April 2002, Newsletter for the Cities Alliance

Anna Tibaijuka and Mamphela Ramphele discuss Cities Without Slums Millennium Development Goal (MDG)

During her visit to Washington, DC last week the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anna Tibaijuka, who also serves as Co-chair of the Cities Alliance Consultative Group, met with World Bank Managing Director, Mamphela Ramphele and Mats Karlsson, World Bank Vice President of External Affairs and United Nations Affairs. Their discussions focused on UN-Habitat/World Bank collaboration within the framework of the Cities Alliance and, in particular, on the critical role of secure tenure in achieving the Cities Without Slums MDG. She also briefed the Cities Alliance Secretariat on the significance of UN-Habitat's transformation to a UN Programme and exchanged views with the Secretariat team on achieving the goal of Cities Without Slums.

Jeffrey Sachs calls for focus on urban-based poverty-reduction strategies

Speaking to an audience at the World Bank last week, noted economist Jeffrey Sachs, who was recently appointed as Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, pressed for a focus on urban-based poverty-reduction strategies, arguing that the rural-based strategy does not address the plight of cities -- destination of "last resort" for the world's poor.

For more on Jeffrey Sachs' speech

For the UN Press Release on Sach's appointment as Special Advisor on the MDGs

ADB joins Cities Alliance to tackle urban poverty

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined the Cities Alliance, becoming the first regional development bank to join the Alliance. The ADB will work with Alliance partners to strengthen the impact of urban development initiatives in reducing urban poverty in Asia. It plans to promote city development strategies and the Cities Without Slums initiative and to assist in documenting best practices in the region. "Through the Alliance," notes ADB Principal Urban Development Specialist, Allen Williams, "ADB will test new tools and participatory approaches and engage the urban poor and slum dwellers as active partners to achieve sustainable urban development".

For the full ADB press release announcing its decision to join the Alliance

Local alliances at work in Vietnam

Since it was launched in 1999, the Official Development Assistance Partnership for Ho Chi Minh City (ODAP), a partnership between the HCMC People's Committee, the Ministry of Planning and

Investment (MPI) and a group of key international donors, has been working to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of donor support to the city. ODAP provides a forum for partners to identify priorities and address issues of immediate and common interest, and offers a framework to support policy development, strategic planning and operational practice. It also works to coordinate donor knowledge and activities by improving access to documentation and exchanges of project information. In addition to its standing newsletter, ODAP has offered workshops on such topics as resettlement, multi-sectoral planning at the district level, mapping and GIS, and urban public transport.

Writing in its early days of operation, Terry Standley, Coordinator of the ODAP Support Team Office remarked: "To the best of my knowledge, ODAP is a unique initiative. Neither I, nor any of my colleagues and contacts working in urban affairs, know of any such formally structured and financed partnerships addressing all sectors and all types of official assistance at the level of a single city".

Donor membership is composed of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank (WB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIC) of Belgium in conjunction with Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). The activities of ODAP are served by the ODAP Support Team Office, comprised of two full-time national professionals and a part-time international consultant who serves as Coordinator, and is based in the ODA Project Management Division of HCMC's Department of Planning and Investment.

At the national level, a forum has been established to encourage policy dialogue and the exchange of experience and knowledge among the Government, private sector, civil society, and the donor community in Vietnam, as a way of contributing towards a shared vision of the urban sector and its role in national development. The Urban Forum in Vietnam participates in policy analyses and programme planning and consultation processes. It also disseminates information through the Partnership window of the Vietnam UN website, and routinely provides advice to incoming missions. The Forum has established a database on urban stakeholders and on urban programmes and activities. Some of the areas the Forum intends to focus on through 2003 include: land tenure and access of the urban poor to housing and basic infrastructure; development of small urban centers (district towns); urban environment; improving public administration; and a variety of urbanisation issues.

To read more about the origins of ODAP

For more on ODAP's recent activities and to access the ODAP newsletter

For more information about the Vietnam Urban Forum, contact: urbanforum@hn.vnn.vn

Moving to city-wide upgrading in Salvador, Brazil

On 25-27 February 2002, staff from the Cities Alliance Secretariat attended the official launch of the Ribeira Azul Technical and Social Assistance Project (PATS) in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. The official launch was presided over by the Governor of Bahia, Cesar Borges, and attended by the Secretary of Planning, the Mayor of Salvador, the city's department heads, the Ambassador of Italy, development cooperation officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, the Country Director of the World Bank, the Urban Sector Manager for LAC and the Manager of the Cities Alliance. Site visits to Ribeira Azul were also organised, which included existing upgrading areas, such as Novos Alagados, as well as the Primavera resettlement community.

Ribeira Azul comprises a set of neighbourhoods of about 4km^2, with some 40,000 families or 150,000 inhabitants, representing about 6% of the present population of the City of Salvador. Salvador is the third biggest city in Brazil, and the city and state governments are currently preparing to approach urban upgrading on a city-wide basis. The Government of Italy is supporting the upgrading initiative in Salvador through a $5 million Cities Alliance grant for the Salvador, Bahia, Technical and Social Assistance Project.

For more details contact Ivo Imparato, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Advisor, Cities Alliance

at: iimparato@worldbank.org

Upcoming Events

Quite a number of workshops and forums are on the horizon for this May and June. We thought we'd highlight a few that may be of interest:

The ins and outs of secure tenure

As the [Millenium Development Goals (MDG)](#) continue to establish themselves ever more firmly at the centre of the global development agenda, the Cities Without Slums MDG target of "improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers" is increasingly being recognised as the clear, measurable urban target. Perhaps less well appreciated, is the significance of 'secure tenure', one of the two indicators adopted by the UN to measure implementation of this target (the other being access to sanitation). The Cities Alliance will be sponsoring a two-day workshop at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington from May 23-24, to be led by four members of the [International Research Group on Law and Urban Space (IRGLUS)](#). The panel will address the issue of secure tenure from both a legal and an economic perspective. The workshop will close with a reception and the public launch of new books by two of the panelsists: *Holding their Ground. Security of Land Tenure for the Urban Poor in Developing Countries*, by Alain Durand-Lasserve and Lauren Royston, Eds. and *Land, Rights and Innovation*,by Geoffrey Payne.

IRGLUS panelists will include: : [Alain Durand-Lasserve, Edesio Fernandes, Geoffrey Payne, and Martim O. Smolka](#)

For more information, contact William Cobbett, Senior Urban Upgrading Advisor, Cities Alliance at: cobbett@citiesalliance.org

World Urban Forum

Cities Alliance's partners will be in Nairobi at the end of this month for the [World Urban Forum](#), being held at UN-Habitat's headquarters from April 29-May 3. Several Alliance Policy Advisory Board members and Secretariat staff will also be participating in a session on Cities Without Slums. This session will include a presentation by the World Bank of the results of the recent review of slum upgrading experiences in Africa which has been financed by the Government of Norway. The importance of setting local targets to achieve the Cities Without Slums [Millennium Development Goal (MDG Target 11)](#) will also be discussed. A dialogue on The Right to the City will address the continuing problem of forced evictions which was raised during the Alliance's Consultative Group meeting in Kolkata.

MIT offers practitioners course on slum upgrading

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is running a 5-day course on Upgrading Urban Slums, in collaboration with the Cities Alliance. The course will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts between 10-14 June, 2002, and will cover key issues such as land acquisition, tenure policies, sustainable financing and other topics. This course is part of a wider initiative currently being explored by MIT, the Cities Alliance and the World Bank Institute which seeks to marshal the intellectual and institutional support of universities and practitioners in different parts of the world in response to the Cities Without Slums target of the Millennium Development Goals.

For [more information on the course](#)

Learning Workshop on Urban Poverty Reduction in Asia

A workshop focusing on the nature of citywide urban poverty, effective interventions and partnership building amongst local government networks, NGOs and the private sector is being organised jointly by the World Bank Institute's Urban Program and the East Asia Urban Division of the World Bank, in partnership with Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mayors and city administrators from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines and Vietnam will meet with World Bank officials to share their perspectives on the nature and implications of urban poverty in their city, and ways to tackle them. City Development Strategy (CDS) experiences will also be discussed. For more information on the conference which takes place in Singapore from June 10-11, 2002, click on to: http://www.infocity.org/poverty/index.html. The conference proceedings will be available to the public from this site.

What can city development strategies achieve?

Brazil's Municipality of Santo Andre and the Regional Development Agency of the Greater ABC Region of São Paulo, will be hosting a seminar on City Development Strategies (CDS) this June, in conjuction with the Urban Management Programme (UMP) and the Cities Alliance. The seminar, to be held in Santo Andre from June 10-11, will review the experience of several CDSs from around the world, focusing in particular on the ingredients for inclusive and productive cities and the value-added of a CDS. Among the issues to be examined, is the role of public and private stakeholders, including local governments, unions, enterprises, NGOs, CBOs and universities, in developing and implementing local economic development and poverty alleviation strategies. Organisers hope to draw specific policy conclusions on how the role of international donors in multistakeholder urban consultation processes might be strengthened.

For more details on the seminar, contact : Cid Blanco Jr. (cblanco@santoandre.sp.gov.br) or Jeroen Klink (jklink@santoandre.sp.gov.br) at the Secretariat for International Relations and Resources Mobilization, Municipality of Santo Andre.

Resource on Services to the Urban Poor

The World Bank's Services to the Urban Poor Thematic Group produces a newsletter which may be of interest. Its Spring 2002 issue carries a series of timely stories related to the issues of secure tenure and evictions.

To receive the online newsletter regularly, please contact Christianna Johnnides at: cjohnnides@worldbank.org

Would you like to be included?

Contact Chii Akporji for subscription information, other questions or suggestions about the newsletter: cakporji@worldbank.org

www.citiesalliance.org