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

- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 2006
Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

The Child-Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) sought to unite local governance institutions, local authorities, civil society, international agencies and stakeholders (children, adolescents, women, etc.) in forming strategic partnerships that defend the rights of children at the local level. A primary goal of the CFCI was to help municipalities implement child-centred programmes based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
UN-HABITAT appreciates the help it has continued to receive from Italy over the years, the latest of which is an 8.5 million US dollar allocation from the Italian Government for a social and housing integration programme for tens of thousands of war refugees and other vulnerable people in Serbia.

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

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

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

The celebration of World Habitat Day in Naples this year will further cement the growing relationship the agency has enjoyed with Italy over the years.
World Habitat Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight key human settlements issues. We would like to thank all our partners who in past years have organized awareness raising activities on the day and have described the celebrations that took place in 2005 around the world in this report.

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

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

1. Use mass media, particularly newspapers, radio and television, to draw attention to World Habitat Day celebrations. If possible, issue press releases, display posters, organize press conferences, and broadcast video and audio spots.

2. Draw attention to the problems and issues on this year’s theme, particularly the targets on slums and access to water and sanitation through press articles, radio and television documentaries and panel programmes with policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.

3. Organise public information campaigns, and use popular theatre to create awareness of the problems and issues.

4. Use the occasion to publicise, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in the lives of slum dwellers and the level of access to water and sanitation in your community.

5. Organize competitions to find solutions to human settlements and urban problems. Essay and painting competitions help create awareness and enhance education and schools and colleges.

6. Organise fund raising, recreational or entertainment activities like football matches, or concerts, and use the proceeds to upgrade and extend services for poor communities.

7. Encourage postal authorities to issue special World Habitat Day stamps.

8. Education authorities in collaboration with local and national authorities can encourage the introduction into the school curriculum of teaching programmes about Millennium Development Goals.

UN-HABITAT support
To support city and country-level activities, UN-HABITAT will compile an information kit including a poster, and a short video on the theme for use by any partner planning a World Habitat Day event. Information kits will be mailed to partners, Embassies and High Commissions, Inter-governmental Organizations, United Nations Information offices, UNDP country offices and other UN agencies.

Keep us informed
Please let us know if you wish to organize a local awareness-raising event by sending an e-mail to whd@unhabitat.org providing as many details as possible about the event. And once World Habitat Day is over, please report back to us with brief details of media coverage and photographs if possible. We will post these on the World Habitat Day page of our website and in the final report to all our partners. Thank you for your continued support.
## World Habitat Day
### Global Observances from 1986 to 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Chief guest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>The Millennium Development Goals and the City</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
<td>President Susilo Bambang Yudoyono*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Cities - Engines of Rural Development</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation for Cities</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>Mayor of Rio de Janeiro</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>City-to-City Cooperation</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>H.R.H. Prince Philippe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Cities without Slums</td>
<td>Fukuoka</td>
<td>Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Women in Urban Governance</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land and Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Cities for All</td>
<td>Dalian</td>
<td>Minister of Construction, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Safer Cities</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Director General Dubai Municipality UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Future Cities</td>
<td>Bonn</td>
<td>Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Urbanization, Citizenship and Human Solidarity</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Minister of the Interior, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Our Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Curitiba</td>
<td>Mayor of Curitiba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Home and the Family</td>
<td>Dakar</td>
<td>President of Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Women and Shelter Development</td>
<td>UN, New York</td>
<td>SG, UN</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Shelter and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>UN, New York</td>
<td>SG, UN</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Shelter and the Living Environment</td>
<td>Hiroshima</td>
<td>Mayor of Hiroshima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Shelter and Urbanization</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Hon. Sir Geoffrey ***</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Shelter, Health and the Family</td>
<td>Jakarta</td>
<td>President of Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Shelter and Community</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Archbishop of Canterbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Shelter for the Homeless</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>SG, UN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Shelter is my Right</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>USG, UNCHS (Habitat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award-Winners 1989 to 2005

2005
Ms. Rose Molokoane, South Africa
The Municipal People’s Government of Yantai, China
The Municipal Basic Information Research (MUNIC), Brazil
The Municipality of Kazan City, Russia
Sarvodaya Shramandana Movement, Sri Lanka’s largest NGO
Professor Johan Silas, Indonesia
Jakarta Metropolitan City, Indonesia
Tengku Rizal Nurdin North Sumatra Governor (posthumous)

2004
Xiamen Municipal People’s Government, China
Centre for Development Communication (CDC), India
President Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique
The Big Issue magazine, United Kingdom
Prime Minister Rafic Hariri (Special Citation), Lebanon

2003
Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Canada
Weihai Municipal Government, China
Mr. German Garcia Duran, Colombia
Ms. Nasreen Mustafa Sideek, Iraq
Parnoja Trust, Kenya
Mrs. Sankie D. Mthembi-Mahanye, South Africa
Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative, Council (WASH), Switzerland
Ms. Zena Daysh, Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), UK
Ms. Teolinda Bolivar, Venezuela
His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand

2002
C2C between Nakuru, Kenya and Leuven, Belgium
Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration (IBAM), Brazil
Baotou Municipal Government, China
CITYNET based in Yokohama, Japan
Dutch Habitat Platform, The Netherlands
Mayor Joan Clos, Spain

ENDA Tiers Monde, Dakar, Senegal
Ren Frank, USA
John Hodges (Special Citation), United Kingdom

2001
Hangzhou Municipal Government, China
Ms. Pastora Nuez Gonzalez, Cuba
Bremer Beginenhof Modell, Germany
Fukuoka City, Japan
Father Pedro Opeka, Madagascar
Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction, Switzerland
Television Trust for The Environment (Tve), UK
Asiaweek Magazine, Hong Kong
Chairperson and The Cooperating Committee for Japan Habitat Fukuoka Office (Special Citation), Japan

2000
Ms. Ana Vasilache, Romania
Ms. Caroline Pezzullo, United States
Mrs. Jacqueline da Costa, Jamaica
Women and Peace Network, Costa Rica
Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, The Philippines
International Union of Local Authorities, based in The Netherlands
Ms. Sheela Patel, India
Mr. Charles Keenja, Tanzania
Ms. Mmatshilo Motsei, South Africa

1999
Ms. Habiba Eid, Egypt
Mr. Bo Xilai Mayor of Dalian, China
National Slum Dwellers Federation, India
Mr. Alvaro Villota Berna, Colombia
President Rudolf Schuster, Slovak Republic
Mr. Pierre Laconte, Belgium
Mr. Millard Fuller, USA
Hon. Kwamena Ahwoi, Ghana
Operation Firimbi, Kenya

1998
Programa de Mobilizaco de Comunidades, Brazil
Fu-Nan River Comprehensive Revitalization Project Chendu, China
Mayor Mu Suixin, Mayor of Shenyang, China
Forum Européene pour la Sécurité Urbaine, France
1997
Sen. Oscar LopezVelarde Vega, Mexico
Mother Center Stuttgart, Germany
South African Homeless Peoples Federation, South Africa
Mayor Huang Ziqiang, China
Reinhard Goethert and Nabeel Hamdi, United States, Britain
Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada
Mr. Peter Elderfield (Special Citation), United Kingdom
Mr. Radinal Moochtar, Minister of Public Works (Special Citation), Indonesia

1996
Hou Jie, Minister of Construction (Special Citation), China
Peter Kimm (Special Citation), United States
Mohamed Hashi, Mayor of Hargeisa, Somalia
The late Sidhijai Tanphiphat, Thailand
Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Zambia
The SISCAT Group, Bolivia
Jnos SZAB, Budapest

1995
Comunidades Programme State Government of Cear, Brazil
Foundation in Support of Local Democracy, Poland
Urban Community Development Office, Thailand
Mr. Gangadhar Rao Dattatri, India
Projet de Taza, Agence Nationale de lutte contre Habitat Insalubre (ANHI), Morocco
La cooporative des veuves de Save Duhozanye, Rwanda
Shanghai Municipal Housing Project, China
Mr. Joe Slovo (deceased), South Africa

1994
Mr. Qassim Sultan, United Arab Emirates
Bank Tabungan Negara (State Housing Bank of Indonesia), Indonesia
Programme d'Habitat Cooperatif, Senegal
Mr. Jorge E. Hardoy (deceased), Argentina
Housing Development Administration, Turkey

1993
Cités Unies Dveloppement, France
Build Together Programme Namibia
Mr. Anthony Williams Bullard, United Kingdom

1992
Intermediate Technology Development Group, United Kingdom
Shenzhen Housing Bureau, China
Habitat International Coalition, Mexico
East Wahdat Upgrading Project, Jordan
Earthquake Emergency Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme, Nepal
Rural Housing Reconstruction with Appropriate Technologies, Ecuador
Namuwongo Upgrading and Low-Cost Housing, Uganda
New Urban Communities in Egypt, Egypt
World Relief El Salvador Housing Reconstruction Project, El Salvador
Woodless Construction Project, Niger
Mr. Laurie Baker, India
Mr. Yona Friedman, United States
Mayor Jaime Lerner Curitiba, Brazil
Mr. Rozanov Evgueni Grigorievich, Russian Federation
Mr. John F.C. Turner, United Kingdom

1991
Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements, Costa Rica
Urban Development Authority, Singapore
Cooperative Housing Foundation, United States
National Housing Development Authority, Sri Lanka
Housing and Urban Development Cooperation, India
Housing Development Finance Corporation, India
Sengki Land-sharing Project, Thailand
Projet Assistance IECOSAT, Burundí
Institute for Building Materials, Viet Nam
Hon. Tamako Nakanishi, Japan
11 Arch. Leandro Quintana Uranga, Venezuela

1990
Lord Scarman, United Kingdom
Tangshan Municipal Government, China
Construyamos, Colombia
Craterre, France
Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority, United Republic of Tanzania
Human Settlement Foundation, Thailand
31 - 03American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Chicago, ILL. United States

1989
Mr. Otto Koenigsberger, United Kingdom
Mr. Hassan Fathy, Egypt
Mr. Lauchlin Currie, United States
Habitat for Humanity International, United States
The Millenium development Goals and the City

Report on World Habitat Day 2005
Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2005, Jakarta, Indonesia

The global observance of World Habitat Day in 2005 was celebrated by more than 1,000 people from Indonesia and abroad at a low cost rental apartment complex in the Chenkareng district of West Jakarta. The theme was Millennium Development Goals and the City. The event was inaugurated by Indonesia’s Vice-President, Mr. Jusuf Kalla. Jakarta with over 10 million people has a high population density, averaging 14,000 people per square kilometre and rising to 30,000 in some areas. The city is also blighted by traffic congestion, poor sanitation, and water and air pollution. Governor Sutiyoso outlined the municipal plans to improve Jakarta, including providing almost 12,000 housing units to meet the housing needs of low and middle-income households. He welcomed the support of UN-HABITAT to help build an environmentally friendly city.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Translating the MDGs into reality in a practical and workable way is the real development challenge”
- Jockin Arputham,
Founder of the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India.
The theme of World Habitat Day 2005, The Millennium Development Goals and the City, highlights the importance of managing rapid urbanization and reducing urban poverty. Recent research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people, or two-thirds of humanity, will be living in towns and cities. If present trends continue, more than half of these people could be living in slums.

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

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

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

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

We need to give the millions of slum dwellers who are suffering from the slow-motion tsunami of rapid urbanization the same chance. On World Habitat Day, I call on the international community and all cities around the world to increase their efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular to the target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
World Habitat Day 2006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The quest for funding urban poverty reduction is also highlighted in our new Global Report on Human Settlements 2005 on Financing Urban Shelter. The report analyses the impact of
current shelter financing systems on low-income households. By identifying the financing mechanisms that work for the poor, this report will help governments at the central and local levels, as well as nongovernmental and international organizations reduce urban poverty.

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

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

As we come together like never before for the tsunami victims, so must we join hands and forces in making urban poverty history. We have to confront the “soft tsunamis” of our world, such as HIV/AIDS, hunger and waterborne diseases that kill thousands of victims. We must keep the Millennium promise and give all our support to the new global partnership for development – the eighth goal – between rich and poor countries.
Ms. Rose Molokoane, a South African veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, is cited “for her tireless struggle to bring land and homes to the poor”. One of the most internationally recognized grassroots activists involved in land tenure and housing issues, Ms. Molokoane is one of two national chairpersons of the South African Homeless People’s Federation. The federation has helped more than 150,000 squatters, the vast majority women, pool their savings. In recent years it has helped build over 15,000 new homes, secured more than 1,000 hectares of government land for development, and built many community centres.

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

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

The Municipality of Kazan City on the Volga River deep in the Russian heartland, is awarded “for providing new housing and infrastructure for its poorest residents” during a post-Soviet Slum Liquidation Programme started in 1996 and completed in 2004. The city, which this year celebrated its 1,000th birthday, has a population of 1.1 million people. Financed largely by funds derived from oil sales, corporate and property taxes, investments and credits, new homes, roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure has transformed the once dilapidated downtown area.
Sri Lanka’s largest Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), the Sarvodaya Shramandana Movement founded in 1958, is awarded “for the immediate rescue and rehabilitation of those worst affected by the tsunami.” With a well-established network created to improve human settlements nationwide, it was able to intervene effectively. Within hours of the disaster, it opened a national operations centre that provided half a million dollars worth of humanitarian aid in the first three months. The movement is now focusing on the longer-term rehabilitation requirements. A major part of its work for the past 20 years has been devoted to building peace in the country’s civil war through its Peace Secretariat.

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

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

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

Afghanistan
The World Habitat Day ceremony in the capital, Kabul, was cancelled because of a terrorist bombing attack just days prior to the occasion. Nevertheless, the staff of UN-HABITAT in Afghanistan volunteered to commemorate by doing manual labour with local people in the slums of Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Farah, Kandahar, Bamyan, Herat, Parwan, Panjshir and Kapisa. The initiative that was hailed by community members, mayors, and governors.

In Farah, staff visited a neighbourhood water supply project funded jointly by the local municipality and UN-HABITAT. The objective of the project is to supply potable water to 1,000 internally displaced families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brazil
The Caixa Economica Federal in cooperation with the Ministry of Cities and the Ministry of
Social Development linked its 2005/2006 Caixa Best Practices in Local Management Award to this year’s World Habitat Day celebration.

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

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

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

Canada
In Vancouver, host city of the third session of UN-HABITAT’s World Urban Forum in June 2006, young people arranged special World Urban Cafés by Internet link-up to mark World Habitat Day. The idea was to give youth a forum to discuss ways of bringing ideas into action. Using the Internet, they engaged international, national and the regional youth in urban sustainability dialogue and strategy development concurrent with the World Urban Forum 2006. The Vancouver Working Group explored the ways in which youth are directly involved and affected by each Millennium Development Goal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Egypt**

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

**Eritrea**

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

**Ethiopia**

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Action-Professionals’ Association for the People APAP broadcast a World Habitat Day programme carrying the statements of UN Secretary General Kofi Anna, the Executive Director, Mrs. Tibajjuka, and an interview with APAP’s Executive Director, Mr. Ato Debebe Gebriel. This was followed by a panel discussion with Mr. Ato Kebede Abebe, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Dr. Solomon Mulugeta, of Addis Ababa University and Mr. Gebriel of APAP. They focused on the Millennium Development Goals and housing, international and national human rights instruments on the right to housing, and its effect on the expansion of slums. APAP is a local human rights NGO established in 1993 to disseminate legal and human rights knowledge among the Ethiopian public, as well as lower level judiciary and law enforcement agencies. It also used the occasion to hand out leaflets in Addis Ababa on the right to housing.

**Fiji**

The Fiji Local Government Association held a two-day convention in the town of Ba. The Convention was opened by the Minister of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment. The messages of the TIN Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT were read out. The convention on innovative local government covered decentralization, squatter settlements and pen-urban upgrading, municipal finance, good governance and other urbanization issues. It was also an occasion to gain support for the Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign. The event was attended by government and municipal officials, NGOs and local urban experts and observers. The Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign and the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International Secretariat (FSPI) and FemLINK Pacific, held a nationwide radio show on how the Millennium Development Goals apply to women, women in local government, why women should vote, and pro-poor participatory budgeting. The Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Squatter Settlements and Environment and the Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign published articles in the Fiji Times on Monday 10 October. The Fiji Good Local Governance Campaign screened awareness raising movies on the Millennium Development Goals the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji International School.

**Ghana**

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

**Haiti**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kenya

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lesotho

The Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with Maseru City Council and other stakeholders celebrated World Habitat Day with a series of seminars, speeches by senior leaders, and a city clean-up campaign. The Minister of Local Government officially inaugurated the newly paved road system serving Maseru East.

The Water and Sewerage Authority sensitized the public on the importance of access to adequate, safe and clean drinking water particularly those residing in the Maqalika Dam catchment area.

Liberia

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

Madagascar

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

Malaysia

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

Maldives

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

Mexico

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

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

Mozambique

World Habitat Day 2005 was celebrated in Mozambique with several activities organizing by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Government and Local Authorities. The event was an occasion to reinforce an awareness raising campaign that is being held in Mozambique to mainstream the MDGs, and to discuss the implications of rapid slum growth in many cities.

Namibia

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

Nepal

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

The Netherlands

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

New Zealand

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

Nigeria

The Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (FMHUD), in collaboration with UN- HABITAT Programme Support Office in Nigeria, arranged a major national World Habitat Day celebration that included nationally broadcast speeches by senior officials and a panel discussion. Key messages were delivered by Dr Olusegun Mimiko, Minister of Housing.
and Urban Development, the FMHUD Director of Urban and Regional Development, the UNDP Resident Representative, and keynote lecture by Ms. Aisha Ibrahim, Senior Adviser to the President on the MDGs. There was a play on the state of Nigerian cities, and an exhibition at which various groups dealing with human settlements in Nigeria showcased their activities, achievements and best practices in line with the theme of the celebration. The Government designed a special World Habitat Day poster carrying a message about the theme in the three major languages of the country, Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. In a follow-up, to the day’s events, the National Network Television Service devoted its Tuesday Life show to a panel discussion on the Millennium Development Goals and the City aimed at making the public more aware of urban management, good governance and urban poverty reduction. The panelists included the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the Habitat Programme Manager, an NGO representative, and a human settlements specialist.

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

In Abuja, the NGO ACT RIGHT II’4TERNATIONAL organized a rally and seminar to raise local awareness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sudan
The Minister of Environment and Physical Development gave a nationwide television address on the Millennium Development Goals and their application at the local level. Regional Physical Planning Department
Directors held seminars to discuss partnerships and empowering city managers.

**Switzerland**

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

**Tanzania**

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

**Thailand**

During the week of World Habitat Day 3-8 October UN-HABITAT launched its Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and Cities without Slums programme in Thailand. The first of these events was the celebration of the Baan Mankong Programme that was engaged in 200 under the auspices of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. In preparation of the official launch, model homes were built in Sanam Luang to show how the programme would bring new benefits.

**Uganda**

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

**Ukraine**

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

**United Kingdom**

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

**United States**

In New York, Habitat for Humanity International, the Earth Institute at Columbia University and UN-HABITAT, with generous support from the Rockefeller foundation, brought together UN diplomats and representatives from faith based and civil society organizations to take part in
voluntary activities with families at a New York City worksite in Harlem. There was a discussion on Building Urban Partnerships to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of The Earth Institute who is also Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

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

Yemen

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

Zambia

Zambia celebrated World Habitat Day with a march to a settlement where water infrastructure was recently installed for some 20,000 people who only recently were without access to clean water. Guests included the Minister of Local Government and Housing, the Mayor of Lusaka and the area councillor. They addressed the gathering on what central and local governments are doing towards the realization of MDGs.
“Our research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people - two-thirds of humanity - will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements slums of the developing world.”

- Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.