Introduction to Habitat Universities/HPUI, and a summary of the Global Meeting 2013
1. Introduction to Habitat Universities/
The Habitat Partner University
Initiative

2. Summary of the Global Meeting 2013
The Habitat Partner University Initiative (Habitat Universities) is UN-Habitat’s network for academia/research partners.
Habitat Universities works towards:
- Global awareness of the work of academia worldwide
- Connectivity with ongoing work of UN-Habitat
- Communication with other UN-Habitat agenda partners
Overall supporting stronger connectivity between current pressing urban issues, the outputs of universities and shifts towards sustainable cities.
To strengthen the role of universities as active city changers, Habitat Universities focus on strengthening:

a) Local quality of education

b) Global spread of knowledge

c) Anchoring of university work in real-life contexts

d) Application of research through active university-city collaborations
Individual members: 1200
Institutional members: 140

Higher formalized partnerships indicated in black.

Of varying level of partnerships:
- 14 Latin America and the Caribbean
- 52 Europe and Former Soviet Union States
- 27 Africa and Arab States
- 16 North America
- 31 Asia and Pacific
HPUI HUB: “A consortium of universities that agree to collaborate on the same thematic priority”

Initiated Hubs

- "Informal Urbanism" / University of Hannover, Germany
- "Urban Governance" / London Metropolitan University, UK
- "Food Security" / Newcastle University, UK
- "Climate Change" / Makerere University, Uganda
- "Urban Futures" / University of South Florida, USA

Proposed Hubs

- "Local Heritage" / University of Napoli Federico II, Italy
- "Gender" / Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, Argentina
- "Compact Cities" / KTH Stockholm University, Sweden
HABITAT UNIVERSITIES (HPUI)

INTRO | AIMS | PARTNERS | SETUP

Governance

HPUI Office
At UN-Habitat

HPUI Steering Committee
University representatives from all regions
Focus

HPUI HUBS: Consortia of academics, closely connected to UN-Habitat work and colleagues
Engagement and Dissemination

Website

Habitat 101

GURN

Education

Research
### Claudio Acioly/Head, Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat.

Architect and urban planner with more than 30 years of experience. 2008-2012 he was chief Housing Policy, UN-Habitat and coordinator of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme jointly implemented with the Office of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights. 1993-2008 he was senior housing and land policy expert with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS where he coordinated the master programme specializations on Land and Housing. He has worked extensively in more than 20 countries, is the author of books and articles dealing with housing, informal settlements and slum upgrading, urban densities and participatory urban management and has lectured extensively on these themes internationally.

### Asa Isacson/Habitat Partner University Initiative, UN-Habitat.

Asa Isacson has been with the Habitat Partner University Initiative since September 2010. Her interests lays in the potentials of combining technology with the built environment and governance. Her focus within HPUI is on how to support an active role by its members through information and communication technologies. She has designed the new HPUI website, which intends to connect the potential of its members, open up for a member-driven Initiative and provide tools for partner engagement on all levels. She is also the focal point for 15+ networks of UN-Habitat, developing cross-network linkages via the site.

### Fernando Cabrera/ Associate Human Settlements Officer, Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat.

Fernando joined UN-Habitat in 2012 and has been supporting the work of the Habitat Partner University Initiative since his arrival. Before joining Habitat Fernando worked for 2 years at the Maquila Solidarity Network a grass roots women’s and labour rights organization supporting garment workers in Mexico and Central America. Prior to this Fernando worked in Foreign Investment, Trade and Sustainable Development for the International Institute for Sustainable Development, based out of Geneva.

**CONTACT:** HPUI@unhabitat.org
1. Introduction to Habitat Universities/
The Habitat Partner University Initiative

2. Summary of the Global Meeting 2013
1. Introduced the HPUI Thematic Hubs and held working sessions to finalize their focus and outputs, linking the Hubs to on-going and planned work within the base of partner universities
2. Presented the HPUI Tools and discussed their support of and linkages to the Hubs.
3. Discussed the role and positioning of universities in relation to the post Millennium Development Goals and Habitat III
4. Produced documents and formulated next steps for moving forward
“A consortium of universities that agree to work on the same thematic priority under the principles of mutual collaboration, exchange and learning, producing outputs which strengthen the role of universities in forwarding sustainable urban development.”

- Active collaborations between UN-Habitat and academic consortia on specific themes, linking ongoing related work and connecting colleagues.

- Promoting a global academia updated to current urban realities, with a strong focus on translating work into direct impacts on the city level.
Structure of a Hub

Thematic Focus

Hub Coordinator

Hosting Partner University

Hub members

Africa and Arab States
Europe & former Soviet Union
Asia & Pacific
Latin America & the Caribbean
North America

Hub Coordinator: Management and contact point

Hub Committee: Regional University representatives
“Urban Futures”

Coordinator: Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy

Hosted by: University of South Florida

Contact: vairavk@usf.edu

Focus: New approaches to urban development and integrated resource management for emerging cities

Partners: USF (lead), NTNU (Norway), UPenn (USA), Georgia Tech (USA), Makerere (Uganda), Bahir Dar (Ethiopia), U.Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), 2ie (Burkina Faso)

Deliverables: Graduate Course Repository; Training Toolkit; Rapid Research & Evidence Reviews; Short Technical & Policy Briefs Series; UN-Habitat ‘Pairing Scheme’; UN-Habitat Research School (PG training for PhD’s) …all housed on the Habitat Universities website.
Focus: Enabling academics to make a useful contribution to practices and policies that improve the lives of those living in informal conditions.

Partners: Centre for African Cities; Ardhi University; Kwame Nkrumah University; Cairo University; Indian Institute of Public Administration; University of Queensland; Universidad del Rosario; EAFIT; University of West Indies; Harvard Graduate School of Design; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Leibniz University Hannover; Technical University Munich.

Deliverables: Conferences; Conference Reports; Working Sessions; Doctoral Student Collaborative; Knowledge Sharing and Publication; Presentation of Informal Urbanism hub at WUF7.
“Urban Governance”

Coordinator: Lara Kinneir

Hosted by: London Metropolitan University

Contact: lara.kinneir@londonmet.ac.uk

Focus: To document, analyse and promote effective governance models, processes and tools to deliver sustainable urban development in line with current global trends.

Partners: London Metropolitan University; Universidad de Santiago de Chile; Cairo University; University of Technology, Jamaica; University of Johannesburg; Indian Institute of Public Administration; University of Madras; Moscow Graduate School of Urban Studies and Planning; Harvard Graduate School of Design

Deliverables: Online resource of case studies and promising practices; research reports; Presentations at WUF7 2014/Habitat3 2016
Focus: To contribute to the identified knowledge, research-policy and practice gaps in climate change and urban disaster risk reduction.

Partners: Makerere University; NTNU; Ardhi University; University of Cape Town; Addis Ababa University; CLUVA; University of Geneva; Université Pierre et Marie Curie; Georgia Institute of Technology; University of Twente; Kwame Nkurumah University; University of West Indies; University of the Philippines; University of Moratuwa; University of Queensland

Deliverables: Research Reports; Published papers; Policy Briefs; Application Tools; Research Conferences/Workshops; Training Modules; Curricula; Training Events; Faculty Exchanges
“Food Security”

Coordinator: Suzanne Speak

Hosted by: Newcastle University

Contact: s.e.speak@newcastle.ac.uk

Focus: Securing a healthy and sustainable food supply through planning and urban agriculture.

Partners: Newcastle University, Global Urban Research Unit (UK); University of Pennsylvania, Penn Institute for Urban Research (USA); Chandigarh University (India); Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria); Ciudades Para La Vida (Peru); RUAF (Netherlands)

Deliverables: Policy advice papers (every three months); and Curriculum modules on urban agriculture.
HUBS

Proposed new Hubs

“Local Heritage”
“Local Heritage Conservation/Development of Port Cities”
Coordinator: Luigi Fusco Girard
Hosted by: University of Napoli Federico II
Contact: girard@unina.it

“Gender”
“Promising practices for effective dialogue and delivery of sustainable urban development with a gender perspective”
Coordinator: Ana Falu
Hosted by: National University of Córdoba
Contact: anamariafalu@gmail.com

“Compact Cities”
“Investigating sustainable urban typologies, which exclude current standard solutions such as skyscrapers and which promote public space.”
Coordinator: Alexis Pontvik
Hosted by: KTH, Stockholm
Contact: pontvik@pontvik.se
Current Hub Coordinators

Urban Futures: Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy/ University of South Florida

Food Security: Veronica Obatolu representing Suzanne Speak/ Newcastle University

Climate Change: Shuaib Lwasa/ Makerere University

Informal Urbanism: Christian Werthmann/ University of Hannover

Urban Governance: Lara Kinneir/ London Metropolitan University
Points from the GM working group discussions, relating to Hub functioning:

Balance inter-Hub collaboration with concentration on specific theme.

Hub Coordinators to meet twice a year.

Steering Committee to oversee collaborations.

Use a collaborative database or platform: Habitat Universities website

Systematic reviews and generalizable conclusions.

Shared case studies across Hubs.

Integrated educational programs across Hubs: Via Habitat 101?

International and interdisciplinary cross-fertilization.

“Partners of choice” for UN-Habitat branches/focus areas.

UN-Habitat leverage with governments and corporations.

Securing/sharing funding for administration of Hubs.

Legitimacy requires mutual value added.
The webpage of the Habitat Partner University Initiative aims to provide its partners with the tools for directly contributing to the work of each other and of UN-Habitat, both as institutions and individuals.

The site is constructed based on institutional and individual profiles, where partners can share their work, discuss collaborations and get an overview of both the members and materials of the Habitat Partner University Initiative.
The Habitat Partner University Initiative aims at promoting sustainable urbanization through cooperation between UN-HABITAT and institutions of higher education, facilitating exchange and cooperation among universities and cities in developing and developed nations, and bridge the gap between academia and practice.

Read more >>
Overview of individual partners:
for easy searches for competencies
Overview of institutional partners: To find out what work is being done in different regions within specific areas of interest.
Libraries: theses, articles, UN-Habitat publications, reports etc. For an easy overview and sharing of produced knowledge at the partner universities as well as UN-Habitat.
Profiles: For finding information of and material by specific individuals/institutions.
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HABITAT 101

A travelling international online course/lecture series, hosted by the partner universities.

- Offering the students of partner universities an opportunity to learn about UN-Habitat’s current work
- Offering the partner universities an outlet for sharing their work in a global lecture format
- Introducing institutions and individuals to potential collaboration opportunities
- Global sharing of cutting edge thinking on urbanization issues, related to UN-Habitat priorities
- A collaborative lecture series (UN-Habitat/HPUI/Universities) hosted by different partner institutions and their associated lecturers.

- Lectures following a consistent format: *All below posted online*.
  1. Written introduction to topic by UN-Habitat staff member
  2. Video recording of lecture on topic, by lecturer at partner university
  3. Online discussion thread open to global input
The Habitat Partner University Initiative aims at promoting sustainable urbanization through cooperation between UN-HABITAT and institutions of higher education, facilitating exchange and cooperation among universities and cities in developing and developed nations, bridging the gap between academia and practice.

Read more >>
You can find specific Libraries by selecting from the relevant filters to the left. The list below is also sortable according to the headings below.

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<tr>
<td>Future shock - Infrastructure</td>
<td>Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, Claudio Acioly</td>
<td>Hub - Urban Futures</td>
<td>University of South Florida, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University</td>
<td>Habitat 101</td>
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<td>Public space as the face of urban governance</td>
<td>David Matthews, Joe Hooper</td>
<td>Hub - Urban Governance</td>
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<td>Existing examples of urban agriculture in Nairobi</td>
<td>Laura Awour, Douglas Ragan</td>
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HABITAT 101: Future Shock - Infrastructure

Hosted by University of South Florida - Patel College of Global Sustainability
In collaboration with Hub - Urban Futures
LECTURE - Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy

INTRODUCTION BY UN-HABITAT - Claudio Acioly
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COMMENT

ADD LINK FROM MY LIBRARY

Authors
Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy
USF, PCGS
Claudio Acioly
UN-Habitat

Links in this conversation
(List of links entered through "add link from my library" function)

Network affiliations
Habitat Partner University Initiative

Group affiliations
Hub - Urban Futures
Habitat 101

Partner affiliations
University of South Florida
Mistra Urban Futures
Chalmers University

Region
Global

Country
-
Global Urban Research Network

The Global Urban Research Network intends to:

- Be a consolidation of international networks of urban research institutions complementing other activities of UN-Habitat’s partner universities.

- Involve alliances between policy-oriented global institutions such as UN-Habitat, expert groups, research centers, and universities.
The concept of an Urban Research Network needs to be further revised in order to see how it best is to fit the needs of the partner universities and strengthen the research component of the Hubs.

A potential is to use the GURN to connect the “Research” legs of the thematic Hubs.
Yamina Djacta
Director
New York Office, UN-HABITAT

“Positioning of universities in relation to post MDG’s and Habitat III”
Habitat III process:

**National Level**
National Habitat Committees
National Reports

**Regional Level**
Regional meetings (AMCHUD, APMCHUD, MINURVI, regional commissions, etc.)
Regional Reports

**Global level**
World Urban Forum / World Urban Campaign
Three Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepComs)
Third UN Conference on Housing and Urban Development (2016)
Engaging universities

- Ensure that universities are members of the National Habitat Committees of their countries, in order to provide intellectual guidance to the preparation of national reports;

- Participate in Habitat III discussions to be held within the context of the World Urban Forum and Campaign;

- Participate in regional and PrepCom meetings, as well as in Habitat III Conference in their role as Habitat Agenda partners;

- Contribute to their countries' inputs to the Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs processes so as to ensure that sustainable urbanization is included in those inputs;

- Contribute to the design of a new urban model (International Student Design Competition);

- Participate in activities and meetings on Habitat III to be organized independently by Habitat Agenda partners;

- Organize their own meetings and provide their own separate inputs as universities to both regional meetings and Habitat III PrepCom meetings;
- **Tampa Declaration**: The positioning of universities in relation to post MDG’s and Habitat III
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Securing resources in creative ways, including sharing funds from high profile hubs
- Becoming relevant to day-to-day development activities, moving innovatively from research to practice with network connections with work. (move from supply-driven to demand driven activity) (engaging stakeholder to build relevance) (training professionals and practitioners)
- Mechanism to integrate across hubs, for example using the Education mechanism of Habitat 101 to directly connect to ongoing courses at partner universities and disseminate specific Hub outputs to bachelor and master students.
- Efficiently integrating the different work modalities of hub members from different countries.
- Incentives for partners: cui bono? And recognition of effort/performance
- Sustaining the enthusiasm, commitment, energy of hub partners over time, recognizing that member faculty have large university commitments. (momentum and recognition of value)
STRATEGIES FOR MOVING FORWARD

- Steering committee business plan for securing funding in cooperation with UN Habitat. Hubs take advantage of local or regional funding networks and opportunities.
- Hub coordinators get more formal role in coordination as members of Steering Committee.
- Gain visibility at international policy platforms.
- Integrate hub activity with mainstream UN Habitat activities.
- Launching the website: registering profiles for individuals, institutions and Hubs.
- Initiate collaboration online, building overview of partners and outputs.
- UN-Habitat to send out invite for registration once internal testing is complete.
- “Get on with it” i.e. the two year plans defined by the working groups.
- Partner Universities to engage with national representatives as per the Tampa Declaration.
- UN-Habitat coordinate next Global Meeting among HPUI partners and stakeholders.
- **Online registration and engagement**: HPUI Office to send out invitation once internal testing of the new website is complete.

- **Engaging with national representatives** as active members in the preparations for Habitat III: see the Tampa Declaration.

- **Hub initial activities**:
  - Developing UN-Habitat connectivity via named focal points within the agency.
  - HPUI Office promoting Hubs by sending out call for participation.
  - Hub Coordinators to initiate 2-year work plans.
  - All Hub Letters of Commitment to be signed by Coordinators and members of core Hub Committee, to be sent to the HPUI Office (HPUI@unhabitat.org).
OUTPUTS FROM THE MEETING

- Final **Concept notes** and work plans for:
  - *Urban Futures Hub*
  - *Climate Change Hub*
  - *Urban Governance Hub*
  - *Food Security Hub*
  - *Informal Urbanism Hub*

- **Tampa Declaration**: The positioning of universities in relation to post MDG’s and Habitat III

- UN-Habitat HPUI Global Meeting 2013 **Report**

Find all the above on [www.unhabitat.org/HPUI](http://www.unhabitat.org/HPUI)
How to become a member:

1. Fill out the one page Expression of Interest template (find this on www.unhabitat.org/HPUI under “becoming a member”)

2. Have it signed by the highest possible level at the University (might be department or unit, etc)

3. Send to the HPUI Office: HPUI@unhabitat.org