the first ever Malawi Award for Human Settlements. The award went to an initiative that had demonstrated tangible improvements in the lives of slum dwellers. A number of other activities aimed at raising awareness included a news conference, a radio phone-in, and a school essay competition. Organizers of the main events included the Ministry of Lands and Housing, City Assemblies, non-governmental Organisations and UN-HABITAT. The Concerned Youth Organisation (CYO) in Blantyre also held activities to commemorate the day.

Malta

The Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers of Malta combined last year's World Habitat Day celebrations with World Architecture Day, celebrated on the same day. The theme of their event, *Time for Architecture*, centered on the city as a focal point of society, and looked at architectural

quality in the development of a better quality of life for the city residents. It also focused on the role of the media in the public's perception of quality in architecture and the built environment. Film nights, a day trip to the Venice Biennale, architectural tours, debates, seminars, exhibitions, a workshop for children and social events were a few of the activities held to celebrate the day.

Romania

The Waste Management Information and Education Center, an institution under the auspices of the Tulcea City Hall, organized a walk for all the schools in the city.

Mauritius

The Ministry of Housing and Lands organized a series of activities: the Minister of Housing and Lands opened an exhibition in Port Louis, the Capital City, on the evolution of settlement in cities and its peripheries. The exhibition then moved on to the four main towns namely Beau Bassin / Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas / Phoenix and Curepipe on a rotational basis. The Minister also made a televised speech on the theme, *Les Villes, catalyseurs d'espoirs*. Other activities included television and radio programmes.

Mexico

The President of Mexico and Minister for Social Development presented a Habitat Prize and Habitat University award. The celebration, organized with the support of UN-HABITAT, discussed capacity building tools on like UN-HABITAT's Local Economic Development and proposed a video conference with Ministers of Latin America to discuss gender and habitat.

Moldova

Urban stakeholders gathered at a widely covered conference linked to the launch Cities Alliance financed project for Chisinau Municipality. The municipality also launched the first post-Soviet City General Urban Plan.

Mozambique

Mayors and students met in the town of Inhambane, some 500 km North of Maputo, to listen to the from the UN Secretary-General and UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, and discuss the theme of the day.

Namibia

The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development supported all 13 Regional Councils for local events.

The Khomas Regional Council hosted the main event at a private farm called Naos (about 80 km west of Windhoek). The Governor of the Khomas Region, and UN-HABITAT were present at the occasion, which brought together farm workers, teachers and school children.

Representatives of the City of Windhoek, Ondangwa Town Council, Walvis Bay Municipality, and Swakopmund Municipality appeared on national television program called 'Talk of the Nation' to discuss urbanization in their local authorities.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Habitat Platform celebrated the day with a series of workshops in The Hague. The workshops dealt with every aspect of financing human settlements including participatory budgeting, micro-finance, and partnerships to help uplift the urban poor at home and abroad. The meetings drew experts from local administrations, housing corporations, advice bureaus and various non-governmental organizations and were open to the public.

Nigeria

The Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, supported by UN-HABITAT marked the day on 16 October on the same day that Nigeria celebrated Independence Day. High level government officials, stakeholders in the building environment, representatives of UN agencies and bi-lateral donor agencies assembled in Abuja for the event, which featured school arts competition, drama, exhibitions and national best practice awards to the top three states in Nigeria in urban management.

Radios in Lagos aired a series of local radio programmes on human settlements issues and the intractable problem of environmental sanitation

The Development Initiatives Network, an independent NGO held an educational programme at Aunty Ayo Girls' Senior Secondary School in Lagos. The event included a film presentation and panel discussions involving representatives of the municipal and State authorities, teachers and environmental activists. The aim was to encourage youths to think about the challenges of city living and to initiate and support activities that will bring about environmental improvements.

The Women Environmental Programme (WEP), an NGO in Abuja, organized a round table on *Mega Cities Planning – Any Hope for the Poor* on 3rd

October with representatives from UN-HABITAT and civil society organizations. The round table established a think which was tasked to write a position paper to be submitted to government.

The National Union of Tenants of Nigeria organized a series of events culminating with a glittering ceremony in Rivers State where four prizes were awarded for outstanding work in promoting sustainable human settlements in Nigeria.

The Global Grassroots Youth Forum hosted a habitat night in Cross River State involving State governors, the press and the general public. The events, which included a city walk, were broadcast live.

Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea, national television broadcast the World Habitat Day statement of UN-HABITAT's Executive Director.

Palestine

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing organized a televised round table to discuss the problems of occupied territories and possibilities and options to overcome these problems and work towards development and sustainability. UN-HABITAT published a fact sheet with contributions from all UN agencies in the territories on *The situation of Palestinian cities including East Jerusalem*. The messages of the UN Secretary-General and UN-HABITAT Executive Director were published in local newspapers.

The Philippines

A country wide information and advocacy campaign using the national print media network was organized. City information offices presented news articles and press statements to local media on progress made towards localizing the Millennium Development Goals and of UN-HABITAT's collaboration with them. Some 29 cities carried the WHD theme in the traditional flag raising ceremonies and the messages of the UN Secretary General and UN-HABITAT Executive Director were read by the city mayors.

The Home Development Fund (Pag-IBIG) of North Luzon conducted an essay writing competition and photography contest. Pag-IBIG won a Scroll of Honour in 2006.

Russian Federation

The second part of the Global Observance of World Habitat day was held in Kazan. (see page 11)

Serbia

In Serbia, the UN-HABITAT coordinated Settlement and Integration of Refugees Programme with its local partners planned month-long activities including drawing competitions for school children, architecture workshops and city walks all focused on the theme, *Cities – magnets of hope*. A conference on social housing in Serbia was organized and exhibitions and award ceremonies for winners of the various competitions were held.

Sierra Leone

The UN-HABITAT supported events included a symposium which discussed urbanization and the environment and explained the role of the agency in Sierra Leone and the significance of the World Urban Forum. Drama and press conference were also used to raise awareness of human settlements issues in the country.

Sri Lanka

The ministries of Housing Urban Development, and Education together with the Lions Club and private sector organizations spearheaded the celebrations. Discussions focused on the governance, the Millennium Development Goals, slums and government plans to launch the construction phase of the Slum Upgrading Facility Moratuwa project. Participants included donors, government other urban stakeholders and the community. A documentary, press releases, and nation wide art competitions and social awareness events were all used to publicize human settlements and the theme of the day.

South Africa

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality hosted the main local event. Students of Howard College of the University of KwaZulu organized a World Habitat Day awareness campaign including a short movie on slum dwellings and urbanisation in South Africa. They informed the general public on the aims, missions and visions of the day.

The Development Action Group (DAG)'s commemoration focused on women's rights. DAG organized a seminar and panel discussion where speakers shared their success stories and highlighted the obstacles that women face with regard to realising their housing rights in South Africa. The event sought to translate the hope that cities offer into real benefits.

Sweden

World Habitat Day, which coincided with the opening of the new Swedish Parliament after the September general elections, was

celebrated in Stockholm with a lecture by UN-HABITAT and a seminar on Sustainable Urban Development in the Swedish Parliament.

Tanzania

Two high-profile media-focused events aimed the public and at specifically targeted senior stakeholders were organized. A televised statement by the Minister for Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development was broadcast on several channels and a press conference held in the Ministry attended by the Minister, his Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, the Commissioner of Lands, the Director of Human Settlements Development and the Director General of the National Housing Corporation among others.

Foundation HELP, a community-based NGO in Tanzania, organized a number of events to commemorate in Musoma township. A 30 minute radio program to discuss shelter issues and governance was aired. Pupils took part in a drawing and essay competition on their vision for the municipality with a focus on town plans and the environment.

Ukraine

The Municipal Management Centre in Kyiv and the Civil Initiative Development Organization - OGI International – organized a conference under the theme *The UN to the Communities of Ukraine* to highlight the experience of cooperation between local authorities of Ukraine and civil society organizations with organizations of UN System in Ukraine and other international organizations. The conference discussed poverty eradication, local problems and development of sustainable human settlements in Ukraine.

United Kingdom

A week-end of events took place in London including a London Tenants' Federation organized conference under the theme *Tenants' Vision for Housing in London*, an open forum on Speculation, Housing, Land and Civil/Social Rights, organized by the London Social Forum, events on the *Day of Direct Action on Housing and Land rights in London*. On the spot open discussions, workshops and debates with speakers drawn from the academia, civil society, international development organizations and other interest groups were held..

USA

In New York, UN-HABITAT and the NGO Committee on Human Settlements hosted a roundtable and panel discussions with representatives from State,

local governments and civil society at the Dag Hammarskjold auditorium to discuss the theme of *Cities, Magnets of Hope*, migration and settlements. A representative from Battery Park City Authority in Lower Manhattan, presented a unique urban design, its pioneering "green" development and their vision of Battery Park City. Battery Park City is home to America's first green residential high-rise – the Solaire – and all development on its 92-acre downtown property must adhere to strict environmental guidelines to maximize energy efficiency and minimize water usage.

The George Washington Law School, Washington DC, USA, organized a national forum on the *Human Right to Housing*. The forum targeted homeless and housing rights activists, advocates, litigators and service providers to raise awareness of international right to housing and how it applies to the United States.

Vietnam

Localizing the Millennium Development Goals for Vietnamese Cities was the theme chosen by the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN) for their event and for the national conference attended by some 80 delegates representing local and national governments, civil society organizations, research institutions and donor agencies. The conference discussed and developed concrete urban development strategies and exchanged good practices to meet the MDGs in urban areas. Main issues debated included rapid urbanization in Vietnam, city strategic management, infrastructure financing, and local economic development.

Zambia

In Zambia, UN-HABITAT supported the celebrations organized by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, National Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Zambia Low-Cost Housing Development Fund and Lusaka City Council. The occasion was celebrated at a newly developed low cost housing estate in the city and was attended by members of the community and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Localising Agenda 21 programme as well as the public and private sector organizations in Lusaka. The media event advocated for achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets on access to water and sanitation and improving the lives of slum dwellers through speeches, drama performances and highlighting of good practices.



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City of Monterrey

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