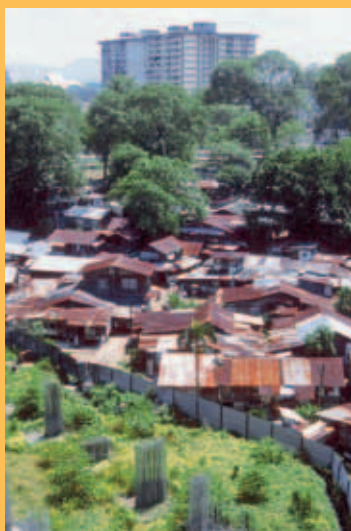


World Habitat Day

3 OCTOBER 2005



The Millennium Development Goals and the City

- “Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020”
- “Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water”

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Call for nominations for 2005 Habitat Scroll of Honour Award



UN-HABITAT



3 OCTOBER 2005

“Slums represent the worst of urban poverty and inequality.
Yet the world has the resources, know-how and power to reach
the target established in the *Millennium Declaration*.”

– UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan.

Introduction

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

This year, the World Habitat Day will be held on Monday, 3 October 2005. The theme of this year's *celebrations* is the *Millennium Development Goals and the City*. This theme, chosen by the United Nations, is to remind all of us that in the year 2000, world leaders meeting at the dawn of the new Millennium, committed themselves to launch a concerted attack on poverty, illiteracy, hunger, unsafe water, disease and urban and environmental degradation by adopting a set of eight goals. In September this year, the UN General Assembly will hold a five-year review meeting to weigh progress on the eight goals.

UN-HABITAT is working with a number of international and civil society organizations, cities and governments to realize Target 11 of Millennium Development Goal 7 – *improving the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020*. We are also working together on Target 10 of MDG 7 – *reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water*. Our Global Campaign on Urban Governance and our Global Campaign for Secure Tenure enhance this work through a series of UN-HABITAT programmes, mainly in developing countries, that shoulder the heaviest poverty burdens.

This year, the global observance will be spearheaded from the Indonesian capital of Jakarta and its outskirts Banten. We chose Indonesia for this year's celebration to highlight the country's drive to keep the millennium promise on slum upgrading and the major relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts that have been underway in the wake of widespread coastal devastation caused by the recent tsunami disaster.

Our quest for a better urban world is by no means an easy task, as demonstrated by the fact that since the *Millennium Declaration*, the global slum population has already risen by more than 75 million. Already, half of humankind lives in cities. By the middle of this century, two-thirds of the global population will be living in towns and cities.

Yet, nearly 32 per cent of the world's urban population – roughly 1 billion people – lives in slums, mostly in or on the edges of cities across the developing world. In process, we at UN-HABITAT, the UN human settlements agency, call the *urbanization of poverty*, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest proportion of its urban population resident in slums – nearly 72 per cent in the year 2001. But our agency's research for that year shows, the figure for South-Central Asia was 58 per cent, followed by 36 per cent for East Asia, 33 per cent for West Asia, 32 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean, 28 per cent for North Africa, 28 per cent for Southeast Asia, and 24 per cent in Oceania.

In absolute numbers of slum dwellers, Asia as a whole has by far the largest number at 554 million making up 60 per cent of the world's total slum populations, followed by Africa with 187 million (20 per cent of the global figure), and Latin America and the Caribbean with 128 million slum dwellers (14 per cent of the global figure). Compare that to the slum population of 54 million in the developed countries making up just 6 per cent of the global slum population.

It is not an exaggeration, therefore, to state that we are sitting on a social time bomb, that this is a scandalous situation in our modern world. The goals are also intended at making us think harder and working better to make our towns and cities inclusive, acceptable places of abode. Otherwise the urban time bomb will start ticking faster than ever.

Let us make no mistake: Cities are much more than national engines of economic growth. They are the crucibles of cultural fusion. Standing astride every intersection on the global network of trade and migration, the world's cities must become shining examples of inclusiveness and equity as called for in the *Millennium Declaration*. Otherwise, they will remain potential flashpoints of conflict and reservoirs of poverty – barriers to humanity's further development. We must at least try to keep the promise for the *Millennium Development Goals and the City*.

Raise awareness in your city - organize a World Habitat 2005 event

World Habitat Day provides an excellent opportunity to highlight key human settlements issues. We would like to thank all our partners around the world who have commemorated *World Habitat Day* in recent years and reported back to us about their 2004 activities for this report.

This year, we call again on our partners in central government, local government, civil society and the private sector to take part in organizing activities to raise awareness and stimulate debate on the important theme of *The Millennium Development Goals and the City*.

Guidelines

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

1. Use the mass media, particularly newspapers, radio and television, to draw attention to *World Habitat Day* celebrations. If possible, issue press releases, display posters, organize press conferences, and broadcast video and audio spots.
2. Draw attention to the challenges of the MDGs, particularly the targets on slums and access to water and sanitation through press articles, radio and television documentaries and panel programmes with policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives. Public information campaigns, and use of popular theatre can also help to create awareness of the problems and issues.
3. Use the occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in the lives of slum dwellers and the level of access to water and sanitation facilities.
4. Organize competitions, such as essays and paintings, in schools and other places of learning to create awareness of and help find solutions to human settlements and urban problems.
5. Organize fund raising, recreational or entertainment activities like football matches, concerts, etc., and use the proceeds to upgrade and extend services for the poor communities.
6. Work with postal authorities to issue special stamps and raise global awareness.
7. Educational authorities could, in collaboration with appropriate ministries, introduce the MDGs into school curricula.

UN-HABITAT support

To support city and country-level activities, UN-HABITAT is developing information and promotional materials on the theme and will provide an information kit including a poster, and a short video on the theme for use by any partner that wishes to plan an event to commemorate *World Habitat Day*. Information kits will be mailed to partners including Embassies and High Commissions, Inter-governmental Organizations, United Nations Information Centre offices, UNDP country offices and other UN agencies.

We will also keep the UN-HABITAT website www.unhabitat.org/whd updated for information and tips on organizing local *World Habitat Day* events.

Keep us informed

Please let us know if you wish to organize a local awareness-raising event by sending an e-mail to whd@unhabitat.org. We would greatly appreciate it, if you could include in your e-mail, as many details as possible about your planned event. Also, when *World Habitat Day* is over, please send us a report on your event, with details of media coverage and photographs if possible. We will post these on the *World Habitat Day* page of our website and in the report that is distributed to all our partners and the public. Thank you for your continued support.

World Habitat Day

Global Observances from 1986 to 2004

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

UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award - Previous Winners 1996 to 2004

2004

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

2003

Mrs. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Canada
Weihai Municipal Government, China
Mr. German Garcia Duran, Colombia
Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, India
Ms. Nasreen Mustafa Sideek, Iraq
Pamoja Trust, Kenya
Mrs. Sankie D. Mthembu-Mahanyele, South
Africa
Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative,
Council (WASH), Switzerland
Ms. Zena Daysh, Commonwealth Human
Ecology Council (CHEC), U.K.
Ms. Teolinda Bolivar, Venezuela
His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of
Thailand

2002

C2C between Nakuru and Leuven, Belgium
Brazilian Institute of Municipal, Administration
(IBAM), Brazil
Baotou Municipal Government, China
CITYNET based in Yokohama, Japan
Dutch Habitat Platform, Netherlands
Mayor Joan Clos, Spain
ENDA Tiers Monde Dakar, Sénégal
René Frank, USA
John Hodges (Special Citation), United Kingdom

2001

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

2000

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

1999

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

1998

Programa de Mobilização de Comunidades, Brazil
Fu-Nan River Comprehensive Revitalization Project
Chendu, China
Mayor Mu Suixin, Mayor of Shenyang, China
Forum Européen pour la Sécurité Urbaine, France
Prof. Akin L. Mabogunje, Nigeria
Vladimir A. Kudryavtsev, Russia
Association des Habitants d'el Mourouj 2, Tunisia

1997

Sen. Oscar López Velarde Vega, Mexico
Mother Center Stuttgart, West Germany
South African Homeless People's Federation, South
Africa
Mayor Huang Ziqiang, China
Reinhard Goethert and Nabeel Hamdi, U.S.A./
United Kingdom
Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada
Mr. Peter Elderfield (Special Citation), United
Kingdom
Mr. Radinal Mochtar, Minister of Public
Works (Special Citation)
Indonesia

1996

Hou Jie, Minister of Construction (Special
Citation), China
Peter Kimm (Special Citation)



Cities – engines of rural development

Report on World Habitat Day 2004

Global Observance of *World Habitat Day* 2004 in Nairobi

Thousands of people gathered on the outskirts of Nairobi on Monday, 4 October 2004 in Kibera, Africa's biggest informal settlement, for the global celebration of *World Habitat Day* in a festive atmosphere punctuated by calls on policy makers around the world to make cities engines of rural development.

The idea, *Cities – engines of rural development*, as the 2004 theme was to remind policy makers at every level not to think of "urban" and "rural" areas as separate entities, but rather as parts of an economic and social whole.

"In the next 25 years, virtually all population growth will take place in the world's cities, most of it in the cities of developing countries," said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a message read on his behalf by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

"The fastest growing cities will be secondary and market towns, which are especially close to rural areas. This growth can help to improve rural life and ease the problems associated with mega-cities. But to do so, it will need to be well-managed, with significant investments in communication, transport channels and other infrastructure, and with concerted efforts to ensure that all people have access to adequate services," Mr. Annan said.

Kenyan President, Mr. Mwai Kibaki; Roads and Public Works Minister, Mr. Raila Odinga; Lands and Housing Minister, Mr. Amos Kimunya; Mrs. Tibaijuka, and other speakers drew frequent applause from the crowd as they spelled out new thinking on ways to alleviate urban poverty.

"We needed to be dramatic in the wording of the theme this year," said Mrs. Tibaijuka, "to remind policy makers around the world that sustainable development can only be achieved if rural and urban areas are considered part of an interdependent, mutually reinforcing economic and social order. This is also the essence of the recommendations that have emerged from the Inter-Regional Conference on Urban-Rural Development Linkages we hosted in the days just prior to *World Habitat Day*."

President Kibaki said that only a proper balance between urban and rural areas would serve to improve living conditions in both areas: "In a developing country like Kenya, rural poverty is a cause of informal settlements and massive migration into urban centres and it has overwhelmed the capacity of the authorities to provide basic services for all."

The choice of Nairobi, Kenya, for the global celebration in 2004 was to highlight the phenomenal rate of urbanization in the developing world, which Kenya symbolises. Other celebrations were held in scores of cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Europe and North America.

Mrs. Tibaijuka used the occasion to present the 2004 Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards to a group of selected individuals and organizations for their commitment to the cause of human settlements development. The Building and Social Housing Foundation, an independent research organization based in the United Kingdom, also presented its two annual World Habitat Awards for programmes showing their exemplary commitment to improving human settlements. The foundation also sponsored a students' competition whose winners received their prizes from the President of Kenya.



**The Secretary-General, Kofi Annan's message on
World Habitat Day 2004
Cities – engines of rural development**

The theme of *World Habitat Day* this year, *Cities – engines of rural development*, was chosen to remind development policy makers at every level not to think of "urban" and "rural" areas as separate entities, but rather as parts of an economic and social whole.

Cities interact with rural areas in many ways. Migrants living and working in cities send money to families in rural areas. Cities absorb excess rural populations, and offer markets for farm produce and other rural products. They provide services and amenities – such as universities and hospitals – that may not be available or feasible in rural areas. Cities are also the locus of most global investment, raising demand for goods, labour and other inputs from rural areas.

In the next 25 years, virtually all population growth will take place in the world's cities, most of it in the cities of developing countries. The fastest growing cities will be secondary and market towns, which are especially close to rural areas. This growth can help to improve rural life and ease the problems associated with mega-cities. But to do so, it will need to be well managed, with significant investments in communication, transport channels and other infrastructure, and with concerted efforts to ensure that all people have access to adequate services.

While there are obvious differences between urban and rural development that require different interventions, ultimately sustainable development cannot and should not focus exclusively on one or the other. On this *World Habitat Day*, let us recognize that cities have a crucial contribution to make to rural development, and let us pursue development in a comprehensive way that reflects that understanding.



UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka's message on World Habitat Day 2004

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October each year as *World Habitat Day*. It is an occasion to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all.

The theme of *World Habitat Day* on Monday 4 October this year is, *Cities – Engines of Rural Development*. We chose this theme to underline the economic, social and environmental interdependence between urban and rural areas. Sustainable development can only be achieved in both areas if they are considered holistically as part of the same, integrated system.

The links between cities and the countryside depend on the infrastructure connecting them. Improve the infrastructure network, and rural production increases, giving people in the countryside better access to markets, information and jobs. Cities are magnets for rural trade, and the gateway to national and international markets. They benefit from rural demand for their output.

The better the links between cities and their hinterlands, the easier it is for rural people to get jobs in cities, and thus ease the problem of rural unemployment. It is important that cities absorb excess rural labour. But in the developing world, poor development in urban areas has restricted the options that would normally be open to rural people.

A major hurdle to be overcome in developing countries is the fact that secondary and tertiary towns are under-supplied and under-developed. This can be remedied by improving the road, rail and other vital communications networks between them. Economic development in small towns can have a positive impact on the surrounding rural economies through a greater demand for rural produce from urban residents who normally have a higher purchasing power.

Intermediate towns provide natural destinations for rural migrants seeking better opportunities. They also help cushion the impact of major migration flows towards large cities.

In many poor countries, the scattered nature of rural settlements renders the provision of infrastructure and services to rural areas extremely costly. There is no doubt that a major cause of rural under-development is poor access to basic infrastructure and services such as roads, telecommunication, health care, education, credit, markets and information. Many of these can only be supplied and supported from within the more populous urban areas.

It is imperative, therefore, that if we are to achieve sustainable economic and social development nationwide Governments must integrate their country's urban and rural areas as a matter of policy. Stimulating balanced development between urban and rural constituencies means strengthening national, regional and local planning bodies.

On this *World Habitat Day*, we call upon all those concerned about rural growth to integrate urban development fully into their plans and to bring a more holistic perspective to our common future: Cities can be the engines of rural development.

Habitat Scroll of Honour Winners for 2004



President Joachim Chissano, Mozambique

John William Kachamila, Mozambique's Minister for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, received the award on behalf of President Joachim Chissano for his tireless efforts to uplift the lot the urban and rural poor and bring their plight to the world stage as Chairman of the African Union. He was instrumental in lending political support to the drive by African mayors to devolve authority to local governments so that basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and shelter could be ensured.



Zhang Changping, Mayor of Xiamen Municipal Government, China

For the way the Municipal Government has worked tirelessly to ensure that everyone has adequate shelter. The concept began in 1980 when the city fathers launched the Economy Housing Project which raised funds amounting to US\$8.66 billion. The sums were used to build 16.17 million square metres of residential houses boosting the municipality's main goal of "a decent roof over everybody's head."



Big Issue Foundation, United Kingdom

John Bird, Editor-in-Chief and Founder of the Big Issue Foundation receives the award on behalf of the foundation for giving homeless people a voice and for helping them to take control of their lives. The Big Issue, a current affairs and entertainment magazine is sold on the streets by homeless and vulnerably housed individuals as an alternative to begging. The ethos behind The Big Issue is that of "A Hand Up Not A Hand Out". In 1994, The Big Issue founded The International Network of Street Papers (INSP), a global network of over 55 street papers in 28 countries.



Center for Development Communication (CDC), India

Mr. Vivek Agarwal, Director of Centre for Development Communication, receives the award on behalf of CDC for working with the poorest to create a cleaner environment in India's Pink City. CDC improved the hygienic living conditions of slum dwellers in Jaipur and provides city-wide garbage collection, achieving success in street sweeping and transportation of waste for disposal and recycling.



SPECIAL CITATION

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri was awarded a Special Citation of the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour for his work in the post-conflict reconstruction of his country. He achieved impressive results in the restoration of the country's infrastructure including the electric power system, a new telephone network, new roads, hospitals and clinics and helped rebuild peace in his country after a devastating 16-year civil war. Mr. Hariri was brutally murdered in a Beirut car bomb blast in January 2005.

Celebrations of *World Habitat Day* 2004 around the world

Afghanistan

World Habitat Day in Afghanistan was marked by two events at which UN-HABITAT handed over a rehabilitated green park and an office to the Mayor of Kabul. The rehabilitated park is inside the Municipality compound in the north of Gulestan Sarai. The park was inaugurated by Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad, Mayor of Kabul. He thanked UN-HABITAT for its assistance to Kabul Municipality over many years. Mayor Noorzad and Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, Chief Technical Adviser of UN-HABITAT in urban Afghanistan, planted two trees in the green park to represent the partnership and long-standing cooperation of their organizations. On the same day, a district office building for District 16 reconstructed and rehabilitated by UN-HABITAT in 2004 was handed over. UN-HABITAT has been providing a range of support to all the key municipalities in Afghanistan in their effort to serve the growing urban population. Kabul Municipality has been a principal recipient of such support. In the past, UN-HABITAT reconstructed and renovated a number of municipal premises and offices.

Argentina

The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires held a workshop in Palermo on Integral Solutions to the Housing Problem. Participants included the Municipal Commission of Housing, El Ceibo Housing Cooperative, ArcaGrup (Ecological House), Center of Management and Participation, the Network of Community Resources.

Bangladesh

The Ministry of Works and Housing held an exhibition at the Institute of Engineers, of a model community. A cultural troupe presented songs and a small play at the opening and closing ceremonies. In addition, eleven towns in Bangladesh hosted rallies and workshops to commemorate *World Habitat Day*.

Belgium

UN-HABITAT's Liaison Office with the European Union, in collaboration with the Regional United Nations Information Center (RUNIC), commemorated the event at RUNIC House in Brussels. Participants included European

Commission staff members, members of the European Parliament, diplomats at the European Union, international organizations and civil society organizations.

Benin

The Ministry of the Environment, Habitat and Urban Affairs, organized its annual *World Habitat Day* celebration this year at a nationally publicized week-long event that focused on development and local know-how in the town of Parakou, some 500 km north of the capital. The event was well attended with a guest list that included various national partners, UN-HABITAT and others.

Burkina Faso

The Prime Minister of Burkina Faso used the occasion to launch the Global Campaigns on Secure Tenure and Urban Governance in Ouagadougou on 12 October 2004. Several thousand residents of an informal community on the outskirts of Ouagadougou gathered to witness the signature of a plan of action to launch the two campaigns that provides for spending amounting to US\$600 million over the next seven years.

Burundi

A special *World Habitat Day* seminar was held with participants from ministries including the Ministries of Public Works and Equipment, Rural Development, Environment, Planning, the Ministry in charge of Refugee Returns and Resettlement, Local Authorities and the Geographic Institute of Burundi (IGEBU). Members of Parliament, academics and other experts discussed the theme in a nationally broadcast radio and television debate. A competition between the cities and towns was organized with a view to selecting a winning town with the least destruction of houses and infrastructure in a bid to promote peaceful coexistence.

Cambodia

Messages of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan; and UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, were read out at a ceremony celebrated by senior UN representatives, diplomats, cabinet ministers and

other top government officials. A special presentation on *Decentralized Urban Governance for Cities Development* was given by Ros Sokha, Adviser to Seila Programme of Phnom Penh. A paper on *Policy on Rural-Urban Linkages* was presented by Senior Minister Im hhum Lim, and Miloon Kothari, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing at the UN Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, also addressed the gathering..

Colombia

A conference was held with the participation of national authorities, academics, NGOs, municipalities, UNDP and other UN agencies. The conference provided an opportunity to have a public dialogue on present housing and human settlements policies. A UN-HABITAT/UNDP publication, *Habitat and Human Development*, on local housing requirements was launched.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica dedicated a whole month to *World Habitat Day* celebrations, which is designated Habitat Month. The Ministry for Housing and Human Settlements lined up activities to last the whole month of October and take the celebrations outside the capital San Jose. Activities included conferences, events and public information sessions. The highlight was an "Open Doors" event, at which ministry staff and the Minister gathered in public places to answer questions, obtain information on housing subsidies and other housing problems of concern to the public.

Ecuador

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ecuadorian Association of Architects, with UNDP support, organized a technical workshop on 4 October on the constraints of providing adequate housing for all and the current Ecuadorian experience in tackling shelter issues.

Egypt

The Urban Training Institute, the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Ain Shams University celebrated *World Habitat Day* by conducting an open day of expert meetings on this year's theme.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia held various public information activities to coincide with *World Habitat Day*, including a radio programme, posters and T-shirts. Events were held by UNEP, the Addis Ababa Environmental Protection Agency, the Addis Ababa Clean and Green Society, and others.

Fiji

A one-day workshop and a symposium were the key events marking *World Habitat Day* in Fiji. Organized by the UN-HABITAT Pacific Region Programme in collaboration with the Fiji Council for Social Services, Habitat for Humanity and the Fiji Housing Authority, the meetings focussed on the importance of pro-poor social housing and provision of shelter issues related to the theme, *Cities - engines of rural development*. The events were preceded by media releases in main newspapers including a letter from the Minister Local Government, Housing and Squatter Settlements. The Fiji Local Government Association also marked the occasion.

Ghana

Mayors of Accra, Elmina and Tamale discussed on national television the theme of this year's *World Habitat Day* and its relevance to the country, while two directors of the Ministry of Local government and Rural Development and Ministry of Environment and Science participated in a radio talk show in Accra. Listeners phoned in from around the country. The most widely circulated national newspaper, the *Daily Graphic*, carried a feature article and at least 150 people including members of parliament, the cabinet, senior government officials, the private sector, academics, civil society organizations, members of professional bodies attended a news conference. This was carried on the two major television stations in the country.

Haiti

La Fondation Haïtienne pour l'Habitat et l'Intégration des Sans-Abri marked *World Habitat Day* in 2004 to focus on the plight of the homeless at an event to which the media were invited to hear experts and first-hand accounts.

Celebrations of *World Habitat Day* 2004 around the world

Hungary

In Hungary, *World Habitat Day* coincided with the World Day of Architecture and an exhibition was held at the University of Milkosc with prizes being awarded to architects who have been outstanding in their work. Some 2,500 copies of the professional monthly *Falu Varos Regio* were distributed to parliamentary deputies, local government officials and managers of regional and settlement development.

India

The CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training organized celebrations to mark the day in Rajasthan, India, with a variety of seminars, public meetings and an awareness programme. A panel discussion on the theme *Cities – engines of rural development* marked this year's WHD celebrations in Kolkata, India. The Architectural Engineering Division of the Institute of Engineers (India) organized a panel discussion on this year's *World Habitat Day* theme at the Institution's auditorium. The discussion was inaugurated by the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department, Government of West Bengal, India. The Shibpur Dinobundhoo Institution and the Centre for Urban Economic Studies, University of Calcutta, also observed *World Habitat Day*. The AP Habitat Society celebrated *World Habitat Day* at a seminar with participants from government ministries. In Orissa, the City Managers' Association Orissa (CMAO) observed *World Habitat Day* with an awareness raising event for city managers on the various techniques and issue of managing and improving the linkages between rural and urban areas for economic development. The Day was observed in association with the Housing and Urban Development Department of the State Government. CMAO organized a workshop, released a newsletter, showed a video documentary and an exhibition on the subject. Participants included officers from urban local bodies, senior government decision makers, citizens, politicians, NGOs, and local urban experts.

Krityan and UNESCO Club celebrated *World Habitat Day* by organizing a programme on the theme *Water for Rural and Urban people – save water for future*. Between 15-24 October the club organized a special field programme to save Rain water for farming (agriculture) among Rural farmers.

Anna University in Chennai held a one-day regional seminar to commemorate *World Habitat Day*. The event was organized through the university's Centre for Human Settlements. The objective of the seminar was to consolidate the policy options and possible strategies for strengthening the urban-rural linkages for improving the quality of the life of people living in the rural areas and to recommend an approach for demonstration for the Human Development in the rural areas. The seminar drew participants from the academia, scientists and government officials in the fields of Planning and Development rural and urban settlements.

The NITK-STEP organization in Karnataka had a programme on 4 October 2004 on the role of vocational education in rural development for teachers.

The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), an apex body attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which is devoted to research, technology development and transfer, continuing education and industrial services for cement building materials and construction industries, celebrated *World Habitat Day* with a poster campaign and talks under the theme *Cities - engines of rural development*.

Housing rights groups in India through the National Forum for Housing Rights organized a four-day campaign from 1-4 October in New Delhi. It focused on forced evictions of the urban poor and on provision and advocacy for adequate housing to poor inhabitants. National Forum for Housing Rights is a network of independent grassroots organizations across the country.

The City Managers Association of Tamil Nadu (CMATN) organized a seminal discussion involving 102 municipalities and 5 municipal corporations. The discussions attracted a wide

professionals and city officials and focused on the right to human habitation and better and affordable living for all. The celebrations were supported by the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, and the Government of Tamilnadu. Two panel discussions were also held on *Strengthening transportation linkages to urban - rural areas* to improve efficient movement, provide a better rural-urban interface, increase urban amenities in rural areas, stop out-migration and make rural areas vibrant economies. CMATN has members from 710 Urban Local Bodies (Cities) from the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu, which is one of the most urbanized states of India.

The All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) organized a two-day workshop in Pune to mark this year's *World Habitat Day*. AIILSG, an anchor Institution for Urban Management Programme (UN-HABITAT) for South Asia hosted the workshop in collaboration with its UMP Partner Institution Yeshwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration. The Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of AIILSG facilitated the meeting under the theme *Cities - Engines of Rural Development*.

The UN-HABITAT Information Office in Chennai produced a compendium of articles to mark the *World Habitat Day*. The publication was as a result of collaborative efforts with the Citizens Alliance for Sustainable Living, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Adyar Times Charitable Trust and the Institute of Town Planners, Tamil Nadu Chapter. Among the 21 articles featured in the compendium include *Guided Migration to New Cities: Key to Poverty Eradication* by K.S. Ramakrishnan; *Cities as Engines of Rural Development – the Chandigarh Experience* by M.G. Devasahayam; and *Urban-Rural Interaction - Auroville A Case Study* by the Auroville Universal Township.

Indonesia

The Research Institute for Human Settlements held an international seminar on 29 September on promoting rural development equality through secondary city revitalization. The seminar for local governments was followed by a student workshop on the *Design of Urban-Rural Interface Area Facilities*. On 1 October

local celebrations on stakeholder cooperation for better settlements were held with the Cipacing community and Sumedan regency. The national celebrations on *World Habitat Day* culminated in policy discussions and took into consideration the recommendations from the seminars leading up to the day.

Other activities included:

- An international seminar on Enhancing Equality Development between Rural-Urban Areas through Secondary City Development.
- A student workshop on Design of Urban and Rural Interface Area and Facilities, held at the Bandung Institute of Technology.
- Local celebration in Bandung.
- National *World Habitat Day* celebration in Yogyakarta City, to be inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia.
- Initiation of National Movement on Housing and Human Settlements and Community-based Water Provision; National seminar and commencement of low-cost rental flats (4 October).

Japan

“UN-HABITAT’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Fukuoka organised a symposium in collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, entitled *Rural-Urban Linkage - Towards a New National and Regional Planning of Japan in the context of Asia*”. The symposium was supported by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Kyushu University and Japan Habitat Association. A children’s drawing exhibition on the theme, *Linking Villages and Towns*, was also held from 25 September to 3 October 2004 at the Kyushu Energy Science Centre.

Kenya

The slums of Kibera on the outskirts of Kenya’s capital Nairobi, was the venue of this year’s Global Observance of *World Habitat Day* celebrations. The idea of *Cities - engines of rural development* as the theme this year was to remind policy makers at every level not to think of “urban” and “rural” areas as separate entities, but rather as parts of an economic and social whole.

Celebrations of *World Habitat Day* 2004 around the world

Lithuania

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Center for Environment and Health, Bonn Office, organized a symposium on housing and health in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 29 September to 1 October. The symposium included plenary sessions both on scientific and applied housing and health issues, a poster exhibition and talks on the best way forward for implementing the recommendations of the Budapest ministerial conference on environment and health of June 2004. The symposium reviewed the existing evidence on housing and health relationships, best practice examples of urban planning and housing provision, and further research needs. Local authorities, politicians, decision makers, housing managers, urban planners and the national and international scientific community shared ideas on healthy housing policies.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg celebrated *World Habitat Day* this year as part of its National Housing Week with presentations and discussions on housing and shelter issues.

Mexico

SEDESOL, UN-HABITAT's key partner in Mexico, hosted a nationally televised conference at which messages from the cabinet, the Executive Director Mrs. Tibajjuka, and Secretary-General Mr. Annan were discussed by a panel of specialists. UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean participated. A presentation of the Habitat National Best Practices competition also took place at the presidential palace in a widely publicized event headed by President Vicente Fox, and the Minister of SEDESOL, Ms Josefina Vasquez Motta. UN-HABITAT's Mexican Habitat Programme Manager was part of the organizing committee. SEDESOL also hosted an international four-country conference, which was presented in more than 70 locations around Mexico with live online presentation through the SEDESOL web site. The success of the public and transparent international high-level exchange and policy dialogue motivated SEDESOL to propose a permanent video conferencing programme among high-level decision makers within the sector.

Morocco

Morocco launched UN-HABITAT's Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance to mark *World Habitat Day*. The launch on Monday 4 October drew more than 700 delegates representing the government, civil society, local authorities, the private sector, UN-HABITAT and UNDP. Held in Ben M'Sik district in Casablanca, home of the country's largest slum, the occasion was an opportunity to announce the implementation of the *Cities without Slums* programme which will enable Morocco, the first country in the Arab region to launch the two campaigns, to be a slum-free nation by 2010. Representatives of different stakeholders, including a woman, living in a slum of Ben M'Sik, signed the *Casablanca Declaration* that translates the commitment of all parties to the principles of the two campaigns.

Mozambique

A workshop on the theme, *Cities – engines of rural development*, was held at Maputo City Hall, and opened by the Mayor of Maputo City. The workshop was organized in collaboration with UNDP, the Maputo City Municipal Council, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and the Ministry of Coordination of Environmental Affairs. Public debates on the theme were also organized on national radio. President Joaquim Chissano, who was awarded a Habitat Scroll of Honour this year, was presented with his award at a public ceremony on 9 October 2004.

Namibia

A special TV programme to highlight housing issues and rural-urban linkages was aired on Namibian Broadcasting Corporation's *Talk of the Nation* programme on *World Habitat Day*. Panelists included the Former Deputy Minister and the current Deputy Director of the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing.

Nepal

The Regional and Urban Planners' Society of Nepal (RUPSON) celebrated *World Habitat Day* 2004 by organizing various events including a seminar, an exhibition and audio-visual programmes. There was collaboration from

various partners from government and the civil society.

The Netherlands

The Dutch Habitat Platform organized, in collaboration with other organizations of Dutch civil society, a conference on global cooperation for sustainable cities in The Hague.

New Zealand

New Zealand celebrated *World Habitat Day* with the opening of a small rural library which had been built over the previous six months to archive stories, photographs, records and books. Kohukohu is the heart of the Hokianga, and the Hokianga is where the story of New Zealand began. The local newspaper *Northland Age* said it was hoped that "indigenous people everywhere would be inspired by Kohukohu to recognize the importance of their unique habitat in giving form to their stories". The occasion, it added, "marked with the showing of archive films featuring invaluable footage from the Hokianga's early days".

Niue Island marked *World Habitat Day*, as urbanization and the linkages between urban areas and outer villages is a key issue for the island.

Nigeria

The WHD celebrations in Lagos, Nigeria, generated immense interest as captains of industry, government officials, market women and workers joined together to mark the event. The Deputy State Governor gave the keynote address while the Commissioner of Physical Planning and Urban Development read the Secretary-General's Message. Prior to the main day, the event had been given wide media publicity, including a dance-drama performance by the State Cultural troupe and a seasoned facilitator also delivered a lecture.

Pakistan

The Rural Sanitation Programme of the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) – the largest NGO in Pakistan sponsored by the Government of Pakistan to improve the livelihoods of rural people – marked the day. Among its rural support programmes around the country, NRSP

seeks to develop neat and clean villages and improve the living standards of village people.

Philippines

A series of conferences on urban land reform were held during the month of October, which has been designated National Shelter Month in the Philippines. The Urban Land Reform Conference Series was envisioned to help improve land transfer mechanisms, broaden support and acceptance for rights-based secure tenure options, and achieve consensus among the key shelter stakeholder groups on how sustainable, pro-poor housing can be accelerated using rights-based security of tenure. The conference, held on 14 and 15 October, culminated in a National Shelter Conference on 29 October 2004, where recommendations and action plans from previous conferences were presented to the President of the Philippines.

Russia

The Federal Agency for Construction, Housing and Municipal Economy this year spearheaded *World Habitat Day* celebrations with a conference and information campaign on its official website. The conference drew representatives from the Federal Agency, Department for Construction, Housing and Municipal Economy under the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation, the Federal Licensing Centre, the Congress of Municipal Associations, City Administrations of Astrakhan and Pskov, scientific research and design institutes, chief city architects, and representatives of non-governmental and women's organizations and foreign investment companies. Messages from Mr. Annan, and Mrs. Tibaijuka, were read out. In the run-up to *World Habitat Day*, the UN-HABITAT Executive Bureau in Russia disseminated information and statistics highlighting the interactions between cities and rural settlements to Russian cities including St.Petersburg, Omsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Surgut, Astrakhan, Pskov, Kostroma, and to CIS countries including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

Celebrations of World Habitat Day 2004 around the world

Rwanda

President Paul Kagame celebrated *World Habitat Day* in the capital Kigali. The Rwandan Prime Minister, Mr. Bernard Makuza; the Minister of Information, Mr. Laurent Nkusi; and the Minister of Land, Water, Forestry and Natural Resources, Mrs. Drocella Mugorewera, commemorated the day in the city of Butare. In towns across the country, other members of the cabinet and senior officials hosted meetings on the theme of the occasion this year, *Cities – engines of rural development*. The events drew wide coverage in the local media.

Senegal

World Habitat Day was organized in Senegal by the *Collectif sénégalais des Africaines pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement* through a strong campaign involving the media, a rap concert, a sports competition and a youth play as part of a three-day build-up to the event. On Monday, 4 October, a panel discussion was held by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on the theme, "*Social, economic and cultural solutions for the reinforcement of urban-rural interdependence to limit the rural exodus into towns*".

Sierra Leone

The government of Sierra Leone lined up various activities to mark this year's *World Habitat Day*. The Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance had activities including the use of mass media, including newspapers, radio and television and posters, to draw attention to the day. There was also a one-day symposium to discuss the problems and issues relating to rural-urban migration, the significance of linkages between urban and rural areas and the state of human settlements and shelter situation in Sierra Leone.

Spain

The Spanish Habitat Committee, with support from the Ministry of Housing, held a day of activities in Madrid to mark *World Habitat Day*. The Spanish Minister of Housing, Ms. Maria Antonia Trujillo, met members of the committee and delivered one of the keynote addresses. Results from the 5th International Dubai Awards

2004 were announced. At a public meeting, primary school pupils made a presentation on the *World Habitat Day* theme "*Cities – engines of rural development*" and unveiled a commemorative mural. There was also a presentation of the Spanish Good Practice: *Recycling of sludge from the Arazuri (Navarra) sewage treatment plant: an interest shared between the city and the country*.

Sri Lanka

Prize-giving for a primary school art and essay competition and a voluntary *shramadana* labour to rehabilitate rural housing schemes were the highlights of this year's *World Habitat Day*. The organizers held workshops in all the administrative districts to generate awareness on this year's theme and ceremonies to hand over houses to poor and destitute families. Two settlements for farmers involved in the supply of agro-products of the rural areas to city centers were also inaugurated and a press supplement was issued in national newspapers with an exhibition of the winning paintings from the art contest.

Sudan

The National Council for Physical Development of Sudan celebrated *World Habitat Day* with a speech by the focal minister which was also carried by the media. Other activities included a seminar about the role of cities in rural areas with reference to the war-affected areas which received wide press, radio and television coverage.

Switzerland

In a series of events spearheaded by UN-HABITAT, *World Habitat Day* was commemorated in Geneva, at the United Nations in the Palais des Nations. Representatives of various UN bodies, including the Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG), Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, UNEP, UNDP, and ILO, and delegates from civil society, held a round-table discussion on the theme of *Cities – engines of rural development*. The discussion also drew representatives from the public sector, the academia, and farmers' unions to exchange ideas on urban-rural linkages.

Tanzania

This year's *World Habitat Day* celebrations were led by the Minister of Lands and Human Settlements Development, who read a statement on the theme *Cities – engines of rural development* on radio and television. The National Housing Corporation organized a field visit to some of their projects while the National Housing Building Research Agency produced a special supplement in the local media to mark the event.

United States

The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness commemorated the day by hosting a lunch forum as part of the annual Florida Coalition for the Homeless conference in Tampa, Florida. Activities included highlighting notable global anti-poverty efforts, rural and urban homelessness in the United States, and discussion of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which includes a clearly defined right to housing under Article 11. This tied in with campaigns by US housing advocates who are increasingly seeking to apply international human rights law to anti-homelessness strategies.

In New York, panel discussions arranged by the UN-HABITAT office looked at ways of improving urban-rural infrastructure, transportation, ICTs and communication linkages, and remittances. Micro-credit and micro-finance were some of the issues discussed by a panel of eminent personalities gathered to mark the occasion. The panel also discussed capacity-building and empowerment of local authorities within a framework of cooperative government as well as the involvement of all stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector, for successfully achieving rural-urban integration, which will ultimately result in poverty reduction and an equitable and sustainable development.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

P.O. Box 30030, GPO Nairobi 00100, KENYA;
Telephone:254-20-623120; Fax:254-20-624266/7 (Central Office)
E-mail:whd@unhabitat.org; Website:<http://www.unhabitat.org/whd>