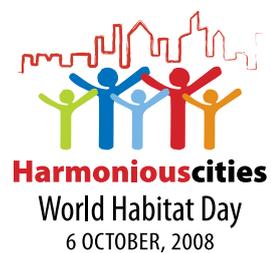




# World Habitat Day

6 October, 2008

**Harmoniouscities**





## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October each year as World Habitat Day. The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities 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.

The global observance of the occasion this year will be led from the Angolan capital, Luanda. The celebrations in Angola will show the world, how the country, after years of conflict, is progressing in the establishment of *harmonious cities* through urban development, poverty alleviation, improved land and housing rights, and providing access to basic urban services.

The United Nations chose the theme of *Harmonious Cities* for 2008 to raise awareness about the problems of rapid urbanization, its impact on the environment, the growth of slums, and the urbanisation of poverty as more and more people teem into towns and cities looking for a better life.

In many cities, wealth and poverty coexist in close proximity. A society, however, cannot claim to be harmonious if large sections of its population are deprived of basic needs while other sections live in opulence. This divide is often the seed that leads to social unrest or full-blown conflicts. This year, UN-HABITAT will focus on equal access to resources and opportunities as a means of achieving harmony in cities.

Today half of humanity lives in towns and cities, and in this new urban age, mega-cities therefore loom as giant potential flood and disaster traps. The United

Nations has calculated that one dollar invested in disaster reduction and adaptation to climate change today, can save up to seven dollars tomorrow in relief and rehabilitation costs. A harmonious city is a place that seeks to keep its pollution and environmental impact in check.

Cities are not just brick and mortar. Each city has a soul that is exhibited through its cultural heritage. A harmonious city needs to preserve its cultural identity. *Harmonious Cities* are inclusive cities where everyone and every culture is at home.

Indeed, such is the importance of all these aspects of *Harmonious Cities* that UN-HABITAT's main flagship report in 2008 and the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China from 3-7 November will also focus on *Harmonious Cities* to reinforce the World Habitat Day message

The Global Observance of this year's World Habitat Day in Luanda, underscores UN-HABITAT's long relationship with the Government of Angola. Our collaboration covers capacity-building programmes to rehabilitate basic infrastructure, such as government, health, and water and sanitation facilities, ruined by the war in Angola. In 2002, under a Secure Tenure in Post Conflict Societies Programme measures were developed to strengthen the role of local authorities in the management of the land and housing sectors, with special focus given to the poor and gender equality. This year's celebration in Luanda will help to further strengthen our relationship and our combined efforts to achieve harmonious towns and cities in Angola.

## RAISE AWARENESS IN YOUR CITY - ORGANIZE A WORLD HABITAT DAY EVENT 2008

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 2007 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 *Harmonious cities*.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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 2007

YEAR	THEMES	VENUE	CHIEF GUEST
2007	A City is a Just City	The Hague	Ms. Ella Vogelaar, Minister for Housing, Communities and Integration Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation
		Monterrey	Minister for Social Development, Ms. Beatriz Zavala Peniche
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 and President of the United Cities and Local Government Euro-Asia Regional Section
2005	The Millennium Development Goals and the City	Jakarta Yudoyono*	President Susilo Bambang
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 UA
1997	Future Cities	Bonn	Federal Minister for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development, Germany
1996	Urbanization, Citizenship	Budapest	Minister of the Interior, Hungary and Human Solidarity
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)

## HABITAT SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARD WINNERS 1989 TO 2008

### 2007

The Nanning Municipal People's Government of China  
 Dr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana, Cuba,  
 Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, The Netherlands  
 Lieutenant-General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), Pakistan  
 The Palestinian Housing Council  
 Russia, the Stavropol City Administration's project  
 The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme (MRHP) from Tanzania

### 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.  
 Federation Yaroslavl City Administration, Russia.  
 HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, Bahrain

### 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



*Yangzhou Municipal People's Government in China's Jiangsu Province is presented with the Habitat Scroll of Honour.*

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. Mthembi-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 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  
l'Habitat Insalubre (ANHI), Morocco  
La cooperative des veuves de Save Duhozanye,  
Rwanda  
Shanghai Municipal Housing Project, China  
Mr. Joe Slovo (deceased), South Africa





*Princess Zahra Aga Khan at the 2006 World Habitat Day celebrations in Kazan, Russia.*

### 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



## GLOBAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD HABITAT DAY 2007 IN THE HAGUE NETHERLAND

UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, on Monday joined members of the Dutch government and the Mayor of the Hague, Mr. Wim Deetman for the 2007 celebration of World Habitat Day.

"World Habitat Day is the most important date on our international calendar. It is our occasion to remind the world, our leaders and our citizens, that the first Monday every October is an occasion to be ever alert and vigilant to the great urban changes sweeping our planet," Mrs. Tibaijuka said in a keynote address an audience of several hundred people gathered in the ornate surroundings of the Knights' Hall in the heart of the city's historical centre.

Mrs. Tibaijuka was at pains to thank the Dutch government for strongly supporting for the agency over the years. In just one example, she cited Dutch financial support to the UN-HABITAT's Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme in East Africa.

"The subject that brings us here today is

something that touches us all. Crime and fear of crime is growing unacceptably fast at a time half of humanity is now living in towns and cities" Mrs. Tibaijuka said. "There is no doubt too, that today most crime and violence occurs in cities. And this is the reason, we decided to chose the theme, A safe city is a just city, to mark the occasion of World habitat Day this year."

South Africa's Minister of Housing, Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, who joined her at the podium said: "It is in moments like this that we gather to ask the awkward questions about our joint future. We have no doubt that by now; our future is an urban future. We know that for most of humankind, it will be the only future."

The Dutch government then engaged Mrs. Tibaijuka and Ms. Sisulu in a wide-ranging debate on urban problems and solutions with Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation, and Ms. Ella Vogelaar, the Minister for Housing, Communities and Integration.

The session was chaired by Jan Pronk, former

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Sudan and Minister in the Dutch Government. He started the debate by asking them the question: "Is the fact that we now have more people living in cities than ever before a problem – or an opportunity?"

Mr. Koenders immediately responded by citing the many opportunities, especially those that would help lift women out of urban poverty. Recalling a visit to Africa in recent days, he said growing urbanisation was also fraught with risks ranging from insecurity to tenure, to health problems, especially the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Mrs. Tibaijuka, speaking of what she called "premature urbanisation" in Africa, said most people were moving into towns and cities "because they expect life will be better". Until the end of white rule in South Africa, Ms. Sisulu said people had been forcibly kept out of the country's cities.

"A few years ago, 13 to be exact, my country attained democracy," Ms. Sisulu said. "We emerged from a situation that could not technically be termed a war, but whose impact was as devastating as a war situation. Within a period of five years of normality, the number of previously displaced people and previously deprived people requiring housing in the urban areas was greater than that affected by lack of shelter after World War II in Europe."

Ms. Vogelaar gave examples of how Dutch cities were seeking to be as inclusive as a possible – especially by helping new immigrants learn Dutch, get to grips with the ways of the country and find employment and housing opportunities.

The plenary session on Monday continued with a presentation of UN-HABITAT's latest biennial Global Report on Human Settlements by Dr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, a special discussion on the restitution of land and housing rights for returning refugees by Mr. Scott Leckie, Founder of the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, and a discussion on post-conflict reconstruction led by Mayor Deetman.

In keeping with a tradition dating back to 1989, Mrs. Tibaijuka presented the UN-HABITAT 2007



Scroll of Honour Awards in acknowledgement of seven initiatives from around the world which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post conflict reconstruction, and developing and improving the human settlements and the quality. The Scroll is the most prestigious human settlements award in the world.

Joining her to confer a separate set of awards was Ms. Diane Diacon, Director of the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom who presented the World Habitat Awards. Established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the foundation presents two £10,000 prizes annually on World Habitat Day for projects from the global north as well as the south that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems.

Both UN-HABITAT and the Foundation announced that their awards would be presented at the United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day in The Hague, the Netherlands on Monday 1st October and in Monterrey, Mexico on Friday 5th October. Experts on urban issues from around the world continued the debate on Tuesday as Mrs. Tibaijuka departed for Monterrey.



The Building and Social Housing Foundation awards this year went to the ZukunftsWerkStadt Leinefelde, in Germany. The Leinefelde-Worbis municipality in the former East Germany had effectively engaged with the challenges of depopulation, a failing economy and large numbers of empty and deteriorating housing stock through an innovative and integrated, participatory approach. "New job opportunities have been created, the urban infrastructure and living environment have been significantly upgraded, and over 2,500 apartments have been refurbished to high environmental standards," Ms. Diacon said.



The other award went to the Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects in Cuba. Ms. Diacon said, "This project has developed and transferred a range of innovative and environmentally sustainable building materials which can be manufactured locally in small workshops and which are suitable for both rural and urban areas". It had also created new job opportunities. An estimated 2,300 houses in the Villa Clara province, and over 5,000 nationwide, have been built or renovated using ecomaterials.

financial terms than gross overseas development aid or foreign direct investment. Thus, it is a question of striking a balance.

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.

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.

Some countries complain about the brain drain, but there is also the fact that the remittances immigrants send home could be far larger in

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.

## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD HABITAT DAY

We are at the dawn of a new urban era. Half of humanity now lives in towns and cities. It is estimated that by 2030, two-thirds of the world's people will be urban dwellers.

At this turning point in human history, surveys show that crime in urban areas is on the rise everywhere. And fear of crime is one of the most influential factors shaping our daily lives. In too many cities around the world, it dictates where we choose to live, shop, work and play. This is bad for human progress and for economic development -- especially in a world where for the first time the number of urban slum dwellers is set to top the one billion mark. In many countries, crime has divided cities into areas of decline on the one hand, where guns, rape, robbery, and violence prevail, and wealthier districts on the other hand, where residents can afford better protection.

In slums and poor urban districts, people lack security of tenure, utilities and health services, and are most at risk to disasters wrought by climate change. World Habitat Day 2007 is an occasion to encourage city leaders to plan better for crime reduction, security of tenure, and climate change mitigation. As the theme of this Day aptly tells us, "a safe city is a just city".

As we pass the halfway point for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, let us also use this occasion to examine how we can improve urban governance. Many forms of urban crime cut across local and national boundaries, calling for better cooperation



between all spheres of government and civil society. We must invest more in our children and young people, especially those at risk of becoming marginalized and turning to crime as an escape from the harsh realities of poverty and deprivation. Let us also step up efforts to be more energy-conscious. Our cities are our biggest polluters, and require big, innovative thinking commensurate with their size.

On this World Habitat Day, let us resolve to make cities around the world safer, greener, more inclusive and more secure places for everyone.

## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD HABITAT DAY

Urban crime and violence are today at the top of the agenda for those committed to sustainable urban development. Ask any woman: Crime is the number one worry, the biggest concern of all people in cities, particularly in the poorest neighbourhoods.

In the decade since UN-HABITAT started its Safer Cities Programme, we have noticed that cities around the world are demonstrating better leadership in the ways to address this scourge and bane of our daily lives. As a result, local governments are now taking up the challenge of urban safety and security.

We live in an unacceptably violent world. And this why we have chosen the theme, A safe city is a just city, to mark the occasion of World Habitat Day this year.

Indeed, as we reflect on these words, in every slum in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and in most cities around the world, someone is being stalked, a woman is being harassed, a gun is being pointed in someone's face, someone else assaulted, and many, many others murdered, and countless women are being raped. Homes are being burgled, vehicles hijacked. Not even children are spared. Why?

To an extent, we do know why: UN-HABITAT research tells us that today cities are now home to half of humankind. As we move irreversibly into the new urban era of our planet, it is projected that in another generation two thirds of humanity will be living in cities.

At the same time, an estimated 1 billion people are living in slums. Daily, their numbers are growing. More than half are under the age of 25, and 40 percent of them are under 19. These are the primary victims of poverty. Despite this potentially explosive situation, the problems of urban youth living in poverty are largely absent in urban policies and strategies.

These shocking facts and figures explain in



part why young people are so vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, early marriages, prostitution, drug abuse, crime, and AIDS. Deprivation leads to desperation, even terrorism. This is why we are investing in young people and consulting them.

Again, ask any woman: In countries around the world, social capital is lost because public areas in cities get taken over by gangs or are abandoned because of fear. Private guards and vigilante groups take over the protection of our lives and assets, while the State is often in a tactical retreat, unable to tackle the root causes of crime and disorder.

It is now accepted by most governments, at national and local level, that urban safety needs to be built locally, from street level up, incorporated into local and national planning.

It cannot be left to the police alone. Urban governance processes, and urban policies that target exclusion, social inequalities, as well as appropriate planning measures, are key to

success. Indeed community security requires a holistic and coordinated approach.

We have a new strategy based on efforts by UN-HABITAT to work closely with our partners. It is anchored in three pillars:

- Firstly, to develop capacity for local crime prevention strategies that are gender and age sensitive and which address root causes of crime in a holistic, inclusive way.
- Secondly, to build safer urban spaces, particularly in the public realm, as hubs of social development and safety.

- Thirdly, there is a need for more safety sensitive urban development initiatives in all sectors.

This agenda is compelling and urgent, and calls upon specific partners within the UN to embrace the urban challenge.

How urgent, might you wonder? Ask any woman.

## SCROLL OF HONOUR AWARD WINNERS 2007



From Pakistan, Lieutenant-General Nadeem Ahmed, Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), is personally awarded the 2007 UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour for demonstrating great leadership and compassion in face of calamity to help millions of people rebuild their homes and lives after the 2005 earthquake.

The Palestinian Housing Council (PHC) is awarded for exceptional endeavours in helping provide homes, apartments, employment prospects and bringing new hope to countless families





The Mwanza Rural Housing Programme (MRHP) from Tanzania is awarded for helping bring shelter, employment and healthier living and environmental conditions to hundreds of thousands of Tanzanian households.

Also making this list is the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies associated with the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in The Netherlands which is awarded for leading the way as a global centre of excellence and knowledge through its high quality teaching programmes in housing, urban management and urban environmental management and planning.



From China, the Nanning Municipal People's Government is awarded for developing China's first Integrated City Emergency Response System to streamline under one roof all the city's police and fire emergencies, para-medical ambulance responses and traffic accident reporting systems, along with 30 other non-emergency public services that were previously managed by a variety of different administrative departments.

Dr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of the City of Havana, Cuba, is personally awarded the 2007 UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour for his many years of charismatic leadership and painstaking dedication to the restoration and conservation of the Historical Centre of Havana.



From Russia, the Stavropol City Administration's project, A safe city is a just city, is awarded for major gains in building an inclusive city – reducing crime and ethnic tensions while improving employment, health and economic prospects for all.

## CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

### AFRICA

#### **BENIN**

World Habitat Day in Benin was marked by a news conference with senior officials, a morning parade and a special debate on rising crime.

#### **BURKINA FASO**

The Ministry for Habitat and Urban Development held a week of special activities to mark the World Habitat Day. These included international symposium urban policies in the capital Ouagadougou.

#### **CAMEROON**

A coalition of local non-government organizations marked World Habitat Day with various events in the capital Yaounde, among them a special workshop on urban safety, and an awareness campaign. The Yaounde-based urban safety NGO, COMIHAS, held a three-day event marked by a health and safety seminary, a football match between the Bastos and Nsimeyong youth teams, and a street march from Ministry of Urban Development to the ceremonial grounds where the public were able to hear about urban safety and justice.

#### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

The Kinshasa based Association Pour les Biens Êtres Communautaires organized activities in the capital as well as in Goma town, in the east of the country. The event was marked by tree planting in Matadi Kibala, Mandela and Livulu areas of the capital. Trees were also planted in the Virunga area of Goma which was devastated when all its trees were ripped down for firewood by Rwandan refugees and much of the area later destroyed in a volcanic eruption. The Organisation de jeunes pour la promotion des initiatives communautaires in Goma held a children's art competition depicting a safe city. They also staged a litter collection campaign to show young people the importance of keeping their cities clean.

#### **ERITREA**

World Habitat Day was marked by a public awareness campaign in the capital Asmara using banners hoisted across the main streets of the capital, posters and distribution of press releases and UN-HABITAT publications.

#### **ETHIOPIA**

World Habitat Day celebrations in Ethiopia involved eight days of activities. These included an exhibition, and an awareness campaign twice aired on national radio. There was also a TV advertising blitz, as well as the first ever Ethiopian City Award Programme in recognition of best performing cities in the country.

#### **GHANA**

Activities held to mark World Habitat Day in Ghana included newspaper features, television and radio talks, a football match for slum residents, a workshop, and a football match for slum residents. Slum Dwellers in Ashaiman held a special walk through the community.

#### **KENYA**

The Ebony Initiative Kenya organized a youth concert on Saturday, 29th September as a pre-World Habitat Day celebration at the Makongeni Sports Grounds in the capital, Nairobi. UN-HABITAT, the Ministry of Housing as well as Thika Municipal Council joined hands in organizing the national celebrations of this year's World Habitat Day in Kenya. Activities involved a free medical camp for HIV testing and counseling, tree planting an exhibition and workshops. Other participants were the Kilimanjaro Initiative, Slum Upgrading Programme, Tegla Lorupe Peace Foundation, Shelter Forum and the Paul Tergat Foundation and the Kariobangi South Welfare and Slums Housing Cooperative Society, the Kenya Youth Political Caucus, a women's organization under the Quaker Friends Church in Shihome village in Western Kenya, the umbrella Kapsadwellers group of some 40 organizations, and the Zindua Afrika group.



## LESOTHO

World Habitat Day was marked by senior government officials with a range of activities. In a ceremony at the Manthabiseng Convention Centre, prizes were awarded for the best high and primary school essays on the World Habitat Day theme, as well as the media for creating awareness among the public. Also feted were various council wards, orphanages, non-government organizations (Durham Link), the Motimposo boys who help police with road safety, the Maqalika rescue services, law firms, and taxi queue marshals. The event included an exhibition by outstanding institutions demonstrating how they have contributed in making the capital, Maseru, a safe city.

## LIBERIA

World Habitat Day was celebrated by the National Habitat Committee in three cities where sports events were also held to engage young people.

## LIBYA

More than 200 people attended a special event in the capital Tripoli arranged by UN-HABITAT and the Urban Planning Agency. Opening statements were delivered by the agency chairman, Dr. Amed Al Muhktar Al-Tumi, and the secretary of the National Planning Council, Dr. Mahmoud Jebril. UN-HABITAT representatives outlined their work in the country.

## MALAWI

The Concerned Youth Organisation in Malawi held a public discussion, dances and other awareness activities in the commercial capital, Blantyre. They held a mail campaign in which they sent information to over 350 organizations in Malawi and abroad. World Habitat Day was also marked in the northern city of Mzuzu.

## MAURITIUS

The Ministry of Housing and Lands in Mauritius organized a five day awareness campaign on the theme 'A safe city is a just city' in the region of Plaine Verte in the capital, Port Louis.

## NAMIBIA

Mr. John Pandeni, Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development presided over a colourful World Habitat Day ceremony in which he encouraged people to work with the authorities in the fight against crime, disasters, forced evictions and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. A UN country representative presented certificates of the Dubai best practice award to the Shack Dwellers Federation of the town of Gobabis.

## NIGERIA

The Shelter Watch Initiative, an NGO based in the commercial capital, Lagos, gathered some 700 artisans for a five kilometer safety walk to visit the Executive Governor of the State of Lagos, Mr. Babatunde Fashola. In the capital, Abuja, the Women's Environmental Programme, staged a drama theatre for slum dwellers and policy makers in government to highlight the safety and justice theme of World Habitat Day 2007. The Abuja Chapter of Nigerian Environmental Society hosted a symposium in partnership with Abuja Environmental Protection to discuss safety problems in Nigerian cities and Abuja in particular. The Rural People's Encouragers Network of Rivers State in Nigeria held a four-day event to showcase a skill acquisition training workshop for unemployed rural people. They held an essay competition, and a free medical clinic as well. Others who marked the occasion in Nigeria included the Global Grassroots Youth Forum in Calabar, the capital city of Cross River State.

## SENEGAL

In Senegal, the women's group, Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Education Relative à l'Environnement organized a football competition, a cross country race, and a special workshop which drew officials from the ministries of urbanization and construction, home affairs, decentralization and local authorities, education, health, transport, environment and public works.

## TANZANIA

A group of students from the University of Dar-es-Salaam marked World Habitat Day with a seminary, the distribution of posters, and a press conference, as well as using artistic groups to raise awareness and encourage reflection on urban crime and violence, forced eviction and insecurity of tenure, as well as natural and human made disasters. The main World Habitat Day 2007 event in Tanzania was coordinated by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development. The Ministry involved a good number of representatives of stakeholders, the media as well as development partners.

## TOGO

The "Mouvement d'Organisation des Ruraux pour le Développement (MORD) held a series of public debates in the rural villages and counties of Grand-Kloto and Agou. The "travelling" debates, centered around this year's theme. The started 24 September in the villages of Kpalimé and Yoh in the Kloto district, and climaxed at grand public event in Agou-Kébo.

## UGANDA

Uganda's Foundation for Rural Housing celebrated this year's World Habitat Day by presenting a petition to parliament on matters of human settlements. The deputy speaker, Ms. Rebecca Kadaga, received the petition on behalf of the speaker and pledged to take up the matter.

## ZAMBIA

The National Habitat Forum, whose membership includes National Housing Authority, the Zambia Low Cost Housing Fund Trust, the People's Process on Housing, the Swedish Cooperative Centre, Lusaka City Council, the Food and Trees for Zambia and Lusaka Water and Sewerage

Department, organized a number of activities to mark World Habitat Day. The activities were held at Chaisa settlement in recognition of community initiatives to improve the human habitat. Events included a radio and television show, and a clean-up campaign.

## ZIMBABWE

The Department of Architecture at the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe organized students' architectural exhibitions in the cities of Bulawayo, the capital Harare and Mutare.

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### CAMBODIA

UN-Habitat in The Kingdom of Cambodia celebrated World Habitat Day 2007 with a range of successful media coverage and community-based events.

UN-Habitat in collaboration with UNDP's Equity Program broadcast a short program on national television station TVK, on the 7th and 8th of October 2007, addressing this year's theme. The program, entitled 'A Safe City is a Just City' featured interviews with various NGOs, UN-Habitat, National Government, the Governor of the Municipality of Phnom Penh and urban poor community members throughout Phnom Penh. The show successfully produced a concise representation of ideas and opinions surrounding the current context of urban poverty issues and housing rights.

### INDIA

The Department of Architecture of Sathyabama University, Chennai in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and the Indian Institute of Town Planners Association, Tamil Nadu Chapter (ITPI-TN) held a workshop at Sathyabama University on 10 October 2007 on the theme of A safe city is a just city. Students from various city colleges participated in the workshop which featured "on the spot competitions". The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Subash Chandira, Chairman of ITPI-TN, who highlighted the lack of local statistics on safe cities. Mr. Dattatri, a winner of the Habitat Scroll of Honor and trustee of SUSTAIN, a Chennai-based non-governmental organization that works for sustainable development of cities, also discussed the theme while Dr. Jepplar,



Chancellor of Sathyabama University made a special address on some rich countries' strategy of locating slums and pockets of poverty in well-defined spaces so that all development goals can be tackled together, economies of scale realized, and multiplier effects of single interventions achieved.

The Birla White Cement's competitions, held in 2006, also held their award ceremony at the function; eight students from Sathyabama University received prizes.

CARE India through its Sustained Nutrition, Education, Health and Livelihood (SNEHAL) Program and its Partner NGOs (Saath, Mjila Housing SEWA Trust and Ahmadabad Women's Action Group) opened an Urban Resource Centre, held an awareness rally on water, sanitation and disaster preparedness and a sensitization meeting for Community and local urban governance bodies to mark the occasion of World Habitat Day.

Hindustan College of Engineering, Chennai in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, Chennai Information Office and Citizens Alliance for Sustainable Living (SUSTAIN) organized an Interactive Workshop of students of Planning and Architecture on the theme "A Safe City is a Just City" on 3rd October 2007.

The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, an inter-Ministerial organisation under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, published a special issue of Building Materials News featuring a wide range of human settlements issues on the occasion of World Habitat Day.

Osmania Medical College Doctors' Forum - a body of doctors of the institute concerned with health and development heralded the celebration of the World Habitat Day with a news conference

on 28th September 2007 focusing on the theme of the year 'A safe City is a Just City'. There was also a painting competition for children and an interactive session on crime against women in the city of Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh province of India.

The City Managers' Association Orissa (CMAO) observed the World Habitat Day in Orissa, India. The main objective of the event was to make the City Managers - both elected and officials - understand the essence of World Habitat Day. The event was observed in association with the state government through the Housing & Urban Development Department. CMAO released a special edition of a newsletter focusing on Best Practices in Urban Sector and organized a discussion on the theme A safe city is a just city within the background of problems and best practices. The focus of the discussion was the identification of indicators for monitoring cities' overall performance. CMAO developed a background paper / literature and case studies for dissemination among members and media representatives. The participants included city managers, officers of the urban local bodies, senior government decision makers, citizens, politicians, NGOs, local urban experts etc.

Krityanand UNESCO Club, India organized a one day conference involving members of communities, students and media on the theme "Green city - for safe city is a just city." The event emphasised tree planting in urban areas so that the increasing of population in the city will enjoy the good effect of Green city and protection from environmental pollution.

The city of Ahmedabad hosted a series of activities arranged by Action Aid India. From July there were meetings with slum community leaders to discuss various problems they face. Throughout August and September, the poor

were able to express their opinions, and poster campaigns were held while a two-day rights awareness workshop was held in September on rights awareness.

The "Bhagidari Jan Sahyog Samiti" organized a State level Mega Event to mark this year's WHD. The activities included sports events bringing together community policing groups and a special interaction session on women issues. The Interaction Session and Exhibitions on Women issues included Prevention of Drugs and Crime and Sexual Harassment at workplace as well as Domestic Violence Act, Aids Control, Security of women and girls, Social justice etc. Some 3,000 representatives took part including girl students, teachers, Principals, Advocates, Law students, Community Workers, Social Activists of NGOS etc.

Two Indian NGOs, the Trust for Regeneration of Environment and Economy (TREE) in collaboration with Regional Science Centre (RSC) organized elocution, essay and sit & draw competitions for school children as part of the celebrations to mark this year's World Habitat Day.

## **JAPAN**

Series of activities were held to commemorate this year's WHD in Japan. Some of these activities included a symposium on this year's theme, a public forum as well as a drawing contest targeting children in grades 4 to 6.

Those collaborating in this event included the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, supported by Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Kitakyushu City, UN-HABITAT Cooperating Committee, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Fukuoka International Association, Fukuoka Asia Urban Research Center, UN Association of Japan Fukuoka Head Office and the Japan Habitat Association."

## **MALAYSIA**

Malaysia Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing (EAROPH Malaysia) together with Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG) held the WHD 2007 national ideas competition, a seminar and an exhibition on the theme of this year's event to raise awareness of the continuing issues and challenges facing the country in the areas of

human settlements.

The competition was open to all Malaysians and other residents in Malaysia and was divided into two categories- for the Public and for students of Institution of Higher Learning. The first category was open to all Malaysians and residents in Malaysia (including foreigners) as well as any individual, group or organization and anyone interested in the area of planning, human settlement and safe city including planners, architects, engineers, lawyers, residents associations, NGOs, civil servants, security personnel and any professionals or organisations.

## **NEPAL**

The World Habitat Day celebrations in Kathmandu featured a talk show on local FM station as well as on TV about the 2007 edition of World Habitat Day and housing issues with involvement of a senior government official, a civil society member and the public at large. There was also a publication of a special WHD Bulletin and an essay competition among the engineering graduates from the different engineering colleges around the Kathmandu Valley. The three best essays, entitled "A Safe City is a Just City", were published in a special bulletin and awarded a prize. About 10, 0000 badges branded with the slogan for this year "A Safe City is a Just City" were distributed at different road crossings of the Kathmandu Valley with the involvement of squatter communities.

## **PAKISTAN**

Good Habitat Association for Rehabilitation (GHAR) an NGO in Pakistan organized this year's WHD in Lahore. Held under this year's WHD theme 'A safe city is a just city', the meeting tackled various issues pertaining to habitat including Crime Prevention. Participants actively debated the issue of safety for women under the topic: "Safer Cities for Women are Safer for everyone"

The Ministry of Environment, which is the focal point for UN-HABITAT in Pakistan celebrated this year's World Habitat Day by organizing workshops both at the national level and other activities at the local level. The national workshop was held in collaboration with Habitat Steering Committee, which was recently revived.



### **SRI LANKA**

The WHD celebrations in Sri Lanka for 2007 were kicked off on 22nd June 2007 at a meeting under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Housing where the outline for the 2007 activities was agreed upon. Kandy City which is the second largest in the country was selected for the main event. The festivities will see an awareness creation among the urban communities and participation of school children as citizens of tomorrow in several activities such as essay competitions, poster competitions and debating contests organized.

### **SOUTH KOREA**

To mark this year's WHD, Citizens for Decent Housing (CiDeH) developed a wide international networking program with Asian Countries called Asian NGOs Network on Affordable Housing (ANAH). It hosted the Asian NGO Leaders' Academy program. Other groups taking part included CDEA-Laos, LUMANTI-Nepal, Habitat For Humanity-Indonesia, SLTD-Nepal, UPM-Malaysia, SSS-Japan, RMI-Indonesia, DAMPA-Philippines, HRTF-Cambodia.

The events were supported by Transportation & Construction Department, Korea National Housing Corporation, and Seoul City Government.

### **SURINAM**

A Surinamese NGO, Stitching Low Income Shelter Program marked this year's WHD by bringing together members of civil society,

private and public organizations for a National Housing Fair that ran between 30th September and 2nd October. The event was preceded by a huge publicity campaign in the national media.

### **THE PHILIPPINES**

An event to promote direct lending to home owners was launched at the UN offices at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. It was a function to formally announce the opening and promotion of the use of the housing finance facility allowing homeowners' associations (HOAs) to directly apply for housing and site improvement loans with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) under the ADB's Development of Poor Urban Communities Sector Project (DPUCSP). Main stakeholders were involved in the event namely: UN-HABITAT, Asian Development Bank (ADB), DBP, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), local government units (LGUs) and HOAs. The system is the first of its kind in the country and is a landmark in shelter financing in that it acknowledges the HOAs as capable partners in achieving the vision of "Cities without Slums." This is a shift in the lending paradigm with the formal sector lending to the informal sector.

In the same event, the Global Report on Human Settlements 2007: Enhancing Urban Safety and Security, was launched and the report turned over to the Philippine Government, represented by the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

In the afternoon of the same day, a protective fence was built along the Saging Creek in the North Rail relocation site in Northville 2, Barangay Bignay, and Valenzuela City.

The “Federación Internacional de Abogadas” (International Women’s Federation of Lawyers), a local NGO, used the regular block time it has on a local radio station to highlight this year’s WHD and encourage the listeners to take active part in the celebrations. The programme made monthly references to the WHD until it was held in October. The initial airing was on May 12, 2007, in partnership with Pag-IBIG Fund, one of the recipients of the Scroll of Honour Award for 2006. For at least once a month, the one-hour program over was hosted by Vilma Q. Flores of Pag-IBIG Fund.

## ARAB STATES

### IRAQ

The Iraqi Engineers Union (IEU) organized a local awareness - raising event on the first of October, 2007 to mark WHD. There was a workshop to reflect on the state of Iraqi cities and slums spreading both inside and around cities and the conditions of basic services. Held in a safe city within Iraq, the event brought together government officers, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, the media as well as citizens’ representatives will be invited to participate in the workshop. The occasion was also used to demonstrate how effective participation may improve the lives of slum dwellers and the level of access to water and sanitation in the community.

### ISRAEL

As part of this year’s WHD celebrations, the Environmental Justice Committee, within the frame of “Life and Environment” --umbrella organization of all Israeli environmental NGO’s-- , published the Environmental Injustice Report, to look at key issues of socio-environment, poor infrastructures, disadvantaged neighborhoods, with an emphasis in particular on mixed cities with Jewish and Arab population. There was also a lobbying occasion at a special session at the Knesset (The Israeli Parliament) with participation of the Minister of Environmental Defense and the minister of Housing.

## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

To mark this year’s World Habitat Day, “Emergency Architects Australia” in collaboration with the “Sydney Architecture Festival”, made a presentation of its work to open the Festival. Other presenters also dealt with humanitarian architectural efforts.

## EUROPE

### ITALY

On occasion of World Habitat Day 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) collaborated with UN-HABITAT for a seminar titled “Food secure cities and sustainable development” in Rome.

### MALTA

The Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers in Malta commemorated World Habitat Day and World Architecture Day with a series of events running from 1 October to 20 October. The events included the inauguration of an exhibition of Contemporary Maltese architecture, Children’s Workshop, guided tour to the Prehistoric Temples, an architectural students’ workshop. The events were crowned by Architecture Nights whose guests included the Presidents of the various Architectural Chambers and Associations for Western Europe and the UIA (Union Internationale des Architectes).

### PORTUGAL

In order to mark this year’s World Habitat Day, the Institute of Housing and Urban Renewal together with the State Secretary of Land Planning and Cities organized, within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU, an international conference dedicated to the Housing Social Policies: challenges of nowadays. The conference held in the Portuguese Parliament also saw presentations by EU Member States.

### POLAND

The WHD activities in Poland focused on three activities- the first of which was the issue of security in urban areas, which was held on 3rd October 2007 in Warsaw. The participants were mainly local authorities, experts and media as well as members of the public. A poster competition for students formed the second component of



the celebrations. The students had been invited to create a poster related to the principal theme of this year's WHD and official results as well as the presentation of awards was done at the above mentioned conference. Finally, there was a presentation on women's safety audit of selected areas in Warsaw. It was based on UN-Habitat and METRAC methodology and was held in August. Working on the audit, UN-Habitat cooperated closely with a Polish NGO ([www.fundacjamama.pl](http://www.fundacjamama.pl)) and the Municipality of Warsaw.

### **SERBIA**

UN-HABITAT Serbia together with its partners in central government, local governments, and civil society organized a wide range of events and activities to raise awareness and stimulate debate on this year's WHD theme of "A safe city is a just city".

The main focus of this year's celebrations in Serbia was urban safety, security of tenure, and issues relating to youth, other vulnerable groups and the communities in general.

Since 2004, UN-HABITAT has been implementing the Settlement and Integration of Refugees Programme in seven cities and municipalities in Serbia. The 15 million Euro Programme is financed by the Government of Italy and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia.

### **SWITZERLAND**

As part of this year's WHD celebrations, European researchers on urbanisation attended a seminar on 'New Deals in Urban Governance: Local-global Interfaces and Institutional Arrangements in Cities.' The event was organized by European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and hosted by Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) – Graduate Institute of International Studies and Development (HEID), Geneva, on 1-2 October in Geneva.

The seminar focused on two main areas of concern in urbanisation: (1) the impacts and politics of new institutional arrangements for land tenure, basic services, housing and mobility, and (2) new forms of citizenship, participation and democracy versus conflict and competition between different views on urban development.

The politics of institutional arrangements in urban governance have been a topic on which researchers have been working, in which a body of research is emerging based on case studies in a variety of countries in the global South and North. This makes it possible to draw out general propositions on the opportunities and limitations of such new institutional arrangements in transforming the quality of life for ordinary citizens in urban areas, the reduction of poverty, and the extension of participation and democratic citizenship.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### **BRAZIL**

This year's WHD celebrations in Brazil were marked with a round-table discussion to implement decisions involving population, municipal officers and local civil authorities especially about the solutions for Habitat for the Poor.

A cultural activity followed the debates, involving local artists such as musicians and performers."

### **CUBA**

World Habitat Day in Cuba was held in close collaboration with the Habitat National Committee. Under the theme "A safe city is a just city," a debate was held tackling issues like social policies and social justice; prevention of crime and urban security and security of tenure and housing improvement. The debate formed part of the main activity that also included the messages from Secretary General of the United Nations and from the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

### **GUATEMALA**

The Municipality of Guatemala City, marked the 2007 edition of World Habitat Day with the inauguration of a new public park called "Nuevo Parque de Ciudad Nueva," located in the north of the city. The park's historic and social importance is highlighted by the fact that it is located in the area of the first Guatemala City settlements and the socio-economic diversity of its current inhabitants. Its concept was based on the City's commitment to the reclamation and creation of public space areas as well as in the betterment of the living environment and promotion of social cohesion.

## NORTH AMERICA

### **CANADA**

Community safety volunteers in Thompson, Manitoba, held a series of community safety patrol of its members in the Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) to mark the occasion of World Habitat Day. Considered the "eyes and ears" of the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the volunteers are mandated to report to

the authorities without otherwise becoming involved in any way. Throughout the province of Manitoba, they have over 2,000 volunteers in close to 100 communities. They invited various organizations dealing with crime prevention and work with victims or offenders, to set up information displays on the evening of October 9th. The patrols had a special theme for each route like gang awareness and treasure hunts.

On October 1, 2007, the Province of Manitoba hosted a one-day forum in Winnipeg with the theme, "A Safe City is a Just City" in conjunction with other communities all over the world as part of the United Nations' World Habitat Day. Over 100 Winnipeggers came together to address issues of urban safety from a social justice and community development perspective. The full day forum included panel presentations by representatives of community organizations on their community-based approaches to neighbourhood safety; keynote speakers from the University of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba Department of Justice, and concluded with small group discussions to identify collective ongoing safety priorities.

### **USA**

Habitat for Humanity Coachella Valley celebrated World Habitat Day by holding the 26th groundbreaking ceremony for a partner family who are also victims of urban delinquency. The event was highlighted with a public information campaign on the growing urbanization of the Valley, along with the hazards and benefits that this growth has brought to cities and communities.

In the United States, Habitat for Humanity launched a high-profile public awareness campaign on poverty housing issues around the world. The launch was on October 1 in conjunction with World Habitat Day. The launch included a large interactive exhibit with photos and materials that highlights causes, effects and scale of poverty/substandard housing around the world. This exhibit brought the issue of shelter and housing to the mainstream media and the public. To hold it on World Habitat Day helped to elevate the day and the issue – perhaps with the long-term goal of reaching the widespread recognition achieved by World AIDS Day.



**UN-HABITAT**

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