

# 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**

**August - October 2010**

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### **Visit of Minister Finneran to the Institute**

The Institute hosted Michael Finneran, TD, and Minister for Housing & Local Services in the Republic of Ireland from September 21 through 24. The objective of his visit was to meet with local policy makers and practitioners responsible for housing and neighbourhood improvements. The visit was organized by John Driscoll with the participation of François Vigier, Kevin Maguire and Jim Kostaras.

The first day included a review of how Massachusetts municipalities provided affordable housing in smaller towns in metropolitan Boston, including the use of Chapter 40B legislation to encourage the construction of affordable housing in suburban locations and a visit to '89 Oxbow', an affordable housing project developed by Kevin Maguire on the former Nike missile site in Wayland. The second day focused on downtown Urban Regeneration, Community Development, Neighbourhood Services, and Social Housing, including mixed income developments. The Minister and his party, accompanied by John Driscoll and Jim Kostaras, visited the Dudley Square Initiative that transformed one of Boston's most diverse and poorest neighbourhoods and housing projects in the Washington Street Corridor in the South End neighbourhood in Boston.

The third day was spent at the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies with Erick Belsky, its Managing Director, Nicolas Retsinas, its former Director and a member of the ICLRD Advisory Board, Richard Peiser, Professor of Real Estate Development at the Graduate

School of Design, François Vigier and John Driscoll. The discussion focussed on the roles of academic and applied research in monitoring housing trends and undertaking specific sectoral studies; the current housing crisis; and the roles of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).



The Minister was accompanied by Mr. David Walsh, Head of Planning and Spatial Policy at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Mr. Tom Gallagher, the Minister's Private Secretary and adviser.

Francois Vigier

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## State of the Arab Cities

UN-HABITAT has awarded IIUD funding to begin research on the urbanization of Arab states. Mona Serageldin has been named the primary consultant for this report. The report will focus on population growth, urbanization, the economic role of cities, environmental challenges, housing, urban governance issues, transnational migration, and urban development corridors in the Arab cities. The IIUD staff will submit the first inception report at the end of October. The complete report: *The State of Arab Cities: Addressing Urbanization Challenges in the Arab States' Region*, will be published in 2012.

## Arusha, Tanzania

The IIUD staff continues to provide technical assistance to the Regional Commissioner and his Task Force in Arusha, Tanzania. In July, Mona Serageldin met with key stakeholders in the planning process and presented the urban development framework to the Task Force. In August and September, the IIUD staff prepared the third interim report for the Regional Commissioner. The report covered population projections, the urban development framework and community needs. In November, Biorn Maybury-Lewis will return to Arusha to complete meetings with remaining ward development committees.

## Nairobi, Kenya

In September, Mona Serageldin served as one of the keynote speakers at the 46th ISOCARP Congress. At the event, urban experts discussed planning strategies for sustainable development in cities in developing countries. In her speech entitled, "Accelerated Urbanization and a Dynamic Concept of Sustainability," Mona Serageldin discussed the threats that cities face due to rapid urbanization including unplanned, often chaotic urban settlement patterns, pollution, resource scarcities, environmental degradation and increased vulnerability to climate change. She cited examples from some of the IIUD projects including the technical assistance projects in Arusha, Tanzania and Mutare, Zimbabwe. She emphasized the need to address these issues through a dynamic framework that focuses on long-term sustainable programmes, rather than quick win projects, citing the Orascom Housing Communities project in Egypt as a successful example of a sustainable affordable housing program.

## Marseilles, France

At the Union for the Mediterranean forum, "New Towns for Sustainable Metropolitan Cities," Mona Serageldin served as a moderator for the second plenary session, the role of financial institutions, organized by the European Investment Bank. She introduced the topic with a discussion of the new desert satellite towns in Egypt, which have been developed to manage rapid urbanization and growth occurring on the urban fringe. The panel featured experts on new towns including H.E. Mr. Olgierd Dziekonski, Polish State Secretary for Infrastructure; Henry Chabert, former Vice President of Grand Lyon, Advisor to the ANRU; Mohammed Mbarki, former Secretary of State for Housing, Director General of the Agence de l'Oriental, Morocco;

Pierre van de Vyver, General Delegate, Institut de la Gestion Déléguée; and Pr. Mateo Turro, Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Panelists addressed the necessity to incorporate longer-term investments in new towns, the treatment of resettlement, the importance of public-private partnerships, and the integration of the new town into the urban area.

Kendra Leith

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## Technical Assistance to Ladysmith/Emnambithi Local Municipality



Ezakheni, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (photo: Mona Serageldin, January 2010)

IIUD has been working with KV3 Engineers since February 2010 to provide technical assistance to the Ladysmith/Emnambithi Municipality in South Africa. In August, IIUD submitted the final report on the urban design framework for Ezakheni Township as part of a broader regeneration plan. The urban design framework outlines the objectives, physical strategies and actions that will capitalize on opportunities for economic and social renewal in Ezakheni. It also identifies key development projects to be considered for funding under the South African Government Neighborhood Development Partnership Grant (NDPG).

Opportunities for revitalization and development were identified by IIUD and are reflected in the urban design framework objectives that include strengthening the connections between Ladysmith and Ezakheni; improving transportation networks within Ezakheni; enhancing the image and attractiveness of Ezakheni; facilitating civic, institutional, and commercial life; and utilizing open space for future growth.

The urban design framework lays out the physical strategies to achieve these objectives. These strategies include:

- Developing the town's east-west corridor and north-south spine;
- Creating a hierarchy of road networks;

- Improving the two main entrances;
- Utilizing open space in the urbanized areas for parks, housing, commercial and institutional uses;
- Identifying existing and future nodes where the infrastructure and urban setting will attract and support investment and business growth;
- Providing an appropriate setting for generation of local job opportunities.

The urban design framework will be presented in conjunction with KV3's presentation for the business cases, contextual analysis and environmental analysis to the Municipality in October. The IIUD team working on the township improvement in South Africa has been led by Alejandra Mortarini and includes Natalie Pohlman and Kendra Leith, with assistance from Alison Prier.

Natalie Pohlman

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## IIUD Advisory Board

Dr. Ismail Serageldin, IIUD Advisory Board member and Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was appointed Associate Professor to the International Chair "Savoirs contre pauvreté" for the academic year 2010-2011, by The President of the Republic of France, Nicolas Sarkozy. The scientists and intellectuals at Collège de France established over five centuries ago in 1530, have selected Dr. Serageldin in appreciation of his numerous papers and studies on development and the role of knowledge in combating poverty and backwardness

Dr. Serageldin will give an inaugural lecture on 18 November 2010, entitled "Mobilizing Knowledge to Eradicate Hunger".

Mary Shia

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## 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

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Mary Shia

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