

IIUD

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
URBAN DEVELOPMENT



MISSION

The Institute for International Urban Development is committed to promoting sustainable urban and regional development through community-based planning initiatives and research. We operate at the policy, program and project levels with teams that include regional experts and members of our network of local affiliates.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD **April 2010**

Mona Serageldin and Biorn Maybury-Lewis Attend Three Urban Development Meetings in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in March 2010



World Urban Forum sign on Avenida Atlântica,

Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro

Between March 22 and 26, 2010, Mona Serageldin and Biorn Maybury-Lewis attended the Fifth World Urban Forum of the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro where 14,000 representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations, from around the world, gathered to discuss the world's major urban development issues. Mona was a featured speaker during the day-long Dialogue 4 on cities and cultural diversity. Her comments as a panelist are posted on the

Institute's web site. Dialogue 4 was an interesting and stimulating event. It was extremely well attended in the large auditorium space and the discussions were animated. It was considered the most successful event of the Forum. Meanwhile, Biorn was invited to contribute, both as an IIUD researcher and university professor, at the roundtable on the University and Urban Development attended by over 200 representatives from universities around the world. His remarks were applauded when he advocated the need to better familiarize our students with developing countries through language training, historical and geographical understanding, cultural studies, and experiential and service learning opportunities. The challenge, he argued, is to relate university knowledge more effectively to those who need it most in the process of urban development.

Mona and Biorn also attended the meeting of the Global Urban Development (GUD) network on Friday, March 26 which includes prominent specialists in urban development issues from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, the People's Republic of China, Tanzania, the U.K., and the U.S. GUD Chairman and CEO Mark Weiss launched a discussion on how most of the world's peoples live in cities, and that GUD was looking to cities as the source of solutions to the world's pressing development issues; not as the root of the planet's problems. The implications of climate change are now the GUD's main preoccupation.



Marlene Fernandes (IBAM), Mona & Biorn at the U.N. Habitat Best Practices Meeting

Finally, on the weekend of March 27-28, Mona and Biorn participated in the U.N. Habitat Best Practices local leadership steering committee meeting hosted by Marlene Fernandes of Rio de Janeiro's Brazilian Institute for Municipal Administration (IBAM). IIUD is a founding member of the Best Practices Program since its 1996 inception and took the opportunity to introduce Biorn to the group which includes leaders of institutions from around the globe. The Best Practices committee moved to update, improve, and make more accessible to the public the search engine of the Best Practices Archive, now a considerable resource with 3000 cases of which about 200 have received a Dubai Award. The Sixth World Urban Forum meeting will be held in Bahrain in 2012.

Biorn Maybury-Lewis

State of the North African Cities

In April 2010, Mona Serageldin, Frank Vigier and Kendra Leith completed the first drafts of the State of the North African Cities report and a paper on urban land markets in North Africa for UN-HABITAT. With feedback from UN-HABITAT, they will continue to revise the papers and submit the final drafts in the coming months. The reports will be presented as part of *The State of African Cities 2010: Governance, Inequality and the Economies of African Cities*.

Kendra Leith

Technical assistance to Ladysmith/Emnambithi Local Municipality

IIUD is collaborating with KV3 Engineers in South Africa to provide the Ladysmith/Emnambithi Local Municipality with technical assistance to prepare a regeneration plan for Ezakheni, an economically distressed township in Ladysmith. Located 3 ½ hours south-east of Johannesburg, Ladysmith is the administrative and industrial center of the Uthukela District Municipality in KwaZulu Natal. As part of the regeneration plan, IIUD will develop an urban design framework and identify key development projects to be considered for funding.

Mona Serageldin and Alejandra Mortarini traveled to South Africa in mid-February to begin initial fieldwork with the local KV3 team, which included a three day site visit to Ezakheni. The information gathering and site investigation allowed the team to begin developing the planning strategies and potential priority projects for the regeneration plan.

During the second visit to South Africa in March, Natalie Pohlman and Alejandra Mortarini worked with the local team to prepare a presentation for the Municipal Council meeting on March 12th. A workshop was held the day prior to this meeting for selected municipal officials to hear a preliminary presentation by the IIUD/KV3 project team on the draft urban design framework. They had an in-depth discussion with the team about the proposed planning strategies as well as other important issues needing attention in the township. The following day, the project team presented the draft urban design framework strategy at the official full council meeting, attended by all the relevant officials of Ladysmith/Emnambithi Municipality including the Ward Councilors.

Natalie Pohlman

International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)

Cross-Border Training Program

ICLRD is piloting an executive training program for councilors, officials and the private sector from the Newry/Dundalk Twin City Region. Taught over five modules, the training program is highly interactive and uses a dedicated website developed by Daniel Tsai of the Institute to post

reading materials and presentations. In addition to covering core topics such as development corridors, evidenced informed planning, economic development and community participation, the course is helping the participants from both sides of the border to develop an action agenda for the region. The last session will be held in May, a new program will start in the northwest region in September 2010.

New Funding for Cross-Border Planning Activities

ICLRD has secured funding until the end of 2011 under EU's Interreg program for five major activities on an annual basis in the border region, these include: a training program, an annual conference, a technical workshop; two applied research studies and mapping cross-border data. Because of the integrated nature of the Institute's partnership with ICLR and the other core partners, the Institute is able to participate in these activities. Additionally, ICLR was recently asked by officials of the East Border Region Network to work with them in developing projects on evidence-informed planning, shared services and promoting green technologies starting in 2011. If this funding does become available, the Institute will be able to continue to participate in the EU funded research as an ICLR partner.

There is a growing interest in ICLR's cross-border work among others involved in inter-jurisdictional planning. John Driscoll, Caroline Creamer (Maynooth) and Jim Berry (University of Ulster) were invited to present a paper on *Inter-Municipal Collaboration Across Borders: Overcoming Legal and Institutional Differences in the Irish Border Region* at the April 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. John presented on behalf of his colleagues in a conference session on borders and cities.

John Driscoll

Board News

Dr. Gerard O'Hare has been appointed Honorary Consul for The Republic of Latvia in Northern Ireland. In this role, he will be concerned with the well being of all Latvian citizens visiting, working, studying, and residing in Northern Ireland. He is also promoting trade and business links as well as culture, tourism, and educational exchanges between Northern Ireland and Latvia. We congratulated Gerard on his appointment.

Mary Shia

Development

Newsletter

We are expanding our newsletter distribution to include friends of the Institute. If you have friends or associates interested in the work of the Institute and would like to be apprized of our

work through our newsletter, please send us their email address and we will be delighted to include them in our mailing list.

Funding

The Institute is primarily funded through sponsored activities, whether technical assistance, action research or executive education programs. Thirty-five percent of funding comes through gifts and board member contributions. If you are interested in making a gift to the Institute or any of our activities, please contact Mary Shia, Director of Individual and Corporate Giving, at (617) 852-8343 or shia@i2ud.org. Or you can fax us at 617-492-0046 the following information:

Please charge my: Visa? Master Card?

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Address: _____

Please sign:

Name

Date

ALL GIFTS TO THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW. WE AFFIRM THAT NO GOODS OR SERVICES EXCEEDING THE IRS PROVISIONS ARE PROVIDED IN CONSIDERATION OF CHARITABLE GIFTS TO THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT. PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.

Editor: Mary Shia