



The e-Newsletter for the Cities Alliance

December, 2005

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» Main News

Indian Government Launches Comprehensive Programme for Urban Renewal and Social Housing



Courtesy: CIA World Factbook

The government of India has launched a comprehensive programme of urban renewal, incorporating a massive expansion of economic and social infrastructure in towns and cities, with special attention paid to the needs of slum dwellers. Billed as the most ambitious programme ever to be taken up for urban development in the country, the Rs. 1 lakh crore (about 22 billion US dollars) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, as the programme is called, will be implemented in 60 cities with populations of over one million.

Covering all state capitals and other cities considered important from a religious, historical and tourist perspective, the Mission will give focused attention to the integrated development of urban infrastructure and services, with special emphasis on providing basic services to the urban poor, including housing, water supply, sanitation, slum improvement, and community toilets/baths. Equally important is the setting in motion of wide-ranging urban sector reforms to eliminate legal, institutional and financial constraints including improvement of secure tenure for the poor and

strengthening municipal governments.

The huge costs of the Mission will be collectively shared by the central government, state governments and urban local bodies. Central financial assistance has been linked to implementation of reforms by state governments and urban local bodies. They will have to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the central government, giving an undertaking to implement the reform agenda per a mutually agreed roadmap. Fund releases will be linked to assessment of the implementation of the reform agenda. The combined investment in urban renewal will be made over the next seven years.

The Mission will be guided by a National Steering Group, co-chaired by the Urban Development Minister and the Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation. It will have two sub-missions — one on urban infrastructure and governance, and the other on basic services to the urban poor.

In order to apply for grants under the Mission, the Government requires eligible cities to:

- Formulate a medium-term City Development Plan (CDP);
- Prepare project proposals;
- Define a time schedule for implementation of reforms.

A toolkit for guiding the formulation of CDPs has been prepared by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, very similar to the methodology used in CDSs applied in Cities Alliance activities. The main stages in the CDP process include the undertaking of a city diagnostic, the formulation of the perspective and vision, and the elaboration of the city strategy, including reforms and priorities.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission holds the promises of making Indian cities more economically productive, efficient, equitable and responsive to the needs of their populations.

José Forjaz and Clare Short Join Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board

The Cities Alliance is happy to welcome its two newest Policy Advisory Board members, Professor José Forjaz, an architect and urban planner from Mozambique, and the Rt. Hon. Clare Short, MP. Both were nominated during the recent Cities Alliance Consultative Group meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, to replace Professor Akin Mabogunje (representing Africa), and Mary Houghton (representing the industrial countries), who will be rotating off the Board in 2006.

José Forjaz is the CEO and Founder of José Forjaz Arquitectos in Maputo, Mozambique. He holds a Master of Science in Architecture from Columbia University (1968). From 1975-1977, Professor Forjaz was the senior adviser for the Mozambican Minister for Public Works and Housing, dealing with housing policy, human settlements, planning, training and institution building. From 1977-1983, he was National Director of Housing, responsible for regional and urban planning, housing and social equipment. He was also in charge of training programmes for basic and medium level rural and urban planning technicians. The National Directorate of Housing covered the entire country through a network of ten provincial offices. Between 1983 and 1986, he was the Secretary of State for Physical Planning in charge of the National Institute for Physical Planning, responsible also for directing the National Directorate for Geography and Cadastral Registration. He served as a Member of Parliament from 1977-1986. Widely published,

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We Welcome Your Articles

We invite Cities Alliance members and partners to submit articles on their activities, with a strong focus on impacts and lessons learned therefrom. For further details on providing such submissions send an e-mail to: info@citiesalliance.org

Professor Forjaz has lectured at universities around the world and is now in his fifteenth year as Director of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo.

Clare Short entered the House of Commons in 1983 as Member of Parliament (MP) for Birmingham Ladywood, a constituency she continues to represent. Ms Short was Secretary of State for the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID) from 1997 to May 2003. Before being elected to Parliament she had gained experience in the Home Office, as a Director of Youthaid and the Unemployment Unit and as a Director of AFFOR, a community-based organisation promoting racial equality in Birmingham.

Prior to the election of the Labour Government in 1997, Ms Short held a variety of front-line posts, including Opposition spokesperson on Overseas Development, shadow Minister for Women, and shadow Secretary of State for Transport. A member of the Home Affairs Select Committee from 1983-85, she was Chair of the All-Party Group on Race Relations from 1985-1986, member of Labour's Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) from 1988-1997, and Chair of the NEC Women's Committee from 1993-1996. Since 2003, she has been a member of Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy and member of International Advisory Board, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (GDAF). Since 2004, she has been an Associate of the Oxford Research Group. Ms. Short was educated at the Universities of Keele and Leeds, from where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Political Science.

Click here to access Ms. Short's Foreword to the Cities Alliance 2002 Annual Report:

<http://www.citiesalliance.org/doc/annual-reports/2002/intro.pdf>

Morocco's *Villes sans Bidonvilles* Programme Focus of Sixth Public Policy Forum in Marrakech



The sixth Public Policy Forum of the Cities Alliance, hosted by the city of Marrakech focused on the Moroccan government's *Villes sans Bidonvilles* (VSB - Cities without Slums) programme, part of a far-reaching Initiative Nationale de Développement Humain (INDH), aimed at reducing social disparities and fighting exclusion.

More than 300 national, regional and international participants from 20 different countries attended the Forum from November 7 to 9, 2005, which was jointly organised by the Moroccan Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Marrakech, the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Urban Forum, Holding Al Omrane and the Cities Alliance.

The VSB programme represents the high priority the government of Morocco places on improving access to and affordability of formal housing, especially for the urban poor. Formally launched in October 2004 by King Mohammed VI, the VSB aims to provide accommodation to some 212,000 households living in urban slums across the country by 2010. In his presentation at the opening ceremonies, Toufiq Hjira, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development outlined the three major objectives of the programme as follows: (i) Stopping the proliferation of slums; (ii) Prevention of the growth of new slums and the promotion of Social Habitat; and (iii) the Re-absorption of existing slums.

To more efficiently manage the implementation of the VSB, the government merged existing housing parastatals into a new structure called Holding Al Omrane in 2004, with mandates to: a) increase the supply of serviced land for social housing and new residential developments; b) promote partnerships with the private sector for the provision of low-cost housing and upgrading of sub-standard housing; and c) implement government programme for slum upgrading in partnership with local governments and the private sector.

Status of the programme after one and a half years of implementation:

- 3400 out of a proposed 5000 hectares have been mobilised for implementation of the programme;
- Two new cities have been built – Nour Zaer near Rabat and Tamensort near Marrakech;

2 villes nouvelles

Nour Zaer près de Rabat

860 ha
56.000 logements
10.000 unités de résorption
Coût : 2,31 Milliards dh
Avances FSH: 60 MDH



Tamensort près de Marrakech

1.180 ha
58.600 logements
4.120 unités de résorption
Coût : 2,82 Milliards DH
Avances FSH: 140 MDH



- Four cities to be declared free of slums by end of 2005;

- Full integration of the programme into the larger framework of the INDH;
- Synergy between the various intra-ministerial departments concerned;
- Ownership of the programme by the Walis, the Governors and local officials;
- Mobilisation of public parastatals like Holding d'Aménagement AI OMRANE, les ERAC, Groupe CDG ;
- Positive impact on the lives of the slum dwellers concerned;
- Participation by NGOs and similar organisations;
- Support by international organisations.

For more information on the *Villes sans Bidonvilles* programme visit the site of the Moroccan Ministry of Housing and Urban Development at: <http://www.seh.gov.ma/PAGE%20MARRAKECH/index.htm>

To access the presentations made at the Public Policy Forum visit the Cities Alliance website at: <http://www.citiesalliance.org/events/2005/ppf-meeting.html>

Thai Government Re-commits to *Baan Mankong* City-wide Upgrading Programme, with a Big, Four-year Budget Infusion

Pilot project in Boon Kook Community, Uttaradit



The Thai Government has approved a four-year budget to support the continuation of the *Baan Mankong* community upgrading programme, to be implemented in 200 cities around Thailand between 2005 and 2008. The *Baan Mankong* programme is a city-wide, "Cities without Slums" housing development process, in which communities are the key actors in developing collective plans to upgrade their houses and settlements, in close collaboration with municipal governments and local development agencies.

The government will provide a total budget of about US\$ 470 million to the Community Organisations Development Institute (CODI), a public organisation under the Ministry of Social Development and Human

Security, which is implementing the *Baan Mankong* Programme, for infrastructure subsidies and housing loan interest subsidies. The programme has set a target of upgrading the housing and living environments of 300,000 families in 2,000 poor communities.

CODI will provide housing and land-purchase loans to communities from its own revolving fund, and plans to link with commercial banks to negotiate more community housing loans. The government's total subsidy works out to about US\$ 1,650 per household, which covers infrastructure, social and economic facilities, local management and administrative costs, a two per cent interest rate subsidy on housing loans, and all expenses involved in capacity building, learning, meetings, seminars and exposure trips. This subsidy represents about 25 per cent of the total upgrading investment, to which communities will contribute 65 per cent (mostly in the form of housing loans and labour), with local authorities contributing the remaining 10 per cent. The expectation is that this initial investment in physical upgrading and secure tenure will generate economic spin-offs and asset creation worth at least three or four times as much in the poor households, and in their local community economies.

To achieve its objectives in about half of the four years time frame, the programme has been designed to include all existing slums in each city, and to work with city authorities through the various steps of surveying, setting up saving groups, making upgrading plans, negotiating or searching for alternative land, organising local task forces to assist the communities, and linking with universities and local NGOs. The goal is for each city to come up with a plan in which all the existing slums in the city will be upgraded within a period of about three years. During this time, all the development actors in the city - particularly communities - will variously be workers, participants, observers, learners and advisers in an inclusive, city-wide process.

Since the first ten pilot upgrading projects were approved in 2003, the *Baan Mankong* programme has grown to cover 140 cities and districts in 57 provinces (out of 76 in the country). 304 projects have been approved, covering 29,054 families in 415 communities. In about three quarters of these cities, squatters or communities under serious threat of eviction have been given first priority for upgrading or negotiating for secure alternative land. And in these upgrading projects so far, 87 per cent of the households which used to stay in insecure slum communities are now living in good houses, in well-serviced, well-planned settlements in the original location, with improved tenure security, by either purchasing their former land or negotiating some kind of collective lease.

For more information on the *Baan Mankong* programme, click here: <http://www.achr.net/bmqguide.htm>

Local Governments Commit to Stopping AIDS

A powerful new alliance of international organisations, local governments and the United Nations joined forces on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2005, to encourage citizens worldwide to fight AIDS. In a press release by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) the world's largest organisation of local governments, Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary General of the UCLG said, "Immediate action starts closest to home, and for many people that home is the city or community in which they live. Cities are taking up this challenge and adding their own force to that of the national governments who have made promises about AIDS. We hope that their actions will be taken into account in policy-making at the national and global level."

Some 40 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, of whom 5 million were newly-infected in 2005. Most of these people live



in the developing world's towns and cities, so local governments have a crucial role to play in reversing the AIDS epidemic. By pooling resources and expertise with two key AIDS organisations, the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) and UNAIDS, UCLG will enhance the ability of local governments to fight AIDS in towns and cities across the planet.

"Cities and towns are at the forefront of the response," said Marcel van Soest, Executive Director of the World AIDS Campaign. "If we can reach the cities, we will be able to reach the entire country. On World AIDS Day we will be highlighting the need for all citizens to make a personal commitment on the issue. It is only when we assume collective responsibility for fighting AIDS that we will succeed in turning the tide on this pandemic."

A range of awareness-raising campaigns were initiated to launch the new alliance. Citizens worldwide were encouraged to make a personal commitment to stopping the pandemic by logging on to www.worldaidscampaign.org, and posting their personal promise. City halls and local school boards were encouraged to support schools which wish to give their students lessons and materials on HIV prevention on World AIDS Day.

"Every single person can make a difference in the fight against AIDS," said Achmat Dangor, Director of Advocacy, Communications and Leadership at UNAIDS. "We can win by working together - and that means everyone including local governments, community groups, schools and concerned citizens around the world."

» Partnership News

Cities Alliance Seventh Consultative Group Meeting in Marrakech Takes Stock and Charts New Directions

The seventh Cities Alliance Consultative Group meetings which held in Marrakech immediately following upon the sixth Public Policy Forum was significant in a number of ways: It was the best attended CG meeting of the Alliance, with the proactive participation of Brazil and South Africa; it followed on the heels of the fifth anniversary celebrations of the launch of the Alliance in Berlin in 1999, and afforded an opportunity for members to take stock of the past five years and deliberate on steps moving forward for the next five years; and, it was the last CG meeting to be hosted by outgoing Cities Alliance Programme Manager, Mark Hildebrand.

Co-chairs, Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, World Bank Director for Transport and Urban Development, and Lars Reutersward, UN-HABITAT Director of Global Division, deployed their considerable management skills to presiding over a meeting that saw members pledging to work to strengthen the Alliance's mandate to respond to: (i) increasing global urbanisation and the need to more forcefully position the urban agenda on the development radar screen, (ii) the need to strengthen the Alliance's support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the special roles developing country members of the Alliance can play in this regard.

In his keynote presentation Mark Hildebrand noted that while cities currently account for 80 per cent of global economic growth and are to a large extent, the *loci* for poverty alleviation and prevention, this is seldom reflected in donor-inspired Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs), let alone in development agencies' policies and priorities. Cities Alliance remains committed to its role as a learning alliance to help leverage national economic growth through pro-poor urban policies.

Based on experience to date, five of the Alliance's established funding criteria stand out as being of particular importance in enhancing the quality of Alliance-supported activities and prospects for sustainable change, namely:

- Government commitment, at all levels;
- Linkage to investment follow up, where government commitments are on budget and investment partners are involved in the design process;
- Coherence of effort and partnerships, vital for citywide scales of action;
- Positive environmental impacts, realised by factoring environmental costs and services into CDS and citywide upgrading; and
- Moving beyond pilot projects to systemic interventions at citywide and nationwide scales of action.

Unleashing the potential of cities will require:

- Higher quality CDSs and policies predicated on the growth of cities;
- Engaging organised local government in the national PRS process and supporting CDSs as local poverty reduction strategies, incorporating MDG targets and indicators;
- Developing city-level investment climate assessments and tools to promote local economic development and informal sector inclusion strategies;
- Supporting systemic changes to strengthen financial devolution through dialogue and partnerships between local government associations and Ministries of Finance; incentives for improved performance at local level and city creditworthiness; and encouragement of cities to be proactive developers of urban infrastructure to prevent the growth of new slums and mobilise domestic capital.

The keynote presentation was followed by the Secretariat reports on the alliance's slum upgrading, CDS and urban finance activities, which in the main highlighted the findings of both field and desk evaluations of activities, reported new knowledge and trends in urban, and recommended priority areas of focus in the coming year. In his summary of Cities Alliance's upgrading activities, William Cobbett, senior upgrading advisor, noted that savings, subsidies (public sector) and credit (private sector) remain at the core of sustainable slum upgrading; while the evaluation of upgrading activities highlight the costs of parallel markets created by policy failure, be they increased costs of services, lost revenue, protracted governance problems or the services premium paid by the poor, and reinforce the need to prevent new slums. Pelle Persson's, senior programme officer's presentation on CDS activities was an opportunity to brief members on the flagship CDS Guidelines document under preparation, designed to help make CDSs as productive as possible.

Members were also updated on initiatives to strengthen local economic development (LED) components within CDSs and slum upgrading activities through the Bank-Netherlands Partnership Programme, local investment climate assessments, and a regional facility for LED in Latin America. Rajivan Krishnaswamy, senior urban finance advisor's presentation highlighted current investment trends: (i) Public expenditure still accounts for around 70 per cent of funding for infrastructure; (ii) Bilateral and multilateral development assistance for infrastructure has declined, both in absolute terms and

as a percentage of total aid commitments; and, (iii) Private sector funding has fallen since 1997, instead of compensating for the declining donor assistance and public funds as expected. These trends reinforce the need for cities to be proactive facilitators of infrastructure and services, rather than passive service providers. This transformation requires empowerment: the authority to raise resources, create and maintain infrastructure and pay for their costs over time.

The Policy Advisory Board report to the CG made various recommendations on the way forward for the Alliance, highlights of which include: Ensuring that all Public Policy Forums are open to all city stakeholders; that the Secretariat should pay greater attention to building a network of cities that have undertaken Alliance activities; the Secretariat should prepare a template on the pre-requisites of a successful CDS, to facilitate implementation; and, strengthen the environmental dimensions of CDSs and Cities without Slums strategies.

The substantive discussion on next steps for the Alliance included the following recommendations: The Cities Alliance should

- Strengthen its role as a learning alliance, codifying and disseminating more systematically the knowledge learned from its activities;
- Strengthen its focus on the least developed economies;
- Reinforce the importance of citizen participation at all stages of activity;
- The environment should be a part of CDS and slum upgrading initiatives;
- Cities are to take the lead in the execution of grant funding;
- The Alliance to be more of an "Alliance of cities and not an Alliance of governments".

The meeting was also a platform for recognising the immense contributions of founding programme manager, Mark Hildebrand, to the growth of the Alliance. Various labels an "institution" and a "colossus" that will be hard to replace, members recalled humorous incidents from their individual relationships with Mark, agreeing that he brought a rare mixture of intelligence, creativity and fun to the work and growth of the Alliance.

All the 2005 CG presentations are available to members by logging onto the members' page on the CA website.

HABITAT JAM, December 1 - 3, 2005: Thousands Make Their Contributions to the Global Urban Debate

From internet cafes in the slums of Nairobi, New Delhi and Lima to flashy office blocks in Europe and north America, thousands of people from around the world beamed into the Habitat Jam for a global internet discussion of urban problems aimed at bringing fresh ideas from ordinary people to leaders and experts preparing for the third session of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Forum in Vancouver next June.



Even people who could not read or write used township meetings arranged by UN-HABITAT to get their points across. "You mean that even though I am 65, I don't speak English and cannot write, I can make my voice heard?" asked a woman in the sprawling Nairobi slum of Kibera. Young people at hand helped her bridge the digital and literacy divide that is so great between the northern and southern hemispheres.

The jam started on Thursday December 1, and ended on Sunday December 4 with participants raising their concerns as well as suggesting solutions to global problems facing human settlements. At the event's close at 1500 GMT on 4 December, there were 25, 706 registered users from 193 countries, led by Canada with 6,321 participants. Next came Kenya with 3,796, the United States with 2,722, Senegal 1,534, India 1,440 and South Africa 1,265.

"The Habitat Jam helped bring to the fore the concerns of the urban poor, especially in developing countries," said Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and co-chair, Cities Alliance Consultative Group. "The concerted efforts of all UN-HABITAT's partners have meant that for the first time many slum dwellers were given access to Internet facilities. They made their voices heard", she added.

Participants posting comments were as varied as their countries and backgrounds. Government officials, students, professionals and ordinary people, young and old, joined in. Comments were received from across continents, from countries as far flung as the United Kingdom, India, Canada, Congo, Senegal, Bangladesh, Brazil, Australia, and The Netherlands, to name a few.

The final scorecards showed that those most active in the jam were slum dwellers in poor countries. "The fact that thousands have been willing to patiently wait in line here, sometimes for hours, to be able to contribute to this debate has been a profoundly moving experience for me. The fact that the debate on slums has moved from the academic world to the streets of cities such as Nairobi, Dakar, Cape Town and Mumbai, Rio, Lima and Manila is in and of itself a powerful signal to world leaders on the need for concerted action," Mrs. Tibaijuka said.

(Source: UN-HABITAT)

World Bank/IDA Approves \$20 million Grant to Support Rwanda's Decentralisation and Urban Management Programme

Rwanda's on-going decentralisation strategy and urban management Programme has been given an additional boost with the World Bank's approval of an International Development Association (IDA) grant of US\$20 million to support a Rwanda Urban Infrastructure and City Management Programme. Aimed at improving urban infrastructure and service delivery in the capital city, Kigali, and two secondary cities, the programme is also expected to contribute to the local economic development and employment generation by providing economic infrastructure, to enhance productivity and competitiveness.

"The provision of adequate infrastructure and services to cities will enable them to strengthen urban-rural linkages and ensure that they play a more active role as a market-city for the surrounding rural areas", said Sylvie Debomy the World Bank Task Team Leader for the project, adding that, "by improving living conditions and social services in poor areas and slums and targeted HIV/AIDS prevention activities, the Programme will, in addition, contribute to the human and social development objective so central to Rwanda's Vision 2020 development priorities and the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy".

The programme will support economic development, improve the urban environment and facilitate the functioning of the three cities involved. It will focus on large investments that are beyond the sole responsibility of the city, including roads, drainage and solid waste management but also district level infrastructure. There will also be a slum upgrading and prevention component.

An institutional development component of the Urban Infrastructure and City Management Programme will also support sector studies, and the implementation of selected activities in the fields of service delivery and maintenance, urban environment management resources mobilisation, urban planning and financial management.

Vancouver, Melbourne and Vienna Named World's Most Liveable Cities

Vancouver, Melbourne and Vienna are the world 'best' cities to live and visit, according to London-based Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Liveability Ranking, part of the Worldwide Cost of Living Survey. The survey, published in October 2005, shows cities in Canada, Australia, Austria and Switzerland as the most ideal destinations, thanks to a widespread availability of goods and services, low personal risk and an effective infrastructure.

"In the current global political climate, it is no surprise that the most desirable destinations are those with a lower perceived threat of terrorism," said Jon Copestake, editor of the report.

At the other end of the spectrum is Papua New Guinea's Port Moresby. Algiers, Algeria, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Karachi, Pakistan, and Lagos, Nigeria, also ranked poorly. The EIU said 10 cities -- all in Asia, Africa or the Middle East -- had aspects of daily life that "present challenges." By contrast, the EIU said 63 cities fell into the top livability bracket. "This reflects the fact that many global business centers have a developed infrastructure and widespread availability," the report states.

"Still, the overwhelming majority of cities in the top livability range are based in western Europe and North America." Canada, "with low crime, little threat from instability or terrorism and a highly developed infrastructure," is the most livable destination in the world. Alongside Canada, Australia is has some of the most liveable places in the world. Melbourne is ranked joint second overall with a rating of just two per cent. Perth, Adelaide and Sydney join Zurich, Toronto and Calgary in joint 5th place with ratings of three per cent.

"Although higher crime rates and a greater threat of terror puts U.S. cities below those of Canada, U.S. cities are still among the world's most livable." Cleveland and Pittsburgh had the highest American scores. Only three cities in eastern Europe fall into this bracket along with 13 cities from Asia, the EIU said.

The EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living Survey assesses living conditions in 127 cities around the world by looking at nearly 40 individual indicators grouped into five categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Across the survey a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data are used, which are combined to give an overall Quality of Life Index rating. Each indicator is given a rating of between one and five, where one means there is no impact and five means the factor is extremely challenging. These are then weighted to produce an index, where 0 per cent means a city is exceptional, and 100 per cent means it is intolerable. A rating of 20 per cent is where real problems are seen to begin - anything over 50 per cent places severe restrictions on lifestyle.

Jo'burg's Air Quality Management Plan Receives National Award

The city of Johannesburg's blueprints for dealing with air quality management are so good it has received the Local Authority Award from the National Association for Clean Air. The award was presented to the city during the Association's annual conference in Cape Town. Association members include academics, government officials from local, provincial and national government, environmental and air quality consultants, industry representatives and ordinary citizens.



Margot Barenbrug, standing left, with members of her team with the award. Courtesy: SACN

Johannesburg City council adopted an air quality management plan in 2003, before the promulgation of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, (Act 39 of 2004), which holds local authorities responsible for developing air quality management plans, ambient air quality monitoring, identifying priority pollutants, establishing local emission standards, appointing air quality officers and performing emission licensing authority functions.

Johannesburg's Air Quality Management Plan, with guidelines based on those of the European Union and World Health Organisation, aims to achieve acceptable air quality levels throughout the city, promote a clean and healthy environment for residents, minimise the negative effects of air pollution and promote the reduction of greenhouse gases. Accepting the award on behalf of the city's air quality monitoring and compliance unit, Margot Barenbrug, senior atmospheric scientist in the city's department of development planning, said, "Implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan is well under way. The city has adopted a set of air quality guidelines for the priority pollutants, a network of air quality monitoring stations is operational at key locations within the city and we are currently populating our emissions inventory."

(Source: Johannesburg News Agency)

» Upcoming Events

Urbanasia 2006: Investing in Asia's Urban Future, 27-28 February 2006, Manila, Philippines



The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in cooperation with the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will host an international conference on the sustainable development of Asian cities and city regions, with the theme, "Investing in Asia's Urban Future," from

27 to 28 February 2006 at its Manila headquarters.

Key issues expected to be discussed include:

- Effective urban development strategies and actions to improve the living conditions of urban dwellers, especially the poor;
- The elaboration of strategies for sustainable urban development in Asia, such as further development of innovative financing instruments and assistance models, and their implementation;
- Exchange of information on strategic good practices of city region development to show that issues cutting across various aspects of urban development can be addressed successfully;
- Funding mechanisms for city region development and harmonisation of technical and financial donor support to Asian city regions.

Expected conference outcomes include:

- A high-level declaration supported and adopted by participants addressing major strategic challenges and making recommendations to governments, urban authorities and donors on the actions required;
- The development of guiding principles for the elaboration of sustainable urban development strategies in Asia including the further development of financing and assistance arrangements;
- The enhancement of information exchange on enabling framework conditions and best practices;
- Commitment for a programmatic follow-up process to implement conference recommendations, to include agreement on effective institutional arrangements and cooperation.

Conference participants are expected to include representatives from national and local governments, city mayors, civil society, private sector, academia, international organisations, bilateral and international donors and established networks.

For further information on please click here: <http://www.urbanasia2006.org/conference.html>

ICLEI World Congress 2006: Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges, 27 February – 3 March 2006, Cape Town, South Africa



ICLEI's 2006 World Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, the first time ever in the south, from 27 February – 3 March 2006. The Congress, with the theme, "Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges", will review progress with Local Action 21, and learn about best practice experiences with local governance; building resilient, peaceful and secure communities; alleviating poverty; protecting global environmental goods such as biodiversity, water and the global climate; sustainable procurement and sustainability management instruments.

Other objectives include:

- Strengthening co-operation between cities and local governments worldwide and in particular local governments in the African region;
- Reviewing progress, studying the challenges and discussing effective strategies for the future implementation of ICLEI's campaigns and Programmes and delivery of ICLEI services;
- Assessing progress made by local governments in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 UN World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg;
- Providing a platform for interaction between ICLEI member local governments and United Nations agencies, governments, financing institutions, donors, businesses, NGOs and other partners working towards achieving local sustainability;
- Adopting ICLEI's Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

Founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 475 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programmes.

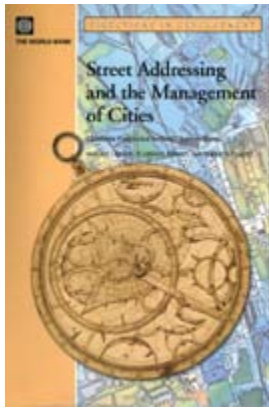
For further information about the conference click here: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=1351>

» Publications Announcement

Street Addressing and the Management of Cities - Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic , Lucien Godin , Hugues Leroux , Roberto Chavez, Florence Verdet (Washington D.C.: World Bank, 2005)

Increasing urbanisation, particularly in developing cities, and the trend towards decentralisation of government and services, has meant more challenges for city administrators and urban management officials, with local governments scrambling to develop the resources they need to deal with this growth. Systems for identifying streets, buildings, and plots for example, have remained inadequate and simply unable to keep up with the pace of urbanisation. As a result, 50 percent or more of the city streets in developing cities have no names or addresses, with the problem being most acute in the poorest neighborhoods.

This only compounds an already difficult situation. With no system of coordinates and no baseline information, how do you find your way around a constantly growing city? How do you dispatch ambulances, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel quickly? How do you send mail and messages to homes? How do you locate urban facilities and infrastructure and maintain them? How can municipal services be provided? How do you pinpoint breakdowns in water, electricity, and telephone systems? How do you improve on-site collection of water and electricity bills? How do you set



up an efficient system for local taxes?

Street addressing is the most logical and efficient means to resolve these questions. It is defined as an exercise that makes it possible to identify the location of a plot or dwelling on the ground, using a system of maps and signs that give numbers or names to streets and buildings. In addition to buildings, other types of urban fixtures such as public standpipes, street lamps, and taxi stands also get addresses with a functional street addressing system.

Street addressing has several key objectives for city stakeholders, including:

- For the general public, it makes the city more user-friendly by improving the system of street coordinates, enabling people get around the city more easily, facilitating the delivery of emergency health, fire and police services, and enabling the locating of urban facilities;
- For local governments, it increases principal revenues, and improves urban management through the use of tools for planning and managing municipal services by technical departments, and tools to improve local tax collection;
- For the private sector it enables utility concessionaries to manage their networks more efficiently.

Produced jointly by the World Bank and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the book reviews the role of street addressing within an array of urban management tools and explores the links between addressing and civic identity, urban information systems, support for municipal services, tax systems, land management and tenure issues, slum upgrading, support for concessionary services, and economic development. It also outlines current and future applications, highlights practices in many African countries, and offers a methodological guide for implementing street addressing initiatives that can be used in any country.

Villes en Développement, No. 69, September 2005 on "Financing City Infrastructure" – Number Carried Out Within the Framework of the Partnership Between Cities Alliance and ISTED

The latest edition of *Villes en développement* news bulletin, a publication of the Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement (ISTED), is a special edition devoted to financing city infrastructure, also the thematic thrust of the *Cities Alliance 2005 Annual Report*. The eight-page bulletin features articles on the topic by city finance experts such as Juanita Amatong, former secretary of Finance of the Philippines, Jason Ngobeni, City Treasurer of the city of Johannesburg, David Vetter, a Consultant specializing in city infrastructure finance issues, and Rajivan Krishnaswamy, former CEO of the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund and now Cities Alliance senior urban finance advisor.



In the foreword to the newsbulletin, Kathy Sierra, co-chair, Cities Alliance Consultative Group and Vice President for Infrastructure at the World Bank, notes that, "while much international debate has focused on increased development assistance and debt relief, insufficient attention has been paid to local sources of investment funds for infrastructure in the towns and cities where the urban poor live". Helping cities become proactive facilitators of infrastructure is a critical development task which requires "partnerships between cities, national governments and their development partners."

The English and French versions of the special edition of the *Villes en développement* can be downloaded from the 'Of Current Interest' section of the Cities Alliance website at <http://www.citiesalliance.org>. Limited hard copies are also available - send an email to cakporji@worldbank.org

» Cities Alliance Grant Approvals Update, July - September 2005

Benin - Development Strategy for Greater Cotonou

Faced with accelerating urbanisation, the Mayors of Abomey-Calavi and Semè-Kpodji in Benin Republic, in partnership with the Benin Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Planning (MEHU), and UN-Habitat requested a CA grant to enable them to undertake a CDS to develop a shared vision for their sustainable development. The grant approval will facilitate: the development of a diagnostic of the agglomeration, identifying the main urban challenges; the creation of sectoral working groups to contribute to the development of the strategy and action plan; the development and validation of the strategy; the formalisation of institutional arrangements for inter-communal activities; development of short and medium-term action-plans, including financial strategies for implementation; the training of local stakeholders; and, the documentation of the processes and knowledge dissemination. Co-sponsored by UN Habitat, AfD, World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, Partenariat Pour le Développement Municipal - (PDM), to be implemented jointly by UN-Habitat and the cities, the CDS is expected to among other things lead to improved capacity of local authorities for urban management and governance; sustainable urban development, and improved cooperation amongst cities.

Burkina Faso - Strategy for Developing Greater Ouagadougou and Improving Basic Infrastructure and City Services in Underprivileged Areas

With an annual population growth rate of 9.8 per cent, this grant approval will enable the city of Ouagadougou to undertake a CDS, aimed at developing the local economy and improving basic urban services and infrastructure for its underserved areas. Requested by the city's mayor, together with the Burkinabe Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport, and Housing Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, and sponsored by UN-Habitat, UNDP, AFD, World Bank, PDM, the grant will support a proposed diagnostic of the city economy, building upon the ECOLOC processes experienced in Burkina-Faso; the setting up thematic working groups to undertake specific studies, Local Economic Development, upgrading

and inclusion of peri-urban areas, municipal finance, infrastructure, urban environment, etc; developing the strategy, including financing, institutional, and operational arrangements, as well as short- and medium-term action plans; identifying opportunities to mobilise private sector investments for implementation.

Cameroon - Urban Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy: City of Douala and its Greater Urban Area

The city of Douala aims to develop, through a participatory process, a city development strategy targeting poverty reduction and sustainable growth and development. The grant will support the Communauté Urbaine de Douala to undertake: a diagnostic of the economic development and urban poverty of the city and its environs; identify economic development and poverty reduction constraints; explore how the potential for sustainable growth and development might be better exploited; prepare a medium- and long-term City Development Strategy for Douala and its metropolitan area; and, disseminate the metropolitan City Development Strategy. Co-sponsored by the AfD and the World Bank, the Douala CDS is expected to lead to significant improvements in Douala's physical environment and institutional framework for urban management, a strengthening of the roles of the different actors intervening in local development and of their grasp of participatory urban management, better matches of urban investments to local resources and stronger ownership of urban investments by beneficiaries.

Egypt - Alexandria City Development Strategy for Sustainable Development: Phase II

This will support the implementation of the Alexandria CDS developed under a first grant, which has already been successfully implemented. More than 30 percent of the population of Alexandria lives in slum areas. To prevent the development of new illegal settlements, increase employment opportunities and improve living conditions, the city of Alexandria will implement a CDS that emphasises both environmental impacts and local economic development. The city will create a CDS Department; build capacity and a website; conduct an international LED workshop; conduct additional cluster analysis and develop an action plan for improving the local business environment; complete a city wide upgrading strategy; undertake Rapid Appraisal Assessments in 10 settlements and prepare remodeling plans and community socio-economic development programmes; and, establish a Lake Marriout Management Authority. The Governor of Alexandria submitted the grant proposal, which was co-sponsored by the World Bank, UN-Habitat, CIDA, IFC, and UNEP.

Ghana - Preparatory Assistance for Ghana Municipal Finance and Management Initiative

The preparatory assistance is to enable the Government of Ghana to sensitise and train local stakeholders, and develop a best practice plan for the successful implementation of a municipal finance and management Programme in Ghana. A Stakeholders Conference on Municipal Finance and Management was held in October to launch the effort. Other activities to follow are:

the establishment of a Municipal Financing and Management Secretariat; the preparation of a report on the conference proceedings; and the review and synthesis of existing municipal finance reports with the conference report. Requested by the Minister, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and co-sponsored by the World Bank and UN-Habitat, the Ghana Municipal Finance and Management Initiative is expected to improve local finances for the provision of infrastructure and service delivery for low-income earners.

Mozambique - Slum Improvement Demonstration Project for Maputo City

The grant will support the Municipal Council of Maputo's development of a participatory strategy to improve living conditions in the city's slums. The Municipal Council plans to recruit a senior adviser, who will select the team which will facilitate the mobilisation of and technical support to slum community residents, the establishment of personal and institutional links with the residents, facilitate discussions with residents for a plan for intervention following a definition of priorities to be addressed in the Bairro. Subsequent actions are to depend on the priorities identified with residents. Requested by the Mayor of Maputo and sponsored by the World Bank, the activity is expected to result in improvements in sanitation and solid waste collection, greater resident participation in the solutions for endemic problems in the Bairro, and improved communications between the Municipal Council of Maputo and slum residents.

Senegal - Greater Dakar Urban Development Strategy

Senegal's capital city Dakar and its neighbouring cities of Guédiawaye, Rufisque, Pikine and Sébikotane developed a joint proposal for the design and implementation of a pro-poor and sustainable CDS for Greater Dakar, in response to urban sprawl and population growth, and the attendant pressures on infrastructure and the environment. The Mayors of the cities, in partnership with the Ministry of Urban and Land Use Planning (MUAT) and UN-Habitat requested the grant support to: undertake a diagnosis of emerging urban issues and the production of a "Geo-Dakar" report, drawing on UNEP's Geo-Cities methodology and the Local Agenda 21 Programme; define a 10-year action plan, with specified priority projects and Programmes to meet the MDGs; formalise institutional arrangements for inter-communal activities; develop short and medium-term action-plans, including financial strategies for implementation; and, train local stakeholders. Cosponsored by UN-Habitat, UNEP, AFD, and the World Bank, implementation will lead to a City Development Strategy for Greater Dakar; the production of a Geo-city report for Dakar; and, the creation of an institutional framework for the implementation and management of inter-municipal Programmes and projects.

Senegal - National Programme for Slum Improvement and Slum Upgrading in Senegal's Cities: "Senegalese Cities Without Slums"

The Senegalese government, in partnership with the national Association of Mayors, plans to develop a national "Villes sans Bidonvilles" programme, with a 10-year action plan to upgrade existing slums, and prevent the development of new ones. Requested by the Association of Mayors of Senegal, in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Planning and Land Use Planning (MUAT) and UN-Habitat, to be implemented by the "Droit à la Ville" Foundation and UN-HABITAT, activities will include: analysis of the slum phenomenon in Senegal since 1980; strategy formulation for the "Villes sans Bidonvilles" programme; and, an action plan for its implementation. UN-Habitat, KFW, UNDP, World Bank are Cities Alliance members which co-sponsored the proposal.

Guidelines for proposals and eligibility requirements for funding support are available from the *Working with Cities Alliance Guide*, accessible from the Cities Alliance website at www.citiesalliance.org.

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