ASIA-PACIFIC HOUSING FORUM 5
Post-Event Report

Habitat for Humanity

HONG KONG • INDIA • PHILIPPINES
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**On the cover:** Mithu Danuwar, 68, lives with her family in a Habitat house which was unscathed by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015.

**On this page:** Seo Yun Yang and other delegates in Hong Kong hear one of the major plenaries of the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum.
Dear delegates and guests,

Thank you for participating in the 5th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum in September. For the first time, the events that happened simultaneously in Hong Kong, India and in the Philippines brought together over 1,300 delegates, and contributed to yet another successful and productive forum. Following this year’s theme of ‘Building Impact,’ the events in the three locations were able to attract a diverse audience, including representatives from multilateral organizations, corporations and nongovernmental organizations; government officials and academics who took advantage of this platform to network and forge new alliances that will impact the sector of affordable housing in Asia-Pacific in the near future.

Most importantly, this edition of the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum arrived at a potential turning point for the discussions on housing and shelter worldwide, with the upcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016 (Habitat III). This is an exciting time for actors and stakeholders in the fields of poverty reduction, urbanization and all those who work for more sustainable urban development, especially since 55 percent of the world’s population now lives in urban areas.

The main event in Hong Kong gathered representatives from organizations present in 26 countries and provided an energetic environment for networking and sharing. At the forum’s marketplace sessions, organizations showcased their projects on sustainable building technology and social innovation for the benefit of low-income families in the region. Hong Kong also hosted the Wharton-Habitat for Humanity Housing Finance Course, where a full house of 80 participants learned about the latest trends in housing finance and how to scale it to the lower income segment of the market.

In Delhi, the satellite event, guided by the theme ‘Building Impact through Ecosystems for Bottom of the Pyramid Affordable Housing,’ discussions encouraged an exchange of ideas, experiences, and policy analysis and consensus building. Topics ranged from affordable housing to proper sanitation and seeking market solutions and technologies toward achieving housing for all. Delegates were also encouraged to support the goal of ending open defecation in India with sanitation solutions. The event gathered union ministers and celebrities, such as Bollywood stars Vivek Oberoi and Evelyn Sharma, to pave the way for new products, initiatives and renewed partnerships and commitments.

At the Manila satellite event, the forum came in advance of the Philippines’ Joint Congressional Urban and Housing Development Summit 2016, and participants had the chance to record their ideas and opinions on the solutions to poverty housing for next year’s event. The housing forum in Manila also saw the beginning of important partnerships, including a memorandum with the province of Zambales and an agreement with ABS-CBN, one of the leading television networks in the Philippines.

Overall, the 5th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum served not only to showcase best practices around the region but to bring different sectors together to advocate for the future we want to achieve: more people having access to affordable housing and decent living conditions.

We are confident that the benefits of this housing forum will have an ongoing, positive impact on the Asia-Pacific region’s future, as participants share ideas and spark enthusiasm in their home countries. We trust that new policies will emerge to reduce substandard housing in the region. We look forward to seeing the impact in the housing landscape for Asia-Pacific.

Rick Hathaway
Vice President, Asia-Pacific
Habitat for Humanity International
APHF5 by the numbers

3 locations
(Hong Kong, India and the Philippines)

1,365 delegates
(572 in Delhi, 557 in Manila, 236 in Hong Kong)

30 different countries represented by attending organizations

192 experts among the speakers

80 trained in the Wharton-Habitat for Humanity housing finance course

2 signed partnerships
(Habitat India and partners for “100 districts free of open defecation by 2019” and Habitat Philippines with the government of the province of Zambales)

345 signatures
(from delegates endorsing the 8 recommendations for Habitat III)

139 articles of media coverage
(June to September 2015)
Paving the Way for Habitat III

The 5th Asia-Pacific Housing Forum was a significant event in the lead-up to Habitat III – the third conference to be hosted by the United Nations on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – taking place in 2016. Habitat for Humanity has been elected civil society representative for this global meeting.

To highlight APHF5 as part of the journey toward Habitat III, Habitat for Humanity identified eight key recommendations that global leaders must prioritize for the development of the New Urban Agenda at the 2016 conference. These recommendations highlight the importance of housing as part of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Also known as Global Goals, the SDGs were adopted on 25 September 2015 by United Nations countries which pledged to end poverty in all forms by 2030.

The recommendations urge that the Habitat III conference:

- Continue to prioritize housing
- Work to implement the Sustainable Development Goals agenda
- Prioritize security of tenure
- Include the voices of local communities and their partners
- Have measured outcomes
- Support market approaches
- Prioritize access to urban basic services
- Recognize the need to implement disaster preparedness strategies

More than 340 participants at APHF5’s three locations signed postcards and pledges showing their support for the development of the New Urban Agenda.

Despite the wide range of topics, participants were able to address pressing issues, such as the importance of solid government policies in streamlining urban growth and development in the coming decades amid increasing rural-urban migration. Participants also examined the issues of access to secure land tenure, and involving local communities, integrating their needs and tapping their capacities in the urban development context. This effort demands that the non-profit sector comes together with developers, lending institutions, governments and civil society groups to find the common ground for the development of successful and innovative policies.
Event Summary

Hong Kong

Serving for the first time as the main location for the biennial Asia-Pacific Housing Forum, Hong Kong hosted more than 230 representatives from important organizations that work on housing in the region. Most importantly, the event in Hong Kong was a stepping stone in the lead up to Habitat III, as a platform in which institutions and individuals could share their views and solutions for the most pressing needs related to affordable housing.

The event included a roundtable, with the objective to launch an issue paper prepared by Habitat for Humanity in partnership with Cities Alliance, on ‘Secure Tenure for Urban Slums,’ spotlighting issues surrounding the ownership of land in Asia. The presentation was followed by an expert panel discussion on the problem of inadequate housing, its place on the global policy agenda and how governments, communities and other players in the housing sector respond to the current trends for the eradication of poverty housing.

In his opening speech at the housing forum, Habitat for Humanity CEO Jonathan Reckford highlighted the role that different actors could play in scaling up the needs and concerns of local communities and how they could be part of major global initiatives, such as Habitat III and its New Urban Agenda, and the recent Sustainable Development Goals. “The next few months are critical for debate,” Reckford said, “and we need to keep housing at the forefront of conversations concerning sustainable cities.” The forum also included plenaries and track sessions in which Hong Kong and regional speakers shared their expert views and recommendations for affordable housing. The diversity of programs, technologies and impact stories brought up by the participants was among the main achievements of this year’s event.

The Marketplace sessions also showcased innovative solutions and methods used by different organizations in providing shelter for families in need due to poverty or natural disasters while also adapting to the country’s local needs. As more and more companies and social enterprises focus attention on finding business opportunities for affordable housing solutions, the Marketplace offered the perfect scenario for businesses and non-profits to work together for the development of partnerships and strategies for the provision of sustainable and low-cost housing.

The forum’s closing summarized the main achievements of the satellite locations, while also calling for a shared vision among all the participants for the importance of housing as a basic condition for a decent quality of life and thriving communities.

From top: Drs. Marja Hoek-Smit from Wharton School; copies of the issue paper; delegates signing pledge cards for Habitat III; speakers at Plenary 1; participants in a Marketplace session.
India

APHF5 in Delhi saw different sectors coming together under one roof to discuss ideas, experiences, intervention models, engage in policy analysis and consensus building on affordable housing, proper sanitation and seeking market solutions and technology solutions toward achieving housing for all. The satellite forum also saw delegates committing to having 100 districts - or 15 percent of India’s districts - free from open defecation by 2019 in support of the nation’s vision.

The event was privileged to have the presence of senior government officials from different sectors. Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, Secretary, India’s Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, opened the satellite forum and shared the government of India’s efforts toward housing for all. He highlighted that nearly 20 million houses are required in urban India whereas rural India needs 30 million houses to meet the government’s mandate of ‘housing for all by 2022.’ Shri Chaudhary Birendra Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, was also a keynote speaker, sharing his thoughts on rural and urban housing, land acquisition and role of corporates in ensuring housing for all.

Four thematic tracks structured the discourse around shelter and sanitation in rural and urban India: building shelter for all; impact through sanitation; building market systems for affordable shelter and sanitation; and impact through affordable housing finance. A total of 87 speakers and 572 delegates registered their attendance.

The demand for ‘housing for all’ and ‘total sanitation coverage in India’ was echoed by Bollywood celebrities Vivek Oberoi and Evelyn Sharma. Oberoi pledged to jointly build with Habitat for Humanity 1 million sanitation units across India while Sharma, promoting volunteerism and involvement of youth in the construction of houses with the poor, committed to lend her support to Habitat Young Leaders Builds across India.

Of special note in the two-day conference was the ‘Voices from the Field’ session which was attended by more than 20 Habitat home partners from the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Delhi. Shardatai Kamble from Hingoli, Maharashtra, shared her story on how she sold her marital jewelry to build sanitation units for her neighbors and her family, making her a champion for the cause of sanitation.

Among others, the major takeaways from the forum in India echoed the need to: develop public-private-people partnerships; address the issues of affordable housing and sanitation, both in rural and urban areas, by forming a coalition in close partnership with the Government of India; and ensure affordability of land and secure tenure in achieving the nation’s goal of housing for all. It is Habitat for Humanity’s hope that the housing forum in 2017 will see significant advancements in these fields in India.
Philippines

The satellite forum in Manila consolidated the Philippines’ leading role in developing housing programs in Asia-Pacific. The forum was also part of the Urban Thinkers Campus events, coordinated in partnership with UN-Habitat and the World Urban Congress, under the theme of ‘The City We Need’ which aimed to gather inputs from a variety of local organizations and to discuss how urbanization could bring positive transformation to communities and societies and its importance in today’s global agenda.

In light of the Philippine National Housing Summit that will take place in May 2016, APHF5 engaged representatives from different sectors in the preliminary discussions, including Oscar Moreno, Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City; Dr. Winston Padojinog, President, University of Asia and the Pacific; and Motoo Konishi, Country Director for East-Asia and the Pacific at the World Bank. Speakers shared their insights on providing appropriate housing finance products for informal settlers as well as identifying available areas and optimizing the selected spaces with high-rise socialized housing towers, as seen in other countries around the region.

Participants took part in drafting their ideas and opinions on the solutions to poverty housing toward the Philippine National Housing Summit. The ideas were recorded and would provide the national government with the thoughts of key stakeholders from all sectors. Plenary speaker Jopet Sison, Head of Secretariat in the National Housing Summit, affirmed he would turn these ideas into action.

Through the forum, Habitat for Humanity Philippines successfully signed a memorandum of agreement with the local government of Zambales to work on a joint housing project. Habitat Philippines also signed a commitment with the popular reality TV show Pinoy Big Brother of ABS-CBN, one of the leading Filipino television networks, to raise funds for ReBuild Bohol efforts, as well as have the participants, many of whom are local celebrities, to take part in a volunteer build.

The forum in the Philippines successfully brought together over 500 key stakeholders from different sectors to play a part in eradicating poverty housing and to develop sustainable schemes and policies to bring affordable housing to those in need.

*From top: STI College, providing assistance at the registration booth; Habitat for Humanity CEO Jonathan Reckford; poster of professional boxer and Habitat supporter Manny Pacquiao; Habitat Philippines CEO Charlie Ayco; delegates registering; ANC Anchor David Celdran*
Hong Kong

Opening Plenary

Speakers

Renee Glover
Chair, International Board of Directors
Habitat for Humanity, United States

Jonathan Reckford
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity, United States

Moderator

Karen Davila
Anchor
ABS-CBN, Philippines

Plenary 1

Speakers

Fernando Zobel de Ayala
President and Chief Operating Officer
Ayala Corporation, Philippines

Drs. Marja Hoek-Smit
Director, International Housing Finance Program
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
United States

Bruno Dercon
Senior Human Settlements Officer
UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Japan

Moderator

Irantzu Serra-Lasa
Director, Housing and Human Settlements Asia-Pacific
Habitat for Humanity, Philippines

Plenary 2

Speakers

Daniel Lam
Managing Director
Urban Renewal Authority, Hong Kong

Juan Du
Associate Dean (International and Mainland China Affairs)
Associate Professor, Department of Architecture

Bernise Ang
Co-founder and Executive Director
Zeroth Labs, Singapore

Martin Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity Australia

Moderator

Prasoon Kumar
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
billionBRICKS, Singapore
Plenary 3

Speakers

Dr. Jonathan Woetzel
Director
McKinsey Global Institute, China

Ricky Yu
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Light Be, Hong Kong

Patrick Kelley
Senior Director, Market Development and Housing Finance
Habitat for Humanity, United States

Moderator

Drs. Marja Hoek-Smit
Director, International Housing Finance Program
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
United States

Plenary 4

Speakers

Mark Devadason
Group Head of Sustainability
Standard Chartered Bank, Hong Kong

J.P. Lee
Chairman
Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong

Prem Baniya
News Coordinator
News24 television, Nepal

Moderator

Mark Andrews
Vice President, Volunteer Programs and Institutional Engagement
Habitat for Humanity, United States

Track Speakers

Philo Alto
Founder and Chief Operating Officer
Asia Value Advisors, Hong Kong

Carlos Ani
Country Director
Water.org, Philippines

John A. Armstrong
National Director
Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh

Veeraklashmanan Bagavathi
Head, Inclusive Business
Bayer MaterialScience, Thailand

Maggie Kathewera Banda
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Darlene Marie B. Berberabe
President & CEO
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Guillaume Chantry
Project Coordinator
Development Workshop France, Vietnam

Sothany Chun
Chief Financial Officer
First Finance, Cambodia

Jorhae ‘Jorda’ Darakamon
Shelter Manager
The Border Consortium, Thailand

Closing Plenary

Speakers

Richard Northcote
Chief Sustainability Officer
Covestro, Germany

Stanley Chan
Senior Vice President of Operations
Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation, Hong Kong

Renee Glover
Chair, International Board of Directors
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Rick Hathaway
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Matthew Woodley
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Brenda Pérez Castro
Urban Development Manager, Asia Pacific Habitat for Humanity, Philippines
India

Inaugural Address

Dr. Nandita Chatterjee
IAS Secretary
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
India

Opening Plenary

Speakers

Dr M. Ravi Kanth
IAS CMD-HUDCO, India

Sheila Kripalani
Chair
Habitat For Humanity India

Uddesh Kohli
Senior Adviser
United Nations Global Compact, United States

Nisha Singh
Municipal Corporator of Gurgaon, India

Plenary 1

Speakers

Mr. Alain Grimard
Country Representative
UN-Habitat, India

Kirtee Shah
Chief Executive Officer
KSA Design, India

Amitabh Kundu Rtd.
Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development
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Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Rajan Samuel
Managing Director
Habitat for Humanity India

Shaji Verghese
Vice President, Business Development
PNB Housing Finance, India
Moderator

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
India

Plenary 2

Speakers

Bindeshwar Pathak
Founder
Sulabh International, India

Sujoy Mojumdar
WASH Specialist
UNICEF, India

Joe Madiath
Executive Director
Gram Vikas, India

Shubhagato Dasgupta
Senior Fellow
Centre for Policy Research India

Moderator

Vijay Chadda
Chief Executive Officer
Bharti Foundation, India

Plenary 3

Speakers

Sudhir Sinha
Advisor − Sustainability & CSR
PwC, India

Vasudevan Suresh
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Good Governance India Foundation, India

Peter Palaniswami
SHEPHERD

Col Prakash Tewari
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Choudhary Birendra Singh
Union Minister
Rural Development and Water & Sanitation

Moderator

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Former Chairman
National Housing Bank, India

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Founder & Chief Executive Officer
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Rakesh Ranjan  
Advisor  
PCM, HUA, India
Philippines

Opening Plenary

Speakers

Charlie Ayco
Managing Director & CEO
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Arc. Jose Pedro Recio, UAP
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Motoo Konishi
Country Director, East Asia and Pacific
World Bank

Plenary 1

Speaker

Dr. Winston Conrad Padojinog, PhD
President
University of Asia and the Pacific
Philippines

Moderator

Mike Enriquez
Senior Vice-President
GMA Network
Philippines

Plenary 2

Speaker

Jopet Sison
Head of Secretariat
Joint Congressional Committee on the Housing Summit
Philippines

Moderator

Melo Acuña
Country Correspondent
China Radio International
Philippines

Plenary 3

Speakers

Rick Celis
President, Amaia Land Corporation
Chairman, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association
Philippines

Moderator

Denis Murphy
Executive Director
Urban Poor Associates

Moderator

David Celdran
News Anchor
ANC
Philippines
Plenary 3

Speaker
Oscar Moreno
Mayor
Cagayan de Oro City
Philippines

Moderator
John Nery
Editor in Chief
Inquirer.net
Philippines

Closing Plenary

Prof. Danilo Antonio
Director
ACE Center for Partnership and Management Education, Inc.
Faculty, Master in Entrepreneurship Program
Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Philippines

Moderator
Melo Acuña
Country Correspondent
China Radio International
Philippines

Track Speakers

Msgr. Alberto Uy
Parish Priest
Jagna, Bohol
Philippines

Victor Janolino
Vice-President – Marketing
Lafarge Cement Services Philippines Incorporated
Philippines

Cecilia Alcantara
President
Coca-Cola Foundation
Philippines

Carla May B. Kim
Executive Director
Manila Water Foundation
Philippines

John Rubio
President & CEO
Globe BanKo
Philippines

Markus Dietrich
FairBuilding Network

Jesus Atencio III
President & CEO
8990 Holdings
Philippines

Engr. Slater Young
President
Liteblock
Philippines

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Dongyue Group
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Real Relief  
India

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Habitat for Humanity Philippines

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Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Joey Rosel  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Dans Liban  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Atty. Jun Jun Sawadjaan  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Love Dorero  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Alfredo ‘Bu’ Carlos  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Leonilo ‘Tots’ Escalada  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Arc. Eric Benitez  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Jonah Chipeco  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Chay Holganza  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

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Habitat for Humanity Philippines

Nenet Pangilinan  
Habitat for Humanity Philippines

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- Shao Ming Lo Foundation
- Ghar Ki Baat
- HUDCO
- Sahyadri

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