

**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Housing and Urban Development
(APMCHUD)**

**Minutes of the
Second Meeting of the
4th Bureau of APMCHUD**

held at
**Medellin, Colombia in conjunction with the
World Urban Forum - 7
April 8, 2014**

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 4th Bureau of the
Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on
Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)**

Date : April 8, 2014 (3.00 PM to 5.00 PM)

**Venue : Orange Pavilion, Plaza Mayor Convention and
Exhibition Center, Medellin, Colombia**

The List of Participants is enclosed.

Initiating the meeting, the Chief Coordinator welcomed all the distinguished members and the delegations and the representative of UN Habitat. The Chief Coordinator indicated that the Hon'ble Chairperson H.E. Eng.Sami Halaseh, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has communicated his inability to participate in the meeting due to extreme exigencies, and has conveyed best wishes for the success of the meeting. In view of the same, the Chief Coordinator requested the Bureau to kindly elect a Chair for the meeting. The Hon'ble Minister from Republic of Iraq, H.E Mr Istabraq Ibraheem Al-Shouk proposed that H.E Ms. Aminath Athifa, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Maldives may Chair the meeting. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Bureau.

Initiating the meeting, the Chair, H.E Ms Aminath Athifa, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Maldives thanked the Hon'ble members of the Bureau for giving the honour of chairing the meeting. The Chairperson also thanked the UN-Habitat for facilitating arrangements for holding this meeting in such a pleasant environment. Recalling that the APMCHUD had started its journey in 2006 and over this period, APMCHUD has indeed evolved as a movement of collective thinking and action for achieving sustainable urbanisation in the Asia Pacific region, the Chairperson indicated that the World is increasingly become aware that the Asia Pacific region is an economic powerhouse, which is steadily growing. However, the Chairperson highlighted that the Region is experiencing faster urbanisation along with the concomitant problems of rapid urbanisation such as proliferation of slums and informal settlements, increasing poverty and unemployment, substantial deficiency in basic services, etc. The Chairperson underscored the need for the forum to deliberate the strategies, evolve action plans, and share our ideas and best practices for collectively addressing the concerns for common good of the region as a whole. The Chairperson expressed satisfaction that the path has been set by constituting 5 working groups on important themes and the

Lead countries of these groups with the support of member countries, are doing commendable work in their respective fields. With these comments, the Chairperson invited the Hon'ble members for their initial remark.

H.E. Mr. Istabraq Ibraheem Al-Shouk Hon'ble Senior Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing, Republic of Iraq thanked the Hon'ble Chairperson for accepting the responsibility to Chair the meeting. The Hon'ble member further thanked the UN-Habitat for facilitating the arrangements for the meeting as part of World Urban Forum event. Recalling the progress of the APMCHUD initiative since the first New Delhi Conference, the Hon'ble Minister thanked the Republic of India for the continued support for the activities of APMCHUD including for hosting of Permanent Secretariat of APMCHUD at New Delhi. H.E further conveyed his appreciation for the excellent coordination activity undertaken by the Secretariat for holding this Bureau meeting. The Hon'ble Minister further assured that the Republic of Iraq would extend all possible cooperation for the activities and initiatives of APMCHUD.

Providing initial remarks, H.E Mr Manouchehr Sobhaani, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Colombia conveyed the best wishes of H.E. Dr.Akhoundi, Hon'ble Minister of Roads & Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran for the success of the meeting. H.E the Ambassador of Iran in Colombia thanked the UN-Habitat and the Government of Colombia for the support in organising this meeting.

H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani, Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia thanked the Chair for the opportunity and offered full cooperation for the success of the meeting. It was also indicated that the Republic of Indonesia would be happy to have bi-lateral meetings with the member countries as well.

Mr. Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea thanked the Chair for the opportunity for initial remarks. Mr. Heung Jin Kim also thanked the Un-Habitat and the Secretariat of APMCHUD for the excellent support being offered in finalizing many of the finer aspects of the forthcoming 5th conference of APMCHUD. He requested for the active participation of the member countries in the successful organization of the event.

Welcoming the Hon'ble members to the meeting to the Bureau and also to the World Urban Forum, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary General, UN-Habitat appreciated the progress of the collaborative effort of Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban development in evolving a collective vision for sustainable urbanization in the Asia Pacific region. Highlighting the growth pattern as well as potential of the region, the Dy. Executive Director also highlighted the need to evolve collective solutions for the problems faced by the

region for sustaining the positive growth trends. Indicating that APMCHUD is holding the hope for the developing countries, the Dy. Executive Director emphasised the need to interact with the other Regional cooperation movements such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) and the MINURVI of South American Nations, for sharing the experiences for mutual benefit. The Dy. Executive director extended all possible cooperation and facilitation towards encouraging such collaboration, and specially thanked the Republic of India for its continued support for the movement of APMCHUD since the first conference in 2006 at New Delhi and subsequently by hosting the Permanent secretariat at New Delhi. She thanked the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the eminent leadership being offered presently, and also congratulated the Republic of Korea for agreeing to hold the next conference in Seoul. Conveying appreciation to the UN-Habitat team for its un-tiring support to APMCHUD, she specially expressed thanks to Dr. Markandey Rai who had guided the movement from UN-Habitat since the first event in 2006 to till date. Highlighting the forthcoming opportunity to express the collective view on sustainable urbanisation, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira indicated that UN-Habitat looks forward to work more closely with APMCHUD and looks forward to its contribution to take the agenda of sustainable urban development further. She emphasised the need to evolve collective vision with the Habitat III conference to be held in 2016 in view at each country level as well as a group of Nations with similar problems and prospects. Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary General, UN-Habitat thanked the Bureau for this opportunity to join the meeting and share her views, and urged for promoting 'sustainable cities' as a stand-alone goal rather than a sub-ordinate goal of Nations.

Thanking the Chairperson for the opportunity to express initial remarks, Mr Yoshinobu Fukasawa, Director, Regional Office for Asia Pacific, UN-HABITAT indicated that the Regional Office has been assigned the task to coordinate the APMCHUD related activities, and appreciated the role being played by the Secretariat in taking the agenda of APMCHUD forward, and also the Republic of Korea for the initiatives taken towards successful organisation of the forthcoming APMCHUD Conference in Seoul. He further assured continued close interaction with Secretariat as well as Republic of Korea in successful organisation of future activities.

With the above initial remarks from the Hon'ble Members, the agenda items were taken up in sequence.

Item No. 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 4th Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) held at Nairobi, Kenya on 14th April, 2013

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the 1st meeting of the 4th Bureau of APMCHUD was held at Nairobi, Kenya on 14th April, 2013 and that a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting was circulated to the Hon'ble Members of the Bureau and was posted on the website of APMCHUD as well. The Chief Coordinator invited comments, if any, from the Hon'ble members.

The Bureau confirmed the minutes.

Item No. 2 :Status of Actions pursuant to the 1st Meeting of the 4th Bureau held on 14th April, 2013 at Nairobi, Kenya – Report by the Chief Coordinator

The various activities undertaken in pursuance of the decisions in the 1st Meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi, Kenya on 14th April, 2013 was presented by the Chief Coordinator. The status of items covered related to the following:

A) Adoption of APMCHUD Resolution in Governing Council of UN-Habitat:

The Bureau noted that the resolution proposed by APMCHUD was considered and received detailed deliberations and active participation by a large number of countries, and after revisions as per discussions, the Governing Council adopted the Resolution under the head of “Resolution on Youth and Sustainable Urban Development – 24th Session”.

B) Study tours by India, Indonesia and Republic of Thailand as offered by the respective countries:

The Bureau noted with appreciation the study tours organised by Republic of India and the Republic of Indonesia during the year 2013. The Bureau further desired that the Secretariat may continue to pursue the Republic of Thailand in regard to organizing a study tour as agreed at its convenience and on receipt of details and finalization of the programme, inform the Hon'ble member of APMCHUD on the proposed dates by the Republic of Thailand. It was further advised that the Secretariat may take the help of the Regional Office of UN-Habitat as well to pursue the Government of Thailand in this regard, and on finalisation, inform Hon'ble members of the APMCHUD on the proposed dates by the Republic of Thailand.

C) APMCHUD participation in the World Urban Forum at Medellin: The Bureau noted the status and expressed its appreciation to the UN-Habitat for facilitating holding of this 2nd meeting of the Fourth Bureau of APMCHUD. In regard to the special intervention by APMCHUD in the Ministerial segment of the World Urban Forum event, the Bureau noted that the intervention on the theme of 'APMCHUD's Views, Vision and Perspectives on Urban Equity in Development - Cities for Life' was made by H.E Ms Aminath Athifa, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Republic of Maldives, as the Hon'ble Chairperson H.E Sami Halaseh, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan could not participate due to extreme exigencies in World Urban Forum event in Medellin. It was also noted that an addition has also been made highlighting the special attention required in respect of the Island Nation countries which need a different focus, in the intervention by APMCHUD, as also the need to include urban poor in the decision making process. It was decided that the intervention note be placed on the web-site of the APMCHUD for reference by the Hon'ble members.

D) Suggestions for a Road Map for APMCHUD Secretariat :

The Chief Coordinator indicated that in the 1st meeting of the Bureau held at Nairobi, it was decided that the Bureau members may kindly provide suggestions towards making a road map for the activities of the secretariat. Indicating that the Secretariat has not received any suggestions from the Hon'ble Members on the initiatives that can be taken up by the Secretariat towards taking the APMCHUD agenda forward, the Chief Coordinator requested the Hon'ble Members to kindly provide their valuable suggestions for preparation of a detailed road map which shall be placed for deliberation in the forthcoming meeting. In regard to payment of the contribution of \$ 10000 every year, the Chief Coordinator reported that the Secretariat has not received any contribution so far.

E) Updation of Website: The status relating to updation of the web-site of APMCHUD as reported was noted.

Item No.3: Release and Presentation of the Proceedings of the 4th Conference of the APMCHUD held on 10-12 December, 2012 at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by the host country

The Chief Coordinator indicated that the 4th APMCHUD Conference at Amman was a significant success, and that the proceedings of the Conference have been documented in a report form. It was indicated that the report has been uploaded in the web site of APMCHUD (www.apmchud.com).

Item No. 4 : Report by respective Lead Member countries on activities of Working Groups

Briefing the background of constitution of the Working Groups, the Chief Coordinator requested the respective Lead countries to present their reports on the activities of the Working Groups.

The report of the Government of India as Lead country for the Working Group on 'Urban and Rural Planning and Management' was presented by the Chief Coordinator. It was indicated that towards effectively organizing and coordinating various activities, the Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation nominated a leading research and training Institution in India, the Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), as the coordinating Institution for the activities of the Working Group. As part of the Working Group initiatives, a meeting of the Working Group on Urban and Rural Planning and Management, was organized in New Delhi on 16-17th August, 2012. This meeting received a significant response, and 18 countries were represented in the meeting, and 6 countries had deputed their urban and rural planning and management experts from their countries, to personally participate. The discussions in the meeting were organised under five themes, namely (1) Approaches to Urban and Rural Planning and Management in Asia Pacific Region, (2) Inclusive Planning and Practices, (3) Urban-Rural Continuum - Imperatives of Integrated Planned Development, (4) Land related issues in Urban and Rural Planning and Management, and (5) Tools, Technologies, and Capacity Building for Urban and Rural Planning and Management. The meeting had 25 presentations with International and Indian participation, and all the five sessions were chaired and co-chaired by experts from Asia Pacific Countries. The meeting discussed the concern areas on the overall theme of the urban and rural planning and management in the Asia Pacific region, viewed the practices and successful experiments in various countries of the Region, and exchanged information on areas of mutual interest on the theme. Major recommendations of the meeting were also explained to the Bureau members. A copy of the final Report of the Working Group meeting was presented to the Hon'ble members during the meeting.

The report of the Government of India also indicated that as agreed by the Government of India to host study tour to the member country delegations, to best practices and major projects in India in the field of housing and urban development, a study tour was organized for the Asia Pacific member country delegations during 5-9th April, 2013. A total of 13 delegates from four countries namely Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Yemen visited India. The study tour covered various projects covering slum improvement and rehabilitation, social housing, sanitation, basic infrastructure facilities, new town development initiative, transport projects like metros and expressways. It was also reported that during the study visit, detailed discussions were held on major Government of India's programmes and interactions were also held in national level institutions dealing with provision of housing finance, building materials and technologies, research and training Institutions on their activities. The delegates also interacted with NGOs in the sanitation sector. The visit covered the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

Conveying Government of India's appreciation and gratitude to the countries which participated in the Study visit, the report indicated that India looks forward to more opportunities of such nature for collaboration and sharing of experiences in promoting sustainable housing and urban development in the region.

Presenting the report of the Working Group 2 on Slum upgrading, H.E. Mr. Manouchehr Sobhani, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Colombia indicated that the Working group on Slum upgrading was formed as part of the APMCHUD efforts to address the issue of informal settlements and slums - a key urban challenge shared amongst the countries of the region. The Working group in addition to holding its meetings during various APMCHUD Conferences, also held additionally a special meeting – the 2nd meeting of the working group, in June 2012 at Tehran to discuss upgrading issues in the Asia Pacific region and the solutions and mechanisms being employed in this region with an emphasis on innovative and indigenous ideas and approaches. H.E. Manouchehr Sobhani further indicated that the Amman Implementation Plan which was adopted during the 4th APMCHUD conference in December 2012 had recommended four key points for this Working Group namely (a) prioritized socio-economic enabling in upgrading of informal settlements, (b) utilise information technology as an effective instrument for engaging youth in slum upgrading, (c) pilot testing the slum upgrading database and indicators in three volunteer countries namely Jordan, Indonesia and Iran, and present the results between April - June 2013, and (d) vigorously participate in the Virtual Scientific Committee established by the Secretariat of the Slum Upgrading working group to share information and experiences, establish and regularly update the joint slum upgrading data base.

Highlighting the various activities undertaken in respect of the above key elements enlisted in the Amman Declaration, H.E. Mr Manouchehr Sobhani indicated that in respect of (a) and (b) above, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development has tried to update and revise existing slum upgrading legislation to promote economic buoyancy and social integration through urban regeneration, slum upgrading, and urban (re)development projects at different scales, including national spatial frameworks, regional planning, city-wide planning, neighbourhood design and public space design. H.E further indicated that the new Bill calls for a holistic approach to upgrading and redevelopment projects with the participation of all relevant ministries in the form of a National Empowerment Task Force. Furthermore, emphasis is made on community based organisations who will take the lead in the actual upgrading or redevelopment projects. This legal document paves the ground for utilizing Information Technology as an effective instrument for engaging the youth in slum upgrading and redevelopment projects. The report hoped that this legal document can serve as a model to be replicated in and adapted to other situations.

As regards the key items of (c) and (d) referred, H.E indicated that the Working Group has tried to collect the experience of countries in the Asia Pacific Region concerning urban upgrading which demonstrate that social integration, inclusion and cohesion can be promoted through urban upgrading projects. To this end, a slum upgrading database has been developed which will hold information on upgrading initiatives in all member countries, and requested the contribution of member countries to this database. H.E indicated that once completed such a database will significantly assist the Working group in planning its activities. H.E requested for information from the member countries and also their vigorous participation in the Virtual Scientific Committee established by the Secretariat of the Slum Upgrading Working Group. Indicating that appropriate spatial planning both in planned city extensions as well as in slum upgrading and urban revitalization significantly contributes to social integration, the report emphasized that community participation has become paramount in all upgrading projects, and that participation of women and youth has to be fostered from the earliest stages of project development. It was further indicated that the Regional Slum Upgrading Working Group meetings have played the role of an international multi-stakeholder consultation instrument devoted to an equitable and sustainable urban development, through upgrading processes, which will seek to inform policy reforms at regional and national levels. As part of its mandate, the slum upgrading Working Group member institutions explore how cities can enhance social integration and cohesion and support the creation of social capital among communities in their respective country and thereby they can draw on innovative planning and design principles and institutional, regulatory and financing approaches.

Presenting the Report of Indonesia as the Lead country in respect of Working Group 5 H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani, Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia indicated that according to the Amman Implementation Plan, there are 3 action areas for Working Group 5 viz. (1) Document on-going youth initiatives and innovative solutions on city development in exchangeable formats, (2) Develop virtual forums for interaction and collaboration of youth organizations in the Asia Pacific, and (3) Initiate youth training program with a focus on spatial planning.

In line with the same, H.E. indicated that Government of Indonesia has begun to document several youth initiatives and innovative solutions on city development in Indonesia such as Young Pioneers in Spatial Planning (Pelopor Penataan Ruang), Peta Hijau / Green Map Community, Bandung Creative City forum, Kampung improvement program combined with youth employment, broadband learning center, Jember Fashion Festival (JFF), etc.

In regard to virtual forums for interaction and collaboration of youth organizations in the Asia Pacific, on the regional level, activities of three institutions have been documented. The first one is International Young Planners Forum (IYPF), established in 2010 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is a forum that promotes knowledge sharing, intense discussions and network development among young planners in the Asia Pacific. The meeting of this Forum held in Yogyakarta in 2011, was participated by young planners from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Indonesia. The forum has been extended for internship exchange of young planners between Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia. The second one is the School on Internet Asia Project (www.soi.asia). This project is supported by several ministries of Japanese government. The SOI-Asia Project utilizes satellite based Internet to provide Internet environment in a less expensive, easy to deploy, and more feasible way for the universities located in the regions where Internet environments are insufficiently developed; conducts research and development of the necessary technology for IT human resource development in Asia while using the environments; and proposes, through field experiments, a new educational methodology for universities in Japan as well as educational institutions abroad. H.E indicated that the participating countries in this project include Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Japan, East Timor and Singapore. The third one relate to the Youth Social Enterprise Initiative (YSEI), which is a high-engagement social venture programme for emerging young social entrepreneurs in developing countries in Asia. YSEI was founded in 2005 as a multi-stakeholder partnership, and it receives support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation UNESCO, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Concerning the third agenda on youth training program on spatial planning, it was indicated that Indonesia has initiated a program for youth education in spatial planning in addition to a separate Green City Programme. It was also indicated that Indonesia is still

considering the possibility of sharing its experience and conducting a training program in English language that could be attended by Asia Pacific countries. H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani, Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia requested the Hon'ble Bureau members to indicate their willingness to attend such a training programme and the Government of Indonesia would keep the APMCHUD secretariat informed on announcement of the training programme.

Briefing the Bureau on the activities of working group 5, H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani, Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia further indicated that a study visit in Yogyakarta dan Solo was organized by the Directorate General of Human Settlements with the support of the Local Government of Solo and Yogyakarta, on 25-27th June, 2013. The visit focused on slum upgrading and community participation. A total of 12 delegates from 5 countries namely Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka participated in the study visit. The study visit covered post-disaster reconstruction projects, slum upgrading, relocation of riverbank settlements and heritage preservation projects. A document on the study was also presented to the Hon'ble members during the meeting.

Presenting the activities of the Working Group on Financing aspects, Mr Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea indicated that the focus of the working group has been on enabling the youth to participate in decision making process for urban development and to get the project fund for community development. In this regard, Mr. Heung Jin Kim highlighted the action points as enlisted in the Implementation Plan which included (a) ensure youth have access to affordable housing and housing financing with special attention to low income and new households, (b) encourage development of employment training programmes which support those youth most marginalized in learning skills associated with housing construction, and (c) encourage the formal financing systems to extend financing to youth-led projects and initiatives.

In line with the above focus areas, various initiatives taken were outlined. In regard to improving the housing finance system in Republic of Korea, towards supporting the home ownership, in 2013, share mortgage system as a supporting initiative for newly-weds and first-time home buyers was introduced. Towards facilitating rental housing, the following actions have been taken (a) supplying rental housing utilizing the lands of railroad, idle government owned lands and non-sale public facilities site in the city centres, etc was taken, (b) relieving requirements of loaning Jeonse Fund for low income class (within twice the lowest living cost), (c) housing voucher programme is supposed to be implemented since October in 2014 after running the demonstration project for low income

class, (d) offering rental fund with 3% annual interest for low income class and newly-weds. The primary purpose of all such efforts has been to reinforcing the housing support for young generation such as under graduates, newly-weds, etc.

Mr Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea further indicated that an International Forum on Housing Finance was organized on 18th November, 2013 at Seoul, which was hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Housing Finance Foundation, Korea Housing Guarantee Company, Korea Housing Finance Corporation and 6 banks. The Forum had participation from the USA Ginne Mae (GNMA), UK Affordable Housing Institute, Japan MINTO (Organization for promoting Urban Development) and many professionals and academia from renowned research and training Institutions from Republic of Korea. Mr. Heung Jin Kim further indicated that the participants shared the current policy initiatives on housing welfare for low income class with tailored support for the socially vulnerable class as the structure of housing market has changed.

In addition, an International seminar on Development of Housing Finance & Guarantee System was also organized on 13-14th November, 2013 in Seoul which was hosted by the Korea Housing Guarantee Company along with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The Seminar had participation of about 150 experts from OECD, Habitat International, Housing Association of Malaysia, various research and professional institutions, etc. The emphasis in the discussion was on the role of housing policy for the stable housing market, regulations and the market development related to European mortgage Market, comparison among nations about mortgage and reverse mortgage, taking a view on housing environment of low income class in developing countries and seeking the way to improve the housing finance system for these categories, and forging partnership between private and the government for resolving housing welfare of low income.

Mr. Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea also indicated that during the forthcoming APMCHUD conference, special sessions would be held on the theme of housing finance.

The Bureau members appreciated the significant efforts made by various working groups and requested that various documents generated as part of activities of the working groups could be forwarded to the Secretariat so that the same are uploaded on the web site of APMCHUD for a wider access to all member countries.

Item No.5 : Working Group 3 on Delivery of Basic Services – Identification of Lead Country

The Chief Coordinator indicated that of the five Working Groups constituted by APMCHUD, the WG3 on Delivery of Basic Services is yet to initiate proceedings as no member country has volunteered to take the lead role. The Chief Coordinator requested the Hon'ble Members to inform the Secretariat about their willingness to take the lead role for this Working Group either during the meeting or at a later date.

Item No.6 : Presentation by the Republic of Korea on the preparations for the 5th APMCHUD Conference at Seoul, Republic of Korea

During the 4th APMCHUD Conference at Jordan, the Republic of Korea had graciously offered to host the 5th APMCHUD Conference which was thankfully accepted by the APMCHUD. The Chief Coordinator requested the Hon'ble Member from the Republic of Korea to brief the Bureau on the status of preparations.

At the outset, Mr Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea thanked the UN-Habitat and the Permanent Secretariat for the support provided during various stages of finalization of the preparatory actions. A power point presentation was made by the delegation on status of preparations on various aspects. A copy of the presentation was also circulated to the Hon'ble members during the meeting. The highlights are as follows:

Vision & Mission of the 5th APMCHUD:

Vision – To promote social and systematic Equal Opportunity for Sustainable Development with the goal of providing adequate living environment for APMCHUD members

Mission:

- To induce effective alternatives through `common concerns`
- To share various knowledge and experience for sustainable development
- To get closer to the intrinsic value and mission of APMCHUD in connection with UN-Habitat

Main Theme selection: Based on the mission aspects outlined, the main theme proposed is `Equal Opportunity for Sustainable Development`.

Sub-Themes: The sub-themes would be in relation to the working group themes as follows: WG 1 – Inclusive Urban Planning; WG 2 – Upgrading slum toward equal opportunity for the underprivileged; WG 3 – Inclusive technology for water and sanitation; WG 4 – Housing Finance for Equal Opportunity; WG 5 – urban Development for equal opportunity responding to natural disasters.

Host: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Republic of Korea.

Constitution of an Organizing Committee: The Government of Republic of Korea has constituted an Organizing Committee for the event with the participation of representatives from the Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH), Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), Korea Housing Guarantee Corporation (KHGC), and the Korea Appraisal Board (KAB). The office of the organizing Committee has been established in the Korea Land & Housing Corporation, with 6 specialists from each organization.

Proposed Date of the Conference and location: November 3 – 5, 2014 at Seoul in one of the most prestigious hotels in the city centre of Seoul. The date has been decided considering the back-to-back timing with World Cities Day scheduled on 31st October, 2014 to be celebrated at Shanghai.

Expected number of participants : Over 1,000 (including NGOs, etc).

A preparatory meeting with the UN-Habitat and also through Conference call with APMCHUD Secretariat at New Delhi was organized on the way forward. Further, an Exhibition Booth for the proposed Conference was also set up in the World Urban Forum – 7 exhibition zone to popularize the event among all the countries, and particularly the APMCHUD countries for their participation.

It was also indicated that in the forthcoming months of April & May, preliminary notification for the 5th APMCHUD would be made, in the month of June, opening of the 5th APMCHUD official web site would be done, and in the next Bureau meeting of the APMCHUD, the 2nd status report and progress updates shall be presented. Based on the feed back, a final check-up meeting shall be held with the UN-Habitat and the 5th APMCHUD Conference shall be held on 3 – 5th November, 2014.

Mr Heung Jin Kim, Director Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation, Republic of Korea further indicated that the theme of 'equal Opportunity' suggests an alternative for fulfilling functional needs to the underprivileged and for integrating social disparities with the surrounding environment in pursuit of sustainable urban development.

With the above, Mr Heung Jin Kim requested for views and endorsement of the theme, sub-themes, date and venue and other proposed activities.

All the Hon'ble members of the Bureau unanimously appreciated the systematic and significant efforts put in by the Republic of Korea towards successful organization of the 5th APMCHUD at Seoul. The Bureau endorsed the date and venue as proposed by the Republic of Korea.

In regard to the sub-themes, H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani, Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia referred to the proposed sub-theme number 5 for the Conference which read as 'Urban Development for Equal Opportunity responding to natural disasters'. It was suggested that in line with the Working Group theme, the title could incorporate specific reference to 'climate change' as well. This was agreed and it was decided that the sub-theme No.5 may incorporate this as well and the reference to disasters may read as '.... Natural disasters & climate change related disasters'.

In regard to the main theme, H.E Mr. Sami Mati Al-Khas Petrous, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning, Republic of Iraq suggested that the main theme could focus on various Urban Development Strategies at the National level and the title could reflect the same.

The Bureau appreciated the significant effort put in by the Republic of Korea and decided that the Hon'ble members may send the comments and suggestions on the sub-themes and on any other aspects in a week time to the Secretariat (apmchud.bureau@gmail.com) or to Mr. Young-Hoon Sohn, the co-ordinating officer from the Republic of Korea (yhsohn@lh.or.kr), so that the Republic of Korea in consultation with UN-Habitat would finalize the same in 2 weeks time thereafter.

Item No. 7 : Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

On invitation for any additional items, the Chairperson of the Bureau meeting H.E Ms. Aminath Athifa, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Maldives indicated that in the 'Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia-Pacific Region' evolved during the first Conference of APMCHUD, a significant focus was incorporated in respect of the Island Nations in view of the special problems being faced by them. Accordingly, in all the activities of APMCHUD, this special focus needs to continue. The Bureau agreed with the same.

H.E Mr Istabraq Ibraheem Al-Shouk, Hon'ble Senior Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing, Republic of Iraq felt that in addition to the `Action Taken Report' being presented in the Bureau meetings which highlights the various follow up actions taken by the Secretariat as a consequence to the decisions taken in previous Bureau meeting, an `Action Taken Report' on various actions taken in continuation of various decisions taken in the APMCHUD Conferences and reflected in the Declarations may be presented to the Bureau periodically. This was agreed to.

In regard to holding of the next Bureau meeting, the Chief Coordinator requested the Hon'ble members to decide on the venue and the possible date. In this regard, H.E Ms. Aminath Athifa, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Infrastructure, Republic of Maldives indicated that earlier the Republic of Maldives had offered to host a Bureau meeting. Accordingly, it was decided that the Secretariat may interact with the Republic of Maldives to firm up the date(s) for holding the next meeting of the Bureau.

Concluding the meeting, the Chairperson highlighted the member countries appreciation to the Government of India in hosting the secretariat and the excellent work Government of India is doing.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE 2ND BUREAU MEETING

Republic of Maldives

H.E. Ms. Aminath Athifa - In Chair
Minister of State, Housing and Infrastructure

The Republic of Indonesia

H.E Madam Trie Edi Mulyani
Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Colombia
Dr. Hadi Sucahyono, Habitat Indonesia and Ministry of Public Works
Ms. Joerni Makmurniati, Ministry of Public Works
Mr. Ali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E Mr Manouchehr Sobhaani
Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Colombia

Republic of Iraq

H.E. Mr. Istabraq Iberaheem Al-Shouk
Hon'ble Senior Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing
H.E Mr. Sami Mati Al-Khas Petrous
Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning

Republic of Korea

Mr. Heung Jin Kim
Director General Housing Policy, Ministry of Land Infrastructure & Transportation
Mr. Min-Tae, Kim, Director, MoLIT
Mr. Cheol-Gy, Yeo, Director, LH
Mr. Chang-Hee, Lee, General Manager, LH
Mr. Young-Hoon Sohn, Co-ordinating Officer , LH
Mr. Woo-sik, Jeong, D. General Manager, KHG

Republic of India

Ms. Alka Asthana, Director(RAY), MoHUPA - Also acted as Chief Coordinator,
Bureau of APMCHUD, for this
meeting.

Mr. CN Jha, Dy. Chief(SP&D), BMTPC

UN-HABITAT

Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary General, UN-Habitat

Mr Yoshinobu Fukasawa
Director, Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP), UN-HABITAT

APMCHUD Secretariat

Dr. P Jayapal, Sr. ED(O), HUDCO
Mr. Rajesh Goel, ED(P), HUDCO