



# Newsletter

February, 2013

HABITAT UNIVERSITIES



www.unhabitat.org/HPUI

## OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNSHIPS

The Capacity Development Unit of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, is looking for **two interns** interested in working with university collaborations and climate change. The interns would be supporting the Habitat Partner University Initiative and the Cities in Climate Change Initiative, providing insights into how UN-Habitat facilitates partner collaborations as well as gaining a global overview of case studies and UN publications regarding Climate Change.

Urban Economy Branch of UN-Habitat, Nairobi, is likewise looking for **two interns** who are interested in working on issues related to urban economy and finance, with particular emphasis on local economic development, urban informal sector, economics of urban form and urban/municipal finance. Applicants must either be currently following or have already completed a postgraduate degree in general economics, development studies, urban/municipal finance, urban planning or a closely related social science discipline. Preference will be given to those who already possess some experience working in developing countries on above-mentioned areas.

Note that all applicants for internships must be enrolled in a university, either on a Bachelor or Master level, in a field relating to sustainable urban development (applicants from urban planning/architecture are prioritized). Length of internship is 3 months, with a possible continuation of 3 additional months.

To apply, send a CV to [HPUI@unhabitat.org](mailto:HPUI@unhabitat.org)

## HUBS

**Engagement in the HPUI Hubs:** World Urban Forum 6 saw the initiation of five thematic Hubs, which intend to focus and drive the work of the Habitat Partner University Initiative and support the active role of universities in the development of sustainable cities. These Hubs are hosted by specific partner universities but are open to engagement by all members of the global network, and all levels of academia. The Hubs intend to provide opportunities to utilize the HPUI network for connecting academia who are interested in specific priority areas of the Initiative, collaborating to produce outputs within these areas that feed directly into cities. Once the Hubs have been finalized the HPUI will send out a call for parties interested to engage. For now more information on the Hubs, can be found [here](#)

### Universities Roundtable: The HPUI "General Assembly"



The University Roundtable at the World Urban Forum in Naples was attended by 99 participants from 82 institutions. The Universities Roundtable presented some of the tools (webpage, guidelines, Terms of Reference, Hubs) and upcoming activities (Habitat 101, Global Urban Research Network) under the Habitat Partner University Initiative with a view to inform universities of opportunities and with a focus on gathering interest for engagement.

Commitments to be achieved by next forum include the formation of "Hubs" focusing on specific themes that are aligned with UN-Habitat priority areas, which could provide innovative, multi-sectoral and cross-country mechanisms for addressing urban challenges and improving urban education. The Hubs drew great interest and were seen as good tools towards driving the Initiative forward and target its work.

The report of the event can be found [here](#)

### Researchers Roundtable: On coordinating urban research globally



In the Researchers Roundtable, the main point for discussion was the feasibility study for the Global Urban Research Network. Issues brought up included the need to better define the network's value and develop a viable financing plan. The ability of university researchers to contribute to the network was questioned, given the existing model of university research driven by publishing requirements. However – as one participant put it – there is a need for moving beyond this ivory tower paradigm that produces research for research's sake and instead connect the producers, users and facilitators of research. A recommendation which received plenty of support at the roundtable was to develop an open source online facility; this would need to include a peer review process to ensure quality. More information of the background to the Global Urban Research Network can be found [here](#)

### University Forum & Exhibition



Many academic institutions had the opportunity to introduce and present their work at the HPUI forum in the universities exhibition, including the University of Singapore, GPEAN, New School, Chalmers University of Technology, London Metropolitan University, the University of Naples Federico II and KU Leuven. The possibility of again having such a shared forum in WUF7 has been discussed, but perhaps organizing this in a closer collaboration with the partners.

This edition of our newsletter follows up on the events of the Habitat Partner University Initiative in the World Urban Forum 6, Naples 2012, and highlights new opportunities within the Initiative.

In general this year's World Urban Forum familiarized the HPUI's existing and prospective partners with the mechanisms for driving it forward, introducing ways to engage. Since the last WUF the HPUI has developed its brand, guidelines and governance, the WUF6 served to present these and test the tools available for driving the partnership forward, most notably the Hubs and webpage are seen as essential to develop promptly as these are based on using the potential of the partners, fulfilling the ambition of having a highly member-driven Initiative.

Over 8,000 people from 152 countries attended the Sixth session of the World Urban Forum, a big thank you goes out to the attendants for joining us in a fruitful debate on a sustainable urban future. We look forward to meeting you again at the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum which will take place in Medellin, Colombia in 2014, and invite you to collaborate with us in its preparation.

This year our newsletter will in particular highlight opportunities to engage in the HPUI, such as internships, conferences, events at partner universities and possibilities for collaborative actions involving the newly introduced Hubs.

Kind Regards,  
The HPUI Office



## MEMBERSHIP

### Institutional partners:

As a university or other academic institution you are eligible to apply for institutional partnership with the Habitat Partner University Initiative. More information and a guide on how to become an institutional partner is found [here](#)

### Individual partner:

As an individual partner you will receive the newsletter and targeted information on opportunities and events within the Initiative. You register as an individual partner [here](#)

For more information on the Habitat Partner University Initiative visit [www.unhabitat.org/HPUI](http://www.unhabitat.org/HPUI)

You receive this HPUI Update due to your expressed interest in the Initiative or related UN-HABITAT activities.

If you do not wish to receive further updates please write to [hpui@unhabitat.org](mailto:hpui@unhabitat.org) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.



## HPUI Steering Committee



**Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy - HPUI Steering Committee Chair** (University of South Florida)

Dr. Vairavamoorthy is an internationally-recognized expert on urban water issues who has worked to create clean and sustainable water and sanitation systems through programs for UNESCO and the European Union. He currently directs the USF School of Global Sustainability. In his career, Vairavamoorthy has led groups of researchers studying the future of sustainable water systems for cities and how urban areas might respond to water issues in the face of climate change and population growth. His current research is in: development of new techniques for the flexible design of urban water supply systems operating under uncertainties associated with global change; application of optimization techniques for the operation & maintenance and life-cycle management of urban water systems; and, development of risk assessment approach for the design of sustainable urban water systems operating in the 'city of the future'.



**Shuaib Lwasa** is Lecturer, Department of Environmental Management, School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences, Makerere University. Dr. Lwasa has twelve years' experience in urban development

issues and urban education. He has been involved in the Habitat partner University Initiative to develop urban climate change syllabi and is currently investigating the state and challenges of urban education in East Africa.



**Sahar Attia** is Professor of Architecture & Urban Design and Director of the Postgraduate Program, Department of Architecture, Cairo University. Professor Attia holds a PhD in Urbanism from the Urban Institute of Paris. She has more than 30

years of experience in academia and the professional field, including in strategic urban planning, and sustainable urban habitat design & strategies.



**Michelle Mycoo** from the University of the West Indies is an Urban Planner with 24 years of professional experience and a Senior Lecturer with 15 years of academic experience. She has provided consultancy services

internationally, regionally and locally on planning issues for several development agencies and has more than 25 publications in refereed international journals and book chapters on themes such as natural hazards reduction, climate change adaptation, social exclusion, urban water demand management, urban land access and sustainable cities. Previously Michelle Mycoo was a Past President of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, Coordinator of the Urban and Regional Planning Programme and currently she is a member of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, Trinidad.



**Dory Reeves** (Auckland). Dory Reeves is Professor of Planning in the School of Architecture and Planning at The University of Auckland in New Zealand. Auckland University became a Habitat Partner University in June 2009 and assisted in the

Universities Round Table at WUF5, helping prepare materials and moderate the session. Dory Reeves is a qualified urban planner with experience in local government and the academy. Her area of interest is social sustainability; equality and diversity in planning and mainstreaming gender. She teaches planning management focusing on the intersection of complexity, creativity and communication. The

Auckland initiative was awarded a University of Auckland Vice Chancellor's Award in 2009 for 3 years to develop the partnership. This enabled the University to take a delegation of staff and students to WUF5 and is helping support research and capacity building in Papua New Guinea. The award is also funding a UN-HABITAT Fellow for 2011.

**Mario R. Delos Reyes** is the Dean of the University of the Philippines - School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP). Prior to becoming Dean, he was Asia-Pacific Regional Node Coordinator for of UNDP's Public Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment - Collaborative Learning Course (PPPUE-CLC), and

Asia Coordinator for UN-HABITAT's Sustainable Cities Programme (Environmental Planning and Management). Dr. Delos Reyes is a member of the Advisory Board for UN-HABITAT Philippines. He has expertise in urban planning and management, environmental planning and policy, climate change and disaster risk, public private partnerships for the urban environment, and coastal planning and management.

**Hans Skotte** (NTNU, Trondheim) Associate

Professor in International Planning Studies at the Department of Urban Design and Planning, Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet, Trondheim, Norway. After years of practice in Norway and abroad as an architect and project

manager in private and public service, Skotte returned to academia to investigate how international non governmental organizations and government organizations contributed towards the recovery of societies ravaged by war or disaster. Much of his energy goes into developing the field of urban studies dealing with the global south. He lectures and teaches internationally, and presently advises Masters and PhD-level planning and architecture students from around the world. He coordinates the cooperation with government and local bodies in Kampala, Uganda, including Makerere University.



**Alison Brown** (Cardiff) Alison Brown is a Professor (part-time) at the School of City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University. She is Course Director for the MSc in International Planning and Development, and has extensive professional experience in the

international and UK fields. Her areas of expertise include planning practice, international planning in emerging economies, and the informal economy. She has overseas experience in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and current projects include comparative research on poverty reduction in low income cities, and work for local authorities, NGOs and private clients in the UK. She is a member of the steering committee of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign. She is the urban planning advisor on DFID's Technology, Infrastructure and Urban Planning Resource Centre, managed by WSP International. She is a consultant to the UNESCO/UN-HABITAT project on Urban Policies and the Right to the City, a member of the UNESCO expert team for the project on Migrants in the City, and planning advisor to WIEGO on their Inclusive Cities Project.



**Eugenie Birch** (for World Urban Campaign) is Professor and the Lawrence C. Nussdorf Chair of Urban Research and Education. She teaches courses in planning history and global urbanization. Professor Birch has been active in the field's professional

organizations and in academia in the United States and abroad. In 2000, she was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners and made a member (honorary) of the Royal Town Planning Institute. She has been a member of

the Planning Accreditation Board, having served as its chair from 2004-2006. She has been President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning; President, Society of American City and Regional Planning History; and co-editor, Journal of the American Planning Association. She is President, International Planning History Society and Associate Editor, Journal of the American Planning Association.



**Bruce Stiffler** (for GPEAN) is Professor of City and Regional Planning and Chair of the School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Bruce has a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His major areas of interest include: Adaptive governance - collaborative means of building consensus on policy and planning; and Planning School Performance - measurement of school productivity and demonstrating success in the integration of practice into scholarship.

## HPUI Office at UN-Habitat



**Claudio Acioly**: Head, Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat. Claudio Acioly is an architect and urban planner with more than 30 years of experience. During the period 2008-2012 he was chief Housing Policy, UN-Habitat and coordinator of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme jointly implemented with

the Office of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights. From 1993 to 2008 he was senior housing and land policy expert with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS where he coordinated the master programme specializations on Land and Housing. He has worked extensively in more than 20 countries, is the author of books and articles dealing with housing, informal settlements and slum upgrading, urban densities and participatory urban management and has lectured extensively on these themes internationally.



**Asa Isacson**: Knowledge Management for the Habitat Partner University Initiative, UN-Habitat. Asa Isacson has been with the Habitat Partner University Initiative since September 2010. Her interests lay in how connections between technology, the built environment and local

governance can aid direct engagement and action towards a sustainable urban future. Her focus within the Initiative is on how to support an active role by its members through information and communication technologies. She is designing the new interactive website of the HPUI, which intends to connect the potential of its members, open up for a member-driven Initiative and provide tools for partner engagement on both an individual, institutional and Hub level. She is also the focal point for 15+ networks of UN-Habitat, developing cross-network linkages via the site.



**Fernando Cabrera**: Associate Human Settlements Officer, Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat. Fernando joined UN-Habitat in 2012 and has been supporting the work of the Habitat Partnership Universities Initiative since his arrival. Before joining

Habitat Fernando worked for 2 years at the Maquila Solidarity Network a grass roots women's and labour rights organization supporting garment workers in Mexico and Central America. Prior to this Fernando worked in Foreign Investment, Trade and Sustainable Development for the International Institute for Sustainable Development, based out of Geneva.