



South-South Conference
BETTER CITY/BETTER LIFE:
The South –North Initiative
18 May 2011, United Nations Headquarters, New York

PROGRAMME

Preamble

For most of the second half of the 20th century the developing world has relied heavily on the expertise, advice and resources of the developed world; then, the premise was that the best way for developing nations to thrive was to emulate the developed world. This premise has become increasingly questionable as economic shifts and leapfrog technology have some allowed some countries in the global South to take the lead in addressing problems created by rapid worldwide urbanization.

Some of the most innovative approaches to urbanization in general, and sustainable urbanization in particular, are to be found in the global South. We are proposing to explore the extent to which innovations and leapfrog technologies have applicability in the global north – hence the term *South-North Initiative* which is more of a global initiative.

The *South-North Initiative* will look for best practices and ideas and expose them to a wider audience through a series of distinct but related events such as conferences, seminars, dialogue and websites. The intent is to create a number of occasions for governments, academia, NGOs and the private sector/industry to exchange ideas, establish connections and start constructive dialogues around the theme of sustainable urbanization, especially in the areas of community development, affordable housing, transportation, infrastructure, and the application of information communication technologies.

The *South-North initiative* will encourage participation by a wide range of organizations in the developing world to present innovative solutions from which we can learn. The focus will be on examples with transferable ideas and comparative measures of success in Sustainable Urbanism. In particular the difference in expectations between donors and recipients will be examined.

The *South-North Initiative* embraces the Habitat Agenda. The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization in concert with UN Habitat and like minded organizations will sponsor this initiative. The tangible outcome of these efforts will be changing attitudes and a willingness to learn from each other for the betterment of the human condition.

AGENDA

Wednesday, 18 May

9:00 am **Registration**

10:00 am **PLENARY SESSION**

Welcome Remarks:

Chair:

Cecilia Martinez, Director, UN Habitat New York Office, Welcome and Opening Statement

Margaret O'Donoghue Castillo, AIA LEED AP, President, AIA New York Chapter

Aliye Celik, PhD, Co-Chair, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization

Ambassador Francis Lorenzo, President, South-South News

Keynote:

H.E. Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, United States Department of Housing & Urban Development

11.15 am **DIALOGUE SESSION 1**

The South-North Initiative: an Unconventional Framework for the exchange of innovative best practices from the developing world that may be applicable to the U.S. and areas of developed world which have been bypassed by technological innovation and economic growth.

Chair:

H.E. Sirodjidin Aslov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

Moderator:

Prof. Urs Gauchat, Dean, School of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Panelists:

Robert Buckley, Managing Director, Rockefeller Foundation

Marc A. Weiss, PhD, Chairman and CEO, Global Urban Development

Jonathan Clyne, Associate Director, The Halcrow Group

Alven Lam, Director, International Research, US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Discussion

1.00 pm **Lunch Break**

3:00 pm. **DIALOGUE SESSION 2**
The role of Information Communication Technology as agents for change

Chair:

H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Moderator:

James McCullar, FAIA, Co-Chair Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization & Past President, AIA New York Chapter

Panelists:

Matthew Chandy, Senior Urban Advisor, CHF International

Using technology as an agent of change in developing identity, employment, and governance in poor communities in India

John A. Kent, Philos Health

Community Radio + Facebook as an agent for change in for sustainable healthcare and development in Jagna, Philippines

Theresa Williamson, Executive Director, Catalytic Communities

Combining social media and community journalism as agents for change for favela communities in pre-2016 Rio de Janeiro.

Discussion

4.15 pm **DIALOGUE SESSION 3**
Leapfrog innovations as agents for change

Chair:

H.E. Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

Moderator:

Prof Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, Chancellor, ACSA College of Distinguished Professors

Panelists:

Kanu Agrawal, Architect, New Delhi, India; Curator, Jugaad Urbanism: Resourceful Strategies for Indian Cities Exhibition, The Center for Architecture

Innovations, adaptations, and initiatives from informal urbanism in India

Susan Zielinski, Managing Director, SMART (Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility Research & Transformation), University of Michigan

The new mobility grid for seamless multi-modal transportation

Teddy Cruz, Architect, Professor of Public Culture, Visual Arts Department, University of California, San Diego

Creative acts of citizenship: marginal neighborhoods as sites of production

Discussion

5.30 pm

CONCLUSIONS

Applicability of best practices to the Developed World: Conclusions, discussion and speculation with conference participants.

Introduction:

Yamina Djacta, Deputy Director UN-Habitat New York Office

Chair:

H.E. Vince Henderson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Dominica to the United Nations

Moderator:

Cecilia Martinez, Director, UN Habitat New York Office

Dialogue

ORGANIZERS



SOUTH-SOUTH NEWS



AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of
The American Institute of Architects

We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their support of this Consortium programme

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