

WORLD URBAN FORUM 4

The World's Premier Conference on Cities

Nanjing, China 3-6 November 2008



Venue: Nanjing International Conference Centre

Theme: Harmonious Urbanization: The challenge of balanced territorial development



Night time view of the Nanjing International Conference Centre. Photos © City of Nanjing

China hosts the World Urban Forum 4



Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, Zhang Dejiang - *"Cities are facing severe challenges. Governments and municipalities have to strengthen their cooperation".*



Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Jiang Weixin - *"Harmonious urbanization depicts the wealth of ideas, the old and the new, taking in integrated social, economic and environmental development."* Mr. Weixin was the Chair of the Forum.



Governor of Jiangsu Province, Lou ZhiJun - *"A city is the hub of advanced productivity and advanced culture."*

Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing, *"The World Urban Forum in Nanjing is both an important international pageant as well as a holiday for the people of Nanjing."*



A special message from the Secretary General



Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings to all the participants in the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. Your host, the City of Nanjing, has survived many tests and is an appropriate place to gather to consider the challenges of sustainable urbanization. Indeed, it is not a coincidence that in 2008 Nanjing won the highest award conferred by the United Nations system in this field, the Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour.

Projections show that by the year 2030, cities will be home to two-thirds of the global population. Never before has the world witnessed such rapid urbanization. But at the dawn of this new urban era, roughly a third of the world's urban population lives in slums and informal settlements. If current trends continue, this figure could reach two billion by 2030. The provision of basic services and decent and affordable housing is no longer just a sectoral objective it is a strategic means for attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Rapid urbanization also has important links to the major crises facing the world today.

Urban areas consume most of world's energy and are generating the bulk of our waste, including greenhouse gas emissions. Helping cities produce less waste and emissions and consume less energy is an integral part of our work to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In addition, high food and fuel prices and global financial turmoil rooted in part in housing markets have combined to form a triple crisis that threatens to erase years of effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We must not let this happen.

The concept of harmonious urbanization should guide our work. This forum is well placed to contribute significantly to our shared goal of making our cities healthier, safer, economically vibrant and more just and equitable for all.

- The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, was delivered at the opening session by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).



Sha Zukang

A special message from the Executive Director



Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT delivering inaugural speech. Photo © Urban Construction Archive, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, China

The Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum held in Nanjing, China from 3-6 November 2008 drew nearly 8,000 participants from 146 countries. The Forum, held every two years, is now established as the world's premier conference on cities.

The World Urban Forum was a wonderful gathering of leaders, mayors, architects, urban planners, urban academics, people's organisations and other partners, including women's and youth groups, business, and everyone with a say in city life. It shows not only the importance of the Forum, but also its value.

The Forum encompassed a rich variety of events – dialogues among key movers, shakers and thinkers, networking events for experts and various seminars, all aimed at helping us find innovative new ways forward in tackling the growing challenges of rapid urbanization. The Forum exhibition alone attracted more than 20,000 visitors in the space of just four days.

The theme of the Forum, Harmonious Urbanization: the challenge of balanced territorial development, was selected to highlight challenges facing humanity as our planet rapidly and irreversibly becomes urbanized. Our flagship report,

the State of the World's Cities 2008/2009, released at the Forum, shows clearly that half of humanity now lives in cities. It also shows that within two decades nearly 60 percent of the global population will be living in towns and cities.

Urban growth is most rapid in the developing world where cities gain an average of 5 million residents every month. As cities grow in size and population, harmony among the spatial, social and environmental aspects becomes of paramount importance. The two cornerstones of this harmony are equity and sustainability both within and between nations and cities.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the People's Republic of China to ensure that everything in Nanjing worked smoothly, even though our meeting was held in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake – one of the most devastating in living memory, anywhere in the world. Not in the least, it also followed closely on the heels of the 2008 Olympic Games in China.

Key messages of the Forum were that governments must ensure the urban poor have adequate services, especially in these times of financial crisis. It called for enabling policies, inclusive governance, and climate change measures as key pillars of harmonious urbanization.



Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. Photo © City of Nanjing

A glittering global conference

At the epoch-making Fourth Session of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Forum, the strongest message coming out was that the swelling cities of the world are posing fresh challenges every day

The ancient historical city of Nanjing called the participants of the fourth session of the World Urban Forum to forge a positive vision of urbanization. Particular attention is to be paid to respect nature by ensuring a balanced and a holistic approach to planning, protecting the environment, regional balance, social justice, empowering the poor, preserving historical and cultural heritage and cooperation across all jurisdictions in pursuit of harmonious cities. The WUF 4 took place at the spectacular New Nanjing International Conference Centre.



Setting the tone in the first opening statement, Mr. Jiang Hongkun, the Mayor of Nanjing, said: "Building harmonious cities is our vision. This session of the Forum convened to discuss the theme, harmonious urbanization, will promote new ways of building cities at home and abroad."

The city was adorned with flyers and posters welcoming Forum visitors and laser light shows lit up the night skies from high buildings in the newly modernized city.

Against the background of the global financial crisis, world leaders at the meeting warned that dangerous new threats had emerged on the international development agenda as developing countries grapple with the effects of the growing tide of people swarming into cities in search of better livelihoods.

The staggering attendance figures are testimony that the Forum, held every two years, is now firmly established as the world's premier conference on cities.

The buzzwords on everyone's lips in Nanjing were "harmonious urbanization", and barely a speaker missed a chance to give their views of what a harmonious city is all about.

World leaders speak out during the Forum

At the opening session world leaders spoke. The Mayor of Nanjing, Hon. Jiang Hongkun welcomed the delegates to the historical city. The Governor of Jiangsu province praised the Forum for being an interactive exchange platform for World's cities. The Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China emphasized that the theme of "harmonious urbanization" reflected the importance of the international community attaches to the harmonious development of cities. Mr. Sha Zukang, who delivered the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, said that Nanjing had survived many tests and was an appropriate place to consider the challenges of sustainable urbanization. The Vice Premier of People's Republic of China, H.E Dejang Zhang highlighted the importance of the Forum for providing opportunities to discuss problems facing urban development.



H.H. Sheikh Khalif Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Photo © City of Nanjing

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.H. Sheikh Khalif Bin Salman Al Khalifa, underscored the importance of the forum in the quest for sustainable urbanization. He said the forum was instrumental in drawing attention to the need for policies and interventions for inclusive and sustainable development.

Another world leader, Kenya's Prime Minister Raila Odinga said the urbanization challenge now facing countries in the developing world had already snowballed into a "crisis of global dimensions." He provided the example of the Nairobi capital city of Kenya whose population has increased from 250,000 in 1960 to about 3 million 2009. He said that this increase has been accompanied by pressure on natural resources as well as the proliferation of slums, emphasizing that such pressure was shared by many cities world-wide.



Noli De Castro, Vice President of the Philippines
Photo © City of Nanjing

The Vice President of the Government of Philippines, H.E. Noli de Castro, said "The world is facing a financial crisis due to which many economies are slowing down. As a result, cities are also facing severe challenges," he said in welcoming remarks. "Governments and municipalities have to strengthen their cooperation in order to translate challenges into opportunities."

The Vice President noted that China had made great strides in reforms over the past three decades, and the rate of urbanization had reached 44.9% at the end of 2007.



Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya.
Photo © City of Nanjing

Special messages from the plenary sessions

The plenaries highlighted key messages of the Forum that set the tone for the dialogues each day



Photo © City of Nanjing

Mr. Morten Wasstøl, Political Advisor to the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Environment, Norway; Co-Chair of the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum and Co-Chair of the Advisory Group cited the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in the forum and underscored the importance and value of city life.



Morten Wasstøl, Political Advisor to the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Environment, Norway.

He further recounted the contribution that the Forum had made to the implementation of the UN-HABITAT's Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP). He said that the Forum had provided fresh and new ideas on issues such as tackling climatic change.

Ms. Raquel Rolnik, Secretary-General's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing underscored the point that harmonious urban

development could not be achieved in the context of inequalities and exclusion. She asked how harmony could possibly be achieved in cities and whether the world was capable of being harmonious. She emphasized that the measuring stick was inclusiveness and the world needed harmony in housing and planning policies for all.

Mr. Djoko Kirmato, Minister of Public works, Republic of Indonesia and Hon. Ian Wright, the British Parliamentary Secretary for Housing both gave accounts of how they were making their cities cleaner, greener, more harmonious and more inclusive, and both called for better planning.



Rolnik addresses the plenary. Photo © City of Nanjing

Dialogues, roundtables, training and networking

The Forum discussed various aspects of Harmonious Urbanization including territorial balance in urban development; promoting social equity and inclusiveness; making cities productive and equitable; harmonizing the built and natural environments and a city for all generations

There were six dialogues, eight roundtable discussions and more than 140 networking events and habitat agenda related seminars. Participants in discussions represented Governments, and a range of Habitat Agenda partners including parliamentarians, local authorities, NGOs, private sector, professionals, international organizations, research institutions and the media.

An evaluation rated the networking events so popular in Nanjing that more were recommended for the next session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22-26 March 2010.



The networking events afforded participants the opportunity to meet informally and exchange ideas.



Photos © City of Nanjing

Award ceremony

The award ceremony was part of the opening session. It started with the presentation of a film on Nanjing, the 2008 winner of the Special citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour



Mrs. Tibaijuka presenting the Scroll of Honour Award to Mr. Jiang Hongkun, Mayor of Nanjing.

Photo © City of Nanjing

A short film on the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa UN-HABITAT Award was screened. The Prime Minister of Bahrain, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa presenting the USD 100,000 cash award named after him to members of The Green Brigade, of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



Photo © City of Nanjing

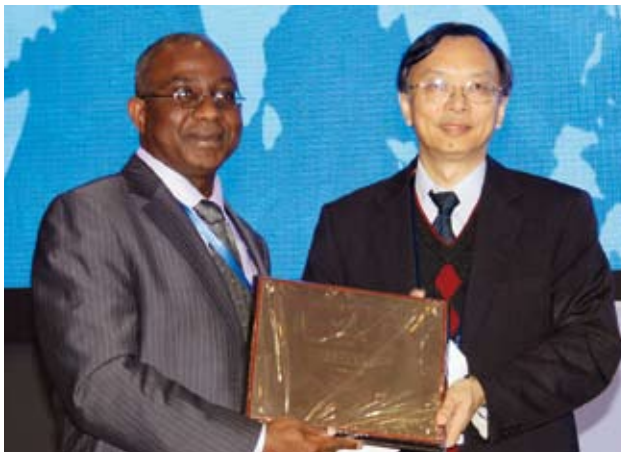


Photo © UN-HABITAT

Professor Anthony Gar-On Yeh, of the University of Hong Kong receiving the 2008 UN-HABITAT Lecture Award from Mr. Oyenyinka Oyebanji, Director of UN-HABITAT's Research and Monitoring Division. The award recognizes outstanding and sustainable contribution to research, thinking and practice in the human settlements field.

A message easy to understand

For the poor represented by civil society groups, for young people represented by youth groups, or women's organizations, the "harmonious cities" theme carried a message of hope easy to understand in a rapidly urbanizing world.

In her address, Mrs. Tibaijuka, said: "The financial crisis, the threat of global recession and the huge swings in commodity prices and stock markets further threaten the foundations of globalization that have underpinned global growth for the past decade. We are witnessing a resurgence of protectionism combined with credit contraction that can further exacerbate and worsen a global recession."

She said the success of the Forum was also due to the intense interest shown by UN-HABITAT's participating partners from nearly every walk of life.

And it was also thanks to the tremendous efforts of the People's Republic of China to ensure that everything in Nanjing worked smoothly, even though the meeting was held in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake – one of the deadliest in living memory anywhere in the world. Not least, it also followed closely on the heels of the 2008 Olympic Games in China.

"In expressing our heartfelt appreciation, it is important especially to cite here the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, H.H. Dejiang Zhang; China's Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Hon. Jiang Weixin; the Governor of Jiangsu Province Lou ZhiJun, the Mayor of Nanjing Jiang Hongkun; and for their warm welcome to us and our delegations. And not least Mr. Qi Ji, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the Forum, Chair, Deputy Mayor Lu Bing of the City of Nanjing," said Mrs. Tibaijuka.

"This word of thanks goes out also to their assistants, their staff and the ever attentive multilingual young volunteers who were at every venue to give a helping hand – and always with a smile.

"If we think back on the Forum, it is the smiles and kindness shown us all that remain uppermost in our minds," she said. She also thanked the

A FORUM HIGHLIGHT

On the eve of the Forum, more than 500 youth activists from over 50 countries world-wide held a two-day World Urban Youth Forum. Hosted by the Nanjing Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Youth League, it was third biennial session of its kind. They unveiled a groundbreaking fund to finance youth-led development projects around the world. The Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development, is initially being financed through a USD 2,000,000 grant over two years from the Government of Norway.

Governments of Norway for providing financial support towards civil society participation at the Forum and the Kingdom of Bahrain for sponsoring the Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Award, which will become a standing feature of the biennial event.

Many delegates cited the importance of the link between overcoming urban poverty and winning the battle against the scourges of climate change.

Indeed, they came up with many new ways of making our cities more harmonious. By choosing a theme based on the ancient Chinese philosophical concept of harmony, this Forum got everybody thinking.



Photo © City of Nanjing

An exhibition for all

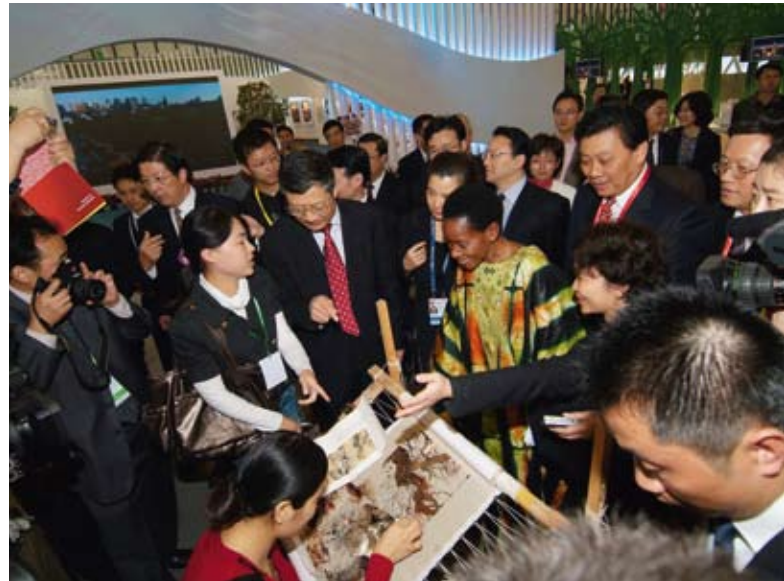
The Forum offered a truly rich tapestry with seminars of interest to experts and non-experts alike, an exhibition showing off the best of modern China, Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and small island countries. The exhibits ranged from state of the art systems that make a modern city work, to affordable, low-tech solutions for people desperately in need of shelter and services. It attracted 20,000 participants.

The descriptions urban, harmony, innovation underlined what was on show at every booth. And without exception, all were there to promote not only their products and systems, but the fact that it was really all about helping improve the lives of everyone in the world's growing cities.



Discussions covered many subjects. These included territorial balance and promoting social equity in urban development, making cities more productive, harmonizing the built and natural environments, preserving the cultural heritage of cities, and addressing the needs of all generations.

And like the exhibitors, the participants at the Forum meetings did not lose sight of the ordinary people, and those living in poverty, whom their deliberations were intended to help, inspire and uplift.



This was clearly stated by Mr. Morten Wasstøl in the closing plenary. He said the Forum had proved once more its value for renewing impetus to achieving the aims of the Habitat Agenda, and the Millennium Development Goals.



Photos © City of Nanjing

Some fast facts

- About 8,000 participants from some 146 countries.
- 20,000 participants attended the exhibition.
- Over 50 countries from 5 continents sent government representatives that formed 12.7% of participants.
- 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations representing 12.0% of participants gathered in Nanjing.
- 200 youth groups, development organizations, women's groups and research and advocacy organizations came to Nanjing.
- 50 companies, 75 professional bodies and 15 universities joined in.
- State of the World's Cities Report, 2008/2009 was launched. It informs clearly that half of humanity lives in cities and within two decades nearly 60% of the world's people will be urban dwellers.
- Urban growth is most rapid in developing world where cities gain an average of 5 million residents every month.
- State of African Cities Report launched .
- Urban World magazine, replacing the Habitat Debate launched.
- 850 participants were trained in 23 different training sessions in eleven topics on urban sustainability
- 72 Networking Events and 69 Habitat Seminars on Urban Innovations forged partnerships among organizations from different parts of the world.
- New UN-HABITAT Brand Tool Kit launched.
- The World Urban Youth Forum was successfully held prior to the main event from 1-2 November, with over 500 young people from around the world.
- World Youth Fund established with a grant of USD 2 million from Norway to help launch new opportunities for Urban Youth-Led Development.
- Cooperation agreements signed:
 - China Development Bank and UN-HABITAT.
 - Yangpu District, Shanghai and Mayors from Lake Victoria in East Africa region.
 - Ministry of Nairobi Metropolitan Development and UN-HABITAT
- Next WUF will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22 - 26 March 2010.



Harmonious urbanization

The meetings in Nanjing showed clearly that we have the technology and know-how to attain the Millennium Development Goals



Photo © City of Nanjing

From the Nanjing Forum, UN-HABITAT will examine the interesting ideas carefully and integrate many of the leading edge practices into its new thinking and action. The host city also expressed appreciation for the knowledge brought through the Forum. Mr. Hongkun, the Mayor of Nanjing, said: "Nanjing will use the precious opportunity of the Forum to borrow new ideas and experiences from Chinese and international cities for its betterment in the most harmonious way possible."

The meetings encompassed the environmental and economic cornerstones of sustainable development as well as the critical, but often neglected human element. The idea reiterated by many delegates from around the world is to keep people at the centre of all urban policy making.

The soul of the city

SOME KEY MESSAGES

- Governments have a responsibility in these hard times of financial crisis to ensure that the urban poor have adequate shelter, health, water and energy services.
- Enabling policies, effective partnerships and inclusive governance are necessary to achieve harmonious urbanization.
- Care must be taken to ensure that rapid urban growth does not exclude the poorest.
- Urban planning, good governance and gender concerns do not simply contribute to better cities, but that they form the essential pillars of a better urban future.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation must also become a pillar of urban policy.



Keshav Varma, Urban Development Director, World Bank East-Asia and Pacific Region. Photo © City of Nanjing

The particular vulnerability of indigenous peoples to the effects of chaotic and unplanned urbanization was highlighted. The Forum further stressed the continuing need to incorporate gender concerns into all housing and urban development policies and programmes. They also emphasised that women have valuable local knowledge that is important for climate change mitigation and response.

The Forum also examined the less obvious dimensions of sustainable development such as culture, contemporary and historical heritage, respect for diversity and how to enhance a sense of belonging. Thus they looked at what constitutes the soul of the city, the elements that give it meaning, and which determine how people take pride in their city and in shaping its future.

The Forum conveyed the message that an important aspect of harmonious urbanization is balanced territorial development. And it emphasized the role of civil society as a key partner in achieving harmonious cities and sustainable urban management.



Photo © City of Nanjing

Our partners

UN-HABITAT's partners used the World Urban Forum to broaden networks, and to get a clearer idea of where they want to go in promoting sustainable urbanization



Participants getting to know each other. Photo © City of Nanjing

Development agencies at the Forum recognized that the sheer scale of rapid urbanization demands a higher degree of coordinated action. The seriousness of rising oil and food prices, the global credit crisis, and climate change elevated this need and forced discussion among agencies about new ways of collaborating.

Consultations among UN agencies and multilateral organizations were enriched throughout the four days. Those present included: UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and others including regional financial institutions.

Broad government, local authority, parliamentary participation

National government delegations engaged in spirited exchanges throughout the World Urban Forum. The opening plenary, ministerial round table, dialogues, and networking events enabled governments to share their respective urban policies and interventions. The peer exchange among governments stimulated each to articulate, with greater clarity, how they planned to achieve sustainable urbanization.

Participating governments included over 50 member States from five continents representing a wide range of portfolios such as housing, finance, environment and land.

Furthermore, representatives of 1,000 cities and 120 local government associations and parliamentarians representing half the world's population gathered in Nanjing for the Forum. For mayors, councillors and city administrators, Nanjing provided them the opportunity to set and adjust their priorities.

Mr. Peter Goetz, a member of the German Bundestag, said that over 100 Members of Parliament from many countries had accepted the invitation to attend the Forum.



Peter Goetz, President of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat.

Photo © City of Nanjing

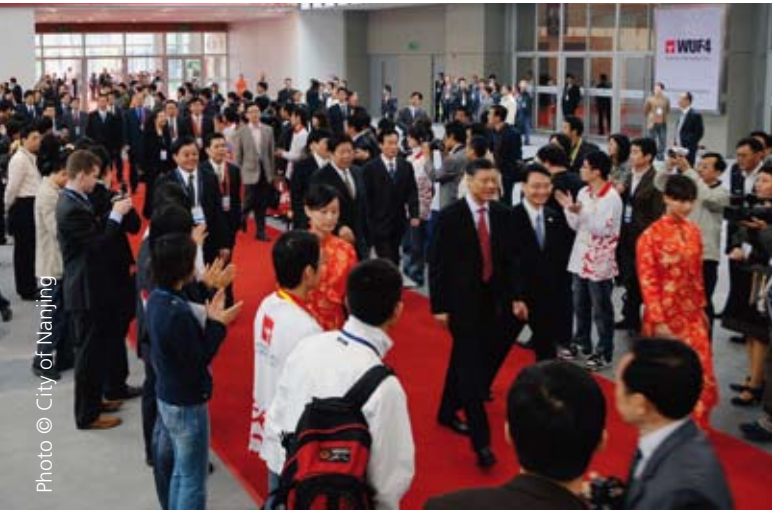
He said that Global Parliamentarians on Habitat was an international organization of parliamentarians concerned with sustainable development and urban settlements, founded over thirty years ago in Vancouver at the inaugural Habitat Conference.

Mr. Goetz, who assumed the organization's presidency after Senator Eloy Cantu Segovia of Mexico, cited the collapse of financial markets, terrorism threats, climate change, and the energy crisis as major problems facing the world.

"All three crises are interrelated and interdependent, and all office bearers at all spheres of Government have a responsibility for the future of our children," he said. "Cities already account for 75% of energy consumption and about 80% of carbon emissions. The most important resource in climate change is political determination, but cities on their own cannot win the struggle against climate change – it requires the support of governments and parliaments."

Governments and municipalities agreed that they had to strengthen their cooperation and translate challenges into opportunities. Thus, high on their agenda were the guidelines for decentralization adopted by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in 2007. Also of high priority were strategies to address capacity gaps at both the elected and administrative levels of local government to deal with rapid urbanization

Joining hands with non-governmental organizations



For non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Nanjing provided an open, inclusive opportunity to define their agenda more sharply and to communicate with private companies, governments, urban poor organizations, professional associations, and local authorities. Their numbers included over 200 youth groups, development organizations, membership associations, women's groups and research and advocacy organizations.

Organizations of the urban poor from Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America, Canada, and the United States took advantage of the Forum to engage directly with private sector banks, financial institutions, and public utilities, as well as local and central governments.

In like manner, the private sector enhanced its understanding of its role in helping cities manage rapid urbanization. By aligning business activities with social and environmental concerns in a mutually beneficial manner, the private sector saw a significant role to play to improve the overall quality of life and access to basic services for all citizens, in close coordination with local and national governments.

The private sector, represented by more than 50 companies, put this priority at the top of its list when it collectively defined five objectives in the

drive for better cities: Affordable housing solutions; sustainable water, sanitation, waste management and infrastructure; clean urban energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation; innovative ICT solutions; and disaster mitigation and post-disaster reconstruction.

Members of 75 professional associations also engaged with the World Urban Forum. This was especially so for planners who reiterated the call for all spheres of governments to address capacity gaps in planning. Nanjing also afforded associations of quantity surveyors, water operators, architects and housing developers and municipal officers the chance to debate on many fronts.

Representatives from some 15 universities met at the World Urban Forum to try and bridge the gap between research, education, policy development and practice in the area of sustainable urban development.

UN-HABITAT coordinated 23 training events that drew a total of 850 participants at an average of 37 participants per event. Approximately half of the events were delivered by United Nations agencies, while the other half were delivered by international training institutions. The participants' evaluation of the events was very positive with an overall average of 3.8 out of a maximum score of 5.0.

UN-HABITAT also launched its flagship publication, the State of the World's Cities Report 2008/2009. The chapters of the Report provided the conceptual backdrop for the dialogue sessions at the Forum.

The agency also used the Forum to launch two other flagship publications –the State of African Cities co-authored with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and Urban World, the new quarterly magazine replacing Habitat Debate.

Affordable Housing Finance

The Forum highlighted the fact that provision of basic services and affordable housing is a strategic means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals



Photo © City of Nanjing

Never before had housing and urban development become more central to the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable urban development; and never before had the Habitat Agenda been more relevant, urgent and compelling.

Mr. Greg Peng, Head of Global Commercial Real Estate in China for Merrill Lynch told the plenary that despite what he called the unprecedented global financial crisis, a special effort had to be made on behalf of the urban poor.

“The capital markets can still play an important role in facilitating the provision of low-cost housing. The key is that there has to be responsible lenders, responsible counterparts, responsible investors and responsible end-users. There is a case

for governments in the less developed economies to put financial instruments to good use in providing low-cost housing for people who need it.”

Private companies employing large numbers of people need to play a more active role in improving living standards in the communities in which they operate. The role of the private sector in urban development and housing provision was emphasized. It is necessary to put in place policies that enhance the private sector's participation in provision of housing for the economically disadvantaged. Bridging the gap between civil society organisations and private sector is also necessary towards this end.

Cities and Climate Change

Delegates in Nanjing stressed that no successful city in the modern world can afford to ignore the effects of climate change

Harmonious urban growth has to go hand-in-hand with disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction. And here, early warning and better surveillance systems are of paramount importance. It is vital to climate change mitigation that cities start by cutting their waste output and emissions, and that they consume less energy.

In many countries of the developing world, declining agricultural productivity due to changing weather patterns, population pressures and, in some cases, conflict as well, are pushing greater numbers of rural residents towards cities.

The nexus between rapid and chaotic urbanization and climate change has multiple impacts on highly vulnerable groups particularly women, youth and the very poor. The need for coordinated and joint action in this regard at the normative and implementation levels was emphasized.

Numerous practices were presented and discussed at the World Urban Forum highlighting the actions taken and results achieved to date by cities to reduce their ecological footprint and their carbon emissions.

The emerging groundswell of local initiatives underlines the need for international and national decision-making processes to integrate the cities and climate change agenda in post-Kyoto mechanisms and regime.

And by far the best approach to tackle climate change related challenges in cities is through rational regional and urban planning using a people-centred approach. To this end the Global Parliamentarians Round-Table emphasized the role of parliamentarians in educating the public and enacting legislation to address the global challenge of climate change.



Gender and urban planning



Photo © City of Nanjing

The Forum underscored the importance of women's empowerment and its contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. In tackling extreme poverty, homelessness, conflict, wars and the burden of HIV /AIDS, five strategies were stressed: participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive urban governance; economic empowerment; safety, security and gender mainstreaming; and accountability.

Delegates demanded better promotion of gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women. The Forum also highlighted the importance of addressing gender issues in sanitation. Likewise, in financing human settlements development, it acknowledged the important role of women in mobilizing community savings and credit.

Delegates stressed that urban planning had to take into account the needs of all age groups. And this meant providing for access for all generations to opportunities, services, shelter, welfare, and infrastructure.

Supporting gender mainstreaming in urban planning and management, helps cities become more socially and culturally inclusive. Women have valuable local knowledge important for disaster mitigation and response, especially in the context of climate change adaptation. Involving women and their community-based organizations is critical to maintaining community solidarity, preserving a sense of place and belonging, and maintaining inter-generational relations.



Photo © City of Nanjing

The young volunteers were everywhere in the city, working very hard and ever with a smile



Photos © City of Nanjing

Outstanding Artists



Taking a break at the Forum



Photos © City of Nanjing



Closing was in style



PARTICIPANTS EVALUATED THE FORUM POSITIVELY

- A Participant survey questionnaire was used to evaluate the Forum
- 1,326 participants responded to the questionnaire, exceeding the statistical minimum sample size of 360 required for meaningful generalizations
- 82% of respondents were satisfied with organization and logistics before the Forum
- 80% of respondents were satisfied with organization and logistics during the Forum
- 88% of respondents were satisfied with the programme content
- 81% of respondents were satisfied with quality of keynote speakers and presentations
- 75% of respondents were satisfied with relevance and substance of topics and themes
- 86% of respondents reported that they had opportunities to learn from interaction with others.
- All session types had over 80% usefulness rating
- Majority of respondents (86%) found the exhibition to be useful
- Perceived utility of the Forum was also high, with more than 90% stating that they are likely to apply ideas from the Forum in their work
- 89% of respondents indicated they are likely to participate in WUF 5
- Lessons learned and recommendations will be used to improve planning and organization of the WUF 5

Government of Brazil inviting participants to the fifth session of the World Urban Forum to be held in the city of Rio de Janeiro.
Photo © UN-HABITAT/C. Acioly



WORLD URBAN FORUM 5

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

22 - 26 MARCH 2010

V FÓRUM URBANO MUNDIAL
BRASIL - 2010





Minister Jiang and Mrs. Tibajuka opening the International Exhibition at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China. Photo © Urban Construction Archive, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, China

UN HABITAT

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