



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W110 - Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing

Meeting Report held in Quito, Ecuador, in September 2007

by

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In September 23-26, 2007 an Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing Working Commission meeting was held in Quito, Ecuador in conjunction with the Pathology Congress CONPAT 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to share knowledge and experience with colleagues from different countries in Latin America about the informal settlements situation and the ways to address the different problems that they have.

Papers and Discussions

One paper by Joint W110 Coordinator Dr Happy Santossa from Institute of Technology Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia (who was not able to come for some of USA visa limitation to travel to Ecuador) titled " From Squater Settlements to Affordable Flats " was showed to the colleagues at the meeting.



The setting for the W110 meeting was particularly appropriate. The city of Quito is declared by UNESCO as historical patrimony. It is the largest city in Ecuador and has many barrios (the South American name for Informal Settlements).

Visits

The group visited several barrios on the day following the W110 meeting including a very large settlement, Barrio Vista Hermosa located far away from the Colonial Zone of the city.



Such settlements are created through a process of unassisted self-help and tend to have two or more of the following characteristics when they are initially created:

- most houses are self-built by the families occupying them using initially temporary building materials,
- the settlements are illegal in some way (whether that is the land tenure, the house construction or both),
- the settlements are un-serviced, and
- are mostly occupied by people living in situations of poverty (based on Gilbert and Gugler, 1992).



Thanks

The joint coordinators of W110, Liana Arrieta de Bustillos, would like to sincerely thank Prof. Rody Cabeza Conpat 2007's president, for creating the conditions for the strengthening of links between CIB and ALCONPAT, Eng. María Fernanda Herrera, for her part in preparing the Quito meeting and the private construction company who hosted the technical visit to the informal settlements and supported the commission's lunch. Alconpat Latin America Pathology Association is thanked for giving CIB W110 the opportunity to share housing experiences with Conferences participants.

Next Meetings

- 2008:** The next W110 meetings will be held in Surabaya, Indonesia and
- 2009:** at one of the southeast city of South America which will be hosted by eng. Patricia Martinez the new president of CONPAT 2009 Conference.

Additional Information

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You can find more information on the activities of CIB W110 at www.cibworld.nl.
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