



## The Global Challenge of Urbanisation

*Rapid urbanization is happening, and it is occurring largely in developing countries where a massive demographic shift has enormous implications in terms of poverty, natural resources and the environment. In the coming decades, the developing countries will be responsible for 95 per cent of the world's urban population growth. An average growth of 5 million new urban residents per month is projected for cities in the developing world.*

*Levels of urbanization are expected to rise, with the least urbanized regions of Asia and Africa transforming from largely rural societies to predominantly urban regions during the course of this century. By 2050, it is predicted that the urban population of the developing world will be 5.3 billion; Asia alone will host 63 per cent of the world's urban population, or 3.3 billion people.*

**- Dr. Joan Clos,  
Executive Director,  
UN-HABITAT addressing the  
Gwangju Summit of the  
Urban Environmental Accords on  
12 October 2011**

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## UN-HABITAT partners with the Government of India and UN Agencies in the Strategic UNDAF Plan for 2013-17

On 24th November 2011, the Planning Commission of the Government of India (GoI), represented by Mrs. Sudha Pillai, Member Secretary; and the United Nations (UN) in India, represented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Patrice Coeur-Bizot, signed the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017.

UN-HABITAT is one of the agencies which forms part of the UNDAF 2013-2017, as a result of the visit of the Under-Secretary General and UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos, to India in the last week of September 2011. During that visit, Dr. Joan Clos highlighted the importance that UN-HABITAT's expertise would have in the period 2013-2017 in which India will continue the process of growing urban population.

Apart from UN-HABITAT, other 19 UN agencies have signed the document: APCTT, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WFP and WHO.

Dr. Joan Clos has expressed his gratitude to the Government of India and the UN system in India for supporting UN-HABITAT to be part of the UNDAF 2013-2017. "For UN-HABITAT is really important to be part of the UNDAF 2013-2017 due to the urban challenges that the most of the countries are going to face in the next years and we will work together to focus in urban planning and design as a solution to improve cities".

The signing of the document is the culmination of the formulation of the UNDAF – an eight month long exercise co-led by the Planning Commission and the UN, in partnership with the Ministries of the Government of India, international development partners, civil society and other key development partners.

The UNDAF is the overarching framework that articulates the UN system's vision, strategy and plan of action in support of the national development efforts over a five year period.

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Mr. Patrice Coeur-Bizot, UN Resident Coordinator in India, Mrs. Sudha Pillai, Member Secretary and Dr. Pronab Sen, Principle Advisor, Planning Commission of India together with the representatives of all UN agencies after signing ceremony of UNDAF 2013-2017 at New Delhi

*Continued from Page 1*

UNDAF 2013-2017 is the third Development Framework between the Government of India and the United Nations in India. UN-HABITAT is also a partner with all other UN agencies in the current UNDAF that will be concluding in December 2012.

At the signing ceremony, Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, who led the formulation process on behalf of the Planning Commission, said, "This UNDAF document, which is the third of its kind, represents the evolution that has taken place in development cooperation between India and the UN System."

Ms. Sudha Pillai, Member Secretary, Planning Commission said: "the document articulates the right values and intentions, and it would be desirable to ensure that all actions of the UN System were measured against the intention of the document through annual reviews." Mr. Patrice Coeur-Bizot, who led the exercise on behalf of the UN Country Team in India said that UNDAF 2013-2017 recognizes India's increasing global role and reflects the evolving partnership between the UN and the Government of India.

Speaking on this occasion, Ms. Axumite Gebre-Egziabher, Director, Global Division, UN-HABITAT stressed "the relevance of the urban perspective in the UNDAF 2013-2017 in comparison with the past UNDAF, due to the evolution of the urban population in India that will be twice in 30 years" and the challenge said that UN-HABITAT is very happy to partner with the Government.

The UNDAF 2013-2017 is harmonized with the XII Plan objectives of faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth, and will work towards the achievement

of the following six development outcomes: inclusive growth, food and nutrition security, gender equality, equitable access to quality basic services, governance and sustainable development.

The new UNDAF will focus the efforts of the UN in nine states of India, namely: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The selection of these states is based on the analysis of key statistical indicators related to poverty, inequality, human development, literacy and gender with disaggregation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In addition, the UN system will also consider selected programme interventions in the North-East, including HIV/AIDS, Human Development Index/Child Development Index, human and child rights.

UN-HABITAT shall contribute to various outcomes of inclusive growth, gender equality, governance, sustainable development and basic services. UN-HABITAT shall promote development of a strategy for creating suitable financing mechanisms to promote access of poor communities to finance for shelter and livelihood. UN-HABITAT shall also make suitable interventions for the development of strategy for creating/strengthening urban poor community structures for urban planning and implementation of projects.

The new UNDAF focuses on joint work in areas where the UN has a collective comparative advantage in adding value to national development efforts. A key aspect of the new UNDAF implementation will be annual progress reviews that will be jointly undertaken by the Government of India and the UN entities.

## Former Mayor of Kigali, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira appointed as the new UN-HABITAT Deputy Executive Director

United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon has appointed Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira of the Republic of Rwanda as Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for UN-HABITAT. She succeeds Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby in the position.

Dr. Joan Clos, UN-HABITAT Executive Director has stressed that "Ms. Kirabo brings to UN-HABITAT the experience of someone who knows daily urban challenges that citizens and governments are facing. She has been a Mayor of one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world, Kigali, and she is currently Governor of Rwanda Eastern Province".

In her new role, Ms. Kirabo will assist the Executive Director, in the overall management of UN-HABITAT to achieve its mandate and will support the new UN-HABITAT agenda to face the urban challenges by strengthening urban policies to generate more equitable, wealthy and sustainable cities.

Ms. Kirabo brings to this position a broad knowledge and experience of over 15 years in senior management and strategic leadership in Government and Non-Government institutions; both national and international. Since February 2011, Ms. Kirabo has served as Governor of Eastern Province, the largest province with a population of 2.5 million. Ms. Kirabo has overseen the development and urbanisation of Kigali City's bordering province in a sustainable manner. She has facilitated strategic planning in line with government policy, while over-seeing effective and efficient use of resources, capacity building and service delivery. Her skills at fostering regional diplomatic and cross-border trade relations will be essential as UN-Habitat's new urban agenda is embraced by its partners.

Ms. Kirabo's leadership as the Mayor of Kigali City (2006 - 2011), one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world is well noted. In recognition of the high level of cleanliness, greenness, safety and the sustainable, affordable housing initiatives combined with pro-poor urban employment opportunities, under Ms. Kirabo's leadership, Kigali won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award in 2008. As UN-Habitat undergoes an organizational review, Ms. Kirabo's experience in enhancing Kigali's competitiveness amidst the major global challenges



such as the financial crisis, climate change and others, will be beneficial to the organization.

Prior to her position as Mayor, Ms. Kirabo was an Elected Member of Parliament (and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee in charge of land use and management, settlement and environment), she actively participated in the legislative and over-sight functions of parliament in addition to community mobilization.

Ms. Kirabo was educated at James Cook University, Australia where she gained her Masters in Veterinary Science in Animal Production and Economics and at Makerere University, Uganda where she gained her Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. She is currently pursuing an MBA in the School of Finance and Banking, Rwanda/Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands.

## Women and Water in West Timor: No One Left Behind

Around the time of independence in 1999, approximately 1.3 million people fled Timor Leste and the government of Indonesia and the international community provided support to these Internally Displaced People (IDPs). In 2005, the IDP status was officially withdrawn; ex-IDPs were given options to be an Indonesian citizen or return to Timor Leste. After more than a decade since independence, however, around 150,000 to 200,000 persons are still, in essence, displaced.

West Timor is said to host 25,000 households of ex-IDPs, with high concentration in two districts of Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) province. Quite a number of them still live in camps while others have moved into resettlement areas. The majority of ex-IDPs are poor and live in a sub-standard houses with insufficient facilities. Persistent tension between host communities and ex-IDPs still exists. In response to the need to address this situation, UN-HABITAT has been awarded funds from EU to support reintegration of ex-IDPs into the communities of West Timor through a project, Capacity Building to Sustain Peace and Integration – Strengthening Local Governance in support of West Timorese Women and Communities Left Behind after Conflict. The project aims to facilitate reintegration of the ex-IDP population through capacity building of government staff and institutions, and small grant projects at the community level.

In April and May this year, an advance team of the project worked in NTT to explore issues revolving the ex-IDPs with focus on land/housing ownership statuses, livelihood, and gender. Among others, land and livelihoods are the major issues for ex-IDPs, which limit opportunities to move out of poverty and escape the physically and mentally insecure status.

Living conditions of ex-IDPs are in general far below that of locals since they do not own land, a house, lack viable livelihoods, and their access to government support and services is somehow limited due to their lower social status. Consequently, ex-IDP women are doubly disadvantaged by gender disparity as well as poverty and low social status as ex-IDP. Both West Timor and Timor Leste are under the same patriarchal culture with some ethnic variance. East Timorese are egalitarian in public but patriarchal in the private sphere.

Land heritage is controlled by men and distribution of land to children prioritizes sons. Ex-IDP women's needs are hardly heard and taken up in community development. Economic pressure at ex-IDP households is said to lead to higher incidents of domestic violence.

Water is also a major issue for the all population on the island, which is largely reliant on agriculture for its livelihoods. Water is becoming scarce due to a short period of the rainy season, recent drought and lack of facility to retain rain water from flowing out to the sea. The cost of water is one of the highest in the whole Indonesia. As women are regarded as responsible for water, and

because of their specific needs for water for sanitation, water access has a significant meaning to women's daily life. In general, sanitation facility in camps and settlements has improved since 1999. Even in camps, people managed to build own toilet and sometime have even a shallow well in their home. Still, sanitation facilities in both camps and settlements are below standard. Fetching water eats women's and children's time and energy. Toilets in many settlements are in a bad shape. Some toilets have low walls and some others are with gaps and crack in walls and doors.

Nonetheless, they do not have money for repair. Women cannot feel safe with such sanitation facilities. Furthermore, importance of water for sanitation tends to be forgotten. For example, during menstruation, women in both camps and settlements do not afford to buy sanitation pads and use old cloths. Because sufficient water is not available, they cannot wash cloths properly. Then they dry the cloths inside their skirts. Thus, the sanitation standard in settlements is not far better from camps. In camps there are not enough toilets. In settlements, there are toilets but not enough water for proper sanitation.

In follow-up missions to West Timor by UN-Habitat, it was agreed with the local government and NGOs working in the area to focus on water and sanitation as the entry point to address gender and ex-IDP issues. Local government staff will be trained in collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data collection and needs assessment, planning based on concrete evidence, and implementation of small improvement projects will help bring out women and girls' voices and promote their participation in public development work.

Expertise and lessons learned from Pakistan and other Asian countries involved in the Water for Asian (WAC) Programme will be applied and customized to the West Timor context.

Local policies and programmes to improve in community facilities will free up women's and children's time, and lead to hygienic and healthier practices and environment. Participation in social work and improvement of community facility and environment can bring them a sense of security, which is what ex-IDPs long for after a many years of uncertainty, and the key to successful social reintegration.

Finally, when such work is undertaken as a collaborative project among ex-IDPs and host community members, it may facilitate understanding of potential and limitation of each other and can be conducive to building of trust and cohesive communities. Indeed, it has been observed in NTT and elsewhere that women can play a role in trust building and social integration in the context of post-conflict. The time is ripe for women, with the project support, to stand up and initiate work to improve their life and future of their children.



## UN-HABITAT Environmental Technology Expert Group Meeting

While the Asia-Pacific Region has achieved rapid economic development and certain nations have seen vast improvements in social infrastructure, residential environment, and standard of living, these changes have come at a cost of great burdens for the natural environment. Furthermore, this region continues to experience rapid population growth; in the next 25 years, it is estimated that the population will grow by over 1 billion. As most of this growth is predicted to center on cities, it has become critical to find solutions to issues such as sanitation and water infrastructure, waste management and energy within the broader context of industrialization and climate change. It is, therefore, paramount for the Asia-Pacific region to continue enjoying stable growth and development, by addressing urban challenges from social and environmental perspectives and forming "sustainable" cities and regions.

Since the mid-1980s, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has implemented environmentally-sound urban development projects in nations around the world and engaged in research and policy advocacy regarding the intersections of development and environment; resource management for sustainable development; and the governance needed to enable such management.

In Asia and the Pacific region, the activities of UN-HABITAT span from poverty and slum reduction programs to large scale post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction projects, to promoting urban policy through environmentally sustainable concepts and methods.

UN-HABITAT's academic and government partners in Asia at national and local levels have increasingly expressed their interests in learning from Japanese experience, know-how, and implementation of environmental technologies. And at the same time, Fukuoka is home to a cluster of distinctive environment related technologies, know-how and urban policy expertise. These resources are leveraged by local governments, research institutes, businesses, and NGOs, and by partnering with them, UN-HABITAT hopes to disseminate this technical expertise and information through its network.

Since 2009, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) has organized an expert group meeting on environmental technology inviting local governments, environmental NGOs and UN-HABITAT experts from Fukuoka and Asia and the Pacific region.

So far fruitful discussions were made on 'water and sanitation' and 'energy' introducing a number of environmental technologies, from water conservation technology to water purifying bio blocks, heat insulating paint and agricultural bio mass plants and many more. As an output of intensive discussions by the panelists, four demo projects have been conducted successfully in Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, and ongoing in Laos.

This year, it was the 3rd meeting and was held on 30 November and 1 December, 2011. It focused on the topic of 'sanitation' over a span of two days. Day One subtitled Enhancement of Sustainable Regional Development through Technical Cooperation, and introduced efficient sanitation management and operational know-how practiced by selected local governments in Fukuoka area. Day Two subtitled, "Technical Cooperation for Sustainable Environmental Development in the Asia-Pacific Region", and focused on sanitation technologies from the private sector, from the latest toilet technology to sustainable septic tanks. On both days, UN-HABITAT and government representatives from various Asian countries spoke about their current sanitation situations, issues & potentials for collaborations with the technologies discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II also participated in the meeting together with UN-HABITAT country HPMs and CTAs. By introducing sanitation related problems and needs of various countries and cities, the current progress of their work, the meeting aimed to identify potential challenges and possibilities for collaboration and partnerships, through follow up workshops and small scale pilot projects. It was an important opportunity for the experts from Fukuoka as well as the general public, to learn about the current situations and challenges that many cities in Asia face.



## MDG GoAL-WASH (Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene): Collaboration between UNDP and UN-HABITAT in Lao PDR

MDG GoAL-WASH is an innovative new UNDP program that aims to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs through strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors at appropriate levels.

Specifically, GoAL WASH focuses on:

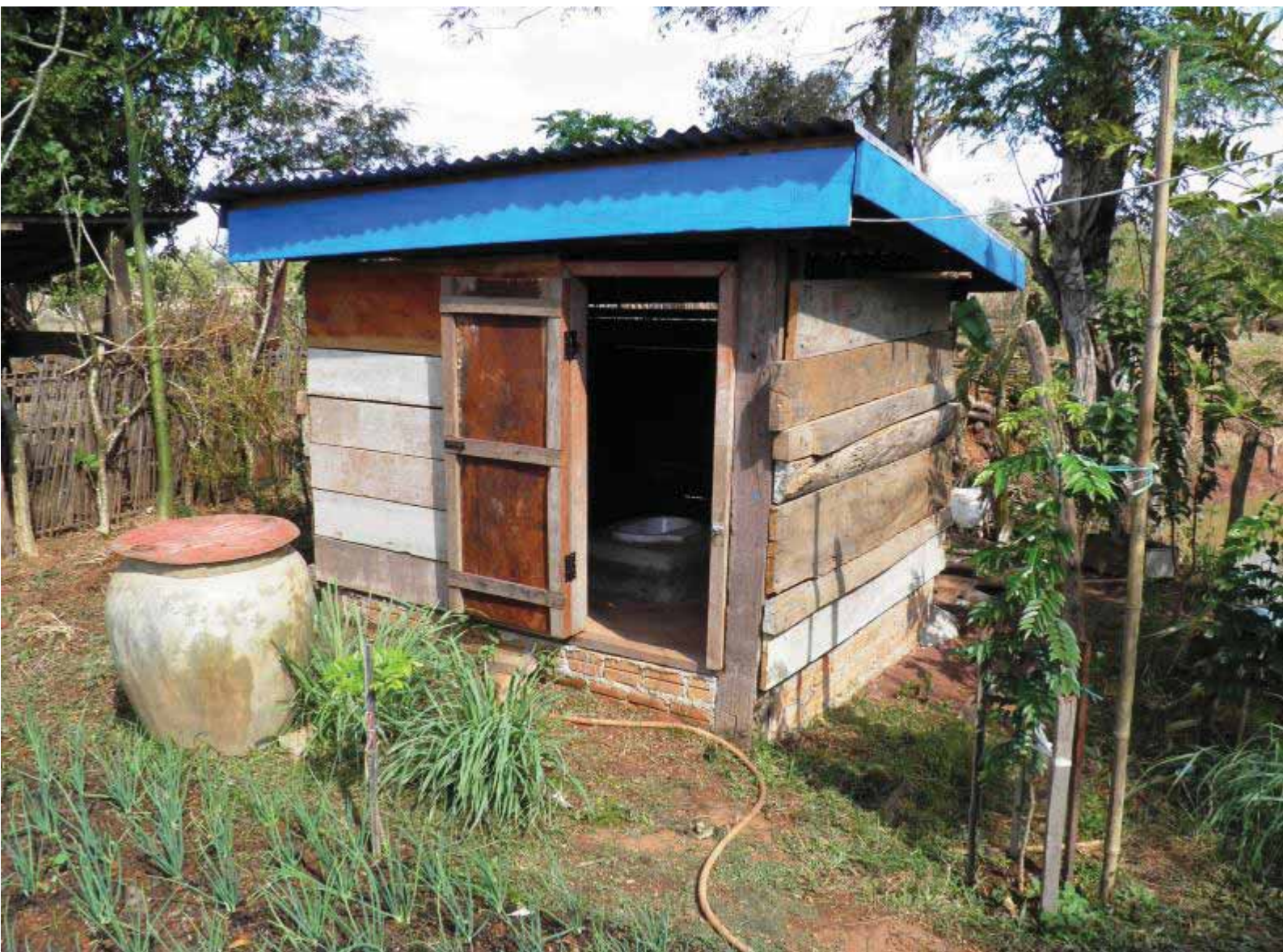
- Countries with low water and sanitation coverage not projected to achieve the water, sanitation or both MDGs;
- Identifying gaps, needs, constraints and opportunities in national water and sanitation plans, strategies and capacities;
- Governance reform, leadership and policy advocacy;
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national MDG and related poverty reduction strategies;
- Close coordination with governments and key development partners active in water and sanitation at country level; and
- Special attention on fragile states, where water and sanitation challenges are greatest.

In Laos, the project will be delivered through a joint programme mechanism between UNDP and UN-HABITAT. Ministry of Public Works and Trans-

port will be the national counterpart. The project will build on UN-HABITAT's WAC Programme and the MEK-WATSAN being funded by its Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF), and will be integrated into UNDP's MDG GoAL WASH programme, advancing progress to the WASH MDG7 targets. The project will have the following scope:

- a) Prepare the national water supply sector strategy;
- b) Establish a database with design of water supply treatment plants of various capacities ready for use with smaller communities of the size between about 2,000 inhabitants to about 5,000 inhabitants to ensure pro-poor water governance; and
- c) Promote best practices and incentivize governance reform by supporting pilot demonstration projects under the UN-HABITAT MEK-WATSAN programme.

Currently, in Laos, both WAC and MEK-WATSAN combine policy dialogue and normative work with on-the-ground pilot and demonstration water and sanitation projects focusing on pro-poor water and sanitation service delivery. Innovations that these programmes are introducing include Water Demand Management, Decentralised Waste Water Management, Human Values Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education, Rainwater harvesting and participatory poverty and environmental planning.



## New Rainwater Harvesting Projects for Lao Schools launched to mark the World Habitat Day 2011

To mark the World Habitat Day 2011, representatives from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme UN-HABITAT got together at an event held in the UN House in Vientiane on Monday 3rd of October 2011.

Reflecting on this year's theme 'Cities and Climate Change', Phouthasem Akavong, the Deputy Director General of DHUP, said that one of the main purposes of celebrating the World Habitat Day is to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the habitat of future generations.

"As more and more people are moving to towns and urban areas, sustainable urban development is more important than ever. Only by developing and adopting ways of addressing the impacts of climate change can we build sustainable living environments for the future generations."

In the wake of the heavy rainstorms and severe flooding experienced all over the country in the recent months, he called for new measures for climate change adaptation.

Avi Sarkar, Regional CTA of UN-HABITAT, mentioned that already one-third of the population of Laos lives in urban areas and with a 5% annual rate of urbanization the country's cities and towns are growing fast. "Urban growth comes with challenges, and we have to think very carefully the choices we're making now because they will affect our children directly", he reminded.

Avi Sarkar announced that UN-HABITAT would provide US\$60,000 towards promoting rainwater harvesting in Laos. The funds will be disbursed through two

Contribution Agreements signed with Nam Papa State Enterprises in Khammouane and Savannakhet, who will install complete rainwater harvesting systems for five schools in the provinces. The project documents were signed by the representatives of all parties in Monday's event.

Rainwater harvesting is not only a low cost and convenient technique for supplementing household water supply, but it can also contribute to climate change adaptation in multiple ways, such as through flood mitigation by capturing rooftop runoffs during rainstorms.

Given its long rainy season, Laos has huge potential for utilising rainwater harvesting, and while it is already practiced in many areas of the country by collecting rainwater from rooftops into ceramic jars, more awareness raising is needed.

One of the reasons for choosing schools to be the project sites was that as public places they are ideally suited for reaching multiple communities. Once installed, the rainwater harvesting system will also provide water for the school's latrines and handwashing facilities, encouraging improved hygiene and health.

Additionally, UN-HABITAT supported the display of five 'World Habitat Day' banners around Vientiane. Further awareness raising was done through the local media that printed the messages of the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as well as UN-HABITAT's Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos in several newspapers.



## Thailand: World Habitat Day 2011: Cities and Climate Change

The UN General Assembly designated the first Monday of October of every year as "World Habitat Day". The idea is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right of all, to adequate shelter. The theme "Cities and Climate Change" was chosen this year because climate change is fast becoming the preeminent development challenge of 21st century. In the morning of World Habitat Day, Four Regions Slum Network (FRSN) and Leaders and Organizers of Community Organization in Asia (LOCOA) were marching and stopped in front of the UN Building in Bangkok to submit petition to Secretary General of the United Nations on the problem of homelessness as well as the impact on urban poor communities stemming from climate change.

"Cities are centers of industrialization and sources of emission, but they are also home to solutions. More and more municipalities are harnessing wind, solar and geothermal energy, contributing to green growth and improving environmental protection" said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a message read out on his behalf. He reminded that both developed and developing countries had committed to reduced greenhouse gas emissions in a formal, accountable international agreement.

In a statement read out on his behalf, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos, said: "It is estimated that by 2050, there could be as many as 200 million environmental refugees worldwide, many of whom will be forced from their homes by rising sea levels and the increased frequency of flooding or drought. Prevention should be addressed through better urban planning and building codes so that city residents, especially the poorest, are protected as far as possible against disaster," he said. "Such measures can also help to keep their ecological footprint to the minimum."

Following the FRSN and LOCOA submitted petition, a Seminar was organized in the UN building on "What is climate change's impact on our cities and what can we do?" jointly by UN-HABITAT, UNESCAP, UNDP, and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). Seminar was serving as an opportunity to share the ideas, experiences, practices, knowledge and innovations in mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation in Thailand.

Ms Mariko Sato, Chief of the UN-HABITAT Bangkok Office in her opening remark congratulated the Chiang Rai Municipality for being chosen by the Habitat Scroll of Honour award committee as one of the three Best Practices from the World for its holistic approach to harnessing biodiversity, developing the project known as the "Urban Biodiversity in Chiang Rai Municipality towards Sustainable City and Climate Resilience".

Mr. Adnan Hameed Aliani, Chief of the Sustainable Urban Development Section of UN-ESCAP stated that: "The challenges facing us are enormous, but then so are the opportunities. We must harness these opportunities and build partnership between national and local governments, academic and research institutions, the private sector and the civil society organizations, including the organizations of the poor to address the challenges facing our cities, because doing nothing would be catastrophic."

Dr. Anuradha Rajivan, Team Leader for the forthcoming UNDP Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Climate Change emphasized the dual role climate change action in cities can have, by reducing green house gases while at the same time focusing efforts to reduce human vulnerability, especially for the urban poor "Cities are home to large numbers of vulnerable people. Our region's cities now have an opportunity to alter the course of urban development. They should be able to by capitalizing on the latest technologies, improving their systems for governance and finance and working cooperatively to move in lower carbon and greener directions."

Governor of Bangkok Mr. Sukhumbhand Paribatra opened the Seminar highlighting the importance of collaboration among different actors in taking action to reduce the impact of climate change in Bangkok and other Thai cities. During the round-table discussion on impact of climate change and adaptation in Thai cities, especially flooding protection and management, gave valuable thoughts from various stakeholders. It is said that all problems are needed to be solved with public participation, although potential conflicts might arise.

To avoid the conflict, public participation should be promoted at the early stage of the processed and programmes. Moreover, cooperation and integration among organizations is required as the impact and causes are not limited only within city boundary.

After the Seminar, Mobile Photo Exhibition was opened, organized by Design for Disasters (D4D's), UN-HABITAT and BMA with support provided from UN-ESCAP, UNDP, Lomography, Isuzu, Thai Transportation and Logistics Association, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, art4d, Thai Urban Designers Association, Asian Institute of Technology, Disaster Preparedness Mitigation and Management, KUN: Kunakij Furniture Industry, Mono Project, Lookyung Foundation, Supernormal and Ductstore. The public captured Bangkok in photos telling stories about Life, Place, Time and the Surrounding that contribute to the climate change, which in turn, be affected by the phenomenon.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Government of Italy to host next World Urban Forum-6 in Naples

Organised biannually by UN-HABITAT, the World Urban Forum is the world's leading conference on city development. The theme chosen for the sixth Forum, to be held in 1-7 September 2012 is, the urban future and the prosperity of cities. It will provide a platform to discuss innovative ways to harness the positive aspects that urbanization can offer and solutions to the problems that cities are facing. More than 13,000 people attended last year's event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Forum is one of the most open and inclusive gatherings of its kind on the international stage. It brings together government leaders, ministers, mayors, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental and community organizations, professionals, academics, grassroots women's organizations, youth and slum dwellers groups as partners working for better cities.

In the space of a few short years, the Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. Since the first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, the Forum has grown in size and stature as it travelled to Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver 2006, Nanjing in 2008 and Rio de Janeiro in 2010.

The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

This year, the Government of Italy has pledged 1.8 million Euros to host the sixth World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy in 2012. Speaking during a signing ceremony and press conference in Naples, President of the Campania Region in Southern Italy, Stefano Caldoro, said that the decision to host the Forum was not taken in isolation but is part of a larger plan towards increasing the

international exposure and visibility of the city.

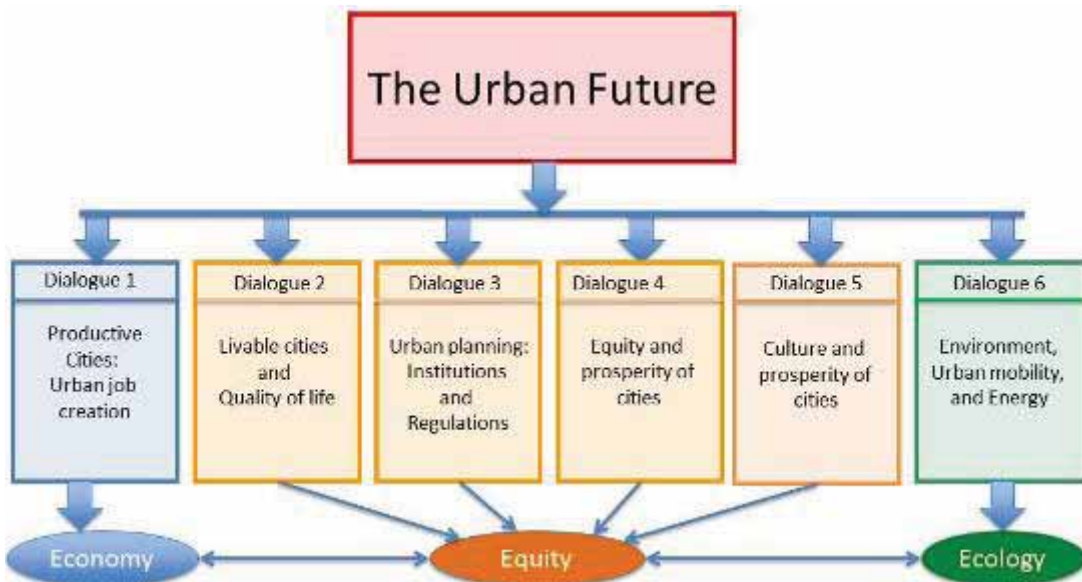
The agreement was signed in June in Naples, between Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, the organiser of the Forum and Mr. Nicola Oddati, the President of the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation which will host the Forum on behalf of the three levels of Government of Italy - the Central Government, the region of Campania and the city of Naples.

The city is also hosting the International Forum of Culture in 2013 which, together with the Forum, will represent a step forward in the path to make Naples a leading city in the promotion of intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean region. President Caldoro reaffirmed his willingness to collaborate with all level of governments for the success of WUF as proved by the large representation of institutions at the

press conference. Also speaking at the press event, Enzo Scotti, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed the support of the Italian government to the World Urban Forum and praised the far-sighted and courageous lead taken by the Campania Region.

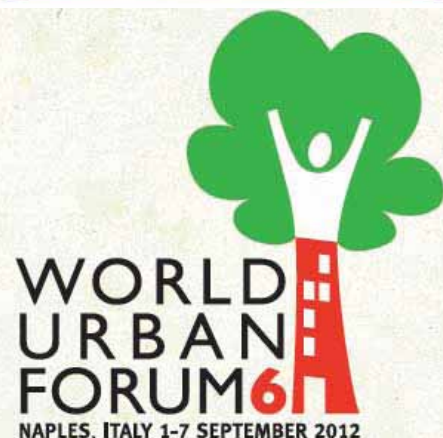
"Even when other emergencies and problems are taking place and need to be solved it is still important to deal with international issues, such as [adequate shelter and urban development]", he said.

Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Dr. Clos, said: "Naples is a complex and unique city, full of beauty and contradictions, with big potentials and big challenges. For this reason Naples is the ideal place to discuss the future of cities and urbanization both in developing and developed countries."



Join us in Naples next September to discuss  
**THE URBAN FUTURE**

“  
More than 50% of humanity lives in towns and cities - a figure projected to grow to two thirds in little over a generation  
”





## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

### 6th World Water Forum: The World's Largest Meeting Around Water



MARSEILLE, FRANCE '12

Every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum mobilises creativity, innovation, competence and know-how to mobilise in favour of water. The five World Water Fora organized since 1997 have placed water on the international political agenda. They have undoubtedly contributed to a global awareness of the water issues.

In 2012, France and Marseille will be hosting the 6th World Water Forum from 12-17 March 2012. The thematic framework of the Forum addresses both water-related actions needed to face today's development challenges, in addition to the means necessary to ensure those actions, which are cross-cutting. Some emerging issues not dealt with in previous Fora have found

their way to the forefront. The scope of this framework aims beyond simply solving water issues. It invites to think bigger and outside the water box.

The goal of the 6th World Water Forum is to tackle the challenges our world is facing and to bring water high on all political agendas. There will be no sustainable development while the water issues remain unsolved. Everywhere on the planet, for all and everyone, the Right to Water (recognised by 189 states at the UN one year ago) must be guaranteed and implemented.

The Forum must be perceived first of all as a tri-annual process initiated as soon as a host country and a host city have been selected by a series of preparatory processes which combine thematic, regional and political ac-

tivities. These processes mobilise thousands of water stakeholders over the 5 continents and culminate in the Forum week. However this week is not an end: it represents simply an important milestone in a continuous process combining dialogue, action and monitoring of the results.

The 12 priorities for action drive the contributions of the world water community towards a more healthy, peaceful, prosperous and resilient blue planet. They are clustered around the three pillars of sustainable development. They are completed by three crosscutting Conditions for Success. Under each Priority for Action, a series of targets translates the identified issues into concrete and achievable objectives at all levels.

With a unifying and open-minded image, the World Water Forum strives to open its activities to the entire all water stakeholders of the political arena and of the civil society. The World Water Council, the host city and the host country promote interactions and partnerships at all geographic scales and between all actors, with a special focus on developing countries.

UN-HABITAT is actively involved in the World Water Forum 6 and has contributed a chapter on Human Settlements in the World Water Development Report 2012. UN-HABITAT will also be organising a Session each on Global Urban Water Security and Regional Urban Water Security for Asia and the Pacific during the WWF in Marseille. The Session on Regional Urban Water Security is being planned in collaboration with the Public Utilities Board of Singapore while the Global Urban Water Security Session will be in partnership with the International Water Association. Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT has been invited to address and participate the World Water Forum-6.

## 12 Priorities for Action

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Ensure Everyone's Well-Being</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Guarantee access to water for all and the Right to Water</li> <li>1.2 Improve access to integrated sanitation services for all</li> <li>1.3 Contribute to hygiene and health through water and sanitation</li> <li>1.4 Prevent and respond to water-related risks and crises</li> <li>1.5 Contribute to cooperation and peace through water</li> </ul> |
| <b>Contribute to Economic Development</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Balance multiple uses through IWRM (<i>Integrated Water Resource Management</i>)</li> <li>2.2 Contribute to food security by the optimal use of water</li> <li>2.3 Harmonise water and energy</li> <li>2.4 Promote Green Growth and value ecosystem services</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Keep the Planet Blue</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Improve the quality of water resources and ecosystems</li> <li>3.2 Adjust pressures and footprints of human activities on water</li> <li>3.3 Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Conditions for Success</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CS1 Good governance</li> <li>CS2 Financing water for all</li> <li>CS3 Enabling environments</li> </ul>   |

### 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit has been postponed

The current flood disaster in Thailand has once again highlighted the importance of water issues to the security, development and prosperity of Asia-Pacific countries. The Government of Thailand is committed to advancing water security in the region and to hosting the 2nd APWS with a rescheduled date of no later than June, 2012.

Earlier the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (2nd APWS) was scheduled to be held from 5-6 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main theme of the 2nd APWS remains the same as in the 1st APWS that is "Water Security : Leadership and Commitment".

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## City level workshop on Citizens' Report Card in Indore, India

The city level workshop on 2nd Citizens report card of Indore developed with UN-HABITAT support was organized on 17th November 2011. The workshop was chaired by the Mayor of Indore Mr. Krishna Murari Moghe, Corporators and officials of Indore Municipal corporation, Prominent citizens and representatives from various NGOs participated in the workshop. On behalf of NCHSE, Dr Ashok Gupta presented the findings of the report card prepared in 2011 and variation observed with respect to peoples responses that was recorded for the first report card prepared in 2007.

NCHSE in partnership with UN-Habitat and Govt of Madhya Pradesh and Municipal Corporations of four cities, took the initiative for developing Citizen's Report Cards (CRC) for Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur in 2007. The purpose of the initiative was to get citizen's response to the quality and efficiency of urban basic services.

The study conducted in 2007 revealed that only 67.3% of people are satisfied with water supply and 71.3% are satisfied with sanitation services. Since CRC need to be conducted at regular intervals to reflect the initiatives undertaken by the ULBs to improve the quality of urban basic services, another study has been undertaken in 2011.

The workshop revealed that despite implementation of various infrastructural projects such as Government of India supported JNNURM and ADB supported projects, people in lower income group remained largely unsatisfied with the quality of urban basic services. Participants shared their opinion regarding the findings and the actual conditions of urban basic services. Mayor welcomed the study results. However, felt that for further study a larger sample should be taken.



Hon'ble Mayor, Indore Municipal Corporation, Mr. Krishna Murari Moghe delivering his speech at the workshop

## UN-ESCAP launches Delhi Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia (SRO-SSWA)

South and South-West Asia is one of the fastest growing sub-regions in the world led by countries such as India and Turkey. Yet it has one of world's highest concentrations of hunger and poverty, with vast social and physical infrastructure development gaps within and among countries.

As part of the United Nations endeavour to support member countries in formulating and implementing inclusive and sustainable development policies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the region, the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) has opened a sub-regional office for South and South-West Asia in Delhi covering 10 countries in the sub-region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

The Delhi office joins ESCAP sub-regional offices in Suva,

Incheon and Almaty, covering, respectively, the Pacific, East and North-East Asia, and North and Central Asia. The South-East Asian sub-region is covered by ESCAP headquarters.

At the opening ceremony of ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, ESCAP-SSWA welcomed the delegates. Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered the opening remarks.

Prof. Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate, T.W. Lamont University Professor, Harvard University delivered the keynote address. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka and Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India also addressed the participants at the launch ceremony at Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi, INDIA

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