



CONCISE REPORT ON HOUSING WORKSHOP HELD BETWEEN

5 -7 MAY 2009

eThekweni (Durban), South Africa

Title:

Promoting Quality Living Environment in Developing Cities

Venue:

South Africa, Durban Botanic Gardens

Partners

eThekweni Housing Municipality
The Decentralized Cooperation Programme of UNITAR
CIFAL Durban
African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Objectives

The fundamental objectives of the workshop/ conference were:

- Create working network amongst countries and cities on informal settlement management and housing in general
- Share and empower countries and municipalities with information on possible methods of dealing with the challenges that come with urbanization
- Share strategies on how to foster private, public and non- governmental organization on methods of how to handle the issue of shortage of land for housing developments.

Outcome

The mushrooming of Informal settlement transcends local and national solutions. The building of shacks in cities is a global problem. It is an appropriate step to apply both national and global strategies to try to come up with generic solutions. Shacks pose a challenge for people in them and the environment they live next to it. The workshop concluded that:

- There is a need for countries and municipalities to create cooperative working network in dealing with these challenge.
- Cities (municipalities) and countries should also create a structured networking process by having at least two work shops per year on housing matters on rotational bases.
- Create housing policies that will facilitate systems of managing emergence of informal settlement in countries where there in none.
- Create job opportunities in rural areas to minimize influx of people in cities searching for work.



- Involve and encourage private sector in rural development by providing incentives such as relaxing taxes for companies starting business in rural areas
- Involve and encourage strong municipality departmental participation in informal settlement management at an early stages
- Expropriate land for business and housing needs from know and unknown private owners
- National (Central) governments where expropriate could result to national cries they should negotiate land release for housing development from traditional authorities
- Need to use local building materials to encourage job creation
- Create a maintenance plan for transit camps
- Intensify education campaign for public and politicians on housing matters
- Encourage community participation on informal settlement management
- Network from all unions like South African Developing Countries (SADC) on housing development goals.

Number and profile of participants

40 Delegates from 7 countries (including South Africa): Comprised of Senior & Assistant City Planners, Regional Directors, Country Clerks, Housing Officers, LED Coordinators, Managers of Informal Settlement, Housing & Properties, University Lecturer, Mayors, Technical Services Coordinators, Waste Superintendent, Director from National Housing Department, Land Monitor, Training & Outreach Officer, Strategic Executive Director, Researcher, General Manager and Project Manager.

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