

**Minutes of the 1st meeting of the 4th Bureau of APMCHUD
at 1600 hrs. in Conference room 6, UN Habitat Premises
on 14th April 2013**

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 Bureau was intimated that the members from Maldives and Samoa have informed about their inability to participate and have sent their best wishes for the meeting. The Chief Coordinator also informed the Bureau of the recent ministerial changes in Jordan in which HE Eng. Waleed Al-Masri, has replaced HE Eng. Yahya Al-Kasbi, as the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Housing, Government of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and, as such, has assumed the chair of APMCHUD. The Bureau welcomed the new Chairperson, HE. Eng. Waleed Al-Masri.

The Bureau was also informed that due to exigencies, the Chairman is unable to participate in the meeting and has desired that the Bureau may elect a chair for the meeting from amongst the Hon'ble Ministers present in the meeting. The Hon'ble Minister from India, HE Mr. Ajay Maken proposed the name of HE Mr. Ali Nikzad, Hon'ble Minister from the Islamic Republic of Iran for chairing the meeting being the member of the Bureau for a very long time. However, HE Mr. Ali Nikzad, Hon'ble Minister from the Islamic Republic of Iran felt that the Hon'ble Minister from India should chair the meeting. After deliberations, the Bureau accepted the proposal of HE Mr. Ali Nikzad, Hon'ble Minister from the Islamic Republic of Iran and elected HE Mr. Ajay Maken, the Hon'ble Minister from India to chair this Bureau Meeting. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Minister from India took the chair and conducted the meeting.

The Chair invited the members to give their initial remarks before taking up the agenda.

HE. Mr. Ali Nikzad, the Hon'ble Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Islamic Republic of Iran, highlighted the major initiatives taken by his government to address the housing

requirements and improving the quality of life. He informed that by direct provision of free land and low interest loans by the Government, over 5 million dwelling units have been constructed. He also indicated that the 'households to houses' ratio has improved to 0.99 in 2011 from 1.17 in 2006. He also highlighted the significant efforts the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is undertaking as the lead country of the Slum Upgrading Working Group, which included finalising slum identification indicators, developing generic framework for documenting best practices, improving dissemination through web etc. He proposed re-inviting nomination of experts on the scientific committee, pilot testing of slum identification indicators and upgrading criteria by Jordan, Indonesia and Iran simultaneously, exploring study tours for information exchanges etc. He proposed that the permanent secretariat may develop a road map and a strategic plan for activities of APMCHUD and creating a synergy between the member nations. He expressed his Government's willingness and wholehearted cooperation for the activities of APMCHUD.

The Hon'ble Senior Deputy Minister from Iraq, HE Mr. Istabraq Al-Shouk, conveyed the best wishes from his minister and expressed his support for the meeting. He thanked the Secretariat and the UN Habitat for hosting the meeting at Nairobi in conjunction with the Governing Council Meeting.

HE Mr Iskander Saleh, Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Republic of Indonesia expressed his Minister's regret for not being able to come to Nairobi for the meeting and conveyed his best wishes for the meeting. He welcomed the new Chairperson, HE. Eng. Waleed Al-Masri. He assured his Government's commitment to provide inputs for the growth of APMCHUD and indicated efforts in pursuing the ambitious agenda drawn in Solo. He reiterated his commitments to strengthen REECHUD in line with the Solo Declaration. He thanked the UN Habitat for the support in organising this meeting.

Mr. Ahn Se-Chang, First Secretary, Embassy of Korea in Nairobi, expressed his happiness to be participating, on behalf of his minister, in this important meeting and reiterated his country's commitment for APMCHUD. He also expressed his country's happiness for being the

host for the next APMCHUD Conference, which is likely to take place in second half of 2014 in Korea.

HE Mr. Ajay Maken, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and the chair for the Bureau Meeting reiterated his Government's unstinted support for promoting cooperation among member nations for mitigating the common challenges in the housing and urban development sector. He briefly highlighted major flagship programs of the Government of India like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), under which over 1.5 million houses have been sanctioned for the weaker sections of the society and the new programme of Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), which aims at a slum free India. The other initiatives highlighted included the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund (CRGF) to facilitate the credit enablement of the urban poor, 'Rajiv Rinn Yojana' to enable improved access to formal credit for the weaker sections of the society at affordable cost through subsidization, Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHIP) scheme, to rope in the private sector for meeting the challenge of shelter for all and the 'National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) to address issues of skill up-gradation, entrepreneurship development and employment creation for ameliorating urban poverty. He also informed the Bureau of the initiatives taken by India as the lead country of the Working Group 1 on 'Urban and Rural Planning and Management' and intimated the Bureau about the hosting of an International Conference on 16-17th August, 2012 at New Delhi. He mentioned that a study tour for the delegates from the Asia Pacific countries, to best practices in housing and urban development sector in India, was organised during April 5-9, 2013. He reiterated Government of India's commitment and continued support to the APMCHUD and commended the Permanent Secretariat, which has been effectively coordinating the activities of APMCHUD since its inception.

Dr. Markandey Rai, the Focal Point of APMCHUD at UN Habitat thanked the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for successfully hosting the fourth APMCHUD conference and complimented the Republic of Korea for their proposal to host the fifth AMCHUD Conference in Korea in 2014.

After the initial remarks by the Bureau Member Countries, the Chair requested the Chief Coordinator to take up the agenda items listed for the meeting. The Chief Coordinator thereafter presented the agenda items to the Bureau.

Item No. 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 3rd Bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) held at Naples, Italy on 4th September, 2012

The Chief Coordinator informed that Bureau that after circulation of the minutes, the secretariat has received no comments from the members except request for some minor changes proposed by Indonesia. The Chief Coordinator indicated the changes proposed, which primarily related to correction in names of the program and individuals. The Republic of Korea also requested for deletion of the reference relating to working group IV under Item No. 3: Report by respective Lead member countries of the five Working Groups on the report to be presented in the forthcoming APMCHUD Conference

The Bureau considered and accepted the corrections proposed by the Government of Indonesia & Korea and subject to the same, ratified the minutes of the 5th meeting of the 3rd Bureau of APMCHUD held at Naples, Italy on 4th September, 2012.

Item No. 2 : Action taken subsequent to the 5th Meeting of the 3rd Bureau held on 4th September, 2012 at Naples, Italy

The Chief Coordinator briefed the Bureau on the major activities undertaken subsequent to the 5th Meeting of the 3rd Bureau held on 4th September, 2012 at Naples, Italy. The Chief Coordinator gave an overview of the organisation of the 4th APMCHUD Conference which was successfully held under the overall guidance of the Hon'ble Chairperson of APMCHUD and the Hon'ble Members of the 4th Bureau of the APMCHUD. The Secretariat effectively coordinated with the Government of Jordan, UN Habitat and other member countries of Asia

Pacific for the same. He also briefed the Bureau on the Study Tours as envisaged in the Solo Action Plan and the action taken by the secretariat in this regard. In regard to the status of actions relating to the study tours as envisaged in the Solo Action Plan, Indonesia indicated that they propose to host a study tour in June 2013 for participants from the member countries. The tour is likely to showcase the best practices at Surabaya and other cities.

The Chief Coordinator also briefed the Bureau on the action taken subsequent to the signing of MoU with APUHF at Amman. He highlighted the organisation of an International Conference on the theme 'Housing : An Engine for Inclusive Growth' during April 10-13, 2013 at New Delhi, India by APMCHUD in association with APUHF and the National Housing Bank of India (NHB). He also indicated about the action taken in respect of the proposed APMCHUD's interventions at the Governing Council Meeting of the UN Habitat including the statement by the Chairperson and the proposed resolution to be submitted, the draft of which has been prepared by the secretariat and are placed in the agenda for discussions under separate items.

The Bureau noted the same.

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 informed the Bureau that the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has indicated that the draft proceedings are ready and are being finalised. He also informed that due to exigencies, the delegation from Jordan would not be able to reach in time for the meeting.

The Bureau requested for an early finalisation of the proceedings by Jordan for circulation as well as for hosting on the website.

Item No. 4 :- Statement by the Chairperson of APMCHUD at the 24th Governing Council Meeting of UN-Habitat The 24th Governing Council meeting of the UN-Habitat is scheduled to be held at Nairobi during 15-19 April, 2013.

The Chief Coordinator placed the proposed statement before the Bureau as already circulated to the members.

After detailed deliberations the Bureau noted that besides the issues relating to youth and IT, many other issues concerning Human Settlements were discussed in the Amman Conference and desired that it would be appropriate to place the full Amman Declaration before the Governing Council for its information and consideration. The Bureau thereafter, approved the statement to be made in the Governing Council Meeting of the UN Habitat with the amendment that a para be added mentioning inter-alia the Amman Declaration.

Item No. 5 :- Proposal of a Resolution by APMCHUD during the 24th Governing Council Meeting of the UN-HABITAT based on the 4th APMCHUD Conference held at Amman on the theme of `Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development`.

The Chief Coordinator placed the proposed resolution before the Bureau as already circulated to the members. It was suggested that in para 7 which reads as "Encourages Governments to make financial contributions to strengthen UN-Habitat's youth programmes, specifically, on One Stop Youth Centres, the Urban Youth Fund, urban youth research and Youth 21, and to increase the regional approach of the Youth Programme;" the word 'Voluntary' may be added before Financial Contributions.

After detailed deliberations the Bureau agreed to the suggestion and approved the resolution so amended to be tabled in the Governing Council Meeting of the UN Habitat.

Item No. 6 :- Enhancing collaboration among the Asia Pacific Region through experience sharing in housing and urban development – offer of Government of India for study visit to India by representatives from Asia Pacific countries.

The Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India informed the Bureau that the Government of India had committed to receive study tours on housing and urban development related projects implemented in India. Accordingly the study tour was held during 5-9th April, 2013 with 13 delegates from four countries namely Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Yemen. The study tour covered various projects related with slum improvement and rehabilitation, social housing, sanitation, basic infrastructure facilities, new town development initiative, transport projects like metros and expressways. In addition, the delegates had detailed interactions regarding major programmes of the Government of India as also with the national level institutions dealing with provision of housing finance, building materials and technologies, etc. The delegates also interacted with NGO in the sanitation sector, and research institutions on issues of urban governance, etc. The visit covered the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. The Hon'ble Minister expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the participating countries, and looked forward to opportunities of such nature for collaboration and sharing of experiences in promoting sustainable housing and urban development in the region.

The Bureau appreciated the efforts of India in this regard.

Item No. 7 :- Activities as part of the MoU signed by APMCHUD with various Research and Development Institutions – Organisation of International Conference in collaboration with Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance (APUHF) on the theme of "Housing : An Engine for Inclusive Growth" at New Delhi on April 10-13, 2013.

The Chief Coordinator briefed the Bureau about the International Conference on the theme 'Housing : An Engine for Inclusive Growth' during April 10-13, 2013 at New Delhi, India

organised by APMCHUD in association with APUHF and the National Housing Bank of India (NHB) as part of the MoU signed between Asia Pacific Union for Housing Finance (APUHF) and APMCHUD during the 4th APMCHUD Conference at Amman held during December 10-12. The Conference successfully concluded on 13th April after 3 days of intense discussions and sharing of experience among the participants. The Conference was attended by more than 200 participants from 14 countries. The participating countries included Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia, Fiji Islands, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, etc.

The Chief Coordinator further informed that this is the second such conference organized jointly by APMCHUD with APUHF and has been very well appreciated by the participants. The proceedings of the conference are being compiled and shall be placed on the web-site of the APMCHUD shortly.

The Bureau noted the report with appreciation

Item No. 8 :- Working Group 3 on Delivery of Basic Services with a subtheme of Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services – Identification of Lead Country

The Chief Coordinator informed the Bureau that despite several attempts no country has yet volunteered to take the lead role of WG3 Delivery of Basic Services with a sub-theme of Youth Involvement and Use of IT in Urban Basic Services

The Bureau after deliberations desired the Secretariat to continue making efforts and request member countries to consider taking the lead role for Working Group 3.

Item No. 9 : Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

With the permission of the chair the following issues were also deliberated:

1. The Republic of Korea made a brief presentation on the preparations for the 5th APMCHUD Conference in 2014. Korea as the host of the conference indicated that the dates are being finalised and the conference would be held in the second half of 2014. The primary theme would be relating to financing for the weaker section housing. THE Bureau appreciated the efforts of the Government of Korea and assured all support for the same.
2. Dr. Markandey Rai, UN Habitat informed the Bureau that the Governing Council has received a draft resolution from Jordan relating to the creation of an Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development. He indicated that the 22 Arab nations propose to establish such a forum, of these some are in Asia and some in Africa. The draft resolution is likely to be discussed during the current Governing Council. The Bureau noted the same.
3. Indonesia desired that the Secretariat should work on knowledge management and knowledge sharing for the benefit of the member countries of Asia Pacific region. The Chief Coordinator welcomed the suggestion and indicated that the Secretariat is currently working without any financial support from the member countries. He urged that in line with the In Principle acceptance for grant of US\$ 10000 contributions annually by the member countries, the willing members may start sending their contributions early, which would help the Secretariat to effectively play its assigned role.
4. The Chair of the meeting suggested that the member countries may like to give their suggestions on the initiatives that can be taken up by the New Delhi Secretariat, towards taking the APMCHUD agenda forward. Such suggestions could be deliberated in the next meeting of the Bureau. An agenda in this regard should also be placed before the next Bureau meeting.

The meeting ended with the Chair thanking all the participants and the UN Habitat for their participation and help.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE 1ST BUREAU MEETING

Members / Heads of Delegations:

H.E. Mr. Ajay Maken
Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Government of **India**

H.E. Ali Nikzad
Minister of Roads and Urban Development
Islamic Republic of **Iran**

H.E. Mr. Istabraq Al-Shouk
Hon'ble Senior Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing
Republic of **Iraq**

Dr. Iskandar Saleh
Secretary, Ministry of Housing
Republic of **Indonesia**

Mr. Ahn Se-Chang
First Secretary & Dy. Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat and UNEP
Embassy of Korea in Nairobi
Republic of **Korea**

Dr. Markandey Rai,
Chief and Focal Point for APMCHUD in UN-Habitat
UN-Habitat

Shri Susheel Kumar
Chief Coordinator, APMCHUD
And Additional Secretary(Housing)
Government of India

Other participants:

Iran

Mr. Jamshid Noursalehi
Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development for International Affairs

Mr. Seyed Hamid Alavi
Advisor to Minister

Mr Sadegh Sadeghpour Aghdam
Coordinator, National Habitat Committee, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development

India

Shri V.P.Baligar
CMD(HUDCO)

Shri A.Rai
OSD to Minister

Shri Surya Kant
APS to Minister

Shri A N Krishnamurthy
ED, HSMI

Mrs. Manju Safaya
ED

Shri Shanuj Gupta
DGM

Shri Akshaya Kr. Sen
AGM

Iraq

Mr. Mohd. Jaber Abbood
Director General, Ministry of Construction and Housing

Mr. Ibrahim M Hussain
Ministry of Construction and Housing

Dr. Sami Mati Polous
Ministry of Construction and Housing

Indonesia

Ms. Lana Winayanti
Program Director

Ms. Joerni Makmderniati
Deputy Director, Ministry of Public Works

Mr. Duddy Kusumo
RCCEHUD

Mr. Robby Achirul
DIT. Economic & Env. Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yohpy Ichsan Wardansa
Counsellor
Emabssy of Indonesia in Nairobi

Korea

Mr. Moon Ki Seong
MLT Deputy Director for Housing Policy Division

Ms. Hwang Ji Sun
International Coop and trade Division
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Mr. Son Young Hoon, Manager
Korea Land and Housing Corporation
International Urban Development Cooperation Centre

APMCHUD Secretariat

Shri P. Jayapal
Coordinator and ED, HUDCO

Shri Rajesh Goel
Coordinator and GM, HUDCO