



United Nations

Urban Journalism Academy



Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Sustainable Energy and Cities

21 January 2016

Abu Dhabi, UAE

The Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) is a pioneering and innovative initiative to train journalists and media professionals interested or involved in urban development with reference to social, economic and economic issues facing cities in the 21st Century.

Media and communications professionals' role is crucial to expand the level of awareness of the wider audience. Communications professionals have the opportunity to spread knowledge and share reflections on urban issues. Journalists are already the ones who chronicle life in the city, who give voice to urban changes and who describe the urban reality from different points of view. Now is the time to encourage a more proactive and substantive role of media in the development of the city, at international, national and local levels.

During this global change it is, in fact, crucial that the media features in-depth analyses of the opportunities, challenges and solutions found across over the urban framework. Moreover, by managing research and interpretation tools media could become spokespersons of sustainable urban development.

Finally, to train journalists and communication professionals means moving towards greater democratization, encouraging transparency and participations of those usually not involved in the debate on cities.

This session of the Urban Journalism Academies is organized by Habitat III Secretariat (United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development), and co-hosted by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Government of United Arab Emirates and Masdar.

Host-Partners





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The Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Sustainable Energy and Cities, within the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

The Government of the United Arab Emirates and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) are hosting the Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Sustainable Energy and Cities, organized on 20 January 2016. The Habitat III Thematic Meeting is organized within Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the world's largest annual gathering on clean energy and water, with over 30,000 delegates from some 160 countries, hosted by Masdar, and in close proximity with the IRENA Assembly (16-17 January 2016).

The Thematic Meeting will provide the official inputs on sustainable energy for Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which sets the international agenda on cities for the coming decades. The conference takes place every 20 years and will mark its third convening in Quito in October 2016.

Cities today consume roughly two-thirds of the global primary energy supply and produce over 70% of the global energy-related CO2 emissions, making them the largest market for sustainable energy and the principal arena for climate action. Moreover, as population and economic growth accelerate urbanization, the demand in cities for clean, reliable, and affordable electricity, heating and cooling, transport, process inputs, and other energy forms will dramatically increase. Energy is furthermore a central aspect of poverty eradication, with hundreds of millions of urban dwellers denied development benefits due to lack of high-quality energy access. In addition, renewable energy can contribute to key aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities, such as air quality, waste management, safety and resilience towards disasters.

Practical Information on the Urban Journalism Academy

WHEN > 21 January 2016, from 10am to 12pm.

**WHERE > ADNEC (Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre), Abu Dhabi, UAE
ROOM CS 10**

WHO > Journalists and communications professionals

**REGISTRATION > habitat3.org/abudhabi
<https://cyvqc.enketo.kobotoolbox.org/webform>**

CONTACT> habitat3media@un.org

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PROGRAMME

- 10am** **Welcome** by the facilitator, Simone d'Antonio, Communication and Dissemination Officer at Associazione Italiana dei Comuni Italiani (ANCI)
- 10:05am** **Global Urbanization at the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities**, by Faraj El-Awar, UN-Habitat, Head of Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance
- 10:35am** **Sustainable Urban Development in the United Arab Emirates**, by Yasmeen Al Rashedi, Acting Program Manager – Estimada Department. Urban Development & Estimada Department
- 11am** **Coffee Break**
- 11:10am** **The role of media in the path towards a new urban paradigm**, by Simone d'Antonio
- 11:40am** **Case Study: Masdar City**, by Kathy Cucsack, Head, City Design Sustainable Planning and Approvals
- 11:55am** **Wrap up and End of the session**

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