

FIG President Holger Magel
at Habitat Professionals Forum 2005 in Istanbul
HPF Session

“Governance – People – Professionals

Civil Society and Good Governance: how does the growing role of citizens impact on the urban planning process and the role of architects and planners?”

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are at the end of a very interesting session and intensive discussion. Let me try to sum up what we have learned and what we should consider for the future:

1. To reach the MDG, especially the goals of good governance and secure tenure we need a change of politics, a changed mind and attitude of politicians and also changed opinions in general.
2. It is very, very simple: To fight poverty and even environmental damages we firstly must improve the economic situation: “It’s all about economy.”
3. To enhance and really implement participation and participatory planning we have to “train the amateurs our citizens”, who are partners and experts in their home. We must therefore provide the right facilities and capacity building programmes like they already exist e.g. in Germany (“Competence centres for rural development and village renewal”). Citizens have to be prepared for more self responsibility and actions possibly in providing needed (public) infrastructure.
4. We also have to educate and train the professionals (architects, engineers etc.) to be able to practise a fair dialogue planning and to play a role as moderators, activators or facilitators or even as experts for conflict solutions.
5. UN authorities can and should do a lot to influence and enhance this mostly unreflected deficits in dialogue planning and to bring it on global stage. They even can set a kind of “standards”.
6. HPF as representative of planners and professional associations is asked to strongly support this discussion and to join respective global campaigns. NGO’s in general and architects in special should continue to become more politically acting and to express their concerns publicly and addressing the politicians in their conferences!