

International Housing Coalition

**IHC**

Housing for All

## IHC Newsletter

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**IHC STAFF AND GOVERNANCE CHANGES**

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**NEW IHC BOARD CHAIRMAN AND CEO APPROVED**

The IHC accepted the resignation of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Peter Kimm, in April, 2011. Kimm was a founder of the IHC and served as its chairman since the organization's inception in 2005. Kimm will continue to be involved as a board member emeritus.

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At the May 9 board meeting Bob Dubinsky was approved as the new IHC board chairman. Dubinsky also will continue to provide advice to the IHC as its Senior Advisor. Dubinsky served as President and CEO of the IHC for three years. Previously he worked for USAID, the International City Management Association (ICMA) and the RAND Corporation.

[IHC COMPLETES TWO IMPORTANT STUDIES](#)

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At the May 9 board meeting Susan Corts Hill was approved as the new President and CEO of the IHC to replace Bob Dubinsky. Previously Hill was a legal associate at McKenna Long and Aldridge, the former director of public policy for Habitat for Humanity International and a special assistant to the HUD Secretary's Chief of Staff. Dubinsky and Hill will assume their new positions July 1, 2011.

[INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATIONS](#)

**IHC SPONSORS ROUNDTABLE WITH UN-HABITAT DIRECTOR JOAN CLOS**

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**CLOS LAYS OUT UN-HABITAT'S AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE**

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The IHC along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the National Association of Realtors (NAR), and the Woodrow Wilson Center sponsored a conversation with the new director of UN HABITAT, Joan Clos, on March 10, 2011 at the Washington offices of NAR. Dr. Clos laid out UN HABITAT's agenda for the near term and answered questions from the more than 30 attendees at a discussion. Dr. Clos is a medical doctor and was Mayor of Barcelona from 1997-2006. He also served as Spain's Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade from 2006-2008. Ana Marie Argilagos, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Philanthropic Affairs at HUD, introduced Dr. Clos and Blair Ruble from the Woodrow Wilson Center suggested a policy framework for the discussion.

### IHC PARTICIPATES IN GRADUATE SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION

#### COMPETITION SOLICITS PAPERS ON URBAN POVERTY

In the fall of 2010 the IHC, in partnership with USAID, the World Bank, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and the Cities Alliance, initiated a competition for original research by graduate students on topics related to reducing urban poverty. Three specific topic areas were encouraged: 1) land markets and security of tenure, 2) health and 3) livelihoods. The call for papers was distributed and in March, 16 finalists were chosen from 70 submitted abstracts to write full papers. The best of these 16 papers will be published in a book, printed by the Woodrow Wilson Center. Winners will be invited to Washington in the fall to present their papers to a panel of experts. The Reaume Foundation funded the IHC's participation in the competition.

### DUBINSKY PARTICIPATES IN HARVARD PANEL ON HAITI

#### PANEL SPEAKS BEFORE KENNEDY SCHOOL MASTERS CANDIDATES

Bob Dubinsky was a member of a panel at Harvard's Kennedy School "Spring Exercise for Masters Candidates" on April 21, 2011, discussing shelter reconstruction in Haiti. Eric Belsky, Managing Director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University was the panel moderator. Other panelists were Claude Jeudy, manager of Habitat for Humanity

International's office in Haiti, and Chris Ward of USAID's Urban Programs Team. In his remarks, Dubinsky identified important constraints to shelter reconstruction and some of the policy issues and tradeoffs that will have to be resolved.

## **IHC COMPLETES TWO IMPORTANT STUDIES**

### **IHC ASSESSES HAITI SHELTER ISSUES AND WATER AND SANITATION FOR THE POOR**

With funding from the Wallace Genetic Foundation, Steve Giddings, IHC consultant, completed a paper evaluating the progress of the 2005 Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. The paper, "Implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act 2008-2010" discusses both the successes and failures of USAID's implementation of the Act as well as concrete recommendations for the future. The paper can be downloaded from the IHC web site [www.intlhc.org](http://www.intlhc.org).

With funding from USAID/Haiti the IHC completed a Haiti shelter sector assessment. The assessment identifies the major issues and constraints to shelter reconstruction in Haiti and recommends how they can be addressed. A separate Executive Summary was prepared and widely distributed. The Executive Summary can be downloaded from the IHC web site [www.intlhc.org](http://www.intlhc.org).

## **IHC COMPLETES WORK UNDER ITS USAID HAITI GRANT**

### **HAITI HOUSING SECTOR ASSESSEMENT COMPLETED**

The IHC received a grant from USAID in July 2010 to provide shelter assistance to Haiti. Under the grant the IHC provided strategic and policy advice and assistance to the USAID mission in Haiti. The grant provided the IHC with the opportunity to play an important role in shaping USAID's shelter reconstruction program.

Improving the shelter situation in Haiti is an enormous challenge - 1.5 million people are displaced and homeless. It is estimated that 105,000 homes were destroyed and 200,000 damaged. Re-housing Haitians presents a wide range of issues and complex

challenges. Housing policies will have to take into account economic development opportunities and job creation, construction of basic infrastructure, urban planning concerns, land tenure and security issues, the potential of future natural disasters, and issues related to affordability and building standards etc.

The IHC work incorporated three tasks: 1) preparation of a Haiti Shelter Sector Assessment (HSSA); 2) providing policy advice on specific issues to USAID/Haiti; and 3) organizing three expert panel meetings to review specific strategies on policy issues related to shelter reconstruction.

### INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATIONS (ICREA)

#### A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBER of the IHC

The International Consortium of Real Estate Associations (ICREA) is one of the IHC's professional association members. ICREA is a consortium of leading real estate associations from around the world committed to the right to own and transfer real property, setting standards for international real estate practice and facilitating worldwide real estate transactions through its web site, WorldProperties.com. ICREA and its member associations are committed to high standards of professional conduct for member brokers. Alan Tennant from Canada is the board chairman, and Thijs Stoffer is the CEO and an ex officio board member. Contact ICREA at [ICREA@worldproperties.com](mailto:ICREA@worldproperties.com).

### 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 2011. To join go the IHC web site [www.intlhc.org](http://www.intlhc.org) and click on Support the IHC.