



THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITIES ALLIANCE

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CITIES ALLIANCE NEWS

WUF 4: The Nanjing Experience

Thousands of participants attended the Fourth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF4) which was organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction. Held in the city of Nanjing from 03-06 November, the theme for this event was *Harmonious Urbanisation*.

In collaboration with the Brazilian government, Cities Alliance also hosted a high level networking session on *"Land Markets, Poverty and the Right to the City"*. The networking event was a great success, with standing room only. Speakers included representatives from the governments of Brazil, India, South Africa, and Spain, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. The event provoked a lively debate on recent policy initiatives to integrate the poor into cities.



Following the success of the 2006 Africities exhibition in Nairobi, the Cities Alliance once again hosted a stand in the exhibition area. Some seven partners participated in the Cities Alliance exhibition: the [League of Cities of the Philippines \(LCP\)](#), the [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#), the [South African Department of Housing](#), the [South African Cities Network \(SACN\)](#), [Slum Dwellers International \(SDI\)](#), the [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#), and the [Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement \(ISTED\)](#).

According to William Cobbett, Manager of Cities Alliance who attended the Nanjing meeting, the World Urban Forum once again "...proved its worth as the pre-eminent meeting place for vibrant exchanges and excellent networking amongst urban practitioners". On behalf of Cities Alliance and its members, Mr. Cobbett expressed appreciation for the role played by UN-Habitat in ensuring the continued success of the WUF. During the course of the Nanjing event it was announced that the fifth session of the World Urban Forum would be hosted by Brazil in the City of Rio de Janeiro in 2010.

Distance Course on Slum Upgrading in Brazil



In June 2008 the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, with support of the Cities Alliance and the World Bank Institute (WBI) launched a successful distance learning experience in Brazil. The course, organised in conjunction with the University of São Paulo, focused on slum upgrading in municipal and state administrations in the northeastern part of the country.

The demand for such an investment is a direct outcome of the priority Brazil has given to the slum upgrading component of its national Accelerated Growth Programme (PAC), which was launched in early 2007 and is implemented by the Ministry of Cities and Caixa.

The course generated a great deal of interest. Some 230 municipal and state staff members were selected from 94 municipalities in nine states, all of which are directly involved in implementing the PAC slum upgrading projects.

A multi-disciplinary team of academics, all of whom had strong practical experience, conducted the three-month course. The course covered different aspects of slum upgrading, including the national policy framework, environmental legislation, social participation, cost calculation, project design, monitoring and evaluation.

The course software allowed for active interaction not only between the professors and the participants, but also among the participants themselves. A positive spin-off of the whole course was the exchange of experiences that it generated amongst staff from different municipalities.

Based on the participants' evaluation of the course, Brazil's Ministry of Cities is working with the Cities Alliance to revise the course, which will then be offered to other regions of the country in 2009. In addition, a CD-ROM and a hardcopy of the 2008 course material will be produced by the participants for follow-up and reference.

Joint Italy/Brazil Cities Alliance mission to Mozambique

Two members of the Cities Alliance, Italy and Brazil recently conducted a mission to Maputo as part of a joint project to reduce urban poverty in Mozambique, with the active support and involvement of the São Paulo office of the Cities Alliance. Specifically, their joint slum upgrading effort in Bahia, in the northeast of Brazil, is seen as a benchmark and reference point for the effort to be undertaken in Mozambique.



Brazil was represented by the Ministry of Cities and Caixa. The main purpose for the Mission was to obtain a first-hand understanding of the slum upgrading challenges in Maputo. It also sought to explore the possibility of supporting an intervention similar to the successful upgrading programme in Bahia, a tripartite arrangement between the Government of Italy, the World Bank and the Cities Alliance. Specific attention was paid to the possibility of support to the City of Maputo in the formulation of a city-wide slum upgrading strategy.

Based on the recommendations of this first Mission, a detailed multi-year work programme will be designed in the beginning of 2009.

Joint mission to Kinshasa by South Africa and the Cities Alliance Secretariat



Following previous discussions between the Director General of the South African Department of Housing, and the Manager of the Cities Alliance, the Cities Alliance Secretariat participated in a joint mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Senior Urban Finance Specialist, Thierry Paulais spent a week with his South African and Congolese counterparts in the capital Kinshasa in October 2008. He was received in Kinshasa by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing as well as representatives from the Ministry of Economy and the Investment Promotion Agency.

Besides a number of meetings with government representatives and local experts, the Mission also met with the two main donors of the project, the [World Bank](#) and the [Agence Française de Développement \(AFD\)](#). The donors discussed the possibility of sponsoring feasible city development strategies for the cities of Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Matadi.

UCLG World Council meetings in Istanbul, Turkey

The United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), a member of the Cities Alliance, held its Executive Bureau and World Council meeting in Istanbul, Turkey 27-30 November. Mayors, city officials, various local/regional authorities and experts from some 50 countries attended the meetings. The Cities Alliance Secretariat was represented by Urban Specialist Jean-Christophe Adrian.



This year's agenda focused on three key topics: the global financial crisis and its consequences, the policies of social inclusion, and the prevention of disaster risks. Local and regional leaders at the conference expressed concern about the direct impact of the financial crisis on their cities and regions. Climate change and UCLG's increasing profile in the international community were also emphasised.

Cities Alliance Secretariat participated in several specialised committee meetings, including ones on local finance and strategic urban planning.

At the meeting of the local finance committee, the members discussed the second *Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy* (GOLD) which will focus on local finance strategies. The UCLG Policy Paper on Local Finance was also discussed by the committee. Both GOLD and the Policy Paper are prepared with the support of the Cities Alliance.

At the strategic urban planning meeting, a number of cities made presentations highlighting their experiences in conducting urban planning exercises. Presenters included Durban, South Africa; Rosario, Argentina; Bilbao, Spain; Cologne, Germany; Moscow, Russia; and Daewu, South Korea. Cases of decentralised cooperation in support of City Development Strategies (CDS) were also presented including Johannesburg-Lilongwe and Marseille/Barcelona-Tripoli.

The committee agreed to prepare a policy paper on strategic urban planning that aims to help local authorities undertake effective city development strategies. This paper will be finalised before the next World Council meeting scheduled to be held in Guangzhou, China in November 2009.

