

World Habitat Day: UN-HABITAT

Draft 4 October 2010

9-13-10 Draft Rev 3

Better City/ Better Life:

Sustainable Urbanization

- 10:00 Welcomes
UN Secretary General's World Habitat Day Message
UNHabitat World Habitat Day Message,
Yamina Djacta, OIC, UN-HABITAT New York Office
Margaret O'Donoghue Castillo, AIA, LEED AP, President Elect, AIA New York
- 10:30 Keynote
Status Report on Sustainable Urban Growth
David Bragdon, Director PlaNYC
- 11:00 Panel #1: Learning from the World Urban Forum 5 in Rio
Moderator: Aliye Celik, PhD, Coordinator, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanisation
Panelists:
James McCullar, FAIA, Past President, AIA New York
Prof. Urs Gauchat, Hon AIA, Dean, NJIT, School for Architecture
Margaret O'Donoghue Castillo, AIA, LEED AP, President Elect, AIA NY
Prof. Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
Discussion
- 12:00 **Panel #2: The Road Beyond Rio:
The Olympics as Catalyst for Sustainable Urbanization**
Moderator: James McCullar, FAIA, Past President, AIA NY
Case Study #1: Rio Olympics 2016
**Washington Fajardo*, Undersecretary for Cultural Patrimony,
Urban Planning, Architecture and Design, City of Rio de Janeiro**
Case Study #2: London Olympics 2012
Andrew Comer, BSc CEng FICE FIHT, Partner, Buro Happold, London
Respondent: Bonnie A. Harken, AIA, APA, President, Nautilus International
Discussion:
- 1:00 Break for Lunch

- 2:30 Panel #3: Sustainable Urbanism: NYC as Case Study
 Moderator: Ernest Hutton, FAICP, Assoc AIA
 Case Study #1: PlaNYC: Infrastructure and Policy Initiatives
 David Burney, FAIA, Commissioner, NYC Dept of Design & Construction
 Case Study #2: NYC Active Design Guidelines
 Dr. Karen Lee, NYC Dept of Health
 Respondent: Prof. Diane Davis, President, International Council for Caring
Communities
 Discussion
- 3:30 Panel #4: The Road to Shanghai and Beyond
 Moderator: Prof. Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
 Discussion with all Panelists
- 4:15 Conclusion/ Summary
 Rick Bell, FAIA, Director AIA New York

Better Cities/ Better Life

UN Habitat Day October 4, 2010

Cities increasingly recognize the need for sustainable planning in response to unprecedented global population growth, climate change related to global warming, and dramatic changes in the global economy that have affected both developing and developed countries. To succeed, cities require basic shelter and sustainable infrastructures including water, sanitation, transportation, schools, cultural and recreation facilities, which in turn support the development of *creative economies and culture of peace* essential for a better life for all.

Background

Today half of humanity lives in cities and the trend shows that the trend will increase to two-thirds within the next generations. This is something to be rejoiced only if we work hard to improve the conditions in the cities whether they are in the developed or developing world.

At the World Urban Forum 5 (WUF5) held in Rio de Janeiro in March, 2010, there was a sense of new found optimism about the urban future. "The concentration of people in urban areas offers a way to help lower carbon emissions, create jobs and improve living standards. And more profoundly, strengthen our social fabric and generate a space for innovation, culture and ideas". New trends were identified that support city development, including the recognition that resources are not always the barrier, as many countries such as India, China, and Brazil have growing economies; and that government sponsored incentives and responses to natural disasters can be catalysts for reform.

Yet in spite of growing economies in many countries and ambitious planning goals, the inability of cities to effectively absorb new residents without impact on public health represents a major challenge and threatens social stability. Too often the growth of informal settlements without basic services and sanitation characterize cities in the developing world; and unemployment and social isolation those in the developed world. These conditions have aggravated advances in urban planning and improvements in health made during the last century, and point to the need to continue basic policies that brought infectious diseases under control

The UN Workshop "How Creative Economies Can Contribute to the Culture of Peace" held on June 17 and 18, 2010, explored the relationships between sustainable urbanization and the *Culture of Peace Economic Initiative*. A symbiotic triad was identified in which the components-- sustainable urbanization, creative economy, and information communication technology-- are interdependent health and peace being the key elements..

World sports events which have generated a growing universal solidarity are types of incentives that have been effective. As example, the Olympics have become catalysts for the revitalization of both aging and developing cities. Barcelona used the Olympics to transform itself into a model 21st century city. New York City's failed 2012 Olympic bid became the genesis for its *PlaNYC 2030*, which has become a model for sustainable planning; and London has integrated the planning for its successful Olympics bid into its evolving *London Plan*. And more recently requirements for Rio's successful Olympics bid have become a catalyst for its emerging 2016 city-wide sustainable plan

Organizers

The 10/4/10 conference, World Habitat Day, will be jointly organized by UN-Habitat and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, with the participation of other sponsors.

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization is a collaboration between UN, professional, institutional and academic organizations in support of sustainable urbanization. It planned UN Conferences on Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age in 2008 and 2009, participated in the World Urban Forum 5 and the recent UN workshop on Creative Economies and the Culture of Peace in 2010. Its members include UN-HABITAT; UN Global Alliance for Information Communication Technology and Development; AIA New York, the Regional Plan Association; City University of New York; New Jersey Institute of Technology; Penn Institute for Urban Research; and New York New Visions. Other sponsor-participants such as the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have collaborated with partner New York City governmental agencies and AIA New York in annual Fit City conferences in which public health, architectural, planning and other design professionals from the public and private sectors collaborated in the examination of how improvements in the built environment can contribute to public health through thoughtful urban and building design. .

This UN World Habitat Day October 4, 2010 event concentrates on how we can improve health conditions in the cities as well as how big sports events can have a positive impact on the design and planning of cities. Following these activities, various planning and organizational events -- with London and Rio as focus venues, but expanded to include a representative cadre of world venues-- can set the stage for future sustainable growth that responds to not only social and developmental needs but with health as a major component of the built environment.