



MINUTES

WOBO BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

November 11, 2008

Housing & Building Research Center

Cairo, Egypt

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order on November 11, 2008 at 5:20 PM by President George Miller.
2. **Introduction.** Self introductions of members and guests was completed. Those present included:

George Miller – USA	President
David Gibson – UK	Vice President
Robert Solomon – USA	Secretary/Treasurer
Harbi Arafat – Jordan	Governor
Imad Eldurubi – Jordan	Governor
Keith Mansfield – Australia	Governor
Tim Ward – USA	Governor
Raymond Chan – -Hong Kong SAR	Governor
Shuji Mukunoki – Japan	Governor
Omaima Salah El – Din – Egypt	Governor

Guests:

Christine Braybrook	UK/ABE
Murad Awamlen	Greater Municipality of Amman – Jordan
Lubna Al Huneiti	Greater Municipality of Amman – Jordan
John P. Neff	Washington Association of Building Officials – USA
Zuhair S. Arafat	Saudi Structures Construction Co. – Saudi Arabia

3. **Agenda.** The agenda items were reviewed. It was noted that several items under new business were to be added. In addition (and related to the new business agenda items), the Governors agreed to hear two issues from the guests that were present. It was agreed that these items would be taken out of order as new business. The two items were:

A. Update on Activity in Jordan. Ms. Al Huneiti and Mr. Awamlen give an update on the programs and training activities in Jordan related to the plan review and inspections related to both new construction as well as existing buildings. It is the desire of the guests from Jordan that they could help expand the interests of WOBO in Jordan and encourage more of their colleagues to become members of WOBO. In addition, the WOBO Board of Governors were encouraged to have an upcoming meeting in Jordan – perhaps in 2010 or 2011. President Miller thanked the representatives and said that Jordan would be a location that the Board will consider for future activity.

B. Update from Washington Association of Building Officials – WABO. Mr. Neff gave an update on some possible joint ventures with WOBO and on the types of cooperative arrangements that the two organizations may want to consider. Discussion points included:

- i. WABO maintains a large budget that is used to organize training, conferences and a website.
- ii. WABO has offered to confer memberships to each of the WOBO Governors. The WOBO Governors would gladly accept such a membership.
- iii. WABO would like to explore collaboration opportunities such as training, conferences and information sharing. One suggestion for example would be for WABO to develop a newsletter for WOBO.

The WOBO Governors will consider these opportunities from WABO. The Governors were very appreciative of the potential for collaboration with WABO.

4. **Minutes.** The minutes of the November 2007 meeting were approved with one correction. Governor Eldurubi should have been shown as being from the USA.
5. **Secretary Report/Treasurers Report.** The report of the Secretary/Treasurer included the following:

- A. **Budget.** A copy of the balance sheet for the WOBO account along with basic membership information was reviewed. The account had \$50,828.90 available as of November 5, 2008. The only 2008 expenses expected to be incurred would be the travel related to Governor Channan's trip to Nanjing, China for the UN Habitat – World Urban Forum. Membership renewals had mostly been completed with US bank funds thus the bank fee charges were down in 2008. Income for WOBO in 2008 was once again exclusive to membership renewals.

It was suggested that NFPA look into an on-line membership renewal option. That is feasible and a follow up on that potential will be made.

With regard to the membership list itself, a request was made to make a list sorted by country available to the Governors.

A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's report.

- B. **WOBO Support at NFPA.** In May of 2008, NFPA commenced a plan to transition the management activities of WOBO from NFPAs Operations Group to its International Department. Similar organizations like CFPA – I are currently managed here. Rachel Abrahams is now the new WOBO Administrator. Chris Ellis has been managing that role since 2002. The Governors passed a unanimous motion to thank Chris for her six years of service to help administer the various programs associated with WOBO. The Governors also wish to thank Rachel Abrahams for her efforts during the transition and they look forward to working with her.
6. **WOBO Outreach.** Outreach activities in 2008 were minimal. The UN NGO division reviewed and accepted WOBOs quadrennial report in September of 2008. The only other notable activity concerned Governor Channan's current attendance at the UN Habitat – World Urban Forum in Nanjing China. Governor Channan provided a trip summary that is shown as Enclosure A. Many of the same themes from previous WUFs were discussed however, the real effects of the economic slowdown throughout the world are causing concern as much of the progress during the last decade may set back.

7. **MOUs.** The use and purpose of MOUs between WOBO and other allied groups was discussed. MOUs have the potential to help WOBO with visibility or publicity. MOUs that simply state that WOBO and the allied group will “cooperate and share ideas” do not define a goal. A legitimate MOU needs to define a specific goal or objective such as: will manage funds; will maintain a website; will develop an online newsletter. The Governors agreed to consider this type of MOU content moving forward.

8. **Membership Category.** Previous discussions on membership categories have included categories of membership such as full member and affiliate members. The current WOBO bylaws include multiple levels of membership but there is no real distinction in what those categories offer. The Governors agreed to continue future discussions on this concept including the idea of an arrangement with other organizations (ABE, ICC, NFPA) whereby some type of collateral membership arrangement might become an option.

9. **Newsletter/ Information Media.** The WOBO website, while still hosted by NFPA, is out of date. NFPA will gladly post information to the website and send email updates to the members – but only if we have something to submit. It was suggested that the presentations from this week’s HBRC conference be posted to the WOBO page.

10. **Bylaws Subcommittee.** A legislative text version of the bylaws was prepared by Governor Solomon for review. Many of the changes were non-substantive while others were to clarify and expand upon some of the WOBO objectives. The Governors were asked to further review these draft changes and submit your comments to Messrs. Solomon and Ward by January 15, 2009.

11. **Awards Subcommittee.** No activity has been completed in this area. Some suggestions were made approximately two years ago concerning the various WOBO awards. (See October 17, 2006 email concerning the awards). It was agreed to reconstitute the awards subcommittee as follows:

Imad Eldurubi – Chair
Raymond Chan
Keith Mansfield
Tim Ward

12. **2009 World Congress.** The Governors discussed a few options for venues for the 2009 event. Among the options are:

ICC Annual Conference -	Baltimore, MD	Nov. 1-4, 2009
NFPA Fire Safety Expo -	Mexico City, Mexico	Nov. 10-13, 2009
ABCB Conference -	Australia Gold Coast	September 20-23, 2009

13. New Business

- A. By-laws discussion. It was suggested that a bylaw be considered to determine how long an inactive board member should be retained on the board.
- B. A motion was made and seconded to provide a \$1500.00 stipend from the WOBO General Funds to HBRC to help offset their expenses for the conference. While grateful to HBRC for their efforts and hospitality, it was noted that individual organizations had provided financial sponsorships for the event. In addition, other groups that had previously hosted the WOBO governors incurred the costs on their own. The motion was defeated.

As a way of thanking HBRC, Governor Solomon agreed to provide an in kind donation of the NFPA and SFPE Codes and handbooks to HBRC for use in their research library. This donation will be made on behalf of WOBO. In addition, the Governors agreed to provide a one year organizational membership to HBRC.

- C. The WOBO Board of Governors made a motion to provide complimentary WOBO memberships to their counterparts at WABO. In addition, an Organizational Membership for WABO was also approved. The WOBO Governors requested that a follow-up dialogue with WABO also be held concerning the potential for them to develop a WOBO newsletter.
- D. The WOBO Board of Governors were asked to consider approving an Organizational Membership for the City of Amman, Jordan.
- E. When considering future Board of Governor nominees, consideration should be given to nominating a second candidate from Canada and looking for a candidate from a Scandinavian country.
- F. Other: The Governors were asked to keep the following topics under advisement for 2009.

- Newsletter
- Recruiting new members
- Sustainability
- Training
- Member handouts/gifts
- 2009 Conference
- 2010 Meeting
- Looking for interesting papers for future conferences

14. **Next Meeting of Governors.** The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be scheduled to be held in 2009 during the 2009 World Congress.

15. **Adjournment.** Prior to adjournment, President Miller and the Board expressed their thanks and appreciation to Professor Omaina and her staff for hosting the technical conference, Governors Meetings and social activities. All of the events were enjoyable and very memorable for all of the attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Robert E. Solomon, Secretary/Treasurer

ENCLOSURE A

GOVERNOR CHANNAN'S TRIP SUMMARY



WORLD ORGANIZATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS CATEGORY WITH
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM NOVEMBER 3-6,2008

HARMONIOUS URBANIZATION

To The President George Miller & Members of the Board of Governors:

The Opening Ceremony was under the Chairmanship of the People's Republic of China, The Opening Address was by H.H. Dejiang Zhang, Vice-Premier, People's Republic of China. Message from Mr. Ben Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by Mr. Sha Zukang. Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT also addressed. Very impressive cultural performances provided by the City of Nanjing and The Moipei Quartet from Kenya. Welcoming remarks from several Heads of State were made.

The opening plenary set the tone and the session chaired by the President of UN-HABITAT's Governing Council. Habitat Agenda partners also addressed the opening plenary.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT in her address, inter alia, stated "The sub-prime mortgage crises and its spreading have shocked the world. The American response to the financial crises has surprised the free world advocacy. This special session aims to unravel the myth of the current crises and the role of government in housing finance systems. Will the American response to the crises such as the bailout plan bring an end to the crises or to the Dollar world? What are the key players in the crises? How Can USA re-assure the confidence of foreign countries and investors that the value of their assets and investments be preserved? How can a fair global financial system be established? What roles can be played by UN to promote such system?"

Representatives of 175 countries and slightly less than 8000 delegates participated. Daily coordinated meetings numbered more than 200. Hundreds of young English-speaking volunteers from Universities in WUF\$ T-Shirts served the attendees in a most hospitable manner. They escorted delegates during rain under the shelter of WUF4 umbrellas. Tours to Various attractions were arranged. The presence of police and army officers gave the security comfort to the participants.

Three gigantic halls housed the exhibitions.

Nanjing means South Capital and Beijing meant North Capital. Nanjing was the capital of China before Beijing. The city's population is 7.4 million, a technology hub, and a cultural and education centre. A colossal Nanjing International Expo Centre with multipurpose halls, rooms, gardens, infrastructure that included a subway was constructed in 3 months. The city and its suburbs highlighted with WUF4 flags and billboards. The Chinese news papers reported the proceedings except the daily, provincial and national "English" media as the international and domestic reporters were more focused on US election.

Mayor of Nanjing received the **Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour to the City of Nanjing**.

In 2007, **H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain** received the **Special Citation of the Habitat Scroll of Honour** in recognition of his visionary leadership in effectively pursuing the Millennium Development Goals.

H.H. SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA UN-HABITAT AWARD

In order to promote the ideals and principles of good governance in context of housing and urban development with focus on equity, **H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, decided to establish, jointly with UN-HABITAT**, the captioned award. The award consists of US\$100,000 cash prize, every two years, including a trophy, a certificate, and travel and accommodation for the winner to attend the Award ceremony. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding efforts by individuals, organizations and institutions in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the attainment of human settlements related to the Millennium Development Goals. Promote international and South-South cooperation through the exchange and transfer of lessons learned.

In his speech H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa state, "we have taken the initiative and decided to launch an award, overseen by UN-HABITAT, to encourage innovative ideas with respect to urban development. It is a great pleasure for me and Mrs. Anna Tibajuka of Un-HABITAT to take part in this ceremony and to grant the Award for the first time ever to the **Representatives of the Green Brigades from Burkina Faso**."

The World Urban Forum did not have formal rules and procedure. The intention is to facilitate maximum participation of the Habitat Agenda partners in the deliberations and recommendations of the Forum. In essence the main discussions are conducted in the form of dialogues among Habitat Agenda partners, for instance, representatives of national governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, global parliamentarians, community based organizations, human settlement professionals, research institutions and academies of science, the private, business and non-profit sectors, relevant United Nations organizations and other international agencies and others. Selected panelists introduced and made short substantive presentations on specific issues followed by discussions between the delegates and panelists on specific issues. The Chair from the deliberations prepared a summary of, (1) the main issues raised during the presentations and discussions, and, (2) the conclusions or recommendations made at the end of the discussions. These summaries reflected the main thrust of the presentations, discussions and

recommendations submitted to the plenary by the Chair for adoption by consensus. Once adopted the conclusions and recommendations would be submitted to the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) at its subsequent session for consideration and appropriate action. The World Urban Forum meets during the years when the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT is not meeting. The Fifth World Urban Forum will be held in 2010 at Rio Di Jenario, Brazil.

There were:

73 Networking Events
23 Training Events
70 Habitat Seminars
8 Round Tables
9 Special Sessions
14 Side and Special Events
Cities Alliance and UN-HABITAT session (By invitation)

I attended all the plenary on behalf of the World Organization of Building officials including by Special invitations the following:

1. Cities Alliance and UN-HABITAT session
2. Decent Work in the Urbanized World hosted jointly by International Labour Organization, Building & Wood Workers International, and UN-HABITAT
3. Official Launch Ceremony of the Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-led Development
4. The State of World Cities 2008 – Substantive Revision
5. Parliamentarians Roundtable
6. Shelter Coordination after Disaster Challenges and Opportunities
7. Urban Disaster Risk and Safe Shelter, and
8. Making Cities Productive and Equitable.

Decent Work in the Urbanized World

Hosted jointly by International Labour Organization, Building & Wood Workers International, and UN-HABITAT (WOBO received Special Invitation to Participate)

Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General, UN-HABITAT, In opening remarks stated building workers make and shape our cities and towns. She hoped the session will stimulate debate and action ideas to advance the decent work agenda within the construction sector. She thanked ILO and BWI for organizing a special session.

Anita Normark, General Secretary, Building & Wood Workers International, in her keynote address entitled Procurement Policy and Labour Standards, strongly advocated for the protection and promotion of the rights of construction workers so that they may live and work comfortably. She urged the international community to find ways to ensure the safety and well-being of

construction workers. Urbanization can only be “harmonious” if the builders of our cities are accorded “decent work”. BWI represented over thousand trade unions.

Juan Somavia, Director General, International Labour Organization. “Decent Work” is a long standing advocacy of the ILO. Dialogue – such as the one we are about to undertake among trade unions, employers group, city mayors/local authorities and the international community and agencies is of utmost importance. This aim cannot be achieved without collective commitment to finding the appropriate means towards it. Employment contracts should include safety, health, decent living and social welfare of the workers.

Responses by and Best Practices were

Session Chair: Gunde Odgaard, BAT Kartel-Denmark
JACOB Hougaard, Copenhagen Mayor
Local Authorities, UGLC
Representative, FIEC
Edmund Werna, ILO

Omkar Nath Channan, Governor, World Organization of Building Officials, suggested that a secretariat be established under UN-HABITAT for undertaking this new project for research and development and make recommendations from time to time through appropriate channels.

I personally conveyed the Greetings from the President George Miller and members of the Board of Governors and wished on their behalf success of the Fourth World Urban Forum to Mrs. Anna Tibajuka of Un-HABITAT and through her our deep appreciation and thanks to the Government of the People’s Republic of China, Governor of Jiangsu Provincial Government, and the Mayor of Nanjing.

In conclusion I take this opportunity to thank the President George Miller, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Solomon and members of the Board of Governors for giving me the opportunity to represent the World Organization of Building Officials at the Fourth World Urban Forum at Nanjing, China.

Sincerely,

Omkar Nath Channan
Founding President & Governor
November 9 2008