



International Housing Coalition

Supporting Housing for All in a Rapidly Urbanizing World

International Housing Coalition Newsletter

In place of the Weekly Update, below is the IHC Newsletter with an update on our activities this past quarter. The Weekly Update will return next week.

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CONGRESSMAN HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA) RELEASES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ACT DRAFT

IHC PLEASSED WITH WASH AND SHELTER CHAPTER IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REWRITE BILL

House Committee on Foreign Affairs Ranking Member Howard Berman (D-CA) has drafted a bill, the [Global Partnerships Act of 2011](#), to reform and modernize U.S. foreign assistance. The draft bill is a significant step toward setting a new framework for effective, transparent, and accountable United States foreign assistance.

For the last several months, the IHC has been very involved in the drafting of this bill and has offered extensive comments on the draft legislation through written comments and in "listening sessions" with Rep. Berman's staff.

The IHC is very happy that improving access to safe water, sanitation, and shelter is one of the bill's eight stated goals. Title I of the draft includes "improving access to safe water, sanitation and shelter" as one of the eight goals for development assistance. Chapter 6 of the draft bill, "Improving Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Shelter," appropriately recognizes the importance of foreign aid in water, sanitation, and shelter as critical ingredients to improving slums and ending poverty and effectively details

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some of the steps needed to improve safe water, sanitation, and shelter. Within Chapter 6, sections 1602-1604 of the draft bill require the creation of a global strategy on water, sanitation and shelter, and would authorize the use of funds for assistance to water, sanitation, and shelter projects.

We expect that due to the number of consultations the staff has held and the recommendations being made by numerous sectors, that the bill will be revised before being introduced. The IHC will continue to be engaged in this process going forward.

The bill has not yet been introduced, although the staff hopes to introduce it this year. In the meantime, a draft of the bill can be found [here](#).

WINNERS CHOSEN FOR 3rd ANNUAL URBAN POVERTY RESEARCH COMPETITION

EVENTS TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND AT THE WORLD URBAN FORUM VI

In May, representatives from the IHC, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and USAID met to score papers submitted to this year's Urban Poverty essay competition. The third year of a successful competition for graduate and PhD students focused each year on different aspects of urban poverty. The categories for this year were Climate Change, Youth and Land Markets.

Nearly 80 abstracts were submitted and 14 students were asked to submit full papers. It was a difficult choice, as once again there were many strong papers, but four papers were selected to attend a workshop with experts in the three topic areas. Additionally, a grand prize winner was chosen from the four to present her work as part of a Networking Session at the World Urban Forum VI in September in Naples, Italy.

The winners are below:

GRAND PRIZE WINNER: (Invited to Washington D.C. and to Naples)

Marika Tsolakis - University of London

Paper Title: *Grassroots English Clubs as Sites of Learning and Democratic Debate in Urban Senegal*

FINALISTS: (Invited to Washington D.C.)

Valerie Stahl - Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)

Paper Title: *Entitlements and Capabilities of Young "Citizens": Participatory Community Involvement of At-Risk Youth in Argentine Cities*

Lindsay Carter - Cornell University

Paper Title: *Exploring the Effectiveness of Urban Agriculture Producer Organizations in Securing Land Tenure: Two Case Studies from Cotonou, Benin*

Allison Bridges - Rutgers University

Paper Title: *Distributed Energy Innovations in Slums and Informal Settlements*

IHC APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

THREE MEMBERS WELCOMED AT MAY BOARD MEETING

At the May meeting of the IHC Board of Directors, three new organizations were approved for membership with the IHC. A brief description of each new member follows.

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

The Pan American Development Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1962 to implement socio-economic development programs and disaster assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of its strategy, PADF engages community-based groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local governments, and the private sector in the process of implementing appropriate solutions for sustainable development. Through these partnerships, PADF seeks to:

- Create Economic Opportunities
- Promote Social Progress
- Strengthen Communities and Civil Society
- Respond to Natural Disasters

With over \$250 million leveraged in development funds in the last five years alone, PADF has helped spur national development partnerships, engage private and public sector resources in regional development, increase family incomes,

and promote innovative links between communities and the private sector. More information about PADF can be found [here](#).

Women's Council of Realtors

A strong and diverse network of over 12 thousand career focused, highly professional women REALTORS,® the Women's Council of Realtors aims to empower women to exercise their potential as entrepreneurs and business leaders. The WCR provides education and business tools focused on the needs of women REALTOR® entrepreneurs at all stages of development. Additionally it works to provide a space for networking, information sharing, and collaboration between members and the rest of the private sector. Through this work the WCR hopes to showcase and promote the achievement and impact of women in real estate and be sought after by other organizations as a source of leadership development and the business woman's perspective. The WCR's core values include: the power of relationships, leadership, professional credibility, diversity, involvement, success and influence. More information on the Women's Council can be found [here](#).

Beekman Advisors

- Beekman Advisors was founded in 2003 to provide strategic advisory services to companies and investors involved in real estate, mortgage finance, affordable housing and related sectors. Beekman's mission is to help build the industry's next generation of companies, as well as the technology and services that enable and support them. Located in suburban Washington D.C., Beekman is able to keep abreast of and maintain relationships with financial and governmental powers that shape the economic and political landscape confronting business today. Specific services include: corporate strategy and organizational assessment, product and program development, and transaction negotiation and execution. More information about Beekman Advisors can be found [here](#).

HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

IHC PUBLISHES PAPER WITH A 2ND PUBLICATION FORTHCOMING

The IHC is presently conducting research on homeowners' associations in Central and Eastern Europe with plans of publishing a report later in the year. The report will analyze the progress and challenges facing the condominium sector after approximately 20 years of privatization in various countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Serbia and Romania. The research will complement IHC's recent publication titled "Homeowners Associations in the Former Soviet Union: Stalled on the Road to Reform." The full paper is available [here](#).

IHC LAUNCHES NEW BLOG

The IHC launched a blog in May. The blog will feature staff from the IHC and guest posts, discussing issues of land, shelter and property through analysis of current events, event coverage literature reviews and more.

We invite you to read and participate in the conversation on the blog [here](#).

JOIN THE IHC COALITION

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IHC

Join the IHC and help support its advocacy, education and research program. Membership dues are only \$200 for 2012. To join go the IHC web site www.intlhc.org and click on Support the IHC.