WORLD URBAN FORUM 3

From Ideas to *Action*

WORKBOOK

70
Actionable Ideas

for the
World Urban Forum 3

Habitat**jam**

Introduction

Canada is hosting the third session of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in June 2006. Committed to bringing *Ideas into Action* and increasing the inclusiveness of the event, the Habitat JAM was a unique 72-hour Internet event focused on solving some of the world's most critical urban issues.

From leaders of government, business and academia, to youth, women's groups and citizens from impoverished communities around the world, over 39,000 people came as equals to learn, share and be heard.

The Habitat JAM was the first of its kind – *the largest public consultation ever held on urban sustainability*. A groundbreaking Internet event, the Habitat JAM took place December 1st to 4th, 2005, using advanced online tools and face-to-face meetings to enable real-time dialogue and exchange among an unprecedented number of participants.

The Habitat JAM was a demonstration project sponsored by the Government of Canada in partnership with UN-HABITAT and IBM. Under the management of the GLOBE Foundation, the Habitat JAM was designed to help facilitate a more effective and inclusive World Urban Forum, by engaging, empowering and stimulating tens of thousands of global citizens, rich and poor alike, with the ultimate goal of turning ideas into action on critical issues related to urban sustainability.

With the help of hundreds of network champions the Habitat JAM engaged over 39,000 participants from 158 countries in 72 hours of discussion on issues critical to sustainable cities. Partner organizations successfully brought the voices of women, youth and slum dwellers to the dialogue. 78% of the participants were from these three groups. A detailed report of the JAM is available on the Jam website: *www.habitatjam.com*.

The web interface for the Habitat JAM went through four generations aimed at recruiting Network Champions, Subject Matter Experts, Participants and then actual JAM participation. This version is the "launch pad" to participate in the actual JAM.

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities led a team of researchers and writers to analyze transcripts of the dialogue and over 600 actionable ideas identified by IBM's software and the JAM Forum Leads, in order to identify a short list of examples directly related to the themes and subjects of the World Urban Forum. 70 of those **actionable ideas** have been further researched and summarized in this workbook and the accompanying CD. The CD contains a longer description of each idea and where it is catching on. Photographs and links to websites and reference material are included on the CD, as well as contact information about the cases presented.

The Habitat JAM was an outstanding success in terms of its inclusiveness, global reach and the number of actionable ideas brought forth by its participants. It is hoped the JAM participants, those attending the third World Urban Forum (WUF3), or those who discover the JAM on the Internet will find many ideas that will be directly applicable to their own circumstances.

This workbook and CD are intended to encourage people to move from IDEAS to ACTION. We hope these ideas will be front and center at WUF3 – influencing the dialogue and networking sessions and driving the agendas of governments and organizations to improve the quality of life in cities and communities around the world.

The World Urban Forum

The World Urban Forum (WUF) was conceived as a place where the energy and ideas from civil society and the private sector could be brought together in a dialogue with local, regional and national governments to provide advice to the United Nations – in particular to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, who leads the international program charged with responsibility for issues related to human settlements.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, participating in the JAM.

> Urban Sustainability is about the future and quality of life in our communities – for us and for our grandchildren's children. And... because we are all part of the web of life, it is about our global survival on our home – *planet Earth*.

Habitat jam

What is a JAM?

A JAM is a massive online discussion using the Internet. It is a time-limited event that can elicit participation from thousands of individuals from anywhere in the world – people "meet" that never would otherwise. Subject-matter experts and moderators guide participants to build on each other's ideas, and text-analysis tools capture and play back key themes. Qualitative analysis after the JAM event identifies actionable ideas and provides insight into the perceptions and priorities of the JAM participants.

Habitat JAM Outreach

Network Champions

Because the world had never seen a JAM before and didn't know what to expect, **Network Champions**, both individuals and organizations around the world were recruited to promote the JAM message to their constituents, partners and stakeholders and encourage them to participate and continue to pass the message along to others.

Special Partners

Inclusiveness was one of the major objectives of the Habitat JAM. Special partners such as the Huairou Commission, World Urban Forum Youth, Mazingira Institute, Slum Dwellers International and many other organizations were asked to help disadvantaged groups to access the JAM. Between them, over 25,000 people

without Internet access were able to share their ideas and stories with others in the JAM through live workshops, focus groups, World Urban JAM Cafés and Internet Cafés.

A rally in Kibera, Kenya, for example, had hundreds of slum dwellers lining up for hours for the opportunity to have their messages typed into a computer. More than 10,000 people gathered in the slums of Delhi, India, to express their views and discuss urban and health issues. A powerful video was produced that tells their story with raw honesty (*available for viewing at www.habitatjam.com*).

Huairou Commission

The Huairou Commission, an international network of grassroots women's organizations, brought to the JAM strong representation of women involved in HABITAT issues. Along with GROOTS and other Huairou members, they organized "cluster" meetings before and during the JAM, and enabled almost 9,000 grassroots women from over 25 countries to participate in multiple

languages. Gender and women was classified by the IBM analysis tools as the most discussed theme of the forum.

"JAMming" in cybercafés, offices and on borrowed computers in the Philippines, India, Nigeria, Russia, Jamaica, Bolivia, Cameroon, Kenya, USA, Canada, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina, they exchanged expertise and strategies as fast as they could on issues such as: community-based pharmacies; simple techniques for hurricane and earthquake-proof construction; methods of catching water for the dry season; a seed planting program, and examples of positive partnerships with local governments to completely rebuild slums.

African Partners

Mazingira Institute from Kenya, Planact from South Africa and ENDA - Tiers Monde from Senegal supported UN-HABITAT in organizing Internet centres and events in Nairobi, Johannesburg and Senegal respectively. A press conference, emails and brochures, radio announcements in Kiswahili, newspaper ads, and a billboard in the city centre promoted the event and led to the involvement of an estimated 1,110 participants from South Africa, Senegal and Kenya.

TakingITGlobal

TakingITGlobal runs the world's most popular online community for young people interested in global issues. With over 95,000 members in 200 countries worldwide, their website receives over 15,000 unique guests and 1.5 million hits per day.

TakingITGlobal provided multilingual support for the Habitat JAM in Spanish and French by creating a Virtual Translation Centre. The Centre enabled twelve chat rooms (six per language) in which a team of facilitators/translators browsed the Habitat JAM site and entered the chat rooms, giving ongoing updates on the event by gathering and translating content from the different forum discussions. It drew approximately 2,800 people to the JAM who would otherwise not have been able to participate.

"The most basic success was for grassroots women who had never participated in an international activity, to have this kind of exposure. A coordinator from Montevideo, Uruguay, commented that the women recognized the gravity of the problems in other places, for example that African women must walk kilometers through the desert in order to bring water to their homes."

The Huairou Commission

"I think this JAM is a great opportunity for people with disabilities to share our knowledge so we are creating a better world for all people ... It incorporates the special considerations that make it possible for people with disabilities to succeed, have fun and thrive like all others. This is such a great event."

Bill Tipton, a blind participant, talking about screen reading technology that allowed visually impaired people to participate in the JAM.

World Urban Forum Youth (WUFY)

World Urban Café (WUC) JAM Sessions were organized by WUFY and engaged communities in slum and impoverished human settlements in Asia, Africa, India and Latin America. WUCs leveraged the strengths of face-to-face interaction, with the global reach of the Internet to bring the voice of slum dwellers to the JAM and ultimately the World Urban Forum.

The WUC JAM sessions were an outstanding success. Through the support of partners, facilitators and volunteers, all the WUCs were delivered in the most common language used by the attendees, and the dialogue of over 19,000 participants was translated into English and entered into the JAM dialogue.

Identifying a
Short List of Actionable Ideas

The Government of Canada engaged the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) to do a Post-JAM analysis and identify a short list of actionable ideas directly relevant to the themes and topics of the dialogue sessions on the agenda of the World Urban Forum.

Working with representatives of the JAM Forum Leads, Huairou Commission, World Urban Forum Youth, and technical experts, ICSC established a framework and reviewed over 4,000 pages of dialogue, reports from outreach activities and a list of 600 potential ideas that had been generated by IBM's analysis tools (eClassifier and SurfAid). (See www.habitatjam.com). Analysts were looking for ideas that had generated a good deal of discussion on-line, during the World Urban Cafes or in other preparatory events. 70 exemplary ideas were eventually selected from the hundreds available.

The 70 actionable ideas were chosen because they were practical, represented ideas from various parts of the world, had relevance to the WUF3 agenda, and held promise for having high impact on urban problems. In all cases, the ideas chosen were based on the experience of a city, group or community that had a story to tell about bringing the ideas to action.

The actionable ideas summarized in this workbook and elaborated on the CD represent a broad range of ideas from all over the world. They include large **guiding ideas** that focus on the big picture, such as:
> treating cities as ecosystems,
> creating 100 year sustainability plans,
> designing cradle-to-cradle urban systems,

> using biomimicry to design buildings, and

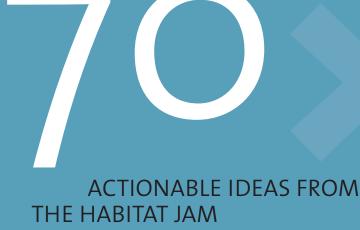> integrating risk assessments and mitigation into
urban planning.

Another set of ideas focuses on the **organizational infrastructures and processes** needed to implement sustainability. Examples are:

> GANs (Global Action Networks),

> housing and other co-operatives,

> community-based resource centres,

> engagement processes (participatory planning and
participatory budgeting)

> innovative financing mechanisms, and

> groups empowering themselves to tackle urban issues.

The third set of ideas centre around practical **tools and technologies** that can help move cities and communities on the road to sustainability. Examples include:

> low-cost modifications to water storage,

> Ecosan toilets,

> affordable transit systems,

> measurement tools, and

> micro-utilities.

Short summaries of the ideas follow in this workbook. They have been grouped under the World Urban Forum Themes in the order of the Dialogue Topics on the WUF3 agenda. Each idea has a classification number and is described in more detail in the accompanying CD. The CD includes case examples, quotes from the JAM, electronic links to further information about the idea and contact information.

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ACTIONABLE IDEAS FROM THE HABITAT JAM

THEME Social Inclusion and Cohesion

■ Dialogue 1:
*Achieving the MDGs: Slum Upgrading
and Affordable Housing*

■ Dialogue 2:
Public *Engagement:
The Inclusive Approach*

THEME Partnership and Finance

■ Dialogue 3:
*Municipal Finance: Innovation and
Collaboration*

■ Dialogue 4:
*Sustainable Cities: Urban Safety and
Security*

THEME Urban Growth and the Environment

■ Dialogue 5:
*The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and
Management*

■ Dialogue 6:
Energy: Local Action, Global Impact

DIALOGUE 1:
ACHIEVING THE MDGs: SLUM UPGRADING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

NOTES

This sub-theme of the WUF3 Agenda attracted a heavy volume of interest and posts, reflecting the efforts of the JAM partners to include slum dwellers in the discussion. The overall importance of rights, land tenure and housing was stressed repeatedly. The common frustration expressed was the gap between pro-poor land tenure policies and their implementation. The complaint was made that, too often, good policies were undermined by corrupt practices. Within the JAM dialogue, two movements, Ekta Parishad in India and Operation Firimba in Kenya, were chosen as examples of groups effectively acting on these critical issues. (Idea 1.1).

Ideas were generated on improving housing and the living conditions of people in informal settlements. These include: the use of cooperatives working with credit and savings programs (Idea 1.2); urban agriculture to reduce poverty (Idea 1.4); EcoSan Toilets (Idea 1.11); and transforming used shipping containers into

housing, schools or medical facilities (Idea 1.12). When it comes to building homes, JAMmers delivered a blunt and strong message – count on women! (Idea 1.3).

Another thread of discussion spoke of hope and transformation – of groups who had responded to the dire living situation in slums or on waste dumps, organized themselves and built respect and profitable micro-enterprises. (Ideas 1.6, 1.7).

The underlying need to reconnect people with one another and to build a sense of community was a common theme during the JAM. Examples of actionable ideas chosen include using urban greening as a means of reconnecting people to land and food (Idea 1.5); and three themes (Ideas 1.8, 1.9, 1.10) that build on a common problem – the need for safe and welcoming community spaces where members of the neighbourhood can gather to organize, learn, work and have fun together. Youth Centres, Mother Centres, and Technology Hubs were cited throughout the JAM as important 'place-based' ways to build social capital – the bonds that connect people and organizations to one another and to their community.

Overall, the actionable ideas within this Dialogue demonstrate the value of directly involving the poor, especially women and youth, in resolving issues of slum upgrading and affordable housing.

Operation Firimbi activists collecting information on rural land grabbing.

1.1   Advocating for Land Rights

Two movements, Ekta Parishad in India and Operation Firimbi in Kenya, were among those cited in the JAM as examples of groups successfully confronting the issue of land rights of the poor. Ekta Parishad helps the poor and landless to take action on water and land rights. Participants pressure the government through campaigns, padyatras (long marches), rallies and public meetings, demanding the implementation of existing pro-poor land and agriculture policies and the creation of strong new ones. Operation Firimbi in Kenya, a civic education and public aware-ness campaign, encourages people to "blow the whistle" on illegal land grabbing and in turn, empowers communities and ordinary Kenyans to put a stop to corruption and malpractice.

1.2   Housing Co-ops Help Disadvantaged Communities

Kenyan and Canadian housing co-ops transform people's lives by promoting livelihoods, secure tenure and affordable housing in empowered and sustainable communities. Kenya's National Cooperative Housing Union serves 200,000 people through 130 housing cooperatives. It helps the urban poor access afford-able shelter, paying special attention to increasing livelihoods, promoting women's leadership and responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Across Canada, 2,100 non-profit housing co-ops provide housing for those most disadvantaged by the housing market.

1.3   Empowering Women to Build Homes

Empowering women to carry out home construction in their neighbourhoods is cost-effective, builds self-esteem and opens opportunities for income-generation and participation in local planning. Since 1989 the NGO Estrategia has collaborated with women leaders from the poorest neighbourhoods of Lima, Peru. The women of Pachacutec learned how to produce concrete building materials and have since started their own micro-enterprises to sell these materials. Jobs have been created and

affordable, disaster-resistant housing and community facilities have been built. The women have gained a strong voice in local planning and developed a network of grassroots women's groups – Women United for a Better Community.

1.4   Urban Agriculture – A Poverty Reduction Strategy

In poor communities and informal settlements, city councils can promote urban agriculture as a means to fight malnutrition and hunger, enhance the environment and create jobs. Although growing food in cities is an ancient practice, its key role in reducing poverty is gaining recognition today. In Kampala, Uganda, the city council, NGOs, research groups, national and international agencies joined forces in a unique collaborative process to legitimize and safeguard growing food and keeping livestock in the city. Kampala's set of supportive bylaws governing urban agriculture is now a model for other cities grappling with this contentious issue. Urban agriculture as a poverty reduction strategy is spreading to cities throughout the world.

1.5   Reconnecting People, Food and Land

Using vacant spaces and roofs for urban agriculture plays a unique community role by improving the micro-climate, providing fresh vegetables and flowers and reinvesting in the local economy. Community gardens, farmers' co-operatives, green roofs and community-supported agriculture on small vacant lands are some of the successful ways of greening urban spaces and producing food locally. They add to the local economy, bring people together, are ecologically balanced and provide important learning experiences for urban children and youth.

Youth Peace Brigades, Ghana.

1.6   Recycling Garbage – Regaining Respect

Homeless waste scavengers live in perilous conditions and barely survive on the fringes of society but their drive for social integration and economic independence can result in self-organization and collective action. Urban scavengers have organized themselves into recycling cooperatives to create jobs and micro-enterprises and help solve solid waste problems in many cities. Two examples of recycling cooperatives in Brazil show the power of collectivity and the valuable contribution of scavengers in managing the mountains of garbage that cities produce.

1.7   Youth-led Community Development

Young Peace Brigades (YPB) is an example of a youth-led initiative that provides hope to marginalized people in Ghana. Founded in 2001 by 17 year old Rashid Zuberu, they work with marginalized people in areas such as education and sustainable development to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustices and inequality that cause it. YPB works through volunteers, community members and partner organizations. They advocate on development issues and adopt a rights-based approach to community development.

1.8   One Stop Youth Shop

Nairobi's One Stop Youth Information and Resource Centre is transforming the lives of youth and their community by promoting youth-led development and governance. One Stop provides a space for youth to meet and become involved in programs and projects. It enables youth to access resources and have a voice in local community development and planning processes. The idea is catching on in Canada and elsewhere.

1.9   Mother Centres

Mother Centres are self-managed public spaces in the neighbour-hood, where mothers and their children meet on a daily basis. Springing from the resourcefulness of the participants, the Centres offer a wide range of activities to meet local needs, typically including:

> Childcare, eldercare, hot meals, healthcare, laundry, repair or household services.

> Courses on parenting, languages, and computers.

> Training in public speaking, conflict resolution, fundraising, and public relations.

> Relaxation and holistic health services like reflexology and massage.

> Job training and job creation.

> Advocacy groups on issues that affect women and children.

1.10   Technology Centres as Community Action Hubs

Catalytic Communities was originally intended as a virtual NGO, networking and exchanging information through the Internet. While working closely with local communities in Rio, CatComm realized that the lack of a physical meeting space and Internet access was limiting the development of community projects. To address this, in 2003 CatComm opened a technology hub, the Casa do Gestor Catalisador. It provides meeting space and ICT resources, not to train people for jobs in ICT, but to help community leaders to meet and organize, gain skills and network to build community projects.
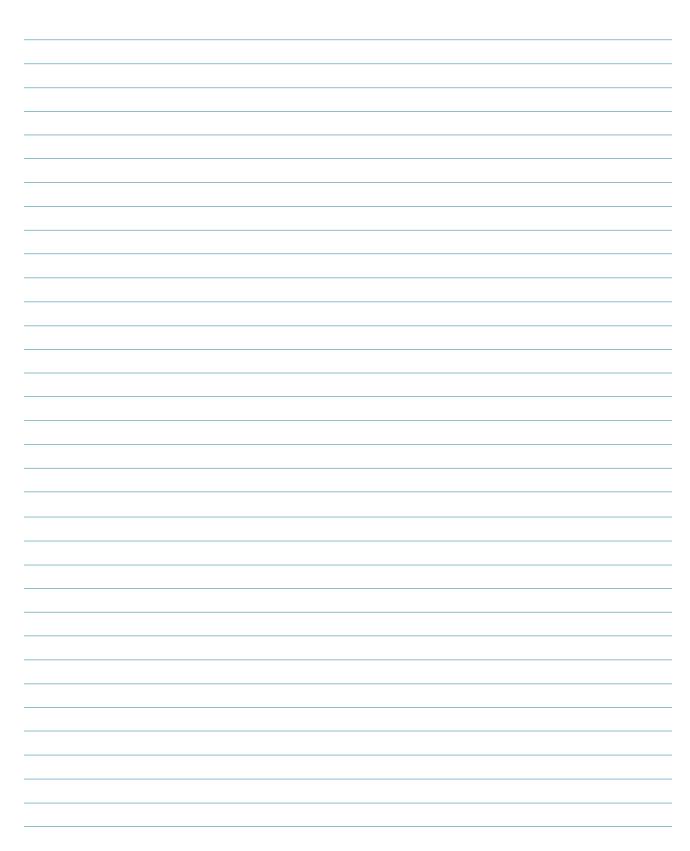
The Mandeville School in Jamaica, made from four shipping containers.

1.11   Ecological Sanitation: Public Toilets in Slums

Sanitation for people living in slums is a critical problem. Ecosan toilets, a system using source separation of human waste, not only provides sanitation services at low cost to poor inhabitants, it also recovers waste for reuse in agriculture. The sanitary systems that are used today are based on modern misconceptions that human excreta are wastes with no useful purpose and must be disposed of. Ecological sanitation systems enable a complete recovery of nutrients in household wastewater and their reuse in agriculture. In this way, they help preserve soil fertility and safeguard long-term food security, whilst minimizing the consumption and pollution of water resources.

1.12   Recycling Shipping Containers for Greater Purposes

Shipping containers are one of the most humble, ubiquitous and standardized products of globalisation. They are readily available, cheap, built of tough corrugated steel, and are hurricane resistant, with tubular steel frames, thick marine grade plywood floors, water-resistant welded seams and all weather paint. These characteristics, and their low cost, make them a great candidate for other purposes. Empty shipping containers currently crowding storage yards can be transformed into houses, shelters, schools, medical facilities and utility services. They are a smart, green and affordable solution.

DIALOGUE 2:
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: THE INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Given that Habitat JAM was itself a social experiment to broaden participation to include those who had not in the past had direct access to UN-HABITAT, it is not surprising that this topic elicited the largest volume of actionable ideas.

At the big picture level, the ideas that emerged had to do with building new coalitions of diverse stakeholders and using open source technology to increase the access of people to shared knowledge about urban sustainability (Ideas 2.1, 2.2). Opening up city government to more direct citizen involvement caught peoples attention in this dialogue (Idea 2.4) and was also reflected in other themes such as participatory planning and budgeting.

Capoeira used as a tool to engage youth during Brazil WUCs.

There was considerable discussion during the JAM about methods of increasing participation and inclusion of groups normally left out. Many good ideas were shared about structures and processes that successfully achieve participation and inclusion. They included examples with local governments, (Idea 2.5) grassroots women's groups (Ideas 2.6, 2.7), disabled groups (Idea 2.8), immigrants (Idea 2.14), intergenerational programs (Idea 2.3), aboriginal youth (Idea 2.12) and young girls in slums (Idea 2.11).

The model of the World Urban Café as demonstrated by the World Urban Forum Youth in the JAM itself, is included in 2.9. Youth Councils are a proven methodology widely used in France (Idea 2.11). Helping students overcome disadvantages and be successful in learning is the subject of Idea 2.13.

Practical tools were also presented such as the use of information and communication technologies to broaden inclusion (Ideas 2.15, 2.16). Art as a tool for social change (Idea 2.17) is about building creativity and creating awareness, inspiring refection and promoting discussion and action among both the artists and their audiences. Finally, green guides and maps are described as tools for promoting local sustainability (Idea 2.18).

2.1   Global Action Networks

Global Action Networks (GANs) are an emerging form of global multi-stakeholder governance to address issues requiring systemic change. GANs create consensual knowledge and action. They differ from traditional approaches because they are formed by diverse stakeholders who work together to achieve extra-ordinary results on a common issue. Examples of successful GANs are the Microcredit Summit Campaign, Transparency International, Global Compact, Global Youth Action Network and both the Forest and Marine Stewardship Councils. Active GANs could be used to champion city-specific problems such as housing and slums.

2.2   Open Source Knowledge Hub

The volume of information and sources related to urban sustain-ability is overwhelming. Breakthroughs in technology provide an opportunity to overcome this challenge. A knowledge hub is a curated body of knowledge and expertise on a single subject – in this case urban sustainability. An open source learning commons is a place where all knowledge and content is free and accessible provided that modifications, improvements and extensions may also be distributed freely. This idea is being pursued in the Global Urban Sustainability Solutions Exchange (GUSSE) at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

2.3 Building an Intergenerational Community

An intergenerational community promotes understanding, respect and connections between young and old people while simultaneously addressing their specific needs and making the most of their abilities. To break the social isolation that many senior citizens experience, innovative community programs draw on youth to help deliver assistance. Santropol Roulant in Montreal, Canada, brings people and groups together through its meals-on-wheels service and intergenerational programs. Promoting volunteerism among youth and helping seniors get healthy meals and improve food security are tangible benefits. While less tangible, creating friendships and a greater sense of community are wonderful long-lasting legacies.

2.4 Participatory Local Governance

Engaging the public is difficult, yet Naga City in the Philippines demonstrates that effective city management is compatible with yielding power to the people. Citizens are often loath to get involved with the business of local government even though it is this level of government that has the most impact on their daily lives; green spaces; libraries; garbage collection; police services; new developments; and more. To overcome public disinterest or mistrust of local governments, Naga City has designed a package of innovative approaches to public engagement.

2.5 Dialogues between Local Authorities and Grassroots Women

"Local to Local Dialogues" are locally designed strategies whereby grassroots women's groups initiate and engage in ongoing dialogue with their local authorities. They use the Dialogues to negotiate a range of development issues and priorities to influence policies, plans and programs in ways that address women's priorities. They were started by the Asian Women and Shelter Network and have been advanced through the work of the Huairou Commission.

2.6   Empowering Local Women Leaders

Women need to participate in local government decisions if they want to have an impact on the issues that are closest to their lives, yet often women are reluctant or unwilling to take on this type of role. Training programs can make a difference. Leadership training by co-ops for grassroots women in Latin America is advancing their participation in community development, empowering them to sit on local boards and committees and contribute to budget and policy-making processes.

GROOTS exchange between Turkish and Indian women.

2.7   Grassroots Peer Exchanges

A Peer Exchange is an event or series of events in which members of two or more organizations share their experiences and skills with one another. The process uses horizontal communication between people who see themselves as "peers" or "equals." Thus exchanges are different than training events in that every participant is both a trainer and a learner. While Peer Exchanges may be used in varying contexts, in this example the participants are grassroots women's organizations that are building relationships and deepening their participation in a global movement of grassroots women – GROOTS International.

2.8   Including Those Who are Differently Abled

Enabling all citizens to contribute to civic life means reaching out to those who are often left out. Disability-led initiatives can promote more caring and inclusive communities. The Philia Dialogue on Caring Citizenship in Canada is committed to enabling the presence, participation and contribution of all citizens in civic life. To date, Philia has convened over 100 workshops, seminars and dialogues across Canada on various aspects of caring citizenship. Their purpose is to change the cultural consciousness about disability, nurture new thinking about citizenship, and inspire collective action to make communities more welcoming and inclusive places for all.

2.9   World Urban Cafés

World Urban Cafés (WUCs) are exciting events that generate ideas and produce action plans on local urban issues. Cafés combine popular forms of expression, dialogue and planning, including performances by young musicians, dancers and artists engaged in social issues. More than 75 WUCs were held in India, China, Colombia, Brazil, Canada and throughout the continent of Africa during the lead up to the World Urban Forum 2006. These youth-driven celebrations went beyond traditional policy dialogues and brought up vital community issues through unconventional methods of performance art, Hip-Hop and other techniques.

2.10   Youth Councils

Throughout France, local governments use Youth Councils to engage children and youth (ages 9 to 25) in the decision-making process. A Council is initiated by officials at the neighbourhood, city or regional level with each council's structure being tailored specifically to meet the needs of the community it is addressing. A Youth Council enables young people to impact decisions which concern them, as well as provides a forum for them to better understand citizenship and the democratic process.

2.11   Growing up Girl

Organizations and projects that facilitate the development of young women's self-esteem, health, well-being and community leadership are increasing in prevalence and can be implemented at the grassroots level in communities everywhere. Girls empowerment initiatives are especially important in marginalized communities where young women are among the most vulnerable. Miss Koch – Mobilizing Community Action in the Korogocho (Koch) settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, promotes the development of a community where young women are celebrated, protected, and empowered. The Miss Koch awards and pageant recognizes the "inside beauty" and value of young women contributing to their communities.

2.12   Engaging Aboriginal and Indigenous Youth

Aboriginal youth associations and movements mobilize indigenous youth around cultural revitalization, participation in community planning and engagement processes, and creation of youth activities and community resources. The Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association (KAYA) in Vancouver, Canada and the Native Youth Movement in Cauca, Colombia are two outstanding examples of youth-driven aboriginal initiatives to promote inclusion of youth in community processes. The two networks worked together in the development of World Urban Cafés in Colombia and Canada.

2.13   Helping Youth with Learning Difficulties

Two examples are presented of organizations from different worlds and working conditions. Outside the regular school hours in Québec, Canada, Allô Prof's teachers use phones and/or basic computers to help students with learning difficulties. In the last ten years, the team of teaching professionals managed 425,000 help requests. On the other side of the world, the NGO Arambh in India offers free support centres for more than 650 drop out or disadvantaged students. They use storytelling, paper crafts, drama and even games of marbles to teach math.

2.14   MY Circle – Building a Sense of Belonging

The Multicultural Youth Circle (MY Circle) assists immigrant and refugee youth in integrating into a new community and empowers them through creating a sense of belonging in a safe space. The MY Circle program provides peer support for youth 14-24 that are newcomers to the Vancouver metropolitan region. Through art, dance, film, photography, theatre, sport and presentations, MY Circle tackles topics such as: mental health, racism and discrimination, bullying, multiculturalism, social justice, violence, leadership, self-advocacy, public speaking, community capacity building, communication and basic counseling skills.

Native Youth Movement in Cauca,
Colombia at Regional Assembly.

2.15 Tools for Engaging Busy Citizens

A central tenet of democracy is citizen engagement. Ipatinga, Brazil and Vancouver, Canada are using electronic and other media to broaden their contact with residents. Local government decisions often impact our lives more directly than those of higher levels of government, but obtaining input from busy citizens, takes special effort. Good governance requires broad community representation and the good news is – it is worth the effort.

2.16 Technologies for Inclusion

Increasingly, organizations committed to overcoming social exclusion are turning to information and communication technologies (ICT) to broaden their outreach and amplify the voice of the disenfranchised. The current information revolution presents a profound opportunity to give marginalized people a new voice, practical skills and fresh hope. Computers in classrooms, digital video, online blogs, Internet-based telephony, wikis, and text messaging are but a selection of the tools helping to educate and empower people. By providing access to information and a vehicle for sharing ideas and raising awareness, the root causes of social marginalization are being tackled head on.

2.17 Art as a Tool for Social Change

Artistic expression can challenge many of society's deepest-seated assumptions and be a powerful tool to create awareness, inspire reflection and promote action – both for those who participate in the creative process and for the audience. A group of young people who once lived on the streets of El Alto, Bolivia decided to use theatre as a therapeutic and pedagogical tool to transform the lives of children and youth. They created spaces for youth to rebuild their badly damaged self-esteem and become protagonists of positive change in their own lives and in their communities.

2.18   Green Maps and Guides

Locally produced maps and guides can promote green buildings and businesses, point out ecologically significant areas, demonstration projects, community gardens and a wealth of other places and services related to sustainability. Green maps and guides are practical tools for promoting urban sustainability. The growing Green Map movement is headquartered in New York City. The network of communities making Green Maps use standardized icons to identify and publicize green living resources. Specialized maps focusing on energy or consumer products are also being developed.

greater vancouver greenguide

DIALOGUE 3:
MUNICIPAL FINANCE: INNOVATION AND COLLABORATIONS

The JAM dialogue regarding finance spoke to the need for cities to find financing on the bond market, and referred to the example of Ahmedabad in India (Idea 3.1). Banks providing mortgages to the very poor without requiring the usual collateral (Idea 3.2), and using micro-finance for housing without land tenure (Idea 3.7) were presented as needed innovations. A good deal of excitement was shown in the JAM around the concept of participatory budgeting (Idea 3.3) such as in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Ideas about how to build institutional support for financial innovation include multi-stakeholder partnerships to revitalize depressed neighbour-hoods (Idea 3.4), an alliance of business networks supporting the local economy (Idea 3.5), and a network of women's organizations in the Philippines that have banded together to support community pharmacies (Idea 3.6).

A whole host of ideas from the JAM about incentives to support green buildings are grouped together in Idea 3.8. The last two ideas (Ideas 3.9, 3.10) under this topic focus on the involvement of youth in financing.

NOTES

Porto Alegre citizens registering for a participatory budgeting meeting.

3.1   Financing Municipal Infrastructure

New financing models are needed to empower local governments to meet the needs of their growing cities. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in Gujurat State, India, is an innovator in raising funds from capital markets to finance local development. It has upgraded infrastructure, financed slum improvement and urban greening projects. In 1999 when facing a serious drought, it had enough financial and procurement expertise to initiate and complete the Raska Water project in record time. The project delivered 135 litres of surface water to each citizen of Ahmedabad, while protecting depleting underground water resources.

3.2   Banks Help Scale up Housing

In order to reach the MDG goal of "improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020" innovative financing partnerships are needed to bridge the gap between regulated banks and low-income lending markets. In Morocco and South Africa, Shorebank with its NGO and local banking partners are showing that, with the right support, banks can serve these markets. The project is leveraging bank capital, government guarantees and experienced housing NGOs to support low-income borrowers to rent, own or upgrade their housing.

3.3   Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting, pioneered in Porto Alegre, Brazil, has reinvigorated urban governance, resulting in significant improvements in the accessibility and quality of amenities in those municipalities that have successfully implemented it. Participatory Budgeting is a dynamic process for democratic deliberation and decision-making, in which community members have the opportunity to decide how to allocate all or part of a municipal budget for civic improvement. This process generally involves: identification of spending priorities by community members; election of budget delegates to represent different communities; facilitation and technical assistance by public

employees; local and higher level assemblies to deliberate and vote on spending priorities; and the implementation of local direct-impact community projects.

3.4   Partnerships to Revitalize Communities

Two challenges faced by growing cities in the South and North are to improve the lives of slum dwellers through large scale infrastructure projects, and to revitalize distressed neighbour-hoods without displacing low-income residents. Multi-sector partnerships involving local residents are successfully responding. Although the Community-Led Infrastructure Facility (CLIFF) and Building Opportunities with Business (BOB) are two very different initiatives, they have in common robust multi-sector partnerships to address urban poverty. CLIFF involves national and international partners and a consortium of slum dweller organizations to provide loans in India and Kenya. BOB involves NGOs, the business community and three levels of government to revitalize Vancouver, Canada's downtown east side without displacing its low-income residents.

3.5   Building Sustainable Local Economies

The Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) is proving that coordinated action by locally-owned companies and consumers can stand up to some of the harmful effects of indiscriminate globalization and foster the health and vitality of a region. BALLE is an international alliance of 29 independently operated local business networks with over 4,500 members dedicated to building Local Living Economies. It started just four years ago but is quickly building a flourishing movement with their mission to catalyze, strengthen, and connect local business networks. Each network responds to unique needs in their communities and shares ideas throughout the larger alliance.

3.6 Community Pharmacies

In response to the unaffordable cost of medicine, a network of grassroots women's organizations operating in slum communities in the Philippines (DAMPA) and partners have successfully developed, own and locally manage 21 community pharmacies, providing affordable medicines to an estimated 50,000 families. By directly purchasing medicines at bulk rates, the cooperatives reduce the cost to the community by 50%. The pharmacy utilizes a highly participative approach to project management and a socialized scheme in medicine sales.

3.7 Microfinance Transforms Communities

Microfinance innovations such as short-term, unsecured loans for small enterprises and housing upgrades are proving invaluable in developing country cities such as Huambo, Angola – a country recovering from a long civil war. KixiCredito is well on its way to becoming Angola's first self-sustaining non-bank microfinance institution. It has recently introduced KixiCasa to make housing loans available to clients who have a good repayment record through it loans program for small entrepreneurs. In an environment of insecure tenure rights, KixiCredito is offering housing credit unsecured by land collateral. The loans are short term and incremental, so the risk level is acceptable. Microfinance is proving a useful tool in Angola for rebuilding shelter as well as livelihoods.

3.8 Green Building Incentives

If taxation authorities, local government, financial institutions and utilities work in tandem to provide financial incentives – then developers and home buyers could go green en masse. Green housing choices are most likely to happen when they are supported from multiple angles. This includes municipalities that levy development charges to encourage higher density housing close to transit and public works; property assessments that assign a premium value on green buildings; government

programs that offset the cost of energy-saving retrofits; utility companies that educate on energy conservation; and banks that make mortgages cheaper for green home buyers.

3.9   Youth's Role in Project Financing

Youth-led development initiatives and projects to engage youth are making our cities better places. Funding is a central component of these projects. Youth are integral players in financing projects to improve their communities and can play a key role in fundraising, allocation of funds, and use of finances for youth-driven projects. For example, Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) engages young people on youth advisory committees within their local community foundations. Through YIP, youth are making a difference in more than 45 communities across Canada. The Global Youth Fund is currently under development. It is a democratically driven youth-led project funding mechanism.

3.10   Hey GetOut! Youth Grants

GetOut! is a youth-led development initiative funded by Vancouver City Council to engage youth in active lifestyles. GetOut! aims to enhance the health, well-being and resilience of youth through actively engaging them in the arts, sport, culture, recreation and community. GetOut! Grants provide "Grants to Youth" and "Community Partnership Grants". At its core, GetOut! is a participatory and holistic approach to youth health, well-being and resilience. It is both a youth-led finance program offering grants and a recreation program connecting youth to one another and their community.

The GetOut! Youth Action Team at Tupper School in Vancouver.

DIALOGUE 4:
SUSTAINABLE CITIES: URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Earthquake in Gölcük, on the coast of the Sea of Marmara, Turkey.

Three different streams of actionable ideas emerged during the JAM that are related to urban safety and security. One thread of dialogue had to do with prevention and mitigation. Gathering data and analyzing the nature of crime and violence helped Bogotá to develop and implement strategic plans that have transformed the city from a place of violence to one where citizens have reclaimed their city (Idea 4.1). Gathering basic data to focus on integrating disaster prevention and mitigation into city plans, development strategies and response planning at the community level, aimed at building community resilience and a culture of preparedness were presented in Ideas 4.2 and 4.3.

A second thread had to do with personal security within the city – especially related to women and youth. Programs to increase women's security at night on buses, and, by conducting community audits, increase their safety within their neighbourhoods (Idea 4.5). Two inspiring stories tell of youth using active non-violence to resist and transform militarism in Colombia (Idea 4.6) and domestic violence in Uganda (Idea 4.7).

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The third thread was related to youth sharing survival skills. Hip-Hop is a strong beat that is catching and mobilizing alienated youth for positive change all over the world. The work of two African musical stars is described in Idea 4.8. Two other transforming ideas – youth-to-youth programs teach conflict resolution skills (Idea 4.9) in Canada and Uganda, and caring and prevention of HIV/AIDS through a global youth coalition (Idea 4.10), conclude this section.

4.1 Strategic Plans for Urban Security

By identifying the risk factors that predispose individuals, families and neighbourhoods to crime, local authorities can build a strategic plan to deal with them. A plan for security and peaceful coexistence was one of many interventions in Bogotá, Colombia that contributed to the rapid decrease in the city's violent crime rate. Based on social research, the plan aimed to strengthen civic culture in order to peacefully combat violence in the community. It accomplished this by reducing the risk of violence and delinquency without neglecting punitive action and criminal justice.

4.2 Integrating Disaster Mitigation in Development Planning

Natural and human made disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity, forcing cities and national governments to place risk prevention, mitigation and adaptation at the centre of their development planning in order to manage disaster risks proactively. UNDP's Disaster Risk Index measures the relative vulnerability of countries to earthquake, tropical cyclone and flood hazards, identifies 26 social, economic and ecological indicators that contribute to risk, and shows in quantitative terms how policy choices can either reduce or exacerbate the effects of disasters. With 80% of its area vulnerable to natural and localized disasters, India has devoted 10% of the total planned budget in the 2003-2007 country development plans for preparedness and mitigation of disasters.

4.3   Building Community Resiliency

Community resilience can be built using participatory tools that enable community members to map their own hazards and risks and mobilize critical resources to respond to them. Community members are the first respondents in emergencies and it is their capacity to cope with impacts of disasters that often determines the risk to life and property. Simple knowledge of "Do's and Don'ts" before and after disasters can help improve community response. Jamaica lies in the Atlantic Hurricane belt. To cope with this reality, the Jamaican Red Cross embarked upon a highly successful Community Led Risk Assessment and Action Planning project – an educational venture aimed at sensitizing and preparing communities in key elements of disaster preparedness and response.

4.4   Disaster Watch

GROOTS International and the Disaster Campaign of the Huairou Commission have developed Disaster Watches as a way of applying the learning and experience of women who have survived previous disasters to the monitoring of responses in new disasters and building relationships with local grassroots women's organizations. The method has also been applied to communities suffering from AIDS. Watches support women in disaster sites to assess their situation and voice their priorities and to ensure that recovery and reconstruction programs incorporate their views.

Women from India and Turkey monitor construction of earthquake-resistant housing.

4.5   Safer Cities

Women's organizations in Canada have developed creative tools to assess problems and advocate for policy change to make cities safer for women. Women in Cities International is a network concerned with gender equality issues and the place of women in cities. They support work by members on all five continents. Two simple and effective ideas were discussed during the JAM that can be adopted by others. Montreal's "Between 2 Stops" service allows women and girls to alight from buses at night as close to their destination as possible. "Women's Safety Audits" are now an internationally recognized practice that can equip women and communities to identify what corrective measures are needed to improve personal safety in urban settings.

4.6   Active Non-Violence – Youth in Cities of Conflict

Youth-led organizations such as Red Juvenil de Medellín (Medellin Youth Network) in Colombia are assisting the peace building process by working to transform negative stereotypes and build social and systemic change, the de-militarization of society and non-violence. Red Juveníl began in 1990 amidst a context of growing violence in the city of Medellín. It is a socio-political youth-led organization aimed at youth empowerment and resistance to war. Red Juvenil embraces the principle of "Active Non-Violence". It began by trying to counteract the stigmatization of youth and to change their negative image. It has created a network of youth-training-youth to become active subjects capable of affecting their city's social development in a positive and creative way.

4.7   Preventing Domestic Violence

Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence is a program designed by Raising Voices (Kampala, Uganda) to assist organizations in planning and implementing long-term community projects aimed at preventing domestic violence. Raising Voices works through five phases of community mobilization

(Community Assessment, Raising Awareness, Building Networks, Integrating Action, and Consolidating Efforts), and uses five engagement strategies that remain constant for all phases (Learning Materials, Building Capacity, Media & Public Events, Advocacy, and Local Activism). NGOs from various parts of the world are successfully adapting this model to their own realities and using it to address root causes of violence in their communities.

Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, UN Messengers of Truth.

4.8   Music for Mobilizing: Hip-Hop for Social Change

Hip-Hop is a new medium for engaging young people in social change, community issues, crime prevention and promotion of peace building, safety and security. Artists have the power, energy, and peer support to drive social change through music. Gidi Gidi Maji Maji from Kenya are well known for using Hip-Hop for social change and to communicate about issues such as crime, HIV/AIDS, poverty, violence and employment. They have become positive role models for many African youth.

4.9   Youth Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution

Many children and youth grow up in situations where conflict is a part of daily living. In very different cultural settings, YOUCAN in Canada and Global Peace Hut Uganda, are training them in skills to confidently and courageously cope with violence, bullying, crime and gangs. YOUCAN is a leading Canadian organization "for youth, by youth". It provides training in conflict resolution and facilitation skills to strengthen young people personally and increase their capacity to reach out and help others. Global Peace Hut – Uganda's team of young trainers tap into traditional African wisdom around peacemaking and teach the ways of being a peacemaker in local language through folk stories, story-telling, puppetry, drama, games, art and music, as well as circle sharing.

Global Youth Coalition training session, Kazakhstan.

4.10   Mobilizing Youth to Combat HIV/AIDS

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) is a worldwide youth-led, UN-supported alliance of over 1,300 youth leaders and adult allies, and over 200 organizations working on HIV/AIDS that provides knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities needed to stop new infections and care for those affected in their communities. The Coalition, operating from bases in New York, USA and Port Harcourt, Nigeria, prioritizes capacity building, technical assistance, networking, sharing of best practices, and advocacy training. GYCA activities are led globally by eleven Regional Focal Points.

THE SHAPE OF CITIES: URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

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Urban planning was one of the hottest topics in the JAM. Three profound guiding ideas were developed in long and interactive threads of conversation. All three demonstrate that changing the lens through which cities are viewed changes the nature and outcome of planning and design. Using a 100 year time-frame (Idea 5.1) frees up creativity while forcing consideration of long-term trends such as climate change and shocks such as disasters. Using a cradle-to-cradle lens or one that learns from nature and sees the city as a living organism (Ideas 5.2, 5.3) encourages systems thinking and solutions. The lens helps reposition the human community within the web of life.

The redevelopment of brownfield (polluted or abandoned) sites for new purposes (Idea 5.4) such as Azhar Park in Cairo saves money in infrastructure and can revitalize communities. Another cost-effective planning approach discussed during the JAM included transit-oriented development as described in Curitiba, Brazil in (Idea 5.5). The value and impact of planning processes is increased when participatory design and methodologies are

used. Three examples (Ideas 5.6, 5.7, 5.8), focus on these methods. Two tools for planning and urban management are identified from the JAM: the use of Green Building Certification (Idea 5.9) and the Ecological Footprint (Idea 5.10).

5.1   Planning for Future Generations

Urban planning and infrastructure decisions are currently made based upon physical infrastructure designed a hundred years ago. Likewise, choices made today will affect the form and quality of life in cities for the next hundred years. One hundred year planning allows us to imagine our homes and communities well beyond the normal time horizon, and fosters a more holistic approach to creating the robust systems needed to respond to economic, social and environmental shocks or changes. The Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network promotes integrated long-term planning and adaptation to change.

5.2   Visionary Design: Circular Cities and Biomimicry

Visionary ideas to transform buildings and communities through creative design based on nature's principles are essential to the concepts of cradle-to-cradle design and biomimicry. Two particularly visionary designers participated in the JAM. William McDonough described cradle-to-cradle cycles, where materials are perpetually circulated in closed loops that maximize material value without damaging ecosystems. The concept is influencing action as part of China's policy of the Circular Economy. Janine Benyus introduced biomimicry, which imitates or takes inspiration from nature to solve human problems as demonstrated in an award winning building in Harare, Zimbabwe.

5.3   Cities as Ecosystems

The "city as ecosystem" research was started by UNEP, codified in the Melbourne Principles and the Cities As Sustainable Ecosystems (CASE) approach. It perceives cities as organisms, consuming resources and discharging wastes at ever higher rates as their populations explode. Treating the city as an ecosystem recognizes natural limits. Three examples: a sustainable development plan in Durban South Africa; a "zero-energy" development in the startlingly unique Bedzed UK; and a "universal city" in Auroville India; all share a common approach – to treat a city as a part of, rather than apart from, the natural world.

5.4   Transforming Brownfields

Vacant or derelict land in an urban core is an often overlooked asset. While brownfield redevelopment is expensive, it may be cheaper than its alternative, building on pristine or "greenfield" land. When new employment, housing and historic conservation are factored in the community benefits increase, as in Azhar Park in Cairo, Egypt where they have transformed a dumpsite into a community jewel. The al-Darb al-Ahmar Integrated Project in Cairo began as a new park for the crowded city and ended up as a dynamic integrated sustainability plan for a deprived community.

5.5   Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Planning

Transit-oriented planning helps create vibrant, livable communities while simultaneously improving the environment and saving energy and is now well established as a prescription for urban regeneration. Many cities around the world are demonstrating how integrating land use and transport planning can reduce automobile dependence and improve the quality of life. Success stories in Europe as well as the Americas, Australia and Asia clearly show how transit-oriented planning can reverse sprawl and facilitate compact communities. Two examples cited during the JAM were Curitiba, Brazil and Freiburg, Germany.

5.6 Sustainability by Design

Urban design can be a powerful tool for visualizing and translating the voice of communities. Sustainability by Design is a methodology for using integrated, collaborative design processes and visual tools to help communities develop their own compelling visions of sustainable development. It provides a framework for translating principles and targets into concrete actions. The approach strives to demonstrate the interplay between different spatial scales. It is being used in communities throughout British Columbia, Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Students from Global Studio working with local people in Zeyrek, Istanbul.

5.7 Participatory Planning – With, Not For, Communities

Professionals are often seen as agents of top-down, centralist approaches, locked into inappropriate paradigms that may benefit them more than the urban poor they are meant to serve. But there are many documented instances of planners, architects, and engineers who help transform communities by jointly articulating a vision of the future with the people who live in the planning area, and coming up with practical design solutions that build on the community's strengths. A case in point is the "Global Studio 2005" which brought architecture and planning students from around the world to with residents of Zeyrek, a low income neighbourhood in Istanbul, Turkey.

5.8 Growing Up in Cities – Youth in Urban Planning

Growing Up in Cities (GUiC) is a global action research initiative that engages young people as co-researchers in exploring, documenting and evaluating their local environment, identifying priorities for change, and working with supportive adults to make change happen. Rooted in the early 1970s when Kevin Lynch wrote *Growing Up in Cities*, based on a UNESCO project on young peoples' perceptions of the urban environment, it was re-launched in the 1990s to inspire participatory community development practice with young people. GUiC teams use walking tours, photography and mapping to help young people identify positive and negative aspects of their neighbourhood, and to find out what they can do to make a difference.

5.9 Green Building Certification Systems

Buildings are huge consumers of energy. The Worldwatch Institute estimates that worldwide, buildings and associated activities (heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, and running appliances) account for about a third of all energy use. So greening buildings has immense implications for energy reduction, and carries with it a host of other side benefits like waste reduction, improved employee health and cost savings. Certification systems help professionals and the public understand how green buildings save energy and costs.

5.10 The Ecological Footprint of Cities

A highly communicative indicator pioneered by Rees and Wackernagel, the *Ecological Footprint* provides a measure of how much productive land and water a city requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb all the waste it generates, using prevailing technology. Most cities live beyond their ecological means. The challenge is to understand the nature and extent of their ecological consumption and to undertake strategic actions that address their most damaging environmental

impacts. The *Ecological Footprint* metric is a comprehensive indicator as well as a framework for benchmarking urban systems. When coupled with participatory processes, as in Cardiff, Wales, the Footprint can be a powerful tool to promote sustainable communities.

Ecological footprint.

DIALOGUE 6:
ENERGY: LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT

Two ambitious Northern cities lead the world in energy thinking. Malmö, Sweden's redevelopment of their Western Harbour uses district energy based on renewable sources (Idea 6.1). Copenhagen, Denmark has undertaken a strong Climate Change Action Plan (Idea 6.2) that put it in the forefront of cities acting to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.
This theme is reinforced by the switch to solar energy (Idea 6.4).

Transportation is a major contributor to energy use and emissions, as well as congestion. In addition to transit-oriented planning presented earlier in Idea 5.5, the use of express buses such as Bogotá's Transmilenio (Idea 6.5) with dedicated lanes and stops, is an attractive and affordable solution. A very lively JAM discussion generated a whole series of ways to promote alternatives to car use (Idea 6.6).

Waste-to-energy co-generation is presented in Idea 6.3 using a case from Thailand and one from San Salvador, where selling the carbon emmission reductions is turning garbage into gold. Using micro-utilities for energy solutions at the community level (Idea 6.8) is an innovation that holds promise for remote or isolated communities.

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Three ideas from the JAM discussion of water are highlighted. The Citizen Report Card (Idea 6.9) is a tool that reflects the strong JAM message that the public's interest in water must be safeguarded. The value of decreasing the demand for water in drought-prone areas is presented with an imaginative program involving students as water detectives in Matamoros, Mexico (Idea 6.10). Finally, through enlisting researchers, producers and consumers, simple design modifications in the way water is stored and treated has increased the safety of water at the household level in Kenya. (Idea 6.11)

6.1   District Energy for the City of Tomorrow

District energy, the distribution of thermal energy using a pipeline distribution system to multiple buildings, is a textbook example of sustainability. It is environmentally and climate friendly, low-cost after initial construction, and provides so many community benefits that it is often called community energy. Other benefits are low emissions, economies of scale, and local self-sufficiency. District energy puts communities in the vanguard of sustainability, as in the new "Western Harbour" neighbourhood in Malmö, Sweden supplied by a district energy system based on 100% renewable energy .

6.2   City Level Climate Change Action Plans

Reductions of CO_2 emissions by cities will determine the planet's success in tackling climate change. Cities like Copenhagen are outstripping national efforts to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and making the switch to a low carbon future with ambitious climate change action plans that reap clean air as a result. A model to emulate, Copenhagen has now:

> Determined the sources and quantity of its GHG emissions;

> Established a GHG emissions reduction target;

> Developed a plan for existing and future actions to meet the GHG reduction target;

> Implemented the action plan; and

> Monitored to review its progress.

6.3   Waste to Energy – Turning Garbage into Gold

A smart solution for municipal waste is using gas from decomposing garbage to generate electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Household waste can be incinerated in an environmentally-responsible manner, making garbage a valuable energy resource and extending the lifespan of landfills. Biogas for energy and fuel can be produced from waste (food, household, agriculture, and sewage sludge). As shown in Rayong, Thailand, the energy can serve households and industry, thus replacing the energy produced by power plants using fossil fuels. In San Salvador, El Salvador, a similar project has helped avoid landfill emissions and in turn the carbon reductions created trading certificates that can be sold under the Clean Development Mechanism.

Solar Mallee Trees, Adelaide, South Australia.

6.4   Solar Cities – Switching to Renewable Energy

Energy use is interwoven in every urban element, especially transportation, buildings, infrastructure, and air quality. Solar cities are not plucked from the pages of a science fiction novel, but are here today, flourishing around the globe. Solar Cities are using legal and financial incentives and other strategies to generate energy from renewable sources, especially the sun, but also the movement of wind and water, heat in the ground (geothermal), and the carbohydrates in plants (biofuels). The city of Adelaide Australia is rolling out an ambitious renewable energy plan strengthened by the state's policies.

Free bicycles for use in Copenhagen.

6.5   Attractive, Affordable Transit

The TransMilenio Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System in Bogotá, Colombia provides equitable, clean and efficient transportation and has transformed the city from a place designed for cars to one designed for people. In Bogotá, people happily choose to take the bus knowing their trip will be cheaper, faster, safer and cleaner than taking the same trip by car. The TransMilenio bus rapid transit system is a low-cost network of high efficiency buses that makes public transport the choice of the people. Cutting car use reduces congestion, energy consumption and air pollution, and makes cities more livable.

6.6   Promoting Alternative Transportation Choices

As citizens choke on exhaust, the costs of congestion mount, and climate change impacts become more apparent, many cities are using incentives, congestion charges and land use planning to encourage alternatives to using private cars. People-friendly cities, clean air, healthy citizens, lower costs, fighting climate change, equality, safety – for all these reasons participants in the JAM agree that city dwellers need to get out of their cars, and onto a bike, a bus or their feet instead. Ways to cut car travel were the hottest topics in the Environmental Sustainability Forum. Convincing people to choose alternative transportation boils down to three overall messages: make car travel expensive, make other alternatives convenient and cheaper, and plan land use with transportation uppermost in mind.

6.7   Community Micro-utilities: Empowering through Energy

Access to safe, affordable and renewable energy is key to improving the quality of life and opportunities for billions of people worldwide. Building community micro-utilities is an inno-vative and community-centred way to provide and finance safe, affordable power using local renewable resources. Micro-utilities can keep the management, maintenance and operation of power

within control of the community. Soluz Dominicana and Soluz Honduras, for example, are providing solar power to hundreds of rural communities. Similar initiatives around the world in micro-hydro and wind energy make the case for affordable, renewable energy sources for communities.

6.8 Strengthening the Voice of Water Consumers

In Kenya, Citizen Report Cards (CRC), are being used to engage communities and local governments in a dialogue to improve access to clean water and sanitation as a public good. The CRC helps assess the performance level of water service providers and brings to the attention of the lead water and sanitation utilities the reality of service delivery among the poor. Complaints such as inordinately high prices, intermittent and poor quality services, the ineffectiveness of grievance mechanisms, corruption and lack of transparency are documented. The CRCs enable the public to play an active role in ensuring their access to clean water and sanitation.

Water detectives and staff in Matamoros.

6.9   Enrolling Students to Cut Water Demand

After experiencing a series of serious droughts, Matamoros, Mexico developed a program for school children to actively engage them as "water detectives". The program reaches out to students to educate them on water conservation and pollution. The young "water detectives" are encouraged to report on leaks, water wastage and pollution of water sources in their communities. The water and sewage utility follows up by fixing leaks and with educational visits. The result: over 100,000 students have helped reduce demand and in 2004 saved the city 18% on water charges.

6.10   Low-cost Technologies to Improve Water Safety

Simple design changes to modify the traditional clay water storage containers made by women's pottery groups in Kenya have helped to eliminate potential contamination. The clay pots traditionally used are wide-mouthed in design. This encourages the drawing of water with cups. If peoples' hands are dirty, the water can be contaminated, leading to a high incidence of diarrhea. CARE-Kenya worked with local women's pottery groups to develop a modified clay pot with a lid and a spigot so that the water can be stored and accessed safely. Making the pots a standard size also improved the accuracy of chlorine dosing.

The 70 examples chosen and included in this workbook demonstrate the wealth of ideas and information generated by the Habitat JAM and available on the database at:

www.habitatjam.com

The accompanying CD gives further information about each of the examples, including information about links to other similar projects and contact information. The ideas are organized under the themes and sub-themes of the World Urban Forum and are presented in the order of the Dialogues on the agenda. This workbook is designed for you to keep notes of new actionable ideas you discover at the World Urban Forum. We hope you will use it to Turn Ideas Into Action.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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UN-HABITAT

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WORKBOOK

Eco-Audit

Using recycled paper made with post-consumer waste and bleached without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds results in measurable environmental benefits.

54	Trees Saved
45,955	Water Saved (gals.)
9,453	Net Greenhouse Emissions Reduced (Lbs.)
4,873	Landfill Reduced (Lbs.)
62,210	Energy Reduced (BTU) (000)

The Eco-Audit is an estimate based on research done by the Environmental Defense Fund.