

# urban WORLD



*Cities Initiative*

## A new chapter in urban development

UN-HABITAT launches World Urban Campaign through model cities

- Haiti: aftermath of a human tragedy
- Why steel could be the solution to affordable housing
- Do urban reforms only serve the interests of the rich?
- Interview: Shaun Donovan, US Secretary for Housing and Urban Development

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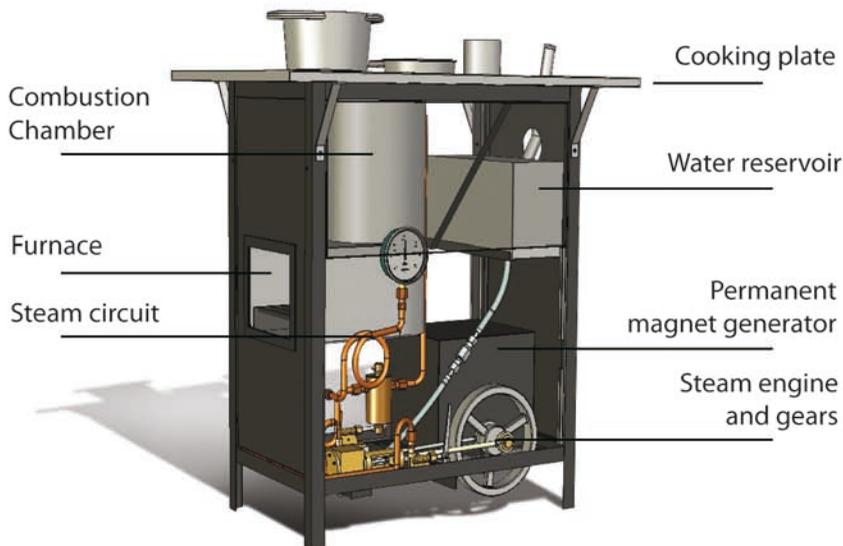
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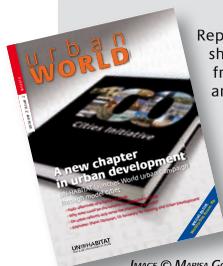


IMAGE © MARISA GORBE



# CONTENTS

## OPINION

- 4 **Message from the Executive Director**

## COVER STORY

### WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

- 5 **How we can tackle the urban challenges of the 21st century**  
Nicholas You
- 10 **Why partnerships make for better cities**  
Christine Auclair
- 14 **First cities named as pioneers of the 100 Cities Initiative**  
Jake Rollnick
- 18 **Special Focus: World Urban Forum 5**



10



14

## ANALYSIS

- 26 **Haiti: the aftermath**  
Alain Grimard
- 30 **Interview: Fred Tombar**  
Senior Advisor for Disaster Programs, US Government

## BEST PRACTICES

- 34 **Why steel could be the solution to affordable housing**  
Jonathan Andrews



30



34

**IN-FOCUS**

**38 Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Wind energy provides Argentina with new opportunities**

Nick Michell

News and project round-ups

**42 Asia-Pacific**  
**Shanghai set for World Expo 2010**

News and project round-ups

**48 Africa**  
**Africa gets behind the World Urban Campaign**

Kirsty Tuxford

News and project round-ups

**52 Middle East and North Africa**

News and project round-ups

**54 Central and eastern Europe**

News and project round-ups

**56 North America and western Europe**

News and project round-ups



**URBAN WATCH**

**58 People**

**Do urban reforms serve only the interests of the rich?**

Olu Sarr

**62 Malawi youth to get access to ICT training**

Melanda Schmid

**64 New publications**

**66 Calendar of events**



The just concluded fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro has set UN-HABITAT and its partners on a historic new path in our important and urgent quest for better and smarter cities that are kind to their people and to their environment; for sustainable cities in an era when the global population is now predominantly urban.

This historic path is the World Urban Campaign which I launched to ensure that the world wakes up and stays alert to the problems of rapid urbanization and all its ramifications, especially in the developing world.

Not only is the campaign designed to keep us alert, it is also intended to help us learn from one another on what works well for our irreversibly urban future. I want it to help smart cities show how they can emulate even smarter cities. I want it to become a powerful catalyst in urban poverty reduction. I want it to draw the best, and I want it to be widely inclusive so that we can take heed of as many voices as possible from the street level up in cities everywhere.

The power of the Forum was manifest in its large size with over 10,000 people from many countries providing clear evidence of the effective demand for more global dialogue, exchange and mutual learning on sustainable urbanization. More than 110 exhibits from 35 countries were on display.

Several member States in the Governing Council which oversees UN-HABITAT made it clear they are paying very close attention to the wisdom generated by the Forum and will seek mechanisms to strengthen linkages between the ideas the Forum generates and the work of UN-HABITAT.

Indeed, the Forum, in its informal nature enabled the event to become a vehicle for international conversations and cooperation at every level as well as across social and economic divides. For example, in quiet meetings away from the fray, sometimes at networking events, government ministers from many countries met to discuss the problems of a rapidly urbanizing world. They used it to forge new North-South, and South-South cooperation. It also provided a chance for fresh interactions between mayors and governments.

And not least, it was also a vehicle through which grassroots women's groups, youth, slum dwellers, and the business community were able to interact with government, global parliamentarians and municipal leaders.

It is in reference to the latter that I would like to extend a special word of thanks to Arcadis for donating up to four person years of staff time and expertise to UN-HABITAT, the continued support of the Chinese Real



Estate Chamber of Commerce to the World Urban Campaign and its Business Forum, and to Siemens for its support and outreach efforts. I also wish to thank His Excellency, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the senior members of his Government and the other Heads of State and ministers from many countries who joined us in Rio.

It was just less than a year ago – October 2009 – that the first Steering Committee meeting of the World Urban Campaign was held in the Spanish city of Barcelona, hosts to the second session of our biennial forum. Around the table were gathered a small group of our partners from virtually every walk of life who

share and believe in our vision. It is they whom I wish to thank most sincerely here, for I know how passionately they are taking the Campaign forward.

Several of those who were around that table have brought their views to *Urban World's* global audience in the articles they have written for us in recent months.

They are unanimous that the primary target of the Campaign must be cities, even though they are like complex organisms which no single social or political entity can claim to represent in their entirety.

For this reason, the World Urban Campaign needs a strategy – or a vehicle – that can reach out to a broad cross-section of actors and constituencies that help shape the politics and the policies of a city.

I am most grateful to the City of Alicante and Mayoress Sonia Castedo for offering to host the next steering committee of the World Urban Campaign this year, and the first 100 Cities Summit in 2011.

Indeed many countries and many cities around the world are learning how important it is to share their experiences.

And so I am delighted to say that the city of Shanghai in China is leading the way here in the very spirit of the World Urban Campaign. It is no coincidence that the theme of Expo 2010 in Shanghai is *Better City, Better Life*.

And I am proud that UN-HABITAT, the UN agency for the built environment, is playing the leading role in the Expo's magnificent United Nations pavilion.

Anna Tibaijuka  
Executive Director UN-HABITAT

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anna Tibaijuka'.

# Meeting the urban challenge of the 21st century

A highlight of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010 was the launch of the World Urban Campaign. Here **Nicholas You**, a UN-HABITAT veteran of more than 25 years, explains how important it will be as the global population is projected to become 70 percent urban in the next generation.



The World Urban Campaign is a platform where practical tools will be shared for sustainable urbanization

PHOTO © BERNARD OH ▶

The next two decades of the 21st century will be an unprecedented moment in human history. The global population will move from 50 percent urban to 70 percent. This transition to a predominantly urban world is irreversible and it brings with it equally irreversible changes in the way we use land, water, energy and other natural resources.

This transition also places cities at the centre of the climate change agenda. With just over half of humanity living in urban areas, cities already consume 80 percent of global energy output, generate more than 70 percent of all waste, and contribute directly to more than 60 percent of green house gas emissions. At the same time, cities are the primary victims of climate change. Many of the world's major metropolises are coastal cities that are prone to flooding and erosion; many other cities are located in drought-prone areas and are already suffering from water-stress.

There are two basic scenarios for the short- to medium-term future. In the first, cities, lacking requisite resources and policy priorities, fail to meet the needs of the urban future. In less than a generation, some two billion people end up living in sub-standard housing and informal settlements. Poorly planned cities and dysfunctional metropolitan regions become the dominant urban form of cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

At the same time, many urban areas in the North continue to shrink and lose their economic vitality as a result of suburban sprawl, ageing populations and de-industrialization. Many people living in poorly planned urban areas lack access to adequate shelter and basic services. Few will be recognized as urban citizens and many will end up working in the informal economy. Fewer still will realize their productive potential.

The other scenario is one where the urban challenge rises to the fore of public policy and is matched with public and private investments in smart urban growth. This includes rigorous and rational land use planning, improved urban infrastructure and basic services, and the full exploitation of technology to reduce our ecological footprint. The emerging paradigm is one of greener, more resilient and more

In 2005 I was asked by the Executive Director to spearhead the formulation of UN-HABITAT's Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan. The purpose of the Plan was to help transition UN-HABITAT into a strong and effective advocacy organization while building on and improving the impact of its operational activities. The Plan, which was adopted by the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in 2007, was the product of broad-based participation of staff, member states and clients – something which we always preached but rarely applied to ourselves. After helping to kick-start the implementation of the Plan in 2008, I was asked, in my last year of service with the agency, to help set in motion one of the principal components on the Plan, namely a global campaign on sustainable urbanization. I have tried to apply the same principles of shared

liveable cities and the creation of jobs and business opportunities that provide decent work and livelihoods and lift millions of people out of poverty.

The social, economic and environmental consequences of the above scenarios are quite evident and simple to comprehend. Major motion pictures such as *The City of God* (Latin America), *The Constant Gardener* (Africa) and *Slum Dog Millionaire* (Asia) offer a glimpse of the social realities on the ground, while New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina serves as a stark reminder of the need for a coherent set of policy options, tools and practical actions.

At the same time, hundreds of cities and towns are each in their own way grappling with how to manage the urbanization process, be it in the form of urban sprawl, urban decay, shrinking cities or slum formation. Some are achieving success against great odds. An increasing number of governments are also beginning to promote national policies to make municipal and

## Nicholas You



ownership and participation in establishing a steering committee of partners for what has become the World Urban Campaign. My thanks go to my colleagues for their intellectual and moral support.

local action for sustainable urbanization possible. But their efforts remain, for the most part, piecemeal.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of organizations, are setting precedents, developing tools and offering policy options to meet the urban challenge. Yet these actions are disparate. Their work is rarely recognized or assessed and the collective impact of their actions is not realized.

More than ever before, these are the main reasons why the World Urban Campaign is so important and so necessary.

### What can a campaign realistically achieve?

The World Urban Campaign is a platform designed for public, private and civil society actors to work in the true spirit of partnership so as to elevate policies, share practical tools and raise awareness for sustainable urbanization. The success of the Campaign will be measured in the long term by its contribution to more sustainable urban policies at the national level and

## The partners of the World Urban Campaign seek to advance the following goals:

**To unite:** convince public, private and social stakeholders that investing in creative, resilient and sustainable cities and communities is essential to our future.

**To enable:** provide the necessary tools to achieve creative, resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

**To measure:** establish benchmarks, monitor progress and share knowledge worldwide.

**To connect:** create synergies and lasting linkages between stakeholders and facilitate the coherent and strategic coordination of partners.

Source: Outcome of the second Steering Committee meeting of the World Urban Campaign, Paris, December 2010

increased investment and capital flows in support of those policies.

In the short term, the Campaign focuses on providing governments and partner networks with an advocacy instrument to articulate a positive vision for a better urban future and to advance the urban agenda within their respective constituencies.

This applies as much to organizations of the urban poor as it does to associations of local authorities, business forums, youth associations, media outlets, professional associations, women's groups, Parliamentarians, ministerial conferences, and inter-governmental bodies. The Campaign in this way seeks to position sustainable urbanization as a priority issue of the international community and as a national policy priority for individual member states.

In the course of two steering committee meetings held in late 2009 and an expert group meeting held in January 2010, some 50 partners representing public, private and civil society sectors formulated the components of such a vision. Those who

joined us included representatives of leading companies as diverse as ARCADIS, BASF, Siemens, Veolia Environment, and Zerofootprint. Access to housing and land, infrastructure and basic services, and finance are high on the agenda. Similarly, partners asserted their commitment to promote inclusive urban development by recognizing the needs of vulnerable and excluded groups, such as the working poor, including in the informal sector.

The central messages of the Campaign carry a set of principles to guide efforts to improve cities. These principles include stronger citizen participation in local government, and private sector investment within a framework of national policies that support these processes for sustainable urbanization.

### How the Campaign works

UN-HABITAT coordinates the Campaign in the same manner that it supports the World Urban Forum. It provides a platform for member states, local authorities and Habitat partners to design and apply advocacy instruments, including the Campaign messages, principles, public policy advice, and practical tool kits for a wide range of activities such as organizing local and national platforms, documenting good practice, fund raising, sharing knowledge and information. In short, the Campaign is coordinated by UN-HABITAT but the campaign is owned and driven by its partners.

The Campaign Steering Committee, which includes the above constituencies, designs, guides and monitors the performance of the Campaign. It serves two purposes:

- To decide on policies and strategic priorities for activities that partners have agreed to undertake together or with the support of one another. Several partners have already defined their respective organizational priorities for the Campaign and are in the process of identifying those partners or networks with which they would like to work together to leverage their resources and enhance impact.
- To advise the agency in conducting its activities, especially through the World Urban Forum which is mandated to provide technical advice to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

### Working methodology of the campaign

The first Steering Committee meeting hosted by the regional government of Barcelona in October 2009, established a set of working groups to finalize the partnership model. The key areas of focus include:

**Knowledge networking system:** defining and developing the key components of a knowledge network system to take full advantage of the diversity and wealth of knowledge, tools and methods of the network. The system will focus on lessons learned from best practices, good policies and operational tools and methodologies and constitute a one-stop-shop for knowledge, expertise and experience.

**The 100 Cities Initiative:** an experimental initiative launched at the Rio Forum whereby 100 Cities will make pledges for reform against criteria and engage in an active process of working toward those pledges with annual public hearings and reports to the Campaign on progress achieved. Each city will have its own champion to review and synthesize the city submissions for the benefit of other cities in the network and in view of proposing policy options to an advisory commission.

All of the above action areas emphasize the positive role of cities and the contribution of technical, institutional and business practices on economic growth and quality of life of people and their communities. A key message will be the need to strengthen the front-line role of cities in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### A network of networks

The Campaign also serves as the umbrella support structure for a network of networks and links with other worldwide campaigns to franchise its messages. Close linkages with other campaigns and ongoing initiatives include:

- *The 1000 Cities: 1000 Lives* campaign of World Health Organisation focusing on healthy cities;
- *Addressing the World:* the Universal Postal Union campaign for an address for everyone focusing on providing the estimated one billion inhabitants ►

## New Campaign logo



## WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

After a worldwide competition for a new logo, organized by the San Francisco State University and sponsored by Veolia Environment, the jury chose the design by João Borges of Portugal. Mr Borges was awarded a prize of USD 5,000 at the closing ceremony of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro.

of slums and informal settlements worldwide with an address – a critical first step to securing an identity, citizenship and the right to the city;

- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction campaign for more resilient cities and urban risk reduction;
- The *Decent Work Campaign* of the International Labour Organisation; and
- The National Habitat Committees, Platforms and Campaigns of various countries.

In addition to coordinating and facilitating the Campaign, UN-HABITAT will harmonize the way it projects the Campaign through its various external outreach instruments. These include the World Urban Forum, the *Global Report on Human Settlements*, *Global and Regional State of Cities Reports*, *the State of the Water in Cities Report*, *Urban World* magazine, and World Habitat Day. Value added information and tools will be conveyed through various Habitat Partners' networks such as the Habitat Business Forum, the Habitat Professionals Forum, the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, and Habitat Partner Universities, among others.

### The 100 Cities Initiative: a new approach to knowledge management and learning

Best practices was a tool that I helped to conceive as part of the Habitat II Conference held

in Istanbul in 1996. It allowed the conference to not only deliberate on issues and problems but also on promising solutions. Driven by prestigious award and recognition systems, the documentation of best practices in improving the living environment continues, to this day, to provide a continuous source of empirical evidence for policy analysis, dialogue and development based on what works.

Consultations with partners of the World Urban Campaign revealed, however, an unsatisfied demand for lessons learned and practical applications derived from best practices. Further probing made me realize that it was time to re-examine the concept and methodology of best practices to make it more relevant to the current urban challenge.

Thus, the 100 Cities Initiative is about "living practices". Living practices are holistic and forward looking. They provide dynamic learning opportunities and are organized around principles of sharing and structured learning through partnering. The processes and outcomes of living practices will be documented, reported and measured over time.

The major characteristics of living practices, and some of its significant differences with best practices, are briefly summarized below.

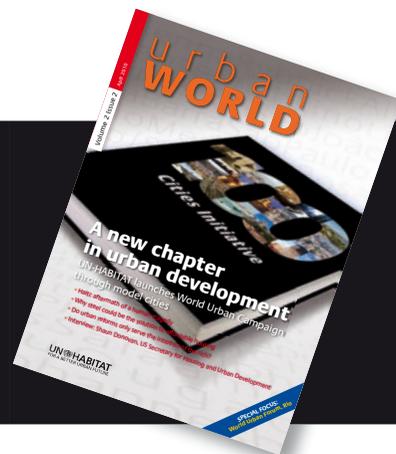
- Living practices look forward at current and future challenges and not just on past achievements and results;

- The documentation of living practices involves multiple actors and the community in a spirit of sharing and learning;
- Living practices focus on problem-solving especially for yet to be resolved issues and challenges;
- They use a story-telling format to facilitate periodic updates by multiple actors using multiple media, including the new media;
- They employ tools and metrics for benchmarking and assessing process and progress;
- Living practices recognize and reward sharing and learning;
- They support story telling in local languages and rely on a 'champion' to extract lessons learned to be shared and promulgated across the World Urban Campaign network of partners.

The principles, criteria, reporting protocols and learning objectives of the 100 Cities Initiative were finalized by an Expert Group Meeting held in Nairobi in January 2010. The launch of the pilot phase during the 5th session of the World Urban Forum testifies to the validity of the concept and the practicality of its approach (see article on page 14). It is my sincere hope that the 100 Cities Initiative will contribute to effective learning and sharing of lessons learned from experience in support of our common and sustainable urban future. ♦



# urban WORLD



*Urban World* is the leading publication for those responsible for the social and economic growth of the world's cities, providing a unique source of practical solutions and information on sustainable development.

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# Partnerships for better cities

The World Urban Campaign launched at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro is focused on partnerships and new ideas for better, smarter cities in a rapidly urbanizing world, writes **Christine Auclair**, Chief of UN-HABITAT's Private Sector Unit.



Partnership is a key subject of UN affairs, guided by the noble ideal of universal solidarity through international cooperation, embedded in the UN Charter. Indeed the organization defines itself in the Charter as ‘a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends’ – a function that surely cannot be achieved without partnerships.

In more than six decades, international partnerships have evolved, influenced by a changing global order, an increasingly globalized society with non-state actors ever more involved in international cooperation at every level, from the local to the global. Their involvement ranges from advancing ideas and proposals to concrete activities, such as the delivery of aid and services. Their indispensable contribution is widely recognized even if the decision-making power rests firmly in the hands of Member States.

To bring about change, the UN has come to realize that it is necessary to mobilize the support, and cultivate the ideas, of a diverse network of actors such as civil society organizations, to voluntary agencies, interest groups, private companies, foundations, universities and think tanks and creative individuals.

The United Nations has learned this lesson, translated in the UN reform initiated by Kofi Annan. His *Global Compact Initiative*, an exemplary break-through, has engaged hundreds of companies to promote corporate citizenship and universal values in respect of human rights, labour rights and the environment. Such a move was inconceivable a few decades earlier.

As part of the UN family, UN-HABITAT has followed that wind of change, driven by an increasingly pressing urban agenda, part and parcel of the climate change paradigm, whereby the city can neither be ignored nor sidelined, and everyone is part of the solution.

Combined with the challenge of urban poverty, the environmental urgency calls for true and operative partnerships through a concerted approach to land, basic infrastructure and affordable housing. Partnerships are defined in a UN General Assembly resolution as ‘collaborative and voluntary alliance between partners, sharing resources, expertise and risks and responsibilities, committed to common task towards specific goals’. Partners must share a common endeavour, take risks together and bring resources to the negotiating table.

In the wake of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, renewed partnerships and the new World Urban Campaign are beacons showing partners new ways of working together to bring the urban agenda higher on the international radar screen. The World Urban Forum has become the platform for increasingly elaborated debates and negotiations between groups which may not have been able to interact so well in the past.

Information technology enables a rapid exchange of knowledge. The World Urban Campaign is a unique undertaking, moving the urban agenda away from piecemeal approaches and partners’ fiefdoms.

The new Campaign is atypical and follows on from a process that started in Istanbul in 1996 at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

That meeting, also known as the City Summit, was almost a revolution at the end of a cycle of major UN conferences, whereby civil society and local authorities in particular were given a voice as never before. In 1996, the Istanbul Partners’ Committee (also called Committee II), a special committee-of-the-whole, representing all of the 148 nations, was a major breakthrough. It was forged by the recognition that the fate of cities depends on a process, in the 21st century, involving not just national governments. Others would have to play a significant role. It was a clear realization that problems facing cities are much too interconnected and too big to be left to governments alone. Member states had to admit, as Dutch State Secretary of Housing Dick Tommel, said at the time: “We need partnerships with local authorities, women’s organizations, the NGOs, trade unions and the private sector. But even more: we must involve all citizens, without discrimination, in our efforts.”

One of Habitat II’s lasting achievements was the greater sense of partnership that has been forged between national and local governments, civil society and the private sector.

To a greater degree than at any previous UN conference, these groups were brought into the discussions and negotiations.

“There is a sense of great opportunity and hope that a new world can be built, in which economic development, social development and environmental protection as interde-

## Society and partnerships

‘Society is a partnership in all science, a partnership in all art, a partnership in every virtue and in all perfection. As the ends of such a partnership cannot be obtained in many generations, it becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born’. – Edmund Burke

pendent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development can be realized through solidarity and cooperation within and between countries and through effective partnerships at all levels,” says the Habitat Agenda in its first paragraph. Significantly, the partnership theme is well enshrined in the Habitat Agenda, the word appearing more than 80 times in the final document.

Also, the interlinked nature of human settlements issues was reaffirmed together with the key issues of governance – participation, democracy and civic involvement.

Many NGOs in Istanbul at the time praised the process promising that partnerships forged at the City Summit would create new opportunities for change – in short, a new era of civil society involvement.

For their part, local authorities could not miss this unique moment to make a decisive move by initiating the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLA), uniting local governments in a single voice to be recognized as valid interlocutors before international organizations and governments.

As for progress since Istanbul, it is clear that not all of the so-called Habitat Agenda partners have succeeded in getting a key role in the international arena and influencing significant changes.

Local authorities however have achieved what is today an indispensable role, complementary to national governments. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) have become the voice of local government before the United Nations and the international community. ▶



The new Campaign follows on from a process that started in Istanbul in 1996 at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

PHOTO © JONATHAN ANDREWS

The civil society movement, while stronger than in the 1980s after the high hopes raised in Istanbul, is influencing public opinion in many ways. However, their very slow pace of engagement lately raises some questions on our real capacity to engage the NGO community. This is a global problem that requires much hard work by the UN system as a whole, including UN-HABITAT.

Academics and urban professionals are contributing to better knowledge for better cities in many ways, and this is manifested in the quality of debates at global meetings like the World Urban Forum and the wide range of publications on urban matters now available.

Parliamentarians are key Habitat Agenda partners who are able to make progress in advancing national legislation on housing rights, access to land, pro-poor housing and access to basic services. Youth and women's groups have made great strides in getting their message across on the urban agenda.

Finally, the private sector is slowly rising as a new partner that speaks to our aspirations for scaling-up interventions and joining the development platform with the needed investment capacity to effect change.

UN-HABITAT has several operational partnerships in the area of water and sanitation, housing and urban data management which have been implemented with private sector firms such as Coca-Cola India, Oxya-

na Mines Australia, Google and the German chemical giant, BASF.

For example, as a part of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, a number of firms are supporting water and sanitation initiatives, promoting household water treatment in urban areas and water conservation and rain harvesting through schools, awareness campaigns for rain harvesting and household water treatment systems. Others support ongoing post-tsunami water and sanitation reconstruction projects in Indian Ocean rim countries.

The agency also maintains knowledge sharing partnerships through its Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), a global network of partners.

UN-HABITAT has also, for example, developed its Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for all through a partnership with the French multinational, Veolia Environment, and the UN Institute for Training and Research.

Committed to the Global Compact, the business community has embraced the Millennium Development Goals, and is now signing up to the World Urban Campaign in the crusade for better cities.

Partners' groups have grown. They have made their voices heard. Yet some argue that it is still insufficient to address the urban challenge ahead and that a more proactive non-governmental voice is needed through the Habitat Agenda Partners.

Today, partnerships are at the heart of UN-HABITAT's medium term and strategic institutional plan for a more effective organization meant to play a more catalytic role.

A number of elements for effective partnerships have been identified. First, partners should be strategic, who are committed and can deliver. Second, partners should be able to spearhead key messages on the urban agenda and promote the vital issues. Third, their actions should ultimately lead to policy change, promoting and implementing the urban agenda at the required levels.

Finally, partnerships should achieve impacts through effective scaling-up of interventions. This deliberate move towards a new catalytic role is meant to bring the right partners around the table, bringing together networks, knowledge and expertise.

The real issue remains how to engage partners more effectively in the UN system which is by its very nature is intergovernmental.

To do so, it is crucial to engage partners in policy dialogue, giving them a voice to ultimately effect policy changes, elevate the urban agenda and promote and implement the Habitat Agenda.

For its part, the UN needs to provide the required conditions to instill confidence in partners to play their role towards a positive global movement for change, and ultimately for better cities. ♦

## Habitat Agenda Partners

The Habitat Agenda Partners include local authorities, non-governmental and community-based organizations, the private sector, parliamentarians, foundations, trade unions, professionals and researchers, science and engineering academies, human solidarity groups, women's groups and youth groups. Organized platforms representing Habitat Agenda Partners include:

Habitat Agenda Partner	Organization	Scope and mandate
Local authorities	<b>United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</b>	Established in 2004, through the merger of the International Union of Local Authorities and the World Federation of United and Twinned Towns. UCLG is ECOSOC an accredited organization and is the largest local government organization, representing over half the world's population, with cities and association members present in over 120 UN Member States.
Non-governmental and community-based organizations	<b>Habitat International Coalition (HIC)</b>	Established in 1987, accredited to ECOSOC (Special Status 1993) and UN-HABITAT, HIC is a non-profit alliance of some 400 organizations working in the area of human settlements, committed to improving housing and living conditions of the poor.
Parliamentarians	<b>Global Parliamentarians for Habitat (GPH)</b>	Established in 1987, under the auspices of UN-HABITAT, the GPH functions as the international parliamentary group committed to promoting sustainable human settlements development. GPH regional fora have attracted over 200 parliamentarians from over 50 countries.
Professionals	<b>Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF)</b>	Established in 1999, under the auspices of UN-HABITAT, HPF is a voluntary affiliation of international and regional associations of human settlements professionals involved in sustainable urban development, representing about two million professionals worldwide.
Women's groups and community-based organizations	<b>Huairou Commission</b>	Established in 1994, accredited to ECOSOC (Special Status, 2005) and UN-HABITAT, the Huairou Commission is a global coalition of grassroots women's organizations.
Youth	<b>UN-HABITAT Youth Advisory Board</b>	Advisory board established by UN-HABITAT in 2008 by a Governing Council resolution composed of elected youth from the six UN regions.

# Twenty-one cities unveiled as pioneers of the 100 Cities Initiative



**Jake Rollnick** introduces the first cities to be nominated to lead a new campaign on sustainable urbanization and asks how these cities will be measured on their progress.

**T**wenty-one cities have been chosen by an international expert panel to spearhead UN-HABITAT's 100 Cities Initiative as part of the World Urban Campaign. They include Rio de Janeiro, host of the World Urban Forum in March 2010 where the World Urban Campaign was officially launched, as well as four cities in Africa, five in Europe, three in the Middle East and North Africa, and two in Asia-Pacific (see box). The objective of the new initiative is to create an opportunity for cities and communities from all over the world to share their experiences and solutions to urban issues.

Through the 100 Cities Initiative, citizens, their communities and cities will gain exposure to a global network of partners that are promoting cutting edge practices in sustainable urban development. These practices include new public-private partnerships, new governance approaches as well as new models for investment. A 100 Cities Summit is planned in mid-2011 once a testing period of about a year is completed and preliminary results evaluated.

The sharing of knowledge will be supported and promoted through the latest communications technology so that cities can learn from one another's experiences, share tried and tested tools, and keep abreast of ongoing policy reforms worldwide.

A key feature of the 100 Cities Initiative is that each city will have its 'champion' in the form of an institution, organization or individual with knowledge of both the city and the challenges facing that city. While any interested party may tell its story, the champion will have to review the city story, its updates, web pages and commentaries and provide a regular one-page overview.

### **A new dimension in measuring progress and informing public policy**

One issue for any new initiative is how progress or results will be measured.

"Through developing an innovative set of metrics [data], our goal is to provide UN-HABITAT and their partners with a new perspective on what it means to drive public policy in cities across the world," says Justin Bibb, Associate Partner-Director of Community Strategies at Gallup in Washington D.C., one of the more than 50 partners that make up the Steering Committee of the World Urban Campaign.

### **The twenty-one cities**

East Asia and Pacific	Philippines	Makati, Manila
East Asia & Pacific	Korea	Seoul
Europe	Austria	Vienna
Europe	Poland	Rybnik
Europe	Spain	Alicante
Europe	Russia	Pushkino
Latin America and the Caribbean	Guatemala	Livingston
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	São João da Barra
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	Sao Paulo/Rio
Latin America and the Caribbean	Colombia	Medellín
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina	Rosario/Santa Fe
Middle East and North Africa	Syria	Aleppo
Middle East and North Africa	Morocco	Rabat
Middle East and North Africa	Iran	Tehran
North America	United States	Chicago
North America	United States	Philadelphia
South Asia	India	Mumbai
Sub-Saharan Africa	Tanzania	Dar es Salaam
Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin	Cotonou
Sub-Saharan Africa	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou
Sub-Saharan Africa	South Africa	Johannesburg

The Gallup approach is to focus on the drivers of community prosperity.

"Too often, leaders focus on what is wrong in their communities while overlooking what is right," says Mr. Bibb. "For example, traditional measurements count the number of residents who are out of work, but they do not measure the talent that already exists in the community. So why not measure cities' potential for innovation? Would leaders not want to gauge their communities' capacity for talent?

Positive metrics do just that. They measure what actually works and why."

"We think our metrics can help the 100 Cities Initiative in several ways," he says. "Gallup's metrics equip stakeholders with information about the impact of the local infrastructure on residents' lives. In addition to mass transport, the metrics will measure other aspects of infrastructure such as housing, energy, and road traffic. Urban metrics will provide cities around the world with knowledge that is crucial to their strategy of sustainable development."

## The Principles of the World Urban Campaign

Sustainable urbanization is understood as a process that promotes an integrated, gender-sensitive and pro-poor approach to the social, economic and environmental pillars of a city. This integrated approach further requires that investments be made in new forms of technology and inclusive governance. More specifically, the principles of sustainable urbanization include assurances of:

- Accessible and pro-poor land, infrastructure, services, mobility and housing;
- Socially inclusive, gender sensitive, healthy and safe development;
- Environmentally sound and carbon-efficient built environments, including the use of appropriate technologies;
- Participatory planning and decision-making processes;
- Vibrant and competitive local economies promoting decent work and livelihoods;
- Conditions of non-discrimination and equitable rights to the city; and
- Governance structures that will empower cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity, resilience and change.



President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso photographed here with Mrs. Tibajuka during her official visit to Ouagadougou in March, became the first Head of State to agree to join the World Urban Campaign Presidential Committee

PHOTO © GOVERNMENT OF BURKINA FASO



The Alicante Mayoress, Sonia Castedo (left), will host the first 100 Cities Initiative Summit in April 2011

PHOTO © AYUNTAMIENTO DE ALICANTE



Each city will be given the chance to tell the world what worked for them

PHOTO © CITY OF MEDELLIN

# A business of using traditional waste for energy - a real win-win situation

## The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket)

through the programme called DemoEnvironment supported a demonstration project with small scale pellets production carried out by Specialkemi Väst AB and their partner in China Ningbo Expurgo Environmental Engineers Co Ltd. The aim of the project is to promote Swedish solutions in making biomass-based fuels, adapted to Chinese conditions. The project has so far resulted in a demonstration portable pellet press. The portable unit demonstrates on site how to make pellets from any type of raw material such as agricultural waste and traditional sawdust/wood shavings.

Using agricultural waste, which very often is burnt on the fields, will decrease uncontrolled CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and give a better energy economy. All agricultural waste has an energy value and can substitute fossil fuels easily. The portable unit, possible to use for demonstrations in all Chinese regions, confirms theoretical calculations and turns them into real business. Specialkemi Väst AB and Ningbo Expurgo Environmental Engineers Co Ltd is offering traditional consultant assignments of pellet composition and demonstrations on site, while offering the usage of the demonstration unit free of charge.

**TILLVÄXT  
VERKET**

SWEDISH AGENCY FOR ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL GROWTH

## What is DemoEnvironment?

- DemoEnvironment is a grant offering support for modern environmental technology solutions in the areas of sustainable urban development and renewable energy.
- Support is given to authorities, municipalities, institutions and companies to implement demonstration projects and to small and medium companies for pilot studies on project development and project identification.
- Sectors available for support: air environment, water and sanitation, waste management, energy saving, renewable energy, soil pollution, noise and urban transport.
- Forms and guidelines on how to apply for support from DemoEnvironment are to be found on:

[www.tillvaxtverket.se/demoenvironment](http://www.tillvaxtverket.se/demoenvironment)



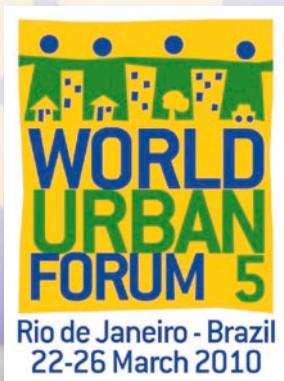
Mike Tse, Ningbo Expurgo, and Eva-Lena Aronsson, Specialkemi Väst



Final adjustments to the pellet press



Pellet press



# Special Focus: World Urban Forum 5

The fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Brazil was a great success. Record numbers of registrants — over 21,000 — gathered in Rio de Janeiro at the newly refurbished warehouses in the redeveloped port, a potent symbol of the urban regeneration which the city is undergoing.



# Rio leads Brazil into a new era of development

**A**t the opening ceremony of World Urban Forum 5, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said Rio was the embodiment of the new Brazil. “We are proud of the redevelopment that is occurring in Rio de Janeiro, and the city can be seen as the image of the new Brazil,” said President Lula da Silva. “We are proving that it is possible to build a new country. I encourage everyone to not only visit our tourist attractions but also to visit the favelas and witness what is going on and the positive changes that are occurring.”

As the country gears up to host the football World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016, an overhaul of infrastructure is taking place all over Brazil, particularly in urban areas, where 82 percent of the population live.

Luís Fernando Pezão, Vice Governor of Rio de Janeiro state, described how Rio is making significant improvements in urban areas, including issues relating to housing, sanitation and leisure. “People who were once walking in sewage are now walking on urbanized streets,” said Mr. Pezao.

Rio de Janeiro is the first Latin American country to host a World Urban Forum and UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Anna Tibajuka, expressed her delight at being in Brazil and praised the organizers and the city of Rio de Janeiro for its hospitality. “It is so good to be in this beautiful city which is doing so much to bridge the urban divide,” said Mrs. Tibajuka. “Rio has redefined the issue of land ownership and is a recipient of an award from our land and housing programme.”

But while Rio de Janeiro is making great strides with regards to urban development, there is still much work to be done in the region. The message of bridging the urban divide was emphasized by all the speakers at the opening ceremony. Eduardo da Costa Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, explained how Latin America was the region in the world where the biggest poverty gaps exist, according to the OECD, and this situation must improve.

“Twenty percent of Brazil’s population live in poor human settlements and we are working closely with UN-HABITAT to try and improve this situation,” said the Mayor.

Brazilian Minister of Cities, Marcio Fortes, later urged World Urban Forum delegates to actively interact in sessions and to exchange experiences with other cities.

“I don’t like to talk too much, I like to act,” said Mr. Fortes. “We need to attack all problems related to urbanization. Everyone knows the problems and what to do but not how to do it. This Forum is one way to attack the problems to ensure sustainable development in the world and not just in poor countries. This is a global issue.”

Mrs. Tibajuka supported the comments by Minister Fortes that the Forum is an opportunity for a high level of engagement, from ministers, mayors, and other important decision makers.

“Business as usual is not good enough,” said the Executive Director. “We must take the opportunity that the Forum provides as a campaign instrument to enable the political will

to overcome rapid and chaotic urbanization.”

Mrs. Tibajuka also emphasized that the aim of sustainable urbanization is not to move people out from the slums from where they live, but to improve the conditions within the slums.

“Only as a last resort, such as for the public good or if the risk is great, do we want to move people from their homes,” she said.

Mrs. Tibajuka thanked the Minister for his personal hard work in organizing the Forum in the newly refurbished venue.

“UN-HABITAT is no stranger to Rio as our Latin American and Caribbean office has been based here for 15 years, so this is like our ‘hometown’ for the region,” she added.

Mr. Fortes announced that an agreement will be signed to place a new UN-HABITAT office within the Ministry of Cities in Brasilia.

“This is a first for a UN-HABITAT office to be placed within a Ministry, and we are happy to assist in increasing the importance and awareness of sustainable urbanization,” he said. ♦ *NM/JA*



President Lula da Silva praised Rio’s redevelopment programme

PHOTO © GINGA FOTOS

## VISIT TO ROCINHA

**G**regory Scruggs from the Penn Institute of Urban Research (University of Pennsylvania) offered delegates a guided tour of Rocinha, one of the biggest favelas in Rio de Janeiro. Greg has set up a foundation (see <http://www.2bros.org>) which provides education and classes for residents of Rocinha. Delegates of the World Urban Forum were taken to see the foundation as part of the tour as well as visiting the new clinic which the government has funded after negotiation with the people who run the favela. One hundred and forty community health officers (*agentes comunitário de saúde*) now tour the favela providing advice and awareness of health issues to local residents.

Our thanks to Greg and to Serena Stein for their assistance.



The urban divide : view from Rocinha towards the beach  
PHOTO © RICHARD FORSTER



Workers at the new clinic in Rocinha  
PHOTO © RICHARD FORSTER



Leonardo dos Santos Laureço, Community Health Officer  
PHOTO © RICHARD FORSTER

## WORLD URBAN FORUM EXHIBITION



The World Urban Forum Exhibition featured 140 entities that reserved exhibition booths with a mix of non-governmental organizations, government ministries, UN agencies, investment promotion authorities and private sector companies.

# Haiti Prime Minister promises a rebirth for his nation

The Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Max Bellerive, has called for harmony and solidarity to help build a strong, transparent and inclusive society, after the devastating earthquake that struck the country in January.

Speaking at the World Urban Forum's Special Session on Haiti, *Building Back Better*, hosted by the Brazilian Government, Mr. Bellerive said that the new action plan the country has implemented is not based on reconstruction but on re-creation.

"We must not forget that 220,000 people died in this tragedy, but we also see optimism," said Mr. Bellerive. "I do not see desolation, but I see courage in my people and the fight against misfortune." As well as the loss of life, the earthquake left more than 1.3 million people homeless and living in camps. The 2010 Haiti earthquake was the first disaster in modern history to hit a large urban settlement characterized by extreme poverty, informal settlements and lack of services.

Mr. Bellerive highlighted the fact that while the new effort to re-build Haiti has started, it should not be forgotten that there was an effort underway before the earthquake that was starting to show results.

UN-HABITAT's Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, said that her feelings were mixed between sadness and optimism in the rebuilding of Haiti. "We see in Haiti the potential to rise from the rubble, in what represented one of the largest and most destructive natural disasters in modern times." Mrs. Tibaijuka read a statement from former US President Bill Clinton, who is a UN Special Envoy for Haiti and who visited the country in March. The statement from President Clinton said: "Every time I visit Haiti, I see its potential for stable growth. I see it in the Haitian government's committed leadership, in the huge number of non-profit

organizations on the ground and in the world's unprecedented attention. But most of all, I see it in Haiti's citizens - like the 27-year-old man who figured out a way to turn garbage into cooking fuel briquettes that cost 80 percent

## Optimism reigns despite devastating earthquake

less than traditional charcoal. There are countless other individuals just like him."

UN-HABITAT is currently providing support to the Government of Haiti by setting up Shelter and Neighbourhood Support Centres in Port-au-Prince and secondary cities. The centres, supported by BASF, ILO, USAID and non-governmental organizations, will be

located within local authorities and will aim at strengthening the role of municipalities in coordinating and supervising activities related to emergency and transitional shelter as well as camps. Ultimately the municipalities will be better equipped to address issues related to settlement planning, land, housing and disaster management.

Mrs. Tibaijuka reminded the packed session that in stressful situations, such as natural disasters, violence often occurs in which women and children can be double victims. "Building back for all, is the spirit of the UN, and we must consult all people so that they are included in the process," said the Executive Director. ♦ **JA**

\*See page 26 for a special report on Haiti's earthquake.



"I see courage in my people" - Jean-Max Bellerive, Prime Minister of Haiti

PHOTO © GINGA FOTOS

# Act global, think global: how Obama's administration can assist international development

After leading the United States' biggest ever delegation to the World Urban Forum, Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, talked to *Urban World* about his experience of the World Urban Forum and his belief that the US should play a more global role working with UN-HABITAT.

**In her opening speech at the Gender Equality Action Assembly, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibajuka said that sustainable urbanization is the key challenge for the 21st Century. Does President Obama agree?**

I absolutely think he agrees with that. Sustainability is a term that people use in different ways. We've just been talking [in a session] about energy efficiency and greenhouse gas implications of sustainability, and one of the things that is important about this conference is that it takes a broader view of sustainability. If you look at the US experience, whether it's public housing in the 1950's and 1960's or more recently, building communities that are segregated in terms of income and opportunity, these are not sustainable. And so one of the things that has been a real focus here is access and equality, and making sure that sustainability also means that low-income families have access to opportunities that go beyond living in safer, healthier housing. So we are actually creating neighbourhoods that are connected to transport which allows people to find jobs and be connected to their jobs.

It is important that we define sustainability. I heard a lot in discussions at the Forum about the way the favelas are developing here in the western part of the city. They are cut off from transport which means that important opportunities are woefully lacking. So that is an example where I think in President Obama's definition of sustainability, you have an enormous problem, a lack of sustainability, because you don't have all the opportunities to be successful and sustainable. It's the same with education and a range of other things.

**In the same speech the Executive Director told the audience that gender inequality in the developing world, and specifically the lack of education for girls, made her "blood boil". What is the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) doing to tackle gender inequality?**

I don't think you can generalize about international challenges, and I think Secretary Clinton has been enormously eloquent about this as has President Obama. The expansion in the number of schoolgirls attending school in Afghanistan is dramatic, and that is just one example of where



Secretary Donovan

PHOTO © US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

our engagement has been about ensuring equality. I think generally speaking, in the communities that we work in, in the United States, we have challenges for both boys and girls. In fact, a lot of research shows that in the most devastated communities in the US, with deeply concentrated poverty rates of 40 percent and above, in many cases it is the boys who suffer more in those communities. I think we have made a number of advances in the last decade in the US that have created opportunity and freedom for girls from the most devastated communities, but we still have a long way to go.

**Is it true that since the Obama administration came to office, the US appears to be entering an era of international cooperation, building partnerships around the world that are mutually beneficial?**

Absolutely, and I think that it is mainly due to the President himself. He is a figure who has inspired the world. I was in Buenos Aires last year with the President of Argentina, and I was told that President Obama is the single most popular elected official there. There is an enormous sense of anticipation, so I think that there is a special feeling that he has gained around the world.

I also think he has made it clear that we want to engage with the world, but to reengage as a partner, so that there is a humility toward other countries which is very important. And, the truth is, we have an enormous amount to learn, our delegation is here, the largest delegation the US has ever had at the World Urban Forum, but even more importantly, we have over 500 people who have come from the US because they are deeply interested in engaging

and learning. And I think that reflects the way urban policy is changing. If this was 40 or 50 years ago, the federal government had a sort of top-down approach to urban development, with model cities, urban renewal, demolition of slums and build them in one-size-fits-all patterns, and we now have a really broad set of partnerships with the private sector.

We have a very deep set of relationships and engagements that the President has helped to increase, but it has also allowed many American groups that have an international interest to deepen those relationships. There is a certain pride in the President, that in his outreach, he has enhanced those relationships.

**It must be quite a challenge sometimes to persuade people, the Brazilian nation for example, that a partnership with the US means a mutually beneficial partnership.**

I am the fourth cabinet secretary to visit Brazil since the President took office, the first was Eric Holder, and I will tell you that every single official that I have talked to here has no doubt that he was here with genuine intent and interest in helping them in tackling one of the biggest problems they have, which is re-establishing civil society and security in the favelas. Having grown up in New York city, and witnessed the chaos of the South Bronx, with a real sense that US cities were on the verge of collapse, and having seen year after year over decades community policing and other techniques to reestablish safety and security in partnership with local communities, I think we have a lot that we can share and we also have a lot to learn in many areas. If there was a doubt or suspicion initially, I don't sense that now, and I certainly don't sense that in Brazil. I think there is a real sense of genuineness.

**I spoke to your colleague (see page 30), Mr. Fred Tombar, and we spoke about the Long-Term Recovery Working Group.**

Part of this is about resilience, not just about natural disasters. One of the most difficult things is choosing where to rebuild. In existing communities there has been a lot of talk about deciding what areas are too prone to natural disasters, and we have established, for the first time ever, a fund to help.

Historically, we have paid people to rebuild exactly what was there before, and it does not make sense if you are going to rebuild to the

same size, and to the same scale as beforehand if it was not sufficient in the first place. So, what we have done is to create a new fund available to people who want to rebuild their infrastructure better, smarter and stronger.

One specific example of how we are trying to engage with communities is in Cedar Rapids, which had a whole community that was wiped out by floods almost two years ago. It is very difficult to do, but they have made the decision to pay people to rebuild elsewhere. They're called 'buy-outs'. So we are rewarding them with extra funding to fund those buy-outs. This was locally driven to engage with them to make smarter long-term decisions, and to change the perverse incentives that we had at a federal level.

That's why we are putting a report together for the President, Janet Napolitano [Secretary of Homeland Security] and I, to be able to say: "Here is what we've learned, this is what we can do differently."

**Is the report going to be shared?**

It's one of the reasons we are here, it's an opportunity to engage with other places. Habitat for Humanity is here, and they have made a specific commitment both in Haiti and in Chile to rebuild tens of thousands of houses in each of those places, so they are one of the most important NGO partners that we have. And this is another area where some real lessons are learnt, our whole housing and community development system has changed dramatically over the last few decades, where today non-profit partners, private sector partners and foundations are some of the most important partners that we have.

We've learned that the hard way in New Orleans and on the Gulf Coast. New Orleans was the single largest outpouring of charity and voluntary work in the history of the US. But there have been far too many places where I have seen bureaucracy and rules that don't make sense stand in the way of being able to fund non-profit efforts to rebuild housing. My wife and I, with our kids, visited a home [in New Orleans] that they had literally finished rebuilding. There was contaminated dry-wall that was used to build the home, the lady there was suffering from severe Alzheimer's, in a wheelchair, and because of the rules in our funding programme, we couldn't help a non-profit organization that was there to strip out the dry-wall and rebuild. So volunteer labour stripped out the drywall, and

the family lived in this home for months and months. They were horrific conditions, and all we had to do was change one small rule to make it different.

We're trying to codify a whole range of examples like that one in this report, to allow us to engage better, not just government to government, but also with non-profit organizations and foundations. Habitat for Humanity is a great example and they have the largest chapter in the world now on the Gulf Coast.

**When building back in Haiti, you try and mitigate another catastrophe. But due to its location being so prone to natural disasters, it would almost mean moving the whole city. But a city doesn't only exist physically, but also in people's hearts and minds. So how can you get round the problem?**

It's very difficult, and I mentioned Cedar Rapids earlier, the decision to do buy-outs and relocate families is a very controversial and difficult process, but it is one that needs to be engaged, those hard decisions need to be made. In a place like Haiti there will be more risky and less risky places, and providing the incentives to rebuild in less risky areas needs to be combined with earthquake codes and all kinds of technical assistance in ensuring that buildings and infrastructure survive better in earthquake-prone areas.

**How is HUD facilitating UN-HABITAT's efforts in Haiti?**

We are emerging from the response phase to the recovery phase, and there are other agencies that are more naturally set up like FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) for the response phase. HUD's engagement is really in the recovery phase, which is more long-term. As communication and infrastructure gets rebuilt, that is when the deeper engagement around longer-term recovery happens. At this point, we have been mainly assisting through the White House and other agencies, to see what kind of engagement Haiti needs.

**Do you think that the US should have a wider role to play within the United Nations system?**

I think the fact that we are here as co-chairs at the World Urban Forum says 'yes', that we ought to have a much more significant role than what we've had in engaging with the United Nations. ♦

# Leading global companies join the World Urban Campaign



(L-R) Zhang Xuezhou, Elite Real Estate Research; Pedro Heer, Siemens; Anna Tibaijuka, UN-HABITAT; Adilson Primo, Siemens; Dominique Heron, Veolia Environment  
PHOTO © NICK MICHELL

UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, launched the World Urban Campaign, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with leading international companies including Siemens, Veolia and ARCADIS.

Through the World Urban Campaign, UN-HABITAT aims to unite the public and private sectors together with civil society, to elevate sustainable urbanization to the top of the agenda for governments around the world.

“UN-HABITAT have been working towards this campaign since the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements in 1996, where we reaffirmed the Habitat Agenda,” said Mrs. Tibaijuka. “The challenge has been transferring the knowledge from Istanbul into an active, forceful initiative but with the World Urban Campaign we believe we now have the platform. The Campaign is going to help us move forward and onto the next step and with international companies such as Siemens and Veolia joining us, the future looks bright.”

Germany’s Siemens, a worldwide leader in electronics and electrical engineering, became a partner of the World Urban Campaign, in an agreement that will run for an initial three years. As part of its commitment, Siemens will provide the campaign with experts in the field relating to infrastructure.

“Today more than 50 percent of the world’s population live in urban areas and we believe Siemens can make a sizeable contribution in dealing with the issues of rapid urbanization,” said Adilson Primo, Director of Siemens Brazil. “We are already implementing projects around the world, for example, Siemens street cars

which could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7.5 tonnes a year.”

ARCADIS, an international company headquartered in the Netherlands, which provides consultancy, design, engineering and management services, will commit its staff members and expertise to UN-HABITAT’s mission, including recovery programmes in Haiti.

“Our mission at ARCADIS is to contribute to the quality of the human habitat, which is extremely close to UN-HABITAT’s mandate,” said Harrie Noy, CEO of ARCADIS. “We are very excited about this agreement to be a partner of the World Urban Campaign and hope that our knowledge and experience will make a significant difference.”

French group Veolia Environment also joined the list of World Urban Campaign partners in signing the Memorandum of Understanding with UN-HABITAT, with Vice President for Partnerships, Dominique Heron, committed to tackling the urban challenges that the world currently faces.

“We are very proud to be joining the World Urban Campaign and to be working with UN-HABITAT,” said Mr. Heron. “It is key for us to be involved in urban challenges and this is a great opportunity to promote public/private partnerships. We manage urban projects in over 60 countries around the world with prominent initiatives in Rabat, Morocco, and Mumbai, India.”

Mrs. Tibaijuka signed Memoranda of Understanding with six other entities during a packed press conference (see box). The next phase of the World Urban Campaign was launched on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March with the unveiling of the official logo and presentation of the Campaign film. ♦ **NM**

## World Urban Campaign Partners

- **ARCADIS**  
Represented by Harrie Noy, CEO of ARCADIS
- **CREEC**  
Represented by President Elite Real Estate Research on behalf of CREEC, Zhang Xuezhou
- **Institut d’Aménagement et d’Urbanisme de la Région**  
Represented by Francois Dugény
- **Institut des Sciences et des Technologies de l’Équipement et de l’Environnement pour le Développement**  
Represented by Xavier Crépin, Chief Executive Officer
- **Siemens**  
Represented by Adilson Primo, Director; and Pedro Heer, Director, Corporate Communications
- **Siemens Stiftung**  
Represented by Ulrike Susanne Wahl
- **Pressgroup Holdings Europe SA**  
Represented by Angus McGovern, Publisher
- **Veolia**  
Represented by Dominique Heron, Vice President for Partnerships
- **Zerofootprint**  
Represented by Ron Dembo, Chief Executive Officer

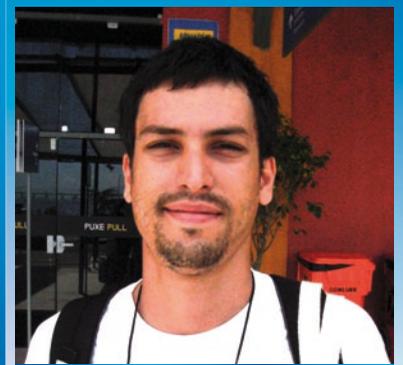
# The Delegates' View

Where do you think the next World Urban Forum should be held?



**Kosta Mathéy, Professor of Urban Development Studies, Berlin**

The World Urban Forum is a global event, and it should take place all over the world. If it were only in Vancouver or Nairobi, then some people would never come. Cairo would be a good place, as it's very accessible. Morocco might be good, in Casablanca or Rabat.



**Jaime Bastos Neto, Biologist, Instituto Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro**

I believe it should be held in a smaller, poorer city. Events like this bring new visions to a city and new investment. They should take advantage of what this forum can offer to smaller-scale places.



**Peter Kitemwa, SNP UN-HABITAT, Kenya**

I think that the next World Urban Forum should be held in Africa, because it is mostly Africa that benefits from this Forum due to the high levels of poverty there.



**Jean Phillippe Lestang, Executive, Group FIT, Nantes**

I think that the next World Urban Forum should be held in the capital of the Maldives. Malé is the densest city in the world and they are very much exposed to the dangers of climate change. We have to tackle that problem as soon as possible. It would benefit greatly from being under the spotlight for a while.



**Thierry Gonzalez, French Development Agency, Paris**

Perhaps the next World Urban Forum should be in Paris. The city has a very dynamic mayor, who has kickstarted many development projects.

# Haiti's devastating earthquake

Seventy percent of Haiti's population are now living on less than USD 2 a day. As part of the UN-HABITAT team which was sent to Haiti, **Alain Grimard\*** examines the aid efforts which international agencies are leading and explains why safer housing especially for the vulnerable is essential to recovery.



A tearful service in the ruins of the Léogane Cathedral

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT / A. GRIMARD

The Caribbean island nation of Haiti was still recovering from the havoc caused by catastrophic storms in 2008 that claimed hundreds of lives and left many thousands homeless, when a devastating earthquake struck the capital's outskirts on January 12.

The massive 7 magnitude earthquake's epicentre was approximately 25 kilometres southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, and the most powerful to hit the country in some 250 years.

It was 16.53 local time in the afternoon. That was when it seemed even time came to stop in Haiti. No-one could have imagined how bad it would be.

Haiti's President, Mr. René Préval, in an appeal for international aid in the wake of aftershocks which struck again and again said: "Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed."

Within days of the earthquake, UN-HABITAT dispatched a team to conduct an immediate survey of shelter and human settlements needs for the estimated two million survivors scattered around the towns worst hit.

For Jean-Yves Barcelo and myself, what we saw when we arrived was more traumatic than anything I could have imagined. The UN had warned us that the shock would be worse for those who already knew the country. And that is what hit me. I had spent five years in the country. As someone who speaks Créole, is still connected with Haitian people, and who knows the place so well, much of it was unrecognizable.

Gone were the most symbolic and oldest landmarks – the presidential palace, the Cathedral and the City Hall, as well as many government ministries, universities and churches.

The latest UN toll at the time of writing put the overall number of lives lost at 250,000. Some of them were my friends. Those who died included 85 members of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon set the tone in a word of remembrance when he said: "The United Nations was born in suffering. You have seen the people of Haiti bear far, far more than their fair share of life's injustice. And you are suffering with them. We have lost so many colleagues, so many dear friends. We have lost children, husbands, wives and fiancés. Even now, we



International aid workers camp out near the airport

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT / A. GRIMARD



Smiling in the face of adversity at a roadside camp

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT / A. GRIMARD

have yet to find them all. You have shown extraordinary courage and dedication in the face of such tragedy."

The collapse of the UN headquarters meant those of us arriving in the immediate wake of the disaster – numbering 700-800 – had to stay at the MINUSTAH base near the airport, to the east of Port-au-Prince. Many of us simply slept on bits of cardboard on the

ground. There were still aftershocks and it was safer than being inside a building. Others had brought small tents. I had a change of clothes, a computer and a camera.

At the time, according to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there were up to 150 emergency flights coming in daily. These had dropped to some 80 per day by mid-February.

## Fast facts

**Food** - As of 4 February, according to the World Food Programme, over 1.6 million people have received food since the start of the response. Some 600,000 people have received a two-week ration of rice from 16 distribution sites. Additional distributions to hospitals, orphanages and community kitchens continue without interruption. Mobile field kitchens donated by the Norwegian Refugee Council provide hot meals in Léogane, Petit and Grand Goave.

**Health** - There are 91 working hospitals - 59 are in the Port-au-Prince. A database of hospitals is being created and will include information on essential drugs, the number of beds, medical specialties, the type and quantity of medical human resources, and the number of consultations.

**Water and sanitation** - As of 3 February, 788,000 people were being provided with safe drinking water on a daily basis (5 litres per person per day) from 300 sites across Port-au-Prince, and other towns. Public toilets are being built as quickly as possible wherever possible. According to the World Health Organization, 18,000 latrines are

required for 900,000 people in Port-au-Prince, but less than 5 percent of this need had been met at the time of going to print.

**Funding** - According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), the current Flash Appeal is 89 percent funded. Of the USD 577 million requested, USD 512 million has been received and USD 41 million has been pledged. Donors are urged to convert all pledges into cash. FTS also documents all contributions and pledges to projects not listed in the Flash Appeal. To date, the combined total is almost USD 955 million in funding and more than USD 761 million in uncommitted pledges. The Emergency Relief Response Fund for Haiti has over USD 76 million in pledges, of which USD 63 million has been received. All companies that wish to make cash and in kind donations are urged to use the new UN/Business Partnership Gateway, at <http://business.un.org>. This function matches offers of support with UN needs. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in kind contributions by sending an email to: [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int)

We managed to get a UN vehicle, and for the next 10 days it served as our office and our home. As we assessed the situation we found that the people of Haiti reacted very calmly to this calamity, despite what the media reported. Yes there was some looting, but on the whole most people were resilient and calm, and there was no violence.

The UN-HABITAT team visited many poor districts of Port-au-Prince, as well as other affected cities such as Léogane and Petit Goave. We needed to ensure that people could stay near their homes, something they were most anxious about for fear of theft or seeing them bulldozed. After all so many people in Haiti live in informal settlements without title to the land they occupy. In many cases, the men stayed behind while the women and children went to the temporary shelters or back to their rural villages.

It is important to note here that the other towns around the earthquake epicentre were also very seriously hit in this earthquake. Worst of all was Léogane where about 80 percent of buildings were destroyed. Jacmel lost 30 percent of its buildings. In Petit Goave, Carrefour and Port-au-Prince 40 to 50 percent of buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

Given the level of damage inflicted on the Ministry of Education building, UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) has provided a huge tent to ensure adequate working space for civil servants. MINUSTAH continues to provide support to the Ministry of Justice in retrieving archives from collapsed judicial buildings.

At the time of writing the UN humanitarian office reported that the security situation remains unchanged but there is growing

## UN-HABITAT's humanitarian role

UN-HABITAT is principal member of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for humanitarian operations (IASC) chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Agency provides shelter and human settlements support to government and other humanitarian agencies.

concern of crime prompted by the lack of shelter, jobs, and sanitation.

It is here where UN-HABITAT has a key role. We frequently advised the UN and NGO aid groups as well as Haitian officials that people should not simply be moved outside town, and all the rubble cleared up and removed. A community-based approach, *quartier par quartier*, is necessary to tackle the issues of securing and re-building homes and neighbourhoods smartly.

The shelter recovery strategy advocated by UN-HABITAT is based on experience working in post-disaster situations in which 70 percent of affected people are living on less than USD 2 a day. The agency seeks to ensure that the provision of safer housing in Haiti is equitable, responds to the needs of those most vulnerable - the physically challenged, women, children and the elderly, especially those living in poverty. It also seeks to look after the affected communities in the rebuilding effort.

This is advice based on the agency's considerable recent experience after the Indian Ocean tsunami, the earthquakes in Pakistan and Indonesia and the conflict in Lebanon.

Ordinary people in Haiti tell us every day what we have learned in these other disasters: that assistance services should be provided as close to the affected populations as possible thus preventing further displacement and the relocation of people into large camps. Efforts must be made to address Haiti's housing issues early on after the disaster. Experience worldwide shows that people affected by disasters are keen to return to their homes as soon as possible to regain a sense of place,

## Clinton takes the lead



Former US President, Bill Clinton, with UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka last year  
 PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

The former United States President Bill Clinton returned to Haiti for a second time early in February as part of his expanded leadership role for the United Nations and pledged to see the tasks through to their successful conclusion “long after the television crews have gone and emergency response teams have returned to their home countries.” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Mr. Clinton UN Special Envoy for Haiti last May, following a visit they made together two months earlier to raise awareness of efforts to help its people and government bolster economic security of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. “Flying into Port-au-Prince for the second time since the earthquake, I was pleased to see continued signs of an expanding relief effort,” he said in a statement issued on the Clinton Foundation website.

adjust to the psychological trauma of the disaster, and reclaim their lives.

UN-HABITAT has repeatedly advised that the camps be established in neighbourhoods as near to people’s homes as possible, and that the rubble is carefully sifted so that what can be saved is re-used for home repairs, road improvement and reinforcement against further landslides. This is important in an island nation like Haiti where many homes were traditionally built on steep slopes.

Despite the extent of devastation in an earthquake there is a surprising amount of re-useable material that can be salvaged and enable Haitians to rebuild their homes. The use of salvaged materials with earthquake-resistant technologies, has proven highly effective when deployed elsewhere including in Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake.

Haiti has two rainy seasons, from April to June and October to November. And it has a hurricane season that lasts from June to November. Thus the idea of using what can be saved and making it earthquake-resistant makes a place far better in the rainy season, and safe against powerful hurricane winds.

It will avoid the logistical bottlenecks that Haitians may encounter if they rely solely on tents which may only arrive in great quantities at the beginning of the rainy season and will not hold up.

UN-HABITAT has advised that teams of engineers and architects assess all structures in Haiti and tag them green for safe, orange repairable, and red as dangerous and therefore to be pulled down. Such an assessment will enable people to get their homes rebuilt or repaired as quickly as possible. The government and municipality agree with this strategy. It is a humane and participatory approach that enables people to have a direct say in what happens to their home.

It is also important to set up shelter resource centres in Haiti, applied effectively in other post-disaster situations, including Pakistan, to provide shelter and technical demonstrations, information, and technical assistance. They also double as community centres and can be used for the distribution of non-food items.

Haitians are in desperate need for cash as most forms of employment have been destroyed. Most Haitians are able and willing to work so cash-for-work systems can be put into place for the collection of rubble, both for

relocating rubbish and for salvaging materials for housing reconstruction.

We need to bear in mind here that roughly half the population of Port-au-Prince is without shelter or have gone to other towns. In the longer term, the agency’s role will be to help the government and the municipalities plan a safer urban fabric.

A larger UN-HABITAT team is being dispatched to Haiti, in order to undertake with other UN agencies, the World Bank and the European Commission a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). Within this exercise, UN-HABITAT is responsible for the housing and land sectors, and it is also providing special assistance with water and sanitation and public services. There is little doubt that the agency will be helping rebuild and reshape Haiti for years to come. ♦

*\* Alain Grimard worked for five years in Haiti for the UN Development Programme and the UN Capital Development Funds. Today he serves as UN-HABITAT’s Senior Human Settlements Officer, overseeing UN-HABITAT activities in more than ten countries in Africa and the Arab States.*

# Why planning is the key to disaster recovery

Fred Tombar was raised in New Orleans and was on one of the last planes to leave the city before Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005. His new role as Senior Advisor for Disaster Programs in the US Department for Housing and Development (HUD) therefore has a particular personal significance. *Urban World* spoke to Mr. Tombar about urban recovery after a natural disaster and what lessons can be applied in Haiti following the January earthquake.



The US's response to Hurricane Katrina was widely criticized

PHOTO © PALMER W. COOK

### What is the first, most important step in disaster recovery?

Planning, planning and planning. A community that has a plan will recover far more quickly than one that does not. We know that it is the same in other aspects of disaster recovery, from housing to infrastructure, healthcare to human services. Where a community plans in advance for what is most likely to happen, it is better suited to recover when something does actually happen.

### Which is the bigger problem, money or coordination?

That is like Solomon splitting the baby. There is a need for both. You can have the best coordinated operation, but if it is resource-poor, it will be ineffective. Similarly, all of the resources in the world will not be effective if there is not a properly planned coordination effort.

### Has HUD's focus on post-disaster urban recovery changed since Hurricane Katrina in 2005?

It has in a major way. First, Shaun Donovan, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Janet Napolitano, Secretary for Homeland Security, have both made tremendous commitments to learn from the lessons and examples of Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina and subsequent disasters. We are constantly developing as we learn more. This is best illustrated by President Obama's establishment of a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group, where he has asked both Secretary Donovan and Secretary Napolitano to co-chair an effort that involves every agency of the federal government. Furthermore, he has requested a review of what the federal government does currently in recovery and how we can do it better.

A set of recommendations are being prepared as we speak, that will be delivered to the president on 1 April of this year. These recommendations will tell the president how we can recover from disasters in a smarter, safer and stronger way.

### The previous administration was heavily criticised for its response to Hurricane Katrina, was this fair?

There were some massive problems. I have mentioned the importance of coordination and resources. Congress made billions of dollars available for communities that were im-



Fred Tombar: proper planning and coordination is key  
PHOTO © HUD

acted by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. But unfortunately, we found out that there were some bureaucratic decisions that had been made by the previous administration that were impeding those dollars moving forward in the best way possible for the communities that the money was intended for. What Secretary Donovan and Secretary Napolitano have done since then is to take a comprehensive look at those things that were roadblocks to the recovery, and they have made every effort possible to remove those roadblocks so that the communities can recover quickly and thoroughly.

There is a difference between response and recovery, and nobody who saw the response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 would say that it was a great moment for the country. It certainly is a focus of President Obama's and was so when he was Senator Obama and Candidate Obama. He has committed to making sure that it does not happen again.

### What is the difference between response and recovery?

A good idea is to begin with the end in mind. Response and relief is what happens immediately. Making sure people have basic health and sanitation needs. But there are things that happen in that time period of three to four months that influence how quickly or how well a community can recover. The recovery of communities that were impacted by Hurricane Katrina can take years. We are now

approaching the fifth year since the hurricane hit and still there is recovery ongoing.

We also make a distinction between recovery and revitalization. In recovery, the general focus is to rebuild what was damaged, often without regard to what is needed to create a vibrant community. With revitalization, the question becomes: what is this community going to look like and what are the necessary components to bring back an extremely vibrant community? So it is not just housing, it is schools, healthcare, roads, infrastructure, water and sanitation, it is economic development and making sure there are sufficient jobs and business opportunities. These factors are tremendously important, not just when you look at recovery, but also at longer-term vitality.

### Amongst the ruins of Port-au-Prince, could there be an opportunity for Haiti to renew its urban landscape?

President Kennedy said: 'The Chinese character for disaster combines the characters for chaos and opportunity.' He was not correct but I think the point is salient. There is certainly challenge and chaos in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, as we have seen in Haiti. But there is also opportunity. I recall an interview recently with the Haitian ambassador to the United States, who said that Port-au-Prince was built for 50,000 people, but now serves somewhere between two and three million people. Obviously, most of that city is now in ruins and will have to be rebuilt. There is an opportunity to rebuild it in the way that addresses the needs, not of 50,000 people, but of three million people.

Beyond that, Haiti was hit by three severe tropical storms last year. And this year, as we know, a devastating earthquake. It is built on a fault line, and it is on the path of tropical storms that come from the Caribbean and through the Gulf of Mexico, so it is hugely susceptible to disasters. One of the things that we are doing with the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group is how we can rebuild in a way that is resilient, sustainable and that really recognizes what the challenges are: topography, geography and climate.

**After a large-scale disaster, there is a need to rebuild quickly, to create a safer environment for people and to think further ahead. What is necessary for Haiti now?**



Finding a balance between immediate relief and long-term recovery after natural disasters is the key challenge

PHOTO © PALMER W. COOK

Most of the effort in Haiti, for the time being, should be focused on dealing with the immediate health issues that people have: clean water, food, and access to healthcare. But they need the support around them to encourage them to think of the future, so that it does not turn out to be futile when the next natural disaster strikes. After what has happened in Haiti, there needs to be time taken in order to establish how to build up again: smarter, safer and stronger.

**Do you draw on the expertise of the international community, as well as domestic federal agencies?**

We strongly believe in cross-border communication and knowledge sharing. There have been many consultations from programmes and practices from abroad that we have considered and studied in the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group.

For example, in January, in Kobe, Japan, they celebrated the full recovery from the earthquake that happened 15 years ago. We have all learned from Kobe's experience. They recognized that Kobe and much of Ja-

pan sits on a fault line, and so what they have done is put in place building codes that would enable the building to withstand an earthquake if it were to happen again. Not only did they establish the building codes but they also enforced them, and still do. There has been research to show that the incremental costs of rebuilding in a way that is resilient to earthquakes is pretty nominal by comparison, around a 10 percent increase in cost will give you an earthquake-resistant building. Those types of experiences are extremely instructive for Haiti as it looks to rebuild. It is an incredibly difficult situation, but one which can be addressed. It is difficult, but not hopeless.

Barack Obama is calling for an extensive review of what the United States is capable of doing to help communities affected by disaster. But what is unprecedented, is the fact that all governmental agencies have been told to explain what they do and what they could do to help communities affected by disasters to recover. This has not been done before. This is President Obama recognizing the importance of post-disaster urban recovery and bringing every federal agency to task.

**What examples of successful post-disaster urban recovery can you cite?**

The City of Grand Forks, in North Dakota, suffered serious damage after its river broke its banks in 1997, causing extensive flooding. The then-mayor made a radical decision to remove the homes from the flood plain to higher ground. She made it illegal to build within the flood plain. It was not popular, in fact, it was so unpopular that she was voted out at the next election and she had to move to Florida. Less than 15 years later, just last year, the river flooded again and Grand Forks avoided what we call 'repetitive loss'. Had those homes been rebuilt on the flood plain, they would have been lost again. But they did not, because the mayor made a tough decision to move them. It survived the flood with minimal damage. In fact, the city council and current mayor brought back the old mayor and gave her an award for having the foresight and courage to do the right thing. I believe that that is a great domestic example.

Recovery from a major disaster takes time and foresight. Hard decisions need to be made, and while they may not be popular, they could be the best thing for the community. ♦



## Partners in Development

The Kuwait Fund, promotes economic development throughout the world.

By the end of March 2009 the Fund has committed concessional loans with a value of over US\$14.5 billion, benefiting 101 countries around the world. In addition, the Fund extended technical assistance and grants with a value of over US\$350 million to finance activities and tasks that promote development operations. The Fund also made contributions on behalf of the State to a number of regional and international development institutions to support their development activities.

The Fund's development operations cover the financing of projects accorded high priority by recipient countries in agriculture, communications, energy, industry, transport, water and sanitation. In addition to supporting small and medium private sector projects through lines of credit extended to national development banks and various social development funds.

Majreda Valley - Tunis



Turkey Railway



St.Christopher Nevis  
Nevis Island Ports



Senegal River  
Development Project



Padalarang Cileuny Highway -  
Indonesia



Shenzhen Airport - China

# Why steel could be the solution to affordable housing

Steel has long been the backbone for infrastructure projects, from bridges and railways to factories and early skyscrapers, but now it is being used as the skin and interior for innovative housing. **Jonathan Andrews** reveals how steel could be the solution to developing housing for both high end and lower-income citizens.



The 12 new apartments in Kolkata are aimed at higher income families from the IT boom

**B**uilding a steel apartment block in a city where temperatures can rise to 45°C sounds like a recipe for disaster. But such a scheme is exactly what UK architects Piercy Conner have proposed for India's third largest city Kolkata, to meet the challenge set by the Living Steel International Architecture Competition in 2006. Not only has the project received the Living Steel award for sustainable housing but the scheme has reached the final planning stages with the city authorities.

The housing project, named Restello, aims to demonstrate that steel can provide attractive and innovative housing while adapting to local conditions to make residential buildings more environmentally friendly.

The design provides for a double skin apartment block, with an outer layer which consists of perforated steel that shades the deep-set terraces. Sun paths and wind tunnelling also assist, providing a sustainable alternative to air-conditioning by allowing air to pass into the rooms. Yet for extreme temperatures the inner skin can be sealed to allow air-conditioning to be used.

"These 12 apartments are aimed at the rising number of higher income families," says Stuart Piercy, director of Piercy Conner Architects. "In Kolkata there is a significant economic boom based around IT and demand for good quality family housing is on the increase."

The urgency for new and sustainable housing solutions has been highlighted by UN-HABITAT. Each week over 1 million people move to an urban area. Housing is needed not just for the low-income market in cities but also for the middle class that seeks to upgrade and improve their living standards.

The design by Piercy Conner won the International Architecture Competition 2006, that called for creative steel solutions to developing new residential housing in India. Living Steel is a worldwide programme that aims to stimulate innovative and responsible housing designs using steel (see box).

"In our programme we want to show the flexibility in the use of steel for housing," says Scott Chubbs, director at Living Steel. "From more affordable housing for emerging markets up to the top end, which is more suitable for high-income people."

But can steel really assist those at the bottom of the investment pyramid? "Steel

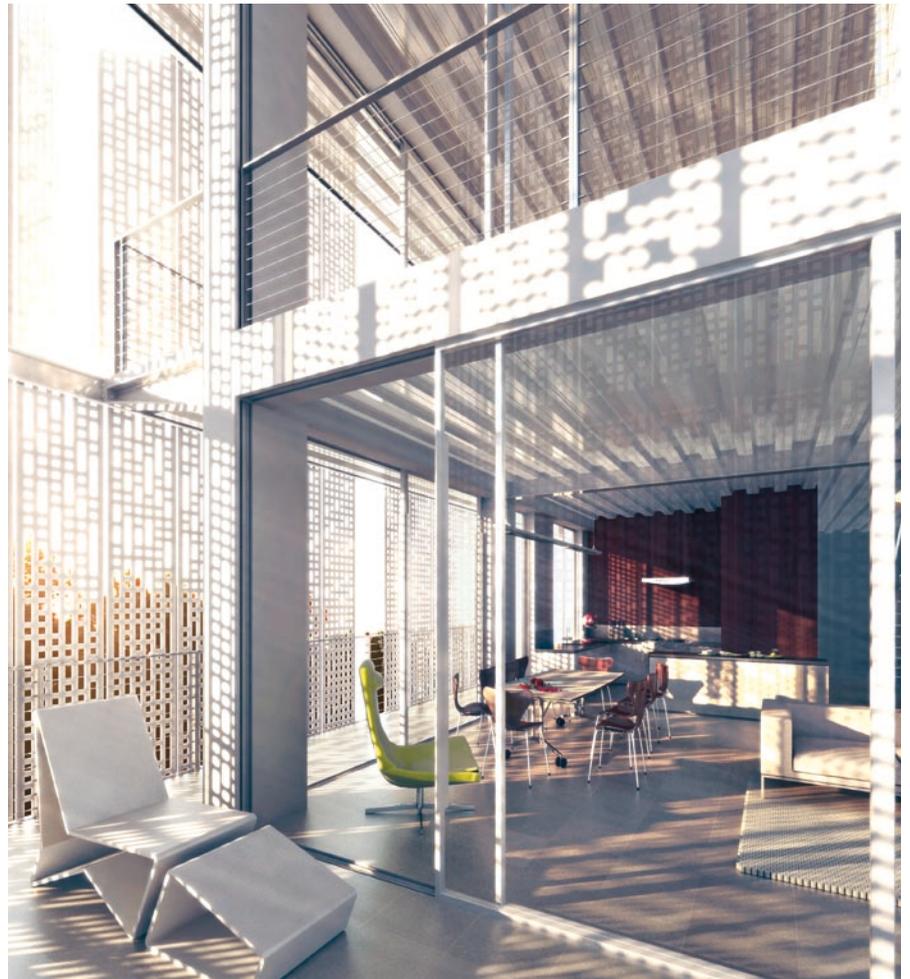
definitely has the potential to be used for affordable low-cost housing just with its simple advantage of being able to be erected very quickly to cope with demand," explains Mr. Piercy.

Steel has many advantages: the structural properties of steel, its durability, flexibility and strength offer major pluses. Steel is also 100 percent recyclable with a large part of steel used in construction today having been recycled.

Mr. Piercy says: "In India, steel is not extensively used for residential construction with concrete being cheaper and more common. Steel is currently more expensive but as projects like Restello are developed its popularity and demand will rise, reducing the price in line with economies of scale and production. The erection costs of steel are approximately half of what they are in concrete

## Living Steel programme

Living Steel is a five-year programme run under the umbrella of the World Steel Association, an industry representative body that has committed more than EUR 14.25 million (USD 19.19 million) to support the global search for more efficient and effective housing solutions. Funded through the contributions of the world's leading steel manufacturers the full members of Living Steel include ArcelorMittal, Baosteel, BlueScope Steel, CELSA Group, Corus, Erdemir, IMIDRO, Posco, Rukki, SeverStal and Tata Steel. Becker Industrial Coatings and Saint-Gobain Gypsum are associate members.



Perforated steel shades the deep set terraces in the Restello project

PHOTO © PIERCY CONNER ARCHITECTS ▶



New housing for earthquake-ravaged Sichuan Province

PHOTO © LIVING STEEL

this is further helped by the ease of raising a building in steel which can be achieved with local semi-skilled labour.”

The possibilities of using steel for mass-produced housing is one area which architects, mayors and the steel industry are keen to develop.

“A kit of steel parts could be created to produce bespoke designs from standard components – in this way designs are beautiful and contextual while being efficient to produce,” says Mr. Piercy. “If we look historically to pre-fabricated housing in Europe, especially in Germany and the Netherlands, it worked, and recently in Japan where the pre-fabricated market is at the high-end of private housing. There is lots of scope for the future.”

For disaster zones, the use of steel in housing can also be of practical benefit. After the earthquake that hit Sichuan Province, China, in 2008, Living Steel teamed up with UK-firm Cartwright Pickard Architects to develop flexible affordable housing, called NovoHouse, that could be built anywhere in the world in any climate.

“The NovoHouse project focus is about improving the quality of housing and construction while keeping them within reach of low-income families,” says Mr. Chubbs.

The designs have to meet strict conditions, and be flexible enough for varying climate conditions, site conditions, and living and cultural habits. It also needed to be able to withstand tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclones and other natural disasters. The units

consist of a steel shell that can be clad with local materials such as brick, wood or tree thatching. In the case of a natural disaster, the steel structure will remain standing, and if the cladding has been destroyed, the family can re-clad and return quickly.

“The interesting thing about these houses in China is their steel structure reuses sandwich panels from the temporary accommodation that was setup following the earthquake,” explains Mr. Chubbs. “It was initially used for temporary accommodation for emergency

workers and people displaced from their homes. These steel sandwich panels are being used for the cladding and because of it the new houses will actually have insulation, which the old homes did not.”

The two demonstration projects, one in the town of Lingyan and the other in the town of Hongkou will vary slightly. One style is for a two-storey duplex that utilises the broken tiles salvaged from the devastated homes. The Hongkou project has been designed to include guest rooms that means families can gain extra income from tourists.



The first all steel residential construction in Dujiangyan City, China

The cost of the houses will be approximately 1,400 RMB (USD 205) per square metre, which is slightly more than the average for the region at 900 RMB per square metre. Scott Chubbs believes that while more expensive there is clear added value in the quality of a structure, which will provide a safe environment with more protection against any future natural disasters.

“We’re seeing more interest coming into Baosteel, our partners, because after the earthquake of 2008, people are looking for something that feels a little bit more secure, that they have some



The costs of raising a building in steel are approximately half of what they are with concrete

PHOTO © LIVING STEEL

confidence in,” says Mr. Chubbs. “As we begin to complete these 40 ‘demonstration’ homes people are becoming more familiar with them and interest is growing.”

In Dujiangyan City the project is more ambitious, with the first all-steel residential construction taking shape, which once completed by mid-2010, will resettle over 1,300 families.

The use of steel for speedy post-disaster recovery is however limited by the availability of steel locally.

“China might be a more unique situation in reusing steel in disaster management housing as they have this huge capability to make this housing, because there is a supply chain already in place,” explains Mr. Chubbs. “In the case of Haiti, the supply chain isn’t in place at all, but we have some companies like ArcelorMittal and BlueScope Steel, based in Australia, who provide housing solutions for post-disaster recovery, which range from empty shells to more complete houses.”

The recyclability of steel is a powerful selling point that the steel industry is trying to promote. On a worldwide basis, there are over 400 million tonnes of recycled steel being used in the production of new steel. The amount of recycled steel is about 40 to 45 percent depending on the product.

The energy consumption that is used to recycle steel has also dropped significantly, which has allayed some environmentalists’ concerns. Bill Heenan, president of the Steel

Recycling Institute explains that there is an economic cause to recycle steel: “On average, for every tonne of steel recycled we save approximately 4600 kW hours of energy. Thus, it’s always cheaper and more energy-efficient to use steel scrap.”

More steel is recycled annually than all other recyclables combined including paper, plastic, glass, aluminium and copper but there is a concern that developing countries may not be yet at the efficiency levels that north America or western Europe are.

But Scott Chubbs at Living Steel believes that in time when developing countries start to build further with steel, this process will become more efficient: “It’s like an ecosystem, they [recycled and new steel] don’t really exist one without the other. The demand for steel surpasses the amount of recycled steel there is in the world, so you need both routes to meet the demand. One of the reasons for this is that steel is a long-lived material, so when it is used in buildings and structures it is there for 100 or more years until you get it back in the recycling stream.”

The Living Steel programme that began in 2005 is due to end this year, although Mr. Chubbs says plans for another programme are underway. “With these projects, we hope to demonstrate viable options to supply a growing housing shortage that can truly improve the quality of life for families in developing countries, yet be affordable to build and own.” ♦



PHOTO © LIVING STEEL

# Wind energy provides Argentina with new opportunities

Crippled by an economic collapse in 2001 and hampered by energy laws which limited investment, Argentina has lagged behind many of its Latin American neighbours in the development of renewable energy. But following a successful tender in December 2009 which reignited interest in the market, **Nick Michell** explains how the government is attracting a new wave of foreign investors.

**A**rgentina's Patagonia region, with its snow topped mountains, unique coastal wildlife and windswept plateaus, possesses some of the best conditions in the world for wind energy generation, yet the country only has a paltry 30 megawatts (MW) of capacity through wind-generated power. While Patagonia may have some of the world's strongest and most lucrative winds, other locations in the country, such as Comahue, Córdoba, La Rioja and the province of Buenos Aires, also have extremely favourable conditions.

Blessed with this undoubted potential, Argentina should be a world leader in the wind energy market, so why does wind only generate a tiny 0.21 percent of the country's energy?

The projects that do exist were mainly completed in the late 1990s and early 2000s and developed by small local electricity service cooperatives in the Patagonia region. The country's economic collapse in 2001 had a severe effect on the industry, as the government heavily intervened in the energy market and, hindered by lack of incentives and access to finance, the market failed to develop.

As well as financial instability, the market lacked a secure framework to encourage investment, so in 2006, the government attempted to kickstart the market with a new energy law. The Renewable Energies Law 26.190 states that, by 2016, 8 percent of the country's energy matrix must be derived from renewable sources. The law outlined a feed-in tariff, with a bonus to wind generators and provided various tax incentives, such as accelerated depreciation and exemption from Value Added Tax. But many believe the incentives offered were insufficient and failed to address the main barriers.

"The incentive introduced in the law doesn't cover the gap between the increasing marginal cost of electricity generation and the electricity spot price, because the marginal cost started to grow, pushed up by increasing international prices," says Sebastian Kind, board member of the Argentine Renewable Energies Chamber. "In order to regularize this situation, the government decided to host tenders to assign PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) which will produce a regular paycheck for investors."

The process has proved to be the catalyst for growth. In May 2009 the Argentine government launched a 1,015 MW tender under

the requirements of the Renewable Energies Law of 2006 and to garner competition and interest from foreign energy companies.

The results of the tender were announced by the government in December 2009 with the total offers reaching 1,461 MW, a 46 percent oversubscription, of which 1,203 MW were from wind energy companies. Once all the offers have been reviewed, the government will evaluate each one objectively – on the basis of the prices offered and the companies' technical and financial capacity.

"We saw a high degree of confidence in the sector's potential and the 1,461 MW offered represents solid foundations for a prosperous renewable energy industry," says Mr. Kind. "Argentina has a unique opportunity to generate new skills and develop technology while providing clean and competitive energy for our future."

The success of this tender generated a lot of enthusiasm in the wind energy industry. The quality and prestige of the multinational companies which tendered for business implies that Argentina is on its way to developing an established renewable energies industry. The country has been excluded from international credit markets since the economic collapse of 2001—after defaulting on USD 93 billion of debt— and the wind energy market could provide a valuable source of investment and employment. According to calculations by the Argentine Renewable Energies Chamber, if the tenders received for all 1,461 MW are accepted, they will lead to investments in excess of USD 2 billion and the creation of approximately 1,000 new jobs.

"There is a great interest in Argentina now because the government launched this tender through the state owned electricity company Enarsa and everybody is thinking about the opportunities in Argentina because there is now a tender for buying renewable electricity – a PPA for 15 years and the price is going to be fixed in a competitive way," says Ramon Fiestas, Secretary General of the Spanish Wind Energy Association and Global Wind Energy Council Board Member.

Soon after the positive results were announced, the largest wind farm in Argentina was unveiled in the La Rioja province. Completed in January 2010, the Arauco wind farm will effectively double the country's wind power generation capacity, which only stood at 27 MW in 2008. The facility con-

sists of 12 wind turbines that can generate 2.1 MW of electricity each, with an estimated cost of USD 59.7 million. Manufactured by Argentine energy company, IMPSA, the farm employed 200 people during its construction and was entirely funded by the provincial government. Future expansion is already being planned to provide as much as 90 MW of wind energy.

Undoubtedly, there are numerous benefits available from wind power projects in Argentina, including lower system costs, higher system reliability, hydro-wind complementation, reduced carbon emissions, local employment and supply chain development. Wind is the technology of choice for power generation in the current global context of price volatility, poor security of supply and global warming concerns and with Argentina possessing unmatched technical characteristics as far as usable wind resources are concerned, the opportunities for investment are good. The country has almost 70 percent of its land covered with winds whose annual average speed, measured at 50 metres above ground level, surpasses 6 metres per second (m/s). In central and southern Patagonia, average wind speeds can reach as high as 12 m/s.

"Half of the territory is covered with some 40 percent of Capacity Factor, which is double the average in Europe, with a population density 10 times lower, so Argentina can install much more wind power than the total electricity needed," says Mr. Kind. "Assuming that 50 percent of the total target by 2016 will be covered by wind power, 1,250 MW will need to be installed and considering that 1,200 MW were offered in the tender last December, I don't see it being too difficult to fulfil the requirement of 8 percent by 2016."

Ramon Fiestas acknowledges Argentina's potential for wind energy but preaches careful optimism: "There is certainly a lot of potential in Argentina and of course now there is an interest in the country as 1,000 MW have been assigned to wind power but we need to see how many of these wind power projects are going to be realized and how many megawatts we are going to see running from this tender. If you are a manufacturer wanting to establish yourself in Argentina you need to know that there is a long-term plan and that measures have been taken to implement a support system." ♦

## EDUCATION

**Dominican Republic**

The Dominican Republic will receive a USD 100 million conditional credit line from the Inter-American Development Bank to improve education in the country. The initial USD 50 million loan will aid the construction of new schools, lengthening of school days and boosting students' reading, writing and mathematics skills. The funds will finance the building of 34 fully equipped secondary schools, with an average of 14 classrooms, renovation work at more than 200 elementary schools and the stocking of 3,000 individual classroom libraries with 80 book titles in each.

## WATER

**Brazil**

The World Bank has approved a loan of USD 190 million for the Pernambuco Sustainable Water Project, in northeast Brazil, aimed at guaranteeing access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to the inhabitants of one of the driest areas in the country. Scarcity of water resources has been a prominent constraint on the sustainable development of northeast Brazil, a problem aggravated by recurrent droughts, water losses, deficiencies in water supply and adequate management.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Bahamas**

The Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation (BREC), a joint-venture between Schneider Power Caribbean Inc. and WINSO Company Ltd. of Nassau, has been notified by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation that it has been short listed under the Renewable Request for Proposal process and will proceed to the next stage. BREC has submitted proposals for three renewable power generation facilities totalling 24 megawatts, spread across the three islands of New Providence, Abaco and Harbour Island.

## SANITATION

**Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico is to dedicate more than USD 8 million of its American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding from the United States Environment Protection Agency on an upgrade of a sewer line that stretches from Loíza to Carolina. The new, modern sewer system will eliminate sewage leaks into the river Río Grande Loíza, which is utilized for fishing and recreational purposes. Properly functioning sewer lines and other wastewater infrastructure systems are essential to protecting public health and the environment, by avoiding contaminated drinking water and recreational waterways, beach closings and pollution.

## Renewable Energy

### Controversial hydroelectric dam approved in Brazil's Amazon

Brazil has granted an environmental license for the construction of the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam in the Amazon rainforest, which, once completed, will be the world's third largest hydroelectric plant and will have cost an estimated USD 17 billion. The dam will be built on the Amazon's Xingu River and could produce around 11,000 megawatts of electricity, potentially supplying power to 23 million Brazilian homes.

The huge scale of this project and the potential damage it could cause to the Amazon's fragile ecosystems and the survival of indigenous communities living within the rainforest, has led to environmentalists and indigenous leaders condemning the proposed construction.

"No one knows the true cost of Belo Monte," says Aviva Imhof, Campaigns Director at International Rivers. "The project would displace tens of thousands of people, and destroy the livelihood of thousands more. Even as Brazil argues that the international community should support rainforest protection, its government insists on promoting mega-infrastructure projects in Amazonia that are socially and environmentally indefensible."

The Brazilian government has admitted that the Belo Monte dam would result in around 500 square kilometres of land being flooded, affecting approximately 12,000 people, who would have to be re-housed and relocated. Activists believe thousands more



The Belo Monte hydroelectric dam could cause significant damage to the Amazon rainforest

PHOTO © IVAN MLINARIC

will be adversely affected by the project and the proposal of many future dams along the Amazon, would see the extinction of ecosystems and the destruction of indigenous lands and protected areas.

"We want to make sure that Belo Monte does not destroy the ecosystems and the biodiversity that we have taken care of for millennia," says Megaron Tuxucumarrãe, a chief of the Kayapó Indians. "We are opposed to dams on the Xingu, and will fight to protect our river."

With continuing signs of growth in the Brazilian economy and the soaring demand for electricity, the government insists that hydroelectric projects are a vital way of ensuring power supplies for the next decade, while also curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposal to build a hydroelectric dam on the Xingu River, in the Amazon northern state of Pará, has been a source of controversy for many years with the initial project being abandoned in the 1990s after widespread protests both in Brazil and around the world. ♦

## Waste Management

### Mexico to build one of the world's largest wastewater projects

Working alongside the National Water Commission of Mexico, clean energy company Green Gas International B.V. has joined a consortium consisting of companies IDEAL, ACCIONA, Atlatec, ICA and Dycusa to conclude a 25-year agreement for the construction and operation of one of the world's largest wastewater treatment plants.

The building of the USD 710 million project is scheduled to begin in early 2010 and will be located in the town of Atotonilco in Hidalgo State, 60 kilometres north of Mexico City. Only 11.6 percent of wastewater is currently treated per day in this area. The new plant will have the capacity to treat 3.6 million tonnes of water per day, which equates to 60 percent of the area's wastewater.

## Water

### More coverage for Venezuela drinking water

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a USD 50 million loan to Venezuela to promote the efficient use of drinking water, and consequently improve quality and enhance service coverage. The government of Venezuela will provide an additional USD 25 million in local counterpart finance, taking the total funding for the program to USD 75 million.

In the past Venezuela had problems supplying large sections of the population with sufficient access to potable water. However these issues are being addressed through the construction of dams, reservoirs, aqueducts and pipes. The service quality to those with access is inconsistent, with water frequently being supplied on an intermittent basis and the majority of wastewater not being treated.

This programme is aiming to vastly improve service quality and promote the efficient use of drinking water through investments in new connections and training in management and efficiency.

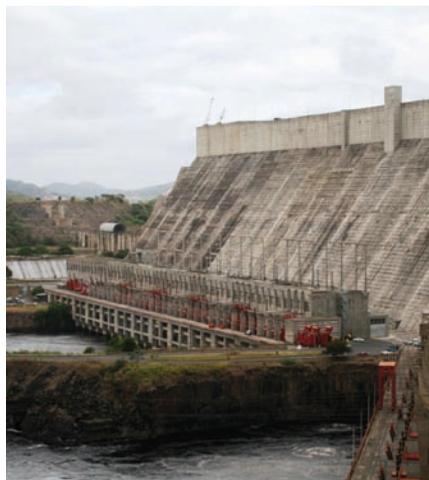
The national water company HIDROVEN serves approximately 80 percent of the population and this IDB-supported project will focus on a minimum of five of the nine subsidiaries.

Of the total USD 75 million, USD 62 million will finance the upgrade of in-home water connections, including the replacement of connection fittings, pipes and sections of small-scale distribution networks and the in-

stallation of meters and instruments for flow control and measurement. These funds will also aid the production of user registry and network map.

A further USD 5 million will be spent on campaigns for technical assistance and understanding, including material used to promote water efficiency. The adoption of guidelines and procedure manuals on the management of assets, unbilled water and consumption efficiency will also form part of the programme.

The investments are expected to produce annual savings of 25.5 million cubic metres of water, which will help cut costs by about USD 2.2 million a year. ♦



Simon Bolivar Dam, Venezuela

PHOTO © RAMON E. MENESES

Green Gas will provide their expertise for the construction and operation of the planned combined heat and power (CHP) plants. The project will have a positive impact on the environment, irrigating more than 80,000 hectares of the Tula Valley and improving the living conditions of more than 300,000 inhabitants in the surrounding area.

“Green Gas is pleased to be playing a role in such a prestigious project and with partners of such high standing,” says Chris Norval, CEO of Green Gas International. “This project adds to our expanding business in the Americas, which includes the Pioneer Land-

fill Gas project in Pennsylvania, USA and the Curva de Rodas and La Pradera CDM projects in Colombia.”

The combined heat and power plants will convert methane, which is produced in the wastewater treatment process into electricity and heat. The CHP plants will have the potential to reach 33 megawatts of capacity and the capability of reducing emissions by over one million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year.

Engineering services, operation and maintenance supervision, in relation to the CHP component of the project, will be provided by Green Gas. ♦

#### TRANSPORT

##### Mexico

Mexico's energy ministry is to limit the importing of inefficient used cars and encourage low-carbon technology to reduce its overall volume of tail pipe exhaust. The proposal of a national fuel efficiency standard for new automobiles and a limit on importing used cars that emit high amounts of greenhouse gases is aimed at reducing the amount of heavy, inefficient vehicles from the estimated 21 million now on the roads in Mexico. The new regulations were developed as part of a long-term national goal of creating a sustainable energy policy.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

##### Peru

Peru is aiming to improve the quality and sustainability of public investment in the transportation sector with the help of an approved loan of USD 150 million from the World Bank. The project will finance the rehabilitation and modernization of at least four national road networks, the implementation of road safety infrastructure and strengthen the Ministry of Transportation and Communication's institutional capacity. The operation will also generate employment opportunities, especially for the rural poor, incorporating them in road maintenance activities.

#### ENERGY

##### Venezuela

Russian company Power Machines has been awarded a USD 7.3 million contract to manufacture and supply the Macagua 1 hydroelectric plant in Venezuela with five hydro generator stator winding sets. The contract was signed with Argentine power company, IMPSA, which will provide new generators for the units, excluding stator winding. Equipment for Macagua 1 HPP will be manufactured at Electrosila, Power Machines' branch specialising in the production of generator equipment, and the finalization of the last set is scheduled for February 2012.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### Chile

The Inter-American Development Bank is to provide a USD 10 million loan to help Chile promote the sustainable development of its forest resources. The funds will support the efforts of Chile's national forestry agency, CONAF, to preserve the country's natural forest resources and the sustainable development of woodland ecosystems. With nearly 2.1 million hectares of planted forests, Chile ranks tenth in the world and second in Latin America after Brazil. The forestry sector is the third largest exporter after mining and food production.

# Shanghai set to open the world's biggest trade fair

With a budget double that of the Beijing Olympics, Shanghai is set to host a spectacular Expo 2010. The USD 40 billion event is expected to attract over 70 million visitors from May 1 to October 31.



**M**ore than 190 countries and 50 international organizations have confirmed their participation at what promises to be one of the biggest world fairs ever held – the World Expo 2010 in the Chinese port of Shanghai.

Such is the huge organization, the scale of it all, the works that have forever changed this great city that the superlatives roll off one after another. A USD 40 billion budget – double the cost of the Beijing Olympics two years ago, according to the media; new parks and new roads, with seven water entrances alone to the various Expo sites; a new metro rail system easily rivaling those of London, Paris, New York or Moscow; two new airports, and the famous Shanghai Bund transformed forever into a 21<sup>st</sup> century metropolis. And there's more: Chinese officials expect 70 million people to visit in the six months that the Expo is on.

With Expo sites built on both sides of the Huangpu River, for centuries one of China's main gateways to the outside world, the city has been transformed in the countdown to the grand opening on 1 May.

The tradition of such Expos started in United Kingdom with the Great Exhibition of 1851 when it displayed its global power at the height of the Industrial Revolution. Now Shanghai is having its turn at the end of nearly a century of revolutionary change that is seeing the world's most populous country emerge as a superpower.

Today China sees the Expo, according to its official website, as an important platform for displaying historical experience, exchanging innovative ideas, demonstrating *esprit de corps* and looking to the future.

As Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said: "Our success in winning the bid to host the World Expo is also an example signifying our powerfulness. It is a practical step forward in enhancing the influence of our country by bringing the rest of the world to China and presenting China to the rest of the world."

And to make sure the rest of the world understands and gets the message, the Chinese government has set up a special fund of USD 100 million so that developing countries can set up their own Expo 2010 pavilions in Shanghai.

"As many as 120 developing countries will benefit from this fund. This is one way to show our powerfulness," he said.



Expo sites have been built on both sides of the Huangpu River

PHOTO © HENRY YAO

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“London hosted the first ever World Exposition in 1851. I read that a Shanghai merchant, Xu Rongcun, brought 12 packages of self-made ‘Huzhuo Silk’, which caused a great stir and won gold and silver prizes. So our connections with Shanghai have a long history. As the Mayor of London, I want to build on these ties.” – **Boris Johnson**

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This means that countries like Chad in west Africa or Kazakhstan in central Asia will get their own pavilions alongside the giants like the United States, Russia, or the big European countries which have spent millions showcasing themselves in Shanghai, and not

least, the huge United Nations pavilion being run by UN-HABITAT as the lead agency. The reason is the theme, *Better city, Better life*, a slogan now seen across the city.

It is this very idea of showcasing itself as a smart city, this urban theme, that has brought ►

## A United Nations house of wonders

The UN Pavilion on the theme 'One earth, One UN', will have a rotating display showcasing the work of many of the UN's 22 agencies, planned to coincide with various events, days and openings.

Coordinated by UN-HABITAT as the lead UN agency on urban matters, the UN pavilion will showcase the best of the United Nations in making our urban environments better and smarter when it comes to reducing poverty, crime, fuel consumption, pollution, waste and so many of the ills that afflict our daily lives, especially in the developing world. The exhibitions will display our knowledge, many best practices, and our unity of purpose in bringing the new World Urban Campaign for better, more sustainable cities to a wide global audience.

Agencies that already have events scheduled include the World Food Programme, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Commission to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-HABITAT, the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IEA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The pavilion will focus on the organization and its agencies' best practices in promoting world peace, development, and meeting the challenges and opportunities of urbanization, because, said UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Tibaijuka "the benefits of economic globalization are not enjoyed by all."

This is why she said visitors will also learn, for example, how the UN is tackling climate change in a world where cities are both responsible for 70 percent of polluting emissions, and most vulnerable to climate change disruption and disasters. And she pointed out that those most vulnerable are the 1 billion people living in slums and other sub-standard housing around the world.

"Poverty is a severe and pervasive while unacknowledged issue in urban life, therefore, the 2010 event will offer a unique opportunity for both developed and developing countries to share experiences in improving urban life," she said.

A major concluding highlight of the Expo will be the global observance of World Habitat Day this year at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. Hosted by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development and the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Urban and Rural Construction and Transport, the celebration will be closely linked to a special meeting on the Livable City in a Harmonious Society hosted by the city of Hangzhou and co-sponsored by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China and UN-HABITAT.

It is one of six major such discussions on key urban topics including sustainability, urban development, the environment, economy, cultural heritage, science and innovation. The meetings will culminate in a Summit Forum at the close of the Expo on Urban Innovation and Sustainable Development attended by world leaders, city mayors, and other global urban movers and shakers.

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**"Each World Expo writes a new chapter in the dissemination of scientific innovation and social progress through science and technology. World Expos have introduced the public to steam engines, sewing machines, rubber, submarine cables, telephones and televisions. At these great fairs, people were given the first glimpses of the innovations that would come to define their lives and the lives of future generations." – Lu Yongxiang, Vice-Chairman, Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).**

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UN-HABITAT right into the heart of matters at the UN pavilion in Shanghai.

Already half the global population lives in cities, and in the next generation that figure is forecast to reach the 70 percent mark.

Thus the prospect of life in a very urban future is a subject of global interest, and concern

to all countries, developed or less developed, and their people. Expo 2010 will attract governments and people from across the world, focusing on the theme *Better City, Better Life*.

For 184 days from 1 May to 31 October, the pavilions will showcase urban civilization to the full extent, exchange their experiences of

urban development, disseminate advanced notions on cities and explore new approaches to human habitat, lifestyle and working conditions in the new urban century.

There will be much on show in Shanghai teaching us how to create an eco-friendly society and sustainable urban development.

Highlights include a best urban practices show and the latest knowledge and ideas of United Nations' agencies.

Dressing the city up for the big show has not been without its pitfalls. Western media reports estimated that something like 18,000 families were moved along with 250 factories to make space for the Expo along with the Jiang Nan shipyard which employed 10,000 people. And everyone in Shanghai remembers how the city's former Communist Party boss, Mr. Cheng Liangyu, an important figure driving the Expo process until 2005, went to jail for corruption.

The city has since moved fast in energy saving and emission reductions. It has raised the requirement, for instance, that buildings newly completed in 2010 must consume 50 percent less energy and emit 50 percent less pollutants than those completed before.

Indeed, urban environmental conservation and low-carbon are dominant features. For example, Chinese officials point out that all traffic systems inside the Expo site will produce zero emissions. A solar photovoltaic system with an installed capacity of 4.5 megawatts, the biggest of its kind in Asia, has been set up, and the 1-kilometre Expo Axis, the main artery through the site, will operate as a low-carbon and environmentally friendly corridor.

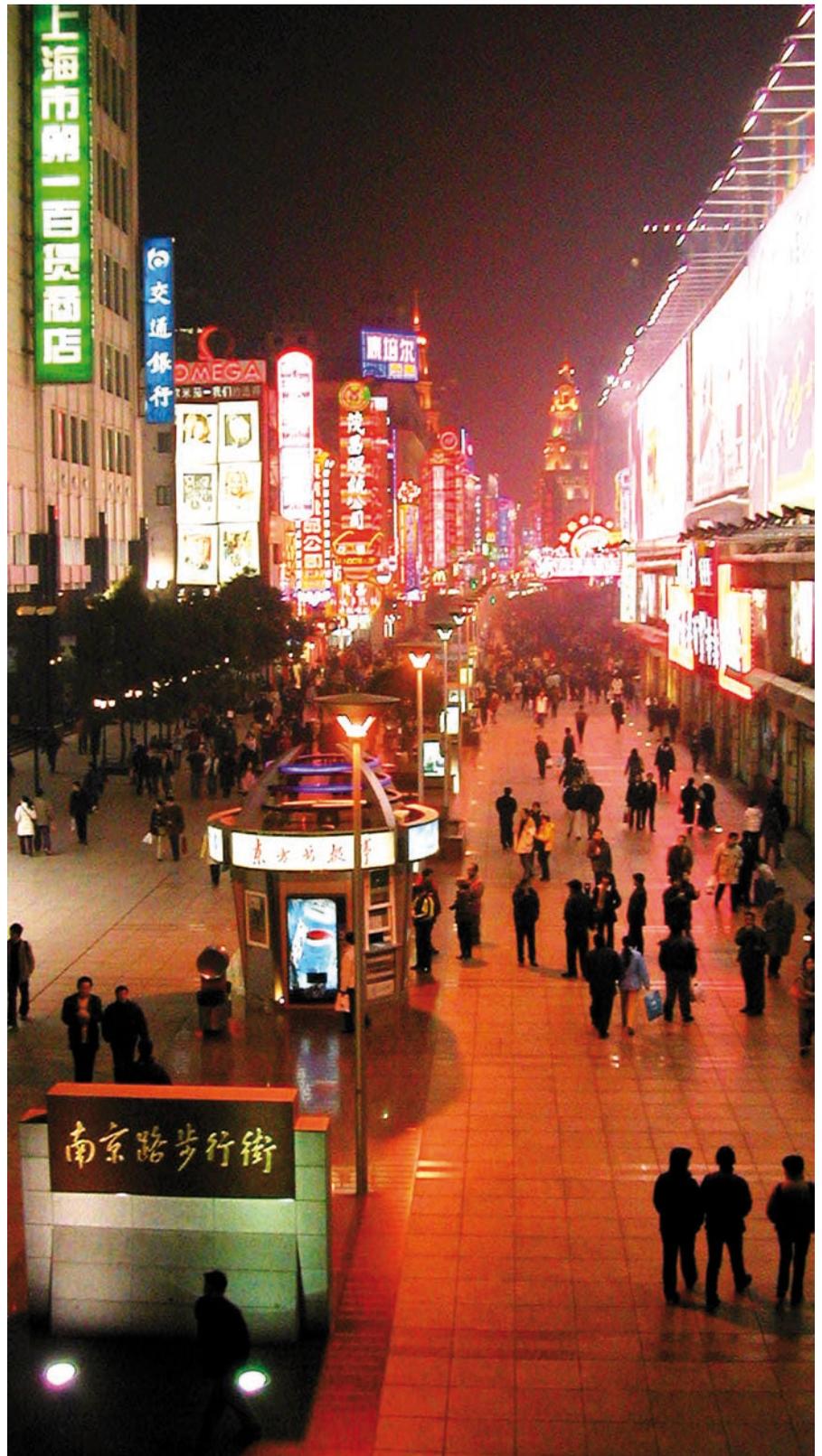
This drew the praise of Dr. Awni Behnam, the UN Commissioner General, who said he could not think of a place more representative of positive urban development.

"The true value of the United Nations' participation resides in what we can learn from our host country which has become a unique and shining example of how to meet the modernization and urbanization challenges," said Dr. Behnam.

Indeed, World Expo 2010 will make Shanghai again the focus of world attention.

As the former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger said: "For me the Shanghai World Expo 2010 will stand as a vindication of the wisdom and courage of the leaders on both sides that set our countries on the course towards cooperative partnership in facing the challenges of the future."

Referring to the new start in diplomatic relations with the United States which he helped negotiate at the time, Dr. Kissinger added: "Thirty-seven years ago we could not have imagined how far we would move along this path together." ♦



Seventy million people are expected to visit the Expo during the six months

PHOTO © HENRY YAO

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

**Myanmar**

Over 100,000 households, or half a million people, still lack shelter in Myanmar as a result of Cyclone Nargis that hit the country last year, UN-HABITAT says. Although donors pledged more than USD 103 million, only USD 250,000 has been set aside for shelter which is much needed. The cyclone killed 140,000 people and left around 2.4 million others destitute.

## ENERGY

**China**

The People's Republic of China will see the construction and operation of a coal-fired integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plant, the first such plant in a developing nation. The Asian Development Bank approved a USD 135 million loan to build the 250-megawatt IGCC plant in Tianjin City that can generate up to 1,470 gigawatt-hours of electricity every year. Technical assistance will be provided for the second and third phases of the programme including a scaled-up IGCC plant fitted with carbon capture and storage technology by 2013.

## WATER

**Pakistan**

UN-HABITAT and the Pakistan Institute for Environment-Development Action Research organized a one-day National Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The workshops explored synergies in the implementation of two Millennium Development Goals for Gender Equality and the Goal for Environmental Sustainability.

## ENERGY

**Indonesia**

The Indonesian Finance Ministry has extended tax incentives and implemented new ones to attract further investment in Indonesia's large potential for renewable energy. The decree aims to help Indonesia achieve its target of an energy use mix of 30 percent from gas, 20 percent from oil-based fuels, 30 percent from coal, and the rest from renewables such as geothermal and solar power, by 2025.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Vietnam**

Vietnam's low-lying and flood-prone Mekong Delta region will receive a USD 1.3 million loan from Australia and the Asian Development Bank to help cope with the potentially devastating impacts of climate change. Preliminary studies show that up to 31 percent of the total land used for agriculture in the delta is at risk from a potential one metre rise in the sea level by 2100. This would have severe effects on the lives of about 4.8 million people.

**Transport**

## Electronic tags set to reduce Manila bus congestion



ESDA is one of the most congested roads in Manila

PHOTO © JOHN WARD

The busiest thoroughfare in Manila, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (ESDA), will be the focus of a new project to help address traffic congestion and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The World Bank and the Metro Manila Development Authority recently signed an Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) through the ESDA Bus Reduction Project.

Bus traffic will be optimized and enhanced along ESDA, by electronic Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), to better manage the dispatch of bus units at terminals, limit waiting times at bus stops, enforce franchise and traffic rules, and ban arbitrary trip-cutting and out-of-line operations.

MMDA chairman, Oscar Inocentes, explained that the project is one of several measures implemented by MMDA to ease the traffic situation in ESDA. He says there is a need to modernize Metro Manila's traffic management system through the use of new technology such as RFID to bring order to bus operations. "The database to be accumulated by the system will also provide a platform for better urban transport planning and for the development of an effective public transport franchise management,

which can be replicated in other urban centres in the country," he says.

Under the project, each registered bus will be fitted with an electronic tag that will have a unique identifier code. When RFID-tagged buses enter terminals, principal stops, and a number of other locations where tag readers are installed, they will be detected, including off-route running buses. The information is sent by the readers to the central server with software applications that interpret the data and support the headway management, dispatching, dwell-time management, violation-detection, and violation-reporting functions, which are all expected to help eliminate illegal operators and buses.

The resulting reduction in the number of bus trips and the time each bus spends on the road will reduce fuel consumption per passenger per kilometre travelled and therefore reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and local air contaminants.

The newly signed ERPA allows for the World Bank, on behalf of the Carbon Fund for Europe, to purchase from MMDA the greenhouse gas emission reductions over the period 2011 to 2013 at a cost of PHP 24 million (USD 518,000). ♦

**Water**

## New rainwater harvest programme launched in India

Sixteen projects on rainwater harvesting have been completed at different schools in the four major cities in Madhya Pradesh, India, under a unique partnership spearheaded by

UN-HABITAT and bringing together education institutions, government agencies and corporate bodies.

The cities involved in the initiative include Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior. The systems, having a combined potential to harvest 3.6 million litres of rain water annually at normal rainfall, will benefit nearly 18,000 students and the communities around these schools by raising awareness regarding rainwater harvesting.

## Urban Planning

### World Bank finances new projects in India

Two projects worth USD 405 million have been launched in India designed to promote environmentally friendly modes of urban transport, and to improve management and delivery of services in urban areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

India's continuing urbanization and surging economic growth over the last decade has led to an inevitable rise in ownership and use of motorized vehicles across cities and towns, placing heavy pressures on the available transport infrastructure and on the institutions in charge of road construction and maintenance, traffic management, road safety and public transport services. The most visible consequences include greater traffic congestion, increased air pollution, and more traffic accidents. Greenhouse gas emissions from urban transport are also rapidly increasing.

One USD 105 million loan from the World Bank will be set aside for the Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP) to finance capacity building and demonstration projects in select cities that will create models of sustainable transport solutions for Indian cities to replicate.

These projects include public transport development such as development of new bus systems, and non-motorized transport development including cycle track investments. The project is also supported by a USD 20.5 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

"India's own transport policy puts forward a vision for urban transport that focuses on people, not vehicles, emphasizes liveability, and facilitates urban growth," says Roberto Zagher,

The former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board, Saleem Romani, said at a ceremony that conservation of fresh water is a global challenge and needs urgent attention. "Rain water harvesting has emerged as a viable option to redirect rain water into the ground, which otherwise goes to waste," he said, emphasizing the need to persuade more people and society at large to take up rainwater harvesting projects. He hoped that there would be more



The congested gate in Hyderabad

PHOTO © RICHARD ISHIDA

World Bank Country Director for India. "The main goal of SUTP is to support the achievement of that vision by helping create a successful project that can spur a shift toward sustainable urban transport policies and programs at the state and local level."

Urban growth in Andhra Pradesh, India's fifth most populous state, has accelerated alongside its rapid economic growth. While urban poverty in the state has declined impressively, provision of urban services such as roads, water and sanitation has been falling behind the growing demand.

The USD 300 million loan for the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Development Project (AP-MDP) will finance sustainable, high-priority urban infrastructure projects, which will be selected and implemented by urban local bodies.

"The main goal of this project is to help strengthen the capacity of these local self government institutions to enable them to sustain and expand urban services," says Mr. Zagher. ♦

such examples of private-public partnership in the area of water conservation and recharging ground water. He congratulated the principals and the partners in these projects especially UN-HABITAT, LCA and Coca-Cola India.

Rajeev Singh Tomar, district education officer appreciated the successful implementation of the programme and stressed the need for similar public-private partnership models to carry forward and replicate the programme. ♦

#### HOUSING

##### New Zealand

Auckland is facing a housing shortage of at least 6,000 homes, says a recent Salvation Army report. It states that action is needed to stimulate the construction of affordable housing if New Zealand is to avoid expensive long-term social costs. Population growth in Auckland has far outstripped residential construction, which has plunged to a 20-year low, forcing more than 20,000 Aucklanders to live in overcrowded conditions.

#### SANITATION

##### Southeast Asia

According to a new World Bank report, investment in Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) in Asian countries would yield a rate of return from 30 percent to 200 percent. It added that between 1.3 percent to nearly 8 percent of GDP is lost because of a lack of sanitation. In five countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam, economic costs amounted to over USD 9.2 billion a year due to poor sanitation and hygiene (in 2005 prices).

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

##### Philippines

The Land Bank of the Philippines and the World Bank signed an agreement where the World Bank will purchase carbon credits for a project designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and livestock farms in the country. The Methane Recovery from Waste Management Project will help address emissions of methane gas—a highly potent greenhouse gas estimated to account for nearly one third of greenhouse gas emissions from the Philippines. Among the largest sources of methane emissions in the country is the decomposition of waste in landfills and livestock farms.

#### ENERGY

##### China

Scientists and building efficiency experts from China and the US are working to analyze building energy codes and their enforcement systems in both countries. This follows from the recent bilateral Energy Efficiency Action Plan announced by US President Obama and President Hu Jintao of China, which notes the countries' plans to promote greener buildings through energy efficient building codes, training building inspectors and developing advanced energy rating systems.

# Africa gets behind the World Urban Campaign

**Kirsty Tuxford** looks at the African cities that will take part in the launch of the 100 Cities Initiative and highlights the policies and practices which these cities are undertaking towards sustainable development.



**F**our African cities have been chosen to participate in the launch of the 100 Cities Initiative—Cotonou (Benin), Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), Johannesburg (South Africa) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)—as part of a new campaign to raise global awareness of the need for sustainable development of cities.

The World Urban Campaign is being coordinated by UN-HABITAT and its partners and as part of the campaign, the 100 Cities Initiative will bring together the shared experience of selected cities through a mayors' summit and a web portal.

As well as providing an online knowledge base of innovative guiding principles on sustainable urban development, the 100 Cities Initiative will be a practical tool to show that poverty, climate change, rapid urbanization and food security can only be confronted by collective city action. (See feature on page 14).

Christine Platt, the President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners, is a member of the steering committee for the World Urban Campaign and nominated Johannesburg for the 100 Cities Initiative.

“South Africa is one of the leading countries in terms of up-to-date planning systems and integrated development planning, and countries in the north have lots to learn about what we’ve been doing post-apartheid here,” says Ms. Platt.

One example of innovation from which other cities can learn is Johannesburg’s urban observatory, which is a response to development challenges affecting the region and the high levels of poverty. Set up between universities in Johannesburg and the regional Gauteng government, it collates socio-economic data so that resources can be allocated more effectively, with the aim of reducing poverty, increasing employment and enhancing socio-economic development.

It is projects such as this that drive Johannesburg’s participation in the 100 Cities Initiative. “It’s a powerhouse city within the African context – it’s a major urban player within the African and international context. The other thing is that it’s also got a very good city administration that would be able to participate in these sorts of initiatives,” says Ms. Platt.

### Fighting climate change

It is well documented that the main culprits for climate change are developed cities and the main victims will be developing cities.

The 100 Cities Initiative is designed to represent both developing and developed cities so that they find common ground to tackle climate change rather than causing further damage to each other.

One of the nominated cities for the 100 Cities Initiative, Dar Es Salaam, has already been a victim of extreme weather conditions.

Floods inundated the city in 2006, which damaged roads and destroyed the drainage system. Then drought hit and low water levels shut down dams, meaning there was no electricity generation leading to the 2006 to 2007 power blackout across Tanzania.

This forced the city’s authorities to turn to thermal-electric power sources leading to environmental pollution and budget disruption. The knock-on effects have been a decline in crops, increased poverty, water rationing for households and industry, an increase of water-borne diseases such as malaria and the mass migration of people from the countryside into town. According to Mayor Adam Kimbisa, the city is overwhelmed and developing policies for sustainable development is vital.

### Need for reform

However, this is not a sob story. Dar Es Salaam’s administration is fighting the problems caused by unplanned human settlements, including environmental degradation, poverty and poor urban structures and services. They have taken steps to implement sustainable urban growth strategies such as upgrading basic infrastructure and improving urban transport. In response to a severe congestion problem, Mr. Kimbisa’s administration has established a Central Bus Terminal that accommodates more than 500 buses daily, generates in excess of USD 700,000 per year and has created more than 2,000 jobs.

The third African city to be nominated for the initiative, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, was host to the Seventh World Forum of Sustainable Development in October 2009.

Just two of many points that were presented in a declaration from Ouagadougou following the summit were the need to support the mass production of solar, hydro-electric,

and wind energy to meet energy needs by 2030, and also to identify and develop new types of projects likely to attract innovative investment and financing.

Financing and fund raising is not part of the remit of the World Urban Campaign. “This is not a funding thing, it’s more about encouraging people to work smartly and think differently about how they work,” says Ms. Platt.

The other African city which will take part in the initial launch is Cotonou, the capital of Benin. Its commitment to sustainable development is widely recognized through the Cotonou Agreement (signed in 2000), which is centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty, consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries into the world economy.

### Why 100 Cities is different

Ms. Platt is keen to stress that the 100 Cities Initiative is not just another city group exchanging best practices – such as C40, Slim City or the Commonwealth Association’s own Inclusive Cities Network.

“Its purpose is not to replicate the work done by these groups but to coordinate and streamline some of these networks and exchanges,” she says. “We are trying to generate examples of living practices and further the objectives and principles of the World Urban Campaign. There may be examples that have found themselves in best practice exchange already.”

As cities join the initiative to build to a target of 100 cities during the first phase of the World Urban Campaign, the aim is for the initiative to then spread to many more cities so an ever expanding network can confront global warming together.

The fact is that cities cannot afford to get tied up in the administration needed to belong to a plethora of city groups, and so “100 Cities is there to say this is the information that we would like you to gather, and it is going to be used in these ways and by these different campaigns,” explains Ms. Platt.

And with Africa being the continent with the fastest rate of urbanization, the four pioneering cities have a big responsibility to not only participate but to take the lead in the 100 Cities Initiative. ♦

## URBANIZATION

**Africa**

Urbanization is the second biggest challenge facing Africa after HIV, according to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibaijuka. She was speaking at a conference of the Commission for Africa, in Sussex, England, held to discuss African development issues. The conference marked five years since the Commission presented its recommendations at the G8 Summit. Mrs. Tibaijuka said that Africa is urbanizing faster than any other continent and that by 2020, 51 percent of its population will be urban.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Uganda**

The Ugandan city of Jinja has launched a bold initiative to achieve excellence in tourism, commerce and industry. The city's development strategy was unveiled in a ceremony at the end of February attended by the mayor and other dignitaries. Senior Human Settlements Officer Mr David Kithakye and Human Settlements Officer Ms Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga from UN-HABITAT were also present. Mr. Kithakye stated that Jinja has the potential to be the industrial powerhouse of the region because of its location, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

## HOUSING

**Swaziland**

Some married women in Swaziland are now allowed to register their property under their own name. The High Court made the ruling in February, five years after the new Constitution, which granted equal status to women. The reason men are given administrative control is because traditional marriages are polygamous. Lomcebo Dlamini, director of the Swaziland branch of Women in Law in Southern Africa says that the marriage law needs to be changed because it assumes that Swazi women are married the traditional way – and are therefore treated as minors.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Kenya**

More than 200 households in Huruma, northeast of Nairobi, are now living in improved homes with running water, sewage disposal, electricity and drainage. The slum-upgrading project was led by the Italian NGO, COOPI. The new residents initially pay 20 percent of the cost of the house through a saving scheme and they are granted a loan for the other 80 percent. One three-storey house costs USD 3,850 to complete, but can be built in phases.

**Disaster management****Lagos citizens work together to prevent floods**

Residents of Lagos are being called upon to get their hands dirty and unblock the city's drains in an effort to avert flooding. Mr Babatunde Fashola, the state governor, made the announcement at a public forum in February. He explained that the local government were carrying out disaster management strategies ahead of the rainy season, which included clearing debris from drains and flood channels and also constructing more drains in flood-prone areas.

"We are moving to other areas like Ijora, Ilasamaja, Mushin to construct more drains to mitigate the effect of floods. We call on all of you to join this army of drain cleaners and ensure that your refuse disposal is done in a proper manner," the governor said. He went on to emphasize the importance of citizen cooperation in the battle against climate change.

Lagos has previously suffered flooding in 2000 and 2007, which was partly due to the build-up of litter in overflow channels and unregulated urban development that resulted in poor drainage. After the 2007 flood, where several people died, the authorities removed illegal buildings.

Mr Fashola explained that the unusually large amount of snow covering much of America and northern Europe would eventually melt into the sea, possibly causing sea-level rises that could



Lagos experienced serious flooding in 2000 and 2007  
PHOTO © JEFF ATTAWAY

lead to flooding in low-lying areas of Lagos. He said: "Global climate change is already manifesting in Nigeria in the form of extreme weather conditions. Just as extreme heat is being experienced, extreme rain will follow shortly."

The Fashola administration have already successfully put a stop to flooding in the area of Gbagada in Lagos. Mr. Fashola announced that, "Even the former River Luth has completely disappeared."

The stronger of two rainy seasons in Lagos is due from April to July – when an average of 300 millimetres per month falls – with a weaker rainy season throughout October and November with 75 millimetres per month. ♦

**Energy****Solar-run internet empowers African youth**

For the first time ever in Kenya, a solar-powered Internet kiosk is giving youths the chance to get online. The Solar Powered Rural Internet Kiosk (RIK) has been installed at the Ukunda Showground in Msambweni Constituency on the south coast of Kenya. It's a clever, 100 percent self-contained solution for providing Internet access to rural sub-Saharan areas.

The kiosk is a joint project from the Voices of Africa for Sustainable Development (VOA4SD) group, the community-based organization, Voices of Diani, who donated the kiosk, and the company Intersat Africa Ltd.

Voices of Africa is a non-governmental organization in Kenya whose mission is to teach im-

poverished women and youth to improve their communities sustainably through the use of the internet and social enterprise.

Voices of Diani are the owners of the kiosk, and, together with Voices of Africa volunteers, they will provide training in ICT skills, Web 2.0 and content generation for internet users. The cost to users is only KES 1 (USD 0.01) per minute.

Voices of Africa are aware of how access to information can aid development. They state: "The digital divide, defined by a lack of access to information for a specific population, symbolizes the largest difference between developed and developing countries: the opportunity to obtain

## Water

### Senegal launches reform through World Bank funding

Senegal is forging ahead with plans to bring access to sustainable water and sanitation to both urban and rural areas thanks to a USD 55 million credit contribution from the World Bank. The project will unroll over the next five years.

According to Habib Fetini, Country Director, “this new financing for the Water and Sanitation Millennium Project (PEPAM) is crucial to the achievement of the Water and Sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by improving access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation services for more than half a million people in rural areas and peri-urban poor fringe areas.”

Senegal is already setting an example to other African nations with the reforms it has made to its urban water sector. Mr. Fetini says: “Senegal has a proven record in designing innovative reforms and policies in the water and sanitation sector.”

One such reform is the Public Private Partnership (PPP) formed between the government, a public asset holding (the National Water Company of Senegal, or SONES) and a private utility (the Senegalese Water Utility, or SDE). SONES is in charge of investments and SDE is responsible for delivering services. In praise for the accomplishments of the PPP, Mr. Fetini says: “[This PPP] is considered a world-class model and has been replicated with success in several sub-Saharan countries.”

and utilize information. The digital divide runs much deeper than hardware and software. The real heart of the digital divide is that those without access to information resources often suffer needlessly while the solutions to their problems are floating in the air.”

Not only is the RIK more affordable to users, but it is also open longer than existing internet centres – of which there are few. Profits made are to be reinvested in the development of new social enterprises in order to boost local economic development.

The RIK is the product of Intersat Ltd, who specialize in providing internet via satellite. They are further helping the project along by giving one year’s bandwidth free of charge.

“At Intersat we’re in the business of breaking down the price barrier that has held back the majority of Africans from benefiting from



The growing city of Dakar will see improvements in its water supply  
PHOTO © JEFF ATTAWAY

Senegal’s water and sanitation sector is regarded as one of the most developed in sub-Saharan Africa; the country has already reached the Millennium Development Goals on urban water and “has made decisive steps to reach the MDG on rural water,” according to the County Director.

The credit will also be used to support small private operators in rural areas and help with the reform of the rural water subsector. Matar Fall, the Bank’s Task Team Leader explains the reality of how the funds will be used, “to facilitate access to services through programmes for improving and extending water production and distribution systems and urban sanitation networks, by constructing social water and sanitation household connections, public standpipes and on-site sanitation facilities.” The project should increase the standard of living for thousands of people. ♦



The solar powered internet kiosk  
PHOTO © VOICES OF AFRICA

the Internet,” says Abdul Bakhrani, Intersat’s CEO. “Not only have we connected businesses, government organizations, internet service providers, educational institutions and hospitals but we have also brought affordable broadband internet via satellite to rural Africa.” ♦

## ENERGY

### Burkina Faso

The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 38 million to bring increased power to Burkina Faso. The country is urgently in need of sustainable power sources due to the demand rate growing at 10 percent. The fund will be used within the framework of Burkina Faso’s socio-economic development policy, which emphasizes the development of infrastructure, the improvement of living conditions and poverty reduction. Up to 1,800 kilometres of power networks will be rehabilitated and street lighting will be improved.

## ENERGY

### Mozambique

Many homes in Mozambique are to receive reliable access to affordable electricity for the first time. The government’s Energy Development and Access Project aims to increase grid-based access to, and improve the reliability of, the electricity supply in peri-urban areas. The project will also bring electricity to previously unserved rural areas, using renewable resources. The World Bank is helping to finance the project with a loan of USD 80 million, which was granted in February.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### Uganda

Severe flooding in eastern Uganda killed more than 300 people, including 100 children, in March. Heavy rains caused rivers to burst their banks and flood homes, displacing a further 2,000 people and leaving the area in devastation, without clean water, sanitation or food. Wanzusi Wasieba, the Bududa Resident District Commissioner, said that the rescue task was ‘overwhelming’ because no one was prepared, including the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness. Wasieba went on to call on the government to train more people in disaster management.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Kenya

Residents of Kibera slums in Nairobi are getting a resource centre, which will provide health services, and help disabled children get treatment and education. The centre will also provide a space for studying and offer information on education, employment and health. The centre has been made possible due to UN-HABITAT’s Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP), which aims to improve the lives of the 76,000 inhabitants of the Soweto slum village within Kibera.

## CONSTRUCTION

## Region

The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) has approved financing of USD 750 million that will mobilize an additional USD 4.85 billion from other sources, to accelerate global deployment of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP). It will do so by investing in the CSP programmes of five countries in the region: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. The investment plan will enable the MENA region to contribute to global climate change mitigation.

## WATER

## Iraq

A new water project in Samawa, Al Muthana governorate (South Iraq) has been inaugurated to provide clear drinking water to over 250,000 people in Al Muthana area. The project, financed by the Iraq Trust Fund Water Supply, Sanitation, and Urban Rehabilitation Project, costs USD 25.5 million. It is the biggest completed water project in the country since the 1990s. The Samawa plant was prepared using the latest technology in water treatment and monitoring, the SCADA system, which was installed to monitor water quality for distribution.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

## Region

The new Regional Infrastructure Regulatory Forum has been created at a recent World Bank regional conference. The forum will aim to build upon the relatively high infrastructure investment in recent years which has led to ensuring basic infrastructure access to the vast majority of MENA citizens, including: connection rates to electricity grids; access to acceptable water and sanitation services, increased penetration of mobile telephony rates and continual upgrading of road networks.

## HOUSING

## Lebanon

UN-HABITAT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union, setting out the framework under which the two organizations will aim to make housing conditions better and improve access to public places for everyone, including persons with special needs.

## Sustainable Tourism First Middle East ecotourism conference

The first ever Middle East ecotourism event is to be held in Abu Dhabi. World Green Tourism Abu Dhabi will be held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Centre (ADNEC) on December 6-8. It will be the first meetings industry initiative to emerge from the authority's 'Advantage Abu Dhabi' (AAD), a three-year international incentive programme aimed at catalysing and seeding new business tourism and meetings concepts.

"This is a significant vote of confidence in this international confex which aims to promote sustainable tourism development by influencing the integration of ecotourism principles into the operations and policies of tourism industry players – a theme which is daily gathering momentum within the Middle East," explains Rick Theobald of Streamline Marketing Group (SMG).

The International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT), the post-graduate training and research body of the UK's Leeds Metropolitan University, has thrown its substantial weight behind World Green Tourism Abu Dhabi. The Director of Research & International Partnerships, Professor Harold Goodwin is to be a lead speaker at the conference.

"Professor Goodwin will share his extensive knowledge of working on four continents with local communities, their governments and the inbound and outbound tourism industry. His re-



Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Centre

PHOTO © ADNEC

search on tourism, local economic development and poverty reduction, conservation and responsible tourism will provide invaluable insights into how tourism can also play a role in the conservation and promotion of local traditions, environments and job creation," adds Mr. Theobald.

World Green Tourism Abu Dhabi is the first dedicated ecotourism event in the region; a congress & supporting exhibition bringing together key industry leaders to share their experience and expertise, with the common goal of committing to initiatives that ensure a bright and sustainable future for tourism in the Middle East and the rest of the world. ♦

## Infrastructure Largest indoor wifi service launched in Saudi Arabia

The US-based Audio Development Company (ADC) will soon begin the world's largest in-building wireless system at the King Abdul Aziz Endowment in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to deliver strong and consistent mobile service throughout the multi-building, 1.5 million-square-metre complex.

"As the facility will house as many as 65,000 pilgrims to the annual Hajj, including members of the Royal Family, we wanted to ensure that everyone could receive outstanding mobile voice and data coverage from anywhere within the structure," says Abdul Malik Al-Murshed, network implementation general manager for Saudi Telecom.

The installation will deliver voice and data services to the seven towers by March 2010. ADC and its partners, will turn up additional service throughout the year. Ultimately, the entire property will be supported, including a 5-star hotel, several restaurants, a shopping centre, convention centre and six residential towers. ♦

## Water

### New water partnership for Saudi Arabia

Japanese and Saudi Arabian expertise have united to form the Arabian Japanese Membrane Company, and will be the first manufacturing facility in the whole Middle East and North Africa region to manufacture reverse osmosis membrane elements for seawater desalination.

Rabigh Technical Park in the western region of Saudi Arabia, 150 kilometres north of Jeddah on the Red Sea, will accommodate the manufacturing facility with production scheduled to begin in March 2011 using the latest technology from the Japanese Toyobo company.

The partners estimate the total investment in the next decade to be around SAR 1,320 million (USD 350 million). The company will manufacture reverse osmosis membrane elements for seawater desalination using hollow fibre technology. The membranes manufactured will supply potable water to Saudi Arabia, which is considered the largest country in the world to utilize seawater desalination technology due to the scarcity of natural water resources.

Water and electricity minister Abdullah Al-Hussayen pointed out that the Kingdom needed half of the desalinated water consumed in the world. "There is a 20 percent worldwide increase in the demand every year," said the Minister. Describing the new company prod-



The Red Sea will be used to secure water resources  
PHOTO © NIELS RAMECKERS

ucts and services as high-tech, the minister said that this was a good initiative to participate in desalination projects in the Kingdom.

Toyobo President Ryuzo Sakamoto added: "Securing water resources is a particularly important issue in Saudi Arabia, and this new company will contribute to securing an integral potable water supply in Saudi Arabia." ♦



King Abdul Aziz Endowment, Mecca, Saudi Arabia

PHOTO © JIWAR

#### WASTEWATER

##### Egypt

A new loan of USD 72.3 million was signed by the African Development Bank to help contribute to the financing of the Gabal El-Asfar Wastewater Treatment Plant (GAWWTP) Project in Cairo, Egypt. The project will provide an additional wastewater treatment capacity of at least 500,000 cubic metres per day to the existing capacity of Gabal El-Asfar Wastewater Treatment Plant (GAWWTP). The wastewater will undergo full treatment, including preliminary, primary and secondary treatments. Provisions are also made to chlorinate the effluent before final disposal.

#### ENERGY

##### Morocco

A boost of EUR 149 million (USD 203 million) will assist the Office National de l'Electricite (ONE) of Morocco to improve the quality of service to all domestic and industrial customers of ONE and the regulated distribution. The improvements will save 376 gigawatt hours and avoid atmospheric release of 183,000 tonnes per year of CO<sub>2</sub> per year after the project is completed.

#### WATER

##### Oman

Work on the construction of a OMR 385 million (USD 1 billion) power and water desalination plant in Al Shur has begun. The facility will be the largest and most efficient power and water plant in Dhofar and will play a major role in meeting the region's growing power and water needs. It will generate 445 megawatts of power and 56 million litres of desalinated water per day.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

##### Kuwait

The co-chairman of the Japan-Kuwait Businessmen Committee announced that USD 108 billion will be put aside to develop new ports and cities, railway systems, seaports, new industrial cities and investments in power, water, oil, health and education sectors in Kuwait. The government emphasized the increasing importance of public-private sector partnerships and areas where Japanese investors can contribute.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**European Union**

UN-HABITAT and the European Union's Committee of the Regions (CoR) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at improving sustainable urban development in Europe and sharing best practices with the developing world. Representing 344 regions from 27 EU member states, the CoR is the political assembly that works with and on behalf of local and regional governments, especially on the elaboration of community policies and legislation on the sustainable development of cities and regions.

## URBAN PLANNING

**Kosovo**

Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme (MuSPP) in cooperation with Municipality of Hani i Elezit/General Jankovic, organized a workshop with citizens, civil society organizations and municipal officers on revising the vision declaration of Hani i Elezit. The new vision will be incorporated in the municipal development plan that is currently being drafted and will give guidance to future development.

## ENERGY

**Moldova**

A new EUR 20 million (USD 27.2 million) credit line to promote energy efficiency in Moldova has been signed by the European and Reconstruction Development Bank (EBRD). It is expected the project will finance about 50 to 70 projects, which would result in total energy savings of 22,000 megawatt hours per year and an annual reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 6,600 tonnes, equivalent to an estimated 2.3 million cubic metres of imported gas.

## TRANSPORT

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

The modernization of Bosnia-Herzegovina's transport infrastructure is to be strengthened with a EUR 21 million loan (USD 28 million). The EBRD loan will complete the Banja Luka-Gradiska motorway, the first in the Republika Srpska, that links the capital Banja Luka with the international transport Corridor X. It includes the construction of a 1.8 kilometre new two-lane motorway, four interchange two-lane slip roads, with a total length of 6.9 kilometres, two viaducts, and four other bridges within the interchange.

## TRANSPORT

**Montenegro**

Montenegro will see further improvements of its rail infrastructure with a EUR 15 million (USD 20 million) boost. The EBRD loan will be used to finance the rehabilitation of the rail tracks on a 57 kilometre rail branch between the industrial Niksic region, in the central part of the country, and the capital Podgorica, providing improved transportation links further to the Port of Bar and to the European rail network in the southern part of the country.

**Water****Sarajevo seeks to repair damage from Balkans conflict**

Sarajevo's wastewater infrastructure will be rehabilitated and strengthened in parts of the network that were destroyed or damaged in 1992 at the outbreak of the Balkans conflict.

The World Bank will provide USD 35 million in financing for the Sarajevo Waste Water Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina which will help to rehabilitate wastewater infrastructure in the Canton of Sarajevo and repair and replace primary and secondary wastewater transmission pipes and other network rehabilitation. The project will also support capacity building and institutional strengthening of the Sarajevo Water and Waste Water Company (VIK).

"The Sarajevo Waste Water Project will improve the living conditions of the population in the areas covered by VIK Sarajevo and in downstream riverside communities," says Marco Mantovanelli, World Bank Country Manager for Bosnia and Herzegovina. "It will reduce the population's exposure to and reliance on highly polluted water from the Mil-



Reliance on polluted water from the Miljacka and Bosna Rivers will be reduced

PHOTO © ASIM ABDURAHMANOVIC

jacka and Bosna Rivers and will also improve the efficiency of the wastewater collection network in the Sarajevo Canton."

The after-effects of the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict, which left vast portions of basic infrastructure destroyed or severely damaged, still affect service delivery in the region.

A case that vividly illustrates the problem is the wastewater collection and treatment in the City of Sarajevo. The Waste Water Treatment Plant was built in the early 1980's on the occasion of the 1984 Winter Olympics. Construction of the plant was supported by the World Bank-financed Sarajevo Water Supply and Sewerage Project but was later heavily damaged during the war. ♦

**Infrastructure****New bridge in Belgrade to ease congestion**

A second bridge over the River Danube in the Serbian capital is to be built and to be completed by 2013. The 1,500 metre bridge, financed by China, will aim to ease congestion out of Belgrade.

Mladjan Dinkic, deputy prime minister and minister of economy and regional development, believes that, "this is one of the biggest infrastructure projects realized in cooperation with China so far, and also very important for the region. The bridge will significantly ease the traffic strain in Belgrade, while the transport of goods would take place out of the city."

Chinese Ambassador Wei Jinghua says that up until now this is the biggest economic cooperation project between China and Serbia and the first bridge project the Chinese

company, China Road and Bridge Corporation, was undertaking in Europe.

The agreement was signed on the basis of economic and technical cooperation for infrastructure construction between Serbia and China, which was signed at the end of 2009 in Beijing during Serbian President Boris Tadic's visit to China. Stemming from this further infrastructure projects are likely, including ring roads near the Serbian towns of Sabac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac, to motorways, tunnels and a highway leading to neighbouring Montenegro and its part of the Adriatic coast.

The cost of the whole project is estimated at EUR 170 million (USD 255.3 million), in which EUR 144.5 million will be secured from the Chinese loan and EUR 25.5 million will be earmarked by Serbia. ♦

## Water

### Volzhski, Russia, to overhaul water supply

Volzhski, an industrial city in southern Russia, will invest RUB 450 million (USD 11.2 million) to improve the reliability of the city's drinking water supply and will make its wastewater treatment processes more modern and environmentally friendly.

The city holds Europe's largest hydropower plant, a population of some 300,000 and a water infrastructure badly in need of modernization.

The funds will come from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the German government, to help Volzhski's population and industrial activity to modernize its outdated water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

Corroded and leaking water pipes are a drain on municipal water company Volzhski Vodokanal's finances. It has to spend more money on maintaining the quality and reliability of the water supply than it would if the pipes were in good working order. And the extra chemicals needed to purify the city's drinking water increases the strain on the local environment.



Corroding and leaking water pipes will be replaced  
PHOTO © MIROSLAV ŠARIČKA

The city was established in 1954 on the east bank of the Akhtuba River, a tributary of the Volga, to settle those who were building the hydropower plant. Nowadays its factories also make large quantities of tyres, pipes, ball bearings, rubber and chemical products.

Furthermore, Volzhski's outdated wastewater treatment technology results in high levels of polluting substances being discharged into irrigation fields, which are connected to the Akhtuba River. Ultimately, this places greater pressure on the Volga's ecosystem.

The project, will give Volzhski residents drinking water on demand at all times, improve the safety of water treatment procedures (some of which involve the use of potentially dangerous chemicals) and reduce the risk of waste fluids contaminating the local environment. ♦



The second bridge over the Danube will ease congestion in Belgrade

PHOTO © IVANA AVAKUMOVIC

#### WATER

##### Bulgaria

Improvements in Bulgaria's urban water infrastructure will be supported by an EUR 81 million (USD 109 million) injection. The Municipal Infrastructure Development Project for Bulgaria will improve the reliability and quality of water provision to the communities in selected settlements in the project area, and assist municipalities to improve investment-planning capacity. The project also aims to prepare 48 regional master plans for water supply and sewerage systems (ViK systems), including 40 master plans for urban settlements, within the six economic development regions.

#### TRANSPORT

##### Ukraine

A hundred new school buses are to be delivered to Ukrainian schools under the Equal Access to Quality Education in Ukraine Project. Transportation of students to and from schools in Zhytomyr Oblast province, neighbouring Kiev, will promote equal access to quality education for children that have to commute long distances, particularly to middle and senior high schools. Students will be able to attend education in hub schools in selected central district locations.

#### HOUSING

##### Serbia

The Serbian government, with the assistance of UN-HABITAT and other partners, hosted a national conference aimed at sharing experiences on social and affordable housing policies in Serbia and other European countries. The needs of the most vulnerable has become a priority for the Serbian government following the adoption of new laws on social housing, and is engaged in developing relevant by-laws and a national strategy for social housing.

#### CITIES REPORT

##### Poland

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on The State of Central and Eastern European Cities Report, was held recently where over 20 experts from eight countries from the region representing research/academic organizations, international organizations and associations of local authorities. As part of the preparation of the first regional edition of the report, participants analyzed and extensively discussed current urban trends in central, eastern and southeastern Europe and related policies, challenges and emerging issues.

## Clean Energy

### Chicago converting to green fuel taxis

Yellow Cab Chicago has begun a conversion to compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles with an announcement that a contract has been awarded to Clean Energy Fuels Corp. to manufacture and operate two new CNG fueling stations and sell fuel to the company's growing CNG taxi fleet.

The conversion is part of a 10 year contract awarded to California-based Clean Energy Fuels, which partnered with Yellow Cab Chicago to apply for and secure a USD 1.5 million grant from the City of Chicago and the Department of Energy to help reduce the costs of station construction and acquiring new CNG taxi vehicles, with plans for an initial deployment of 100 new green taxis.

"We always strive to utilize the latest available technology and the safest, most advanced, and most comfortable vehicles to provide passengers and the general public in Chicago with the highest quality of service," says Michael Levine, CEO of Yellow Group. "Our new and growing CNG taxi fleets will provide benefits not only to the drivers and passengers in the form of lower fuel costs and clean, green performance, but to the City



The new CNG taxis will produce up to 30 percent less greenhouse gas emissions PHOTO © OLIVIER AUMAGE

of Chicago at large, as greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced."

Converting to compressed natural gas can significantly aid in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as vehicles powered by CNG produce considerably less emissions, including carbon dioxide, compared to those powered by gasoline. It is estimated that CNG vehicles produce up to 30 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline fuel.

"We are delighted to initiate this fuel sup-

ply and operations relationship with Yellow Group," says James Harger, Clean Energy Fuel's chief marketing officer and senior vice-president. "We look forward to supporting their first 100 clean, green CNG-powered taxis, and to providing ongoing support as their fleet expands."

The new CNG stations will be open for public access, 24 hours a day, and will be located near Chicago's downtown business, hotel, shopping and financial districts. ♦

## Renewable Energy

### Walmart Canada to build sustainable distribution centre

Walmart Canada has announced that it is to invest CAD 115 million (USD 109 million) on the construction of its first sustainable refrigerated distribution centre in Balzac, Alberta. The new facility, expected to be completed later this year, will be 60 percent more energy efficient than the company's traditional refrigerated centres and will test fuel cell technology.

The 42,000 square-metre building will incorporate 16 solar thermal panels, which will supply clean, renewable energy to heat

hot water for the facility. A 225-kilowatt wind turbine on-site will produce enough energy to power 55 average sized Canadian homes and the entire facility will be lit exclusively by low-energy solid-state (LED) lighting, which operate at low temperatures, have long life spans, and are expected to half the energy bill for lighting.

"We've set the ambitious goal of building the most sustainable distribution centre possible, while at the same time delivering a compelling return on investment," says Andy Ellis, senior vice-president of supply chain for Walmart Canada. "The centre will be a living lab that demonstrates sustainable operations, products and technologies, while showing that environmental sustainability can go hand-in-hand with business sustainability."

The centre will pilot a hydrogen fuel cell technology to power its material-handling equipment, such as forklifts, which typically use lead-acid batteries. Fuel cells will increase productivity and reduce operational costs because they last longer, do not need to be changed and can be refueled in three minutes. A white roof membrane will deflect an estimated 85 percent of sunlight, reducing heat gain and demand on the electrical grid, while waste heat from the refrigeration system will heat the building during the winter.

"The Balzac distribution centre is not only about reducing our own environmental footprint and making strides to achieve our long-term sustainability goals, it's about leading change across an industry and the business world at-large," remarks Mr. Ellis. ♦

## Transport

### British Airways to establish Europe's first low-carbon fuel plant

British Airways, in partnership with US-based bio fuel experts Solena Group, is to build Europe's first sustainable aviation fuel plant and plans to use the low-carbon fuel to power part of its fleet from 2014.

The new fuel will be produced from waste biomass and manufactured in a modern facility that can convert a variety of waste materials, destined for landfill, into jet fuel.

The plant is likely to be situated in east London and, once completed, will convert 500,000 tonnes of waste per year into 72 million litres of green jet fuel through a process that offers lifecycle greenhouse gas savings of up to 95 percent, compared to fossil fuel derived kerosene. The facility will have the potential to produce more

than double the amount of fuel required for all British Airways' flights at London City Airport to be carbon neutral, while also creating up to 1,200 jobs in the area.

"This unique partnership with Solena will pave the way for realizing our ambitious goal of reducing net carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2050," says Willie Walsh, British Airways' chief executive. "We believe it will lead to the production of a real sustainable alternative to jet kerosene. We are absolutely determined to reduce our impact on climate change and are proud to lead the way on aviation's environmental initiatives."

The fuel's reduction in carbon emissions would be the equivalent of taking 48,000 cars off the road per year and the project will make further savings in greenhouse emissions by reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill, consequently avoiding production of the powerful global warming agent, methane, and generating 20 megawatts of electricity a year from renewable sources.

Four sites in east London are among those being considered for the construction of



British Airways planes will be powered by low-carbon fuel from 2014  
PHOTO © KMCCOOL

the bio-jet fuel plant, with British Airways signing a letter of intent to purchase all the fuel produced in the facility built by Solena Group. ♦

## ICT

### Bell Labs to reduce carbon emissions from communications infrastructure

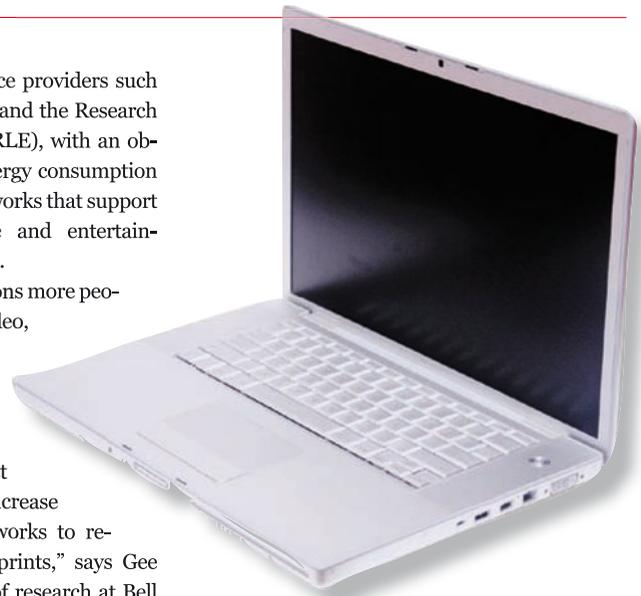
Bell Labs, the research arm of French telecommunications company, Alcatel-Lucent, has announced an innovative initiative entitled Green Touch, aimed at creating the technologies needed to make the world's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) networks 1,000 times more energy efficient.

Currently the ICT industry accounts for 2 percent of global carbon emissions but this is expected to double over the next decade as greater numbers of people seek to connect with each other.

Through extensive research into the current global telecommunications networks, Bell Labs has suggested that the industry could be up to 10,000 times more energy efficient. The Green Touch Initiative was set up, enlisting the expertise of research bodies, government

departments and other service providers such as, China Mobile, Telefonica and the Research Laboratory for Electronics (RLE), with an objective of reducing future energy consumption of the Internet and other networks that support communications, commerce and entertainment, by 1,000 times by 2015.

"Over the next decade billions more people will upload and share video, images and information over public and private networks as we communicate with each other in new, rich ways. We also expect ICT usage to dramatically increase as other industries use networks to reduce their own carbon footprints," says Gee Rittenhouse, vice president of research at Bell Labs. "This naturally leads to an exponential growth in ICT energy consumption which we, as an industry, have to jointly address. This consortium is unique in looking way beyond making incremental efficiency improvements and tapping into innovation and expertise from around the globe to achieve fundamental breakthroughs in ICT carbon emissions reduction."



The boom in broadband usage has led to a rapid increase of energy consumption  
PHOTO © SVYATOSLAV PALENYO

An improvement by a factor of 1,000 would mean that today's communications networks, including the Internet, could be powered for three years with the power they currently consume in a single day. ♦

# Urban reforms serve the interests of the rich according to UN-HABITAT survey

It is a complex task to keep up with the facts and figures on cities around the world. It is still more complex to keep track of urban trends, how they affect our lives, and how they will affect the lives of our children. Here **Olu Sarr** of UN-HABITAT's media team presents the latest analysis from the report *State of the World Cities 2010/2011: Bridging the Urban Divide*.

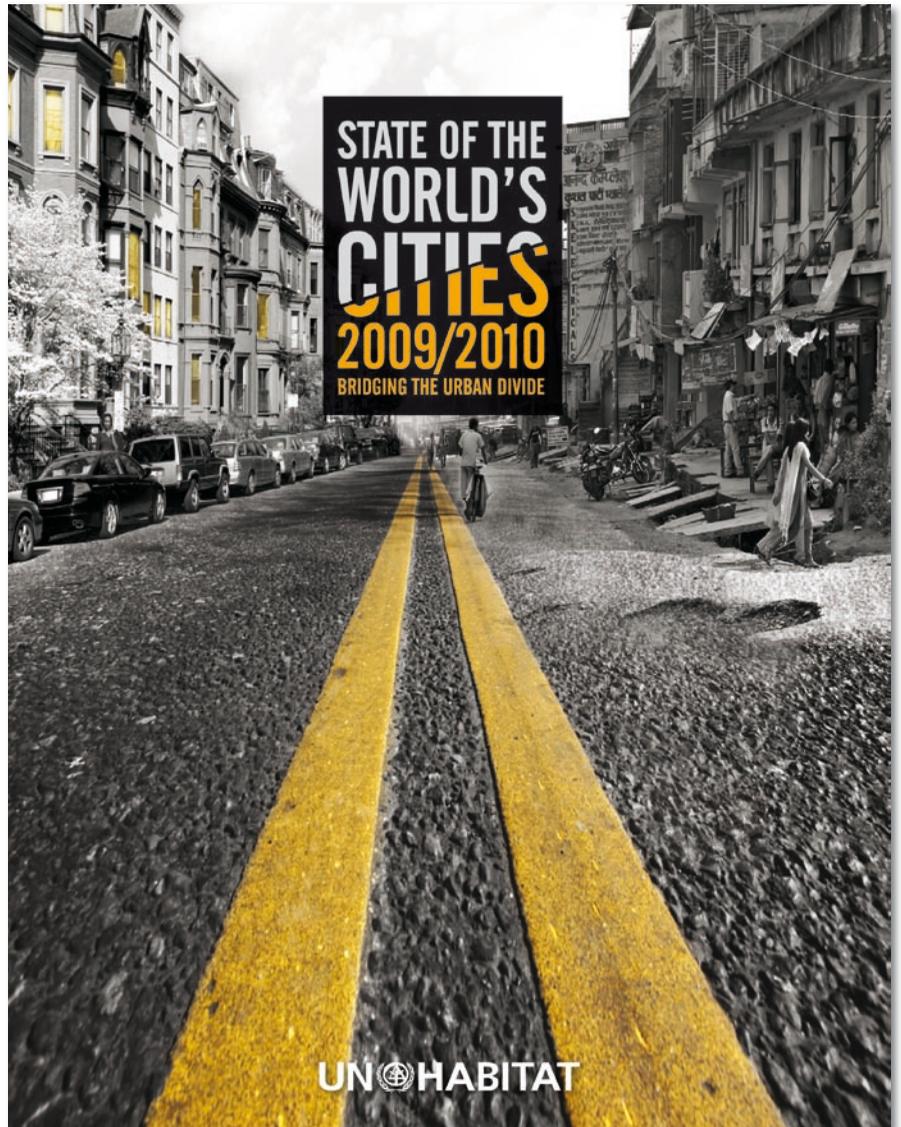
## The rich get richer

UN-HABITAT surveyed experts in 30 cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean for their view of who gained most from the modern amenities of urban expansion.

The survey results show that 59 percent of Latin American respondents, 69 percent of Asian and 71 percent of Africans view urban reforms and changes as serving the interests of the rich. Similarly, politicians and public servants are viewed as the second major group benefiting most from urbanization, except in Africa where 77 percent of the respondents rated them as being the primary beneficiaries. Africans cite corruption as the main reason for this advantage.

The survey findings reflect the relatively more stable and accountable forms of democracy existing in Latin American as opposed to Asian and African cities. The findings also point to the extent that scarce money is dealt out to non-priority areas because of group interest pressure.

This demonstrates that the urban poor in general get only minimal access to the benefits of urbanization and related reforms.



## Urban sprawl now a global problem

Urban sprawl, a trend long associated with north American cities, is fast engulfing many developing countries where real estate developers are pushing a ‘world class lifestyle’.

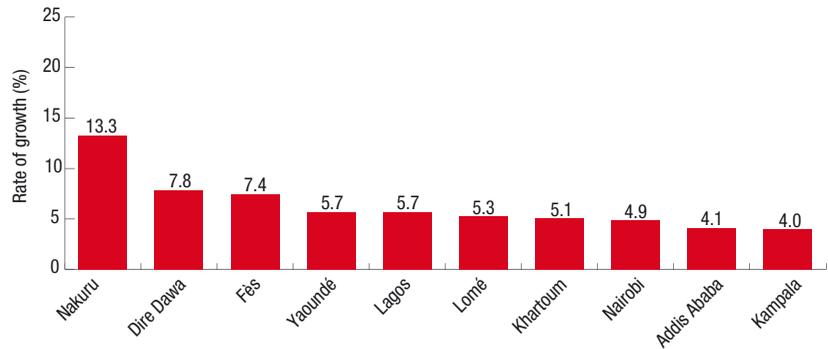
In many developing countries, urban sprawl comprises two main, contrasting types of development in the same city: one is characterized by large peri-urban areas with informal and illegal patterns of land use. This is combined with a lack of infrastructure, public facilities and basic services, and often is accompanied by little or no public transport and by inadequate access roads.

The other is a form of ‘suburban sprawl’ in which residential zones for high- and middle-income groups and highly-valued commercial and retail complexes are well-connected by individual rather than public transport.

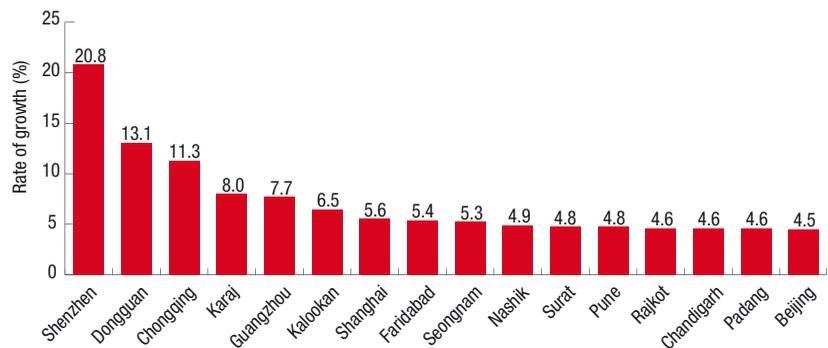
Urban sprawl adds to the urban divide, pushing social segregation along economic lines that result in spatial difference in wealth and quality of life across various parts of cities and metropolitan areas run down inner cities and more suburbs.

Urban sprawl has a negative impact on infrastructure and the sustainability of cities. In most cases, sprawl translates to an increase in the cost of transport, public infrastructure and of residential and commercial development. Moreover, sprawling metropolitan areas require more energy, metal, concrete and asphalt than do compact cities because homes, offices and utilities are set farther apart.

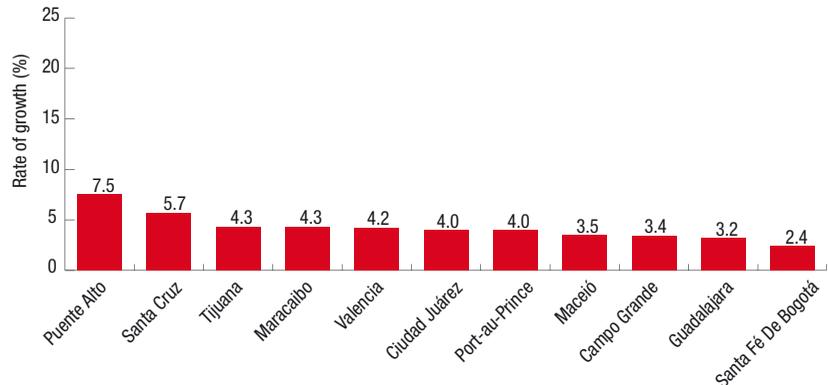
Average annual growth rate of selected fast growing cities in Africa between 1990 and 2006



Average annual growth rate of selected fast growing cities in Asia between 1990 and 2006



Average annual growth rate of selected fast growing cities in Latin America and Caribbean region between 1990 and 2006

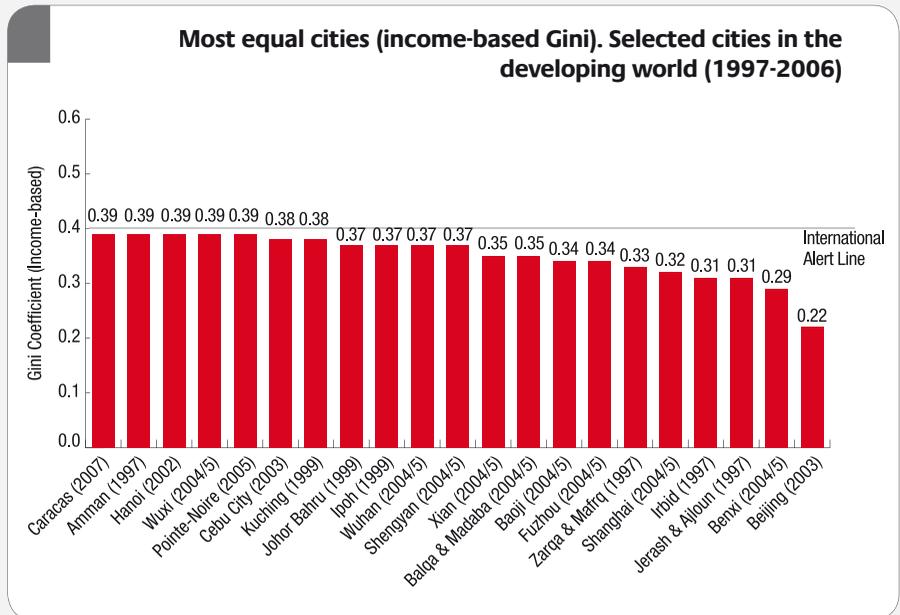


Source: Demographic Yearbook, Various Years 1990 - 2006

Most equal cities

The ‘most equal’ developing-world cities sampled by UN-HABITAT are just ‘equally poor cities’. This is because their spread in consumption spending is similar for rich and poor. All these cities fail to provide water, sanitation or housing to all residents, and feature some of the highest numbers of slums in their respective regions.

The ‘most equal cities’ in the sample also display poor social indicators. Chittagong and Dhaka – with consumption-based Gini values of 0.29 and 0.31, respectively – are examples. They suffer under-5 mortality rates of 97 deaths per 1,000 children at urban levels nationwide, and up to 130 in the worst slum settlements. In Dakar, a city with relatively low consumption inequality (0.37), the literacy rate among women was 63 percent in the year 2000, compared with 90 percent for men. This combined into a female-to-male



Source: UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, 2009. Data from UN-ECLAC, UN-ESCAP, UNU and other sources.

literacy ratio of 0.7, reflecting a marked gender disparity. Likewise, in Jakarta and Dar es Salaam, overall literacy rates for

women stand at around 94 percent, but in slums and the most deprived areas they drop to 63 percent and 50 percent, respectively.



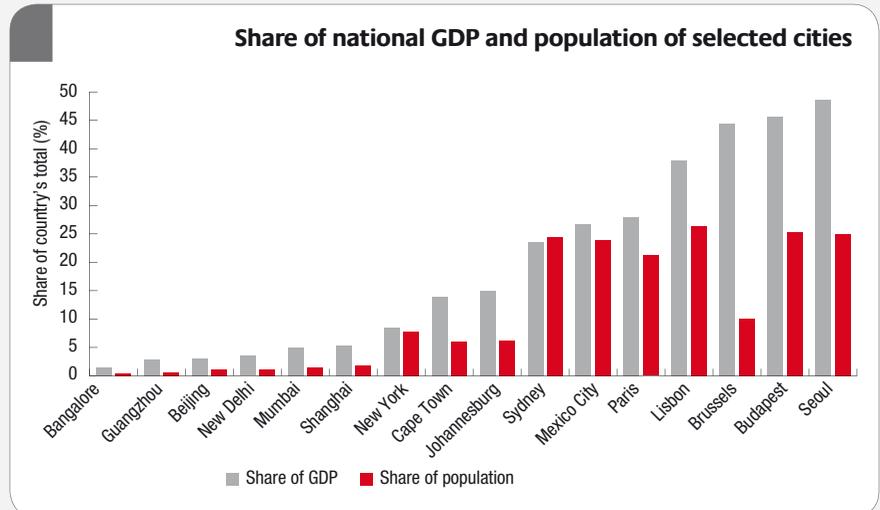
In Liberia individual incomes declined as people moved from rural areas to towns

PHOTO © ERIK HERSMAN

## Wealth of cities

Research shows that, potentially, cities can make countries rich because the high concentration of people enables industry to produce goods more cheaply. High population densities in cities reduce transaction costs, make public spending on infrastructure and services cheaper, and make the generation and diffusion of knowledge easier. In turn, these factors attract the fast growing sectors of an economy into cities.

According to the report, the ability of just one city to contribute large shares of the gross domestic product (GDP) of nations is evident in countries like South Korea, Hungary and Belgium. Seoul accounts for almost half of South Korea's GDP; Budapest (Hungary) and Brussels (Belgium) each for roughly 45 percent. Guangzhou and Brussels offer the most striking examples, with a GDP share that



Sources: New York, Sydney, Mexico City, Paris, Lisbon, Brussels, Budapest, Seoul: OECD, 2008. Bangalore, New Delhi, Mumbai, Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanghai: van Dijk, 2007. Johannesburg, Cape Town: Naudé & Krugell, 2004.

is 5 and 4.4 times higher, respectively, than their share of their respective national populations. The only exception is Sydney (Australia), which produces a lower share of GDP than the proportion of its residents.

However, exclusive focus on the part a single city plays in GDP growth can be misleading. The report points out that often it is clusters of cities that function as a single economic entity and set in motion self-reinforcing, cumulative growth patterns.

## Urbanization and economic growth

In analyzing global trends, the degree of a country's urbanization is now an indicator of wealth. The more urbanized a country, the higher the individual incomes. However, the authors find that the reverse is true for countries ravaged by civil war. In Liberia, for example, individual incomes declined as rural populations fled to towns in search of safety. Extreme inequalities, inadequate or ineffective policies can also block development or, at least, set back progress substantially.

Recent research shows a positive link between economic development and urbanization in most countries in Africa. In Asia it is clear that urbanization is the major factor behind economic growth, contributing to an overall reduction in poverty rates. In Latin America, however, economic development and urbanization have been linked through industrialization and modernization yet the result has been high degrees of inequality between and within countries.

In trying to understand the causal relationship between economic growth and urbanization, the results remain unclear.

However, what is certain is that the level of urbanization (that is the proportion of people living in urban areas) is associated in some places with numerous, positive outcomes such as technological innovation, forms of creativity, economic progress, higher standards of living, enhanced democratic accountability and women's empowerment. In conclusion, the report calls for policy-makers and planners to understand that urbanization can be a positive force for economic development, leading to desirable social and political outcomes.

# Malawi youth to get access to ICT training through UN-HABITAT funding

Jackson Mtungila, from the Concerned Youth Organisation based in Malawi, reveals to **Melanda Schmid** why ICT training can transform the prospects for young people in Malawi.

**Y**outh in Blantyre, Malawi's largest city, face numerous obstacles hindering them from improving their living environment. Overwhelming poverty and the resulting lack of empowerment pushes many young women into prostitution, which in turn is a contributing factor to the scourge of HIV/AIDS. With many children losing their parents to the disease and becoming dependent on grandparents or other relatives, whose resources are already scarce, the cycle contin-

ues, with limited access to education and employment opportunities.

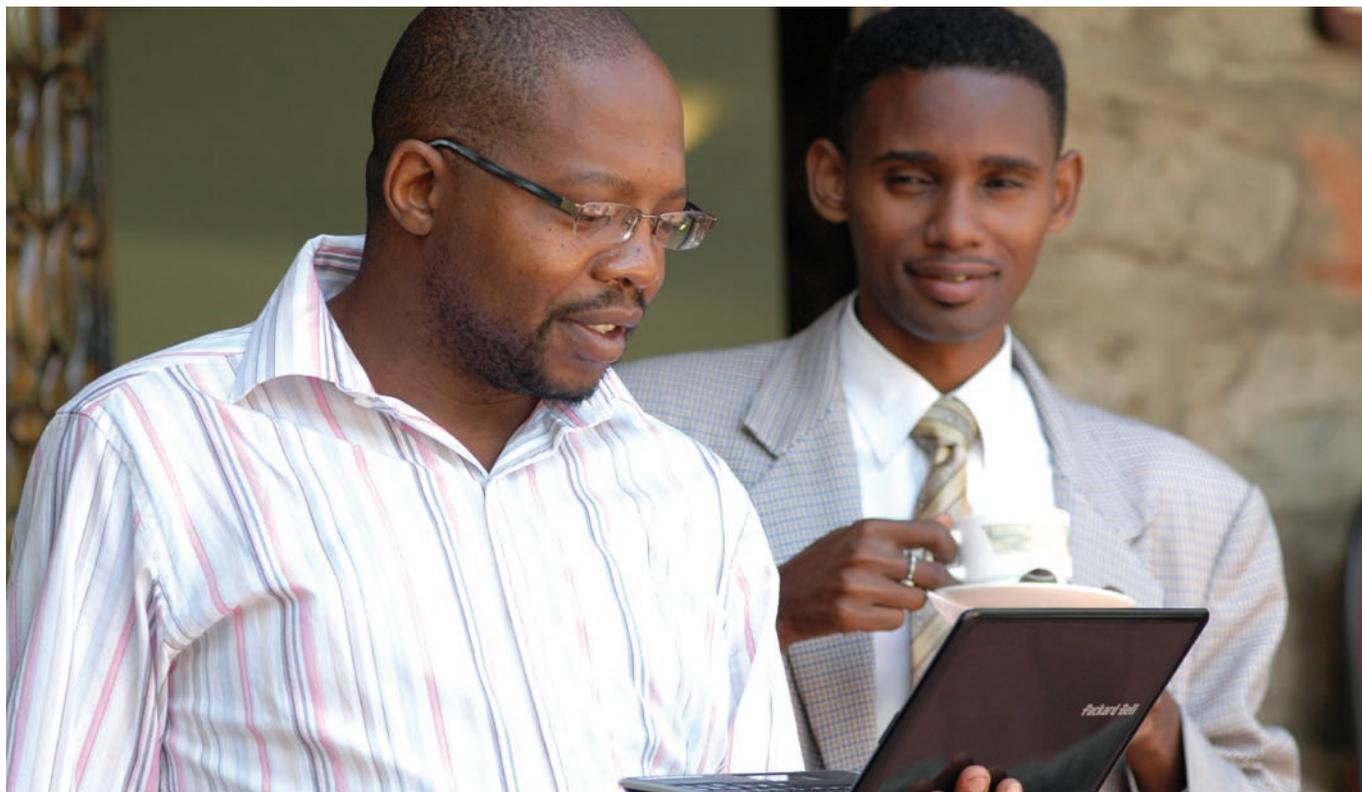
Yet the beaming smile on Mtungila's face tells the other side of the story of young people in Malawi's cities, as he describes how he joined Concerned Youth, and what makes him keep giving up his time and energy.

"We have problems, but the solutions come from us, from the young people," he says. "I see the potential in youth – the ideas, the brains, the energy – and I know that

when we work together we can overcome our challenges."

And youth in Malawi, Mtungila will proudly tell you, are indeed working together to lift themselves out of poverty.

Concerned Youth is one of a number of such initiatives, which offer support, training and guidance to young people wanting to launch small businesses. But members of these youth-led groups also freely give their time as active citizens, volunteering and



Concerned Youth are initiating an ICT training project in Malawi

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT



Youth led organizations from 33 countries have benefited from UN-HABITAT's Urban Youth Fund

PHOTO © UN-HABITAT

fields. Concerned Youth, along with its partners, including the Blantyre City Assembly, hope to change this, offering intensive training courses to young people in the city, teaching proficiency in the use of modern computers and software packages. With the help of UN-HABITAT, Mtungila is confident they will succeed.

"Before the Fund, we had the idea but not the resources to launch it," he says. "Now we can make it a reality, and many young people from my township will be empowered with knowledge and skills that they may be able to make a living from in the future. I hope that many governments, leaders and organizations will take notice of the Fund and join UN-HABITAT in supporting youth to make their dreams become reality." ♦

## The UN-HABITAT Urban Youth Fund

Concerned Youth Organisation was one of 67 Youth Fund grant recipients in 2009, drawn from a pool of 1,116 applicants representing 86 countries. Many of the winning projects, representing 33 countries, are aimed at alleviating poverty, improving employment prospects, education, the environment, health and safety.

The second call for applications, for the current year, opened on February 15, 2010, with a deadline for submission of April 15, 2010. Details and application information can be found online at [www.unhabitat.org/youthfund](http://www.unhabitat.org/youthfund).

advocating for change in areas including human rights, environmental sustainability, economic empowerment and HIV/AIDS.

The project that UN-HABITAT's Urban Youth Fund is supporting is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training project. As in many impoverished African countries, youth in Malawi generally have low computer literacy, which greatly reduces their employment prospects in many

## Concerned Youth Organisation

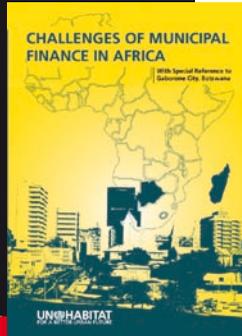
The Concerned Youth Organisation (CYO) is a non-profit and a non-governmental youth organization working in the southern region of Malawi and based in the Township of Kachere in the City of Blantyre. The organization was established in September, 2002. CYO aim to inspire and instil positive moral behaviour amongst Malawian youth in key areas such as the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sensitization on human rights, and the conservation of the environment. The group is entirely managed by youth. Their vision is to have a transformed society that actively participates on issues affecting their lives with improved social economic status.

In 2009, Concerned Youth was awarded a grant of USD 19,000 from the UN-HABITAT Urban Youth Fund for their ICT Youth Development Project. They will offer ICT training for 150 young people, 50 percent of them women, to improve their employment prospects in the local labour market. The project will also actively engage the trainees in Concerned Youth's crime prevention and HIV/AIDS management programming. They will be trained as peer counsellors so that they can in turn share this crucial information with other young people in Blantyre.

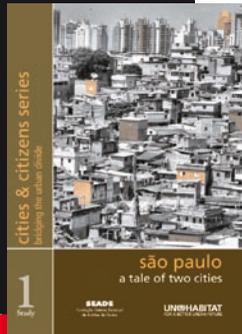
Concerned Youth hope that the project, through education and training, will improve ICT knowledge and application among the youth and make them more employable in Malawi's modern labour market. The training will improve communication and networking among the youth as well as increasing access to information. By targeting equally both boys and girls, the project will promote gender equality in computer literacy. The program will use the core activity of ICT training as a vehicle to also deliver a greater awareness, to the participating youth, of issues that Concerned Youth Organisation is already undertaking among youth in the city including HIV/AIDS, youth crime and environmental sustainability.

CYO was established by concerned youths who recognized the significant impact that young people could have on the development of the society and in addressing problems facing youth and the entire community. From observation and experience it was realized that youth in slums have the potential to influence sustainable change in development but are limited by the environment they reside in and therefore need empowerment and encouragement.

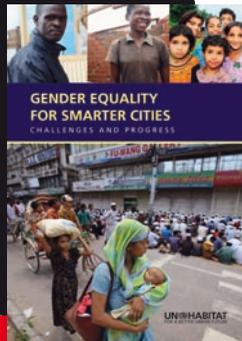
# New UN-HABITAT publications



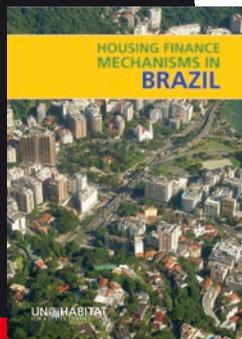
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## Cities & Citizens Series São Paulo a Tale of Two Cities



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**Shanghai World Expo:  
Better City, Better Life**

1 May-31 October 2010  
Shanghai, China  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

The Shanghai World Expo 2010 on **Better City, Better Life**, is an international exposition that will take place from 1 May to 31 October 2010 in Shanghai, China. The Expo, which will cover over five square kilometres hopes to attract 70 million people to see the displays of exhibitors from over 200 countries from the public and private sectors, civil society, international organizations. The main theme of Expo 2010 **Better City, Better Life** will show exciting initiatives aimed at achieving better living conditions and more sustainable urban environments – where over half of the world's population lives.

**18th European Biomass Conference  
and Exhibition**

3-7 May 2010  
Lyon, France  
[www.conference-biomass.com](http://www.conference-biomass.com)

The debates during the 18th Biomass Conference will refer to the outcome of COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. It will be mainly driven by current highlight presentations and discussions during the conference. In June 2010 the Member States of the European Union will deliver their national energy strategies, which will show the role bioenergy is expected to play in the future energy systems within the European Union.

**International Energy & Environment  
Conference**

12-14 May 2010  
Istanbul, Turkey  
[www.icci.com.tr](http://www.icci.com.tr)

The ICCI 2010 Exhibition and Conference will present a general outlook on the energy sector worldwide and in Turkey. Accordingly, issues such as liberalisation and restructuring in energy, offer and demand projections, EU energy policies, as well as technical matters such as cogeneration, high efficiency energy generation technologies, energy plant operations, renewable energy, waste management, recycling systems and environmental technologies will be dealt with both at a national and international scale.

**6th European Sustainable Cities  
and Towns Conference**

19-21 May 2010  
Dunkerque, France  
[www.dunkerque2010.org](http://www.dunkerque2010.org)

The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference will explore how local sustainability can represent an answer to the current economic, social and climate challenges and how it can be further implemented at the European level under the actual financial and political frameworks. It will also offer a unique opportunity to assess and push forward the progress and achievements of European local governments in the field of sustainable development. After the successful conferences of previous years, more than 1,500 local government leaders from all over Europe as well as representatives from European and national networks of local governments, European institutions and NGOs are expected to take part in the largest European conference dedicated to local sustainable development.

**Asian Development Bank Transport Forum:  
Changing Course - Pathways to Sustainable  
Transport**

25-27 May 2010  
Manila, Philippines  
[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

The three day ADB Transport Forum, featuring the world's leading transport experts, will provide a unique forum for discussing and debating some of the most crucial issues facing transport in Asia. The ADB Transport Forum includes high-level panel discussions, as well as workshops, and a photo exhibition. Ministers, key decision makers from industry, top researchers and representatives of civil society from more than 30 countries will come together at the 2010 ADB Transport Forum in Manila, Philippines where they will focus on Changing Course for the transport sector.

**International Conference on Human  
Development for Sustainable Economies**

27 -28 May 2010  
Karlsruhe, Germany  
[www.etechgermany.com/HCConference.pdf](http://www.etechgermany.com/HCConference.pdf)

This event will be a platform to discuss key emerging issues including: global warming and the emergence of the green economy; how is the transformation from high to low carbon and sustainable economy impacting human capital management; and effective initiatives needed to develop and manage human capital for the next economies – the green economies.

**Resilient Cities 2010**

28-30 May 2010  
Bonn, Germany  
[resilient-cities.iclel.org/bonn2010/home](http://resilient-cities.iclel.org/bonn2010/home)

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, together with the City of Bonn and in cooperation with many partner organizations like UN-HABITAT, will host Resilient Cities 2010, a global forum on urban resiliency and adaptation to climate change. The Congress will be held preceding the UN climate talks in Bonn, which are scheduled for 31 May – 11 June 2010. Resilient Cities 2010 is a convention to share the latest scientific findings, effective approaches and innovative programs on climate change adaptation and resilience building in cities and urbanized areas.

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WORLD CITIES SUMMIT

# World Cities Summit 2010 Liveable & Sustainable Cities for the Future

28 – 30 June 2010

Singapore  
www.worldcities.com.sg

**World Cities Summit** is a premier event that brings together practitioners and policy makers with leading experts in their field to identify innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges facing cities today. The inaugural Summit in June 2008 brought together 800 senior delegates including leaders, mayors, policy makers and the civil society. To build on its success, the next Summit in 2010 will offer a strategic platform comprising a high-level summit, plenary sessions and technical workshops.

The theme for the second Summit is **Liveable and Sustainable Cities for the Future**. World Cities Summit 2010 will be a three-day event focusing on leadership and governance, eco-friendly and liveable cities, and harmonious and sustainable communities. Through the exchange of ideas and knowledge, cities can learn from each other to identify practical, scalable and replicable solutions to challenges faced by cities today.

## Highlights of World Cities Summit 2010

The conference will commence with high-level plenary sessions by world-renowned leaders, policy makers, visionaries, practitioners and futurists. They will deal with cross-cutting issues around the interplay of people, technologies and markets facing world cities today, with specific emphasis on the three broad themes of **Leader-**



**ship and Governance for Vibrant and Liveable Cities, Building Sustainable and Eco-friendly Cities and Fostering Harmonious and Sustainable Communities**. Complemented by expert panel discussions, delegates would be able to review today's achievements as well as explore tomorrow's possibilities.

The **Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize** is a biennial international award to recognise individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to the cre-



ation of vibrant, liveable and sustainable urban communities around the world. It seeks to recognise individuals and organisations responsible for urban initiatives that display foresight, good governance or innovation in tackling the many urban challenges faced by cities.

The **World Mayors Forum** is a gathering of mayors to discuss solutions to the common urban challenges. The Forum will pro-



vide practical recommendations for joint actions where Mayors and city officials can work together to make their cities a better

place – more liveable, with healthier citizens, better housing and better education.

The **World Cities Summit Expo**, from 28 June to 1 July 2010 is a new platform to showcase model cities and innovative urban solutions that enhance economic



value whilst addressing environmental challenges. Over 2,000 trade visitors are expected to attend the cities expo which is a global marketplace for urban solutions.

**Learning Journeys** are interesting site visits that highlight in-depth perspectives on how policies and ideas can be implemented successfully. Hosted by diverse public sector agencies in Singapore, these visits will give a behind-the-scenes look at specific issues while providing unique, practical learning experiences for delegates.

**Networking Forums** are country-led forums with eminent speakers from across the globe. Speakers comprise representatives from government, trade and research organisations, key technology providers, financial institutions and urban authorities. They will discuss a myriad of topics including city management, development projects and opportunities in the global urban sector.

World Cities Summit 2010 is co-located with the **Singapore International Water Week 2010** that runs from 28 June to 2 July 2010 and the **2nd World Urban Transport Leaders Summit** that runs from 29 June to 1 July 2010.

Sponsored statement

## Who Will Attend

We are expecting more than 2,000 participants from around the world, with a good proportion from the Asia Pacific and the Middle East.

Based on the turnout in 2008 you can expect to meet:

- Leaders, Ministers and Government Policy Makers
- Mayors and Senior City Officials
- Urban Leaders and Planning Professionals
- International Organisation Representatives
- Business Leaders and Industry Professionals

For more information on World Cities Summit 2010 conference and exhibitions, please visit

[www.worldcities.com.sg](http://www.worldcities.com.sg)

or email

[info@worldcities.com.sg](mailto:info@worldcities.com.sg)

or call

+65 3106 7168 /

+65 3106 7268 /

+65 3106 7152.

## Why You Should Attend

World Cities Summit will provide the city administrator, environmental executive and policy maker with practical and pragmatic solutions. It will also introduce you to the vast network of public and private sector players who can inform or support your execution of these solutions from design of green spaces, solid waste management to transforming public transport. You will be kept up-to-date with the latest trends and innovative approaches in city-making.

## About the Centre for Liveable Cities

The Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) is a thought centre on urban governance and management jointly established by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

The CLC brings together Singapore's expertise on sustainable urban development in the area of good governance, urban planning, effective resource management, quality living environment, affordable housing and sustainable transport solutions. The CLC adopts an inter-disciplinary approach and focuses on cross-cutting issues of interest to its stakeholders. The Centre facilitates the sharing of knowledge, best practices and learning among cities in the region and globally through conferences, forums, seminars and workshops. The World Cities Summit, the Centre's flagship event, is one such international platform.

The CLC works with the public and private sectors and develops strategic partnerships with key regional and international organizations to promote networking and capacity building. The Centre also collaborates with other international and local think tanks and research institutions to undertake policy-oriented research that is timely, practical and relevant.

## About the Civil Service College

Civil Service College (CSC) is a statutory board under the Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore. Its mission is to develop people for a first-class Public Service.

Through creating a service-wide environment for dialogue, knowledge-sharing and learning, CSC enables public officers from diverse backgrounds to share perspectives and build a common ethos. CSC offers practitioner-focused programmes and services to help the Singapore Public Service grow its policy-making, leadership and management, and public administration capacity.

On the global front, CSC's engagements with a series of international partners make it a one-stop learning institution for overseas participants interested in the Singapore governance model, with customised training programmes and workshops conducted both in Singapore and abroad.

### Organisers:

CENTRE for  
**LiveableCities**  
SINGAPORE



Spread good things around the world

