



UN-HABITAT



Afghanistan
World Habitat Day 2004

Tree Planting in Kabul Municipality Garden: Signs of Friendship between Kabul Municipality and UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT rehabilitated a green park inside the Municipality compound in the north of Gulestan Sarai. The park was inaugurated by *His Excellency Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad*, Mayor of Kabul Municipality. Mr. Mr. Bahram, Deputy Mayor; Mr. Niazy, Director of Policy and Planning Unit of Kabul Municipality; Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, Chief Technical Advisor of UN-HABITAT in urban Afghanistan, dignitaries, and municipality staff were also in attendance.



Mayor Noorzad thanked UN-HABITAT for its assistance to Kabul Municipality over many years.

Mayor Noorzad and Mr. Lankatilleke planted two trees in the green park to represent the partnership and long standing cooperation between UN-HABITAT and Kabul Municipality.

At the end of this event, a vehicle procured under ongoing European Commission (EC) supported UN-HABITAT project was handed over to Kabul Municipality.



UN-HABITAT Support to Kabul Municipality with a New District Office Building for District 16 - Handing Over Ceremony

UN-HABITAT has been providing a range of support to all the key municipalities in Afghanistan in their effort to serve the growing urban population. Kabul Municipality has been a principal recipient of such support. In the past, UN-HABITAT reconstructed and rehabilitated a number of municipality premises and offices. Recently, the handing over ceremony of yet another district office Building for District 16 was completed on 4 October 2004 on the occasion of the World Habitat Day. The construction of this building started in January 2004 with a total cost of US\$35,860. Land for this office building was provided by the Kabul Municipality.

Background

Much of Kabul City has been destroyed in the prolonged conflict. With the internationally recognised government in place, refugees and those displaced by war have begun to return, putting pressure on the limited capacity of the Municipality to provide services. Kabul Municipality is divided into 17 districts but only 14 of them have a suitable building from which to work. In 2002-2003, UN-HABITAT rehabilitated Kabul Municipality main building as well as district office buildings with the funding support from DFID (UK) and the European Community. During mid 2003, Kabul Municipality requested UN-HABITAT for assistance in providing a district office building in the remaining districts. The building of District 17 was handed over on 17 August 2004; likewise the building for District 16 was handed over on 4 October 2004. These two buildings are the same design. In addition, the construction of a one-storey building for District 4 will commence in October 2004.

Handing over ceremony

On 4 October 2004, the district office building of District 16 was handed over by *His Excellency Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad*, Mayor of Kabul Municipality. Present in the ceremony were Mr. Bahram, Deputy Mayor of Kabul Municipality, dignitaries, municipal staff, and Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, UN-HABITAT Chief Technical Advisor in urban Afghanistan.

Speaking on this occasion, *Mayor Noorzad* expressed his deep appreciation to the international community and particularly UN-HABITAT, for the wide-ranging support they have been providing to the Municipality to date. He also thanked UN-HABITAT for its assistance to the Municipality to improve the urban services and administrative structure. *Mr. Mohammad Ali Niazi*, Director, Policy and Coordination, Department of Kabul Municipality rejoined Mr. Noorzad in thanking UN-HABITAT for the excellent support it has been providing in the reconstruction of urban Afghanistan.

New District Office Building Constructed by UN-HABITAT (District 16)



This two-storey building has a total of eight rooms, a large meeting hall and separate toilets for women and men on each floor. This building can accommodate 40 municipal staff.

Handing Over Ceremony on 17 August 2004 (District 17)



Ribbon cutting by His Excellency Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad, Mayor of Kabul



Opening speech was delivered by the Mayor of Kabul



Mayor Dr. Noorzad thanking Mr. Lankatilleke, Chief Technical Advisor of UN-HABITAT in urban Afghanistan



Under construction in early July
(District 17)



H.E. Mayor Dr. Noorzad hoisting the national flag