

MEDIA ADVISORY

DAY 4 – WORLD URBAN FORUM III URBAN GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT

For immediate release: June 22, 2006

Vancouver, BC – The third session of the **United Nations World Urban Forum (WUF3) Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action**, continues on Thursday, June 22nd with a focus on urban growth and environment. Two important dialogues will focus on Urban Planning and Management and Energy. Various networking sessions will continue the dialogue surrounding inclusive cities, sustainable partnerships, and social cohesion.

Below, find highlights of some of today's key events including a schedule of announcements.

Please note, the initials (HB) beside an event indicates that it will be covered by the Host Broadcaster pool feed. To maintain the integrity and dignity of this event, no ENG cameras will be permitted into rooms where Host Broadcaster cameras are installed. These events will be available to all broadcasters at the Vancouver Telus TOC 604-663-5439.

ATTENTION: Space is limited in the dialogue and networking sessions, thus entry is on a first-come, first-served basis.

THURSDAY'S KEY EVENTS:

8:30 am – 9:30 am

PLENARY SESSION – *Urban Growth and Environment* (HB)

Location: VCEC – Exhibit Hall A (HB – Available at TOC)

The urban environment, at a time of rapid growth, had become a global concern. Sound planning and management will be a major factor in ensuring sustainable urban development.

Moderator: Chris Leach, President, Canadian Institute of Planners, Canada

Speakers:

Enrique Penalosa, Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA; former Mayor of Bogota, Colombia;

Evelyn Herfkens, Executive Coordinator, Millennium Campaign, United Nations, USA.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

DISCUSSION: Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Post-Tsunami Report

Location: Concourse Room, Wosk Centre (580 W. Hastings St.)

Canadian and Sri Lankan municipalities are working together to rebuild communities destroyed by the tsunami leading to concrete results. Media availability at noon.

9:30 am – 10:00 am

DAILY MEDIA BRIEFING

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC Exhibit Hall B

The **Hon. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing, South Africa** will be speaking at this morning's media briefing, and will be available for questions following the briefing.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

DIALOGUE 1 – *The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management*

Location: VCEC – Ballroom B/C (HB – Available in Media Centre Only)

What are the crucial ingredients for running a successful city? This session will explore the key issues of governance, management, and planning. Urban planning is re-emerging as a powerful tool, especially in the developing world, but its relationship with management and governance has changed. The purpose of this dialogue will be to focus on this new relationship – “planning in a state of flux”.

Facilitator: Steve Bradshaw, Producer, BBC-Panorama, United Kingdom

Commentators to include:

John Friedmann, Honorary Professor, School of Community & Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Canada;

Tasneem Essop, Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Provincial Government of the Western Cape, South Africa;

Sunita Narain, Center for Science and Environment (CSE), India;

Herbert Girardet, Environmental Consultant and Senior Adviser to Dantang Eco-City, China;

Clif Hague, President, Commonwealth Association of Planners, United Kingdom.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

DIALOGUE 2 – *Energy: Local Action, Global Impact*

Location: VCEC – Exhibition Hall A (HB – Available at TOC and Media Centre)

Access to affordable, modern energy services is a prerequisite for sustainable human development. This dialogue session will feature speakers from both developing and developed countries discussing energy and transport solutions. The dialogue identify affordable and successful renewable energy options for cities and highlight the role of industry and public-private-partnerships in realizing this objective, as well as considering approaches to sustainable urban transport.

Facilitator: Kevin Newman, News Anchor, Global National, Canada

Speakers:

Vijay Modi, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University, USA;

Enrique Penalosa, Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA; former Mayor, City of Bogota, Colombia;

Anumita Roychowdhury, Coordinator of Policy Research and Advocacy on vehicular Pollution in India for the “Centre for Science and Environment” (CSE), India;

Mary Jane C. Ortega, Mayor, City of San Fernando, The Phillipines;

Harriette Amissah-Arthur, Director, KITE, Ghana.

10:30 am – 11:00 am

SPECIAL AVAILABILITY: Press Conference with His Excellency Minister Pashtun, Afghanistan

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC – Exhibit Hall B

His Excellency Minister Pashtun from the Ministry of Urban Development in Afghanistan will speak to media regarding the urban challenges and new opportunities to reduce poverty in Afghanistan.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

PRESS CONFERENCE: THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC – Exhibit Hall B

Dr. David Suzuki, Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan, and UBC sustainable transportation professor, Dr. Lawrence Frank will speak about how the proposed twinning of the Port Mann Bridge and Highway 1 expansion will jeopardize Greater Vancouver's quality of life and its international reputation as a world leader in urban planning. The panel will discuss more sustainable alternatives that will ensure Greater Vancouver continues to be one of the most liveable regions in the world.

Speakers:

Dr. David Suzuki, Scientist, Broadcaster, and Chair of the David Suzuki Foundation;
Dr. Lawrence Frank, Chair of Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems, UBC;
Derek Corrigan, Mayor of Burnaby.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

PRESS CONFERENCE: LAUNCH OF GUSSE: WHERE CITIES MEET CITIES

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC – Exhibit Hall B

The Global Urban Sustainability Solutions Exchange (GUSSE) is being launched as an online forum where the world can collectively discuss, review, and apply the best ideas for sustainable cities. This online forum is the first of its kind.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

PRESS CONFERENCE: INDIGENOUS YOUTH CAUCUS

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC – Exhibit Hall B

The Indigenous Youth Caucus will hold a press conference today and discuss issues relevant to the IYC at the WUF3. The Indigenous Youth Caucus invites media to attend this discussion and participate in a question and answer period.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

SIGNING OF AFRICA-CANADA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

Location: Canada Pavilion, VCEC – Exhibit Hall B

Following almost 20 years of collaboration among Canadian and African local governments through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) leadership, African municipal governments in Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Ghana will sign an agreement of collaboration with Canada (represented by FCM) to strengthen local governments.

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

PRESS CONFERENCE: INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Location: UN Plaza, VCEC - Exhibit Hall B

Indigenous women from Mexico, Bolivia, and Guatemala have come to the World Urban Forum to share their knowledge and concerns with the world community.

7:00 pm – 11:30 pm

SPECIAL SIDE EVENT: GLOBAL HIP HOP MAINSTAGE

Location: Great Northern Way Campus (555 Great Northern Way)

The Global Hip Hop Mainstage will feature internationally renowned Hip-Hop and World Music performers from four continents. A special ceremony will be held inducting aboriginal hip-hop artist Curtis Clearsky as a UN-HABITAT Messenger of Truth. The Mainstage will also feature live graffiti and dance performances, a welcoming ceremony, Kenyan traditional dance and a report out on the 75 World Urban Cafes held globally leading up to WUF3.

NETWORKING SESSIONS:

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

NETWORKING SESSION: *Slum Diaries: Participatory Media Creation for Social Change*

Location: Pan Pacific Hotel – Oceanview Suites 3 & 4

This event brings together slum dwellers, filmmakers, potential funders, and broadcasters to discuss participatory media creation for social change. The aim of this event is to launch a global media partnership to give a voice to the voiceless.

Speakers:

Slum Dwellers International;
Peggy Holter, Al Jazeera International;
Nettie Wild, Filmmaker;
Daniel Cross, Homeless Nation;
Serendip Productions;
Brett Gaylor, Pakistan, Homeless Nation;
MYSA Children's project, Kenya;
SEWA representative, India;
Communicating for Change, Nigeria.

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

NETWORKING SESSION: *Habitat JAM Networking Session*

Location: VCEC – Meeting Room 12

From December 1 - 4, 2005, over 39,000 participants from 158 countries came together to share ideas on how to solve some of the world's most critical urban issues. Habitat JAM was a first of its kind Internet event for the World Urban Forum 3. Media are invited to the Habitat JAM networking session to learn more about this unprecedented event.

Speakers:

Charles Kelly, Commissioner General, WUF3;
Jan Peterson, Founder and Chair of the Secretariat of the Huairou Commission;
Mike Wong, Vice President of Strategic Communications, IBM;
Chris Gibbon, Vice President, Global Social Services Social Security, IBM.

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

NETWORKING SESSION: *On the Street Off the Street: Women, Safety and Security in Urban Places.*

Location: VCEC – Meeting Room 1

An international audience of experiential women, vulnerable youth, and advocacy organizations from the entire spectrum of the sex industry will converge for this important networking session. This is the only event to provide stakeholders with a rare opportunity to meet women and youth organizations from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Chile, and Kenya who all support a goal of sharing strategies and creating lasting international partnerships that will improve the lives and security of vulnerable women and youth. Participating organizations include the Community Intersectoral Methodological Model (MOMIC), from Santiago, Chile; Prostitution Alternatives Counselling and Education (PACE) from Vancouver, BC; Prostitutes Empowerment Education Resource Society (PEERS), Vancouver, BC; SWAN, Vancouver, BC; Women's Information Safe House (WISH), Vancouver, BC; Vision Sisters Working Sisters (VSWS), Kibera, Nairobi; The Vancouver Agreement, Vancouver, BC.

Speakers:

Ardath Paxton Mann, Assistant Deputy Minister, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Federal Chair, Vancouver Agreement, Canada;
Eliana Dentone Verardi, President, Union of Sex Workers/Sindicato de Trabajadores Sexuales, Chile;
Hamza Ahmed, Chairperson, Vision Sisters Working Sisters/Interfaith Women, Kenya;
Kyla Kaun, Director of Public Relations, PEERS, Canada;
Lauren Casey, Coordinator, Canadian National Coalition of Experiential Women, Canada;
Maria Hudspith, Director, Community Engagement, Vancouver Coastal Health, Canada;
Marcela Tchimino Nhamias, Coordinator, Community Intersectoral Methodological Model c/o MOMIC, Chile;
Melanie Mark, Youth Advocate, Covenant House and Urban Native Youth Association, Canada.

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