



**WOBO Update
July 2019**



Paul Myers was elected President of the World Organization of Building Officials in January 2017. He has also served as President of the International Code Council (ICC), the Building Officials and Code Administrators, Inc (BOCA), the Ohio Building Officials Association (OBOA), and the Southwest Ohio Building Officials Association (SWOBOA). Mr. Myers co-founded the International Federation for Safe and Sanitary Buildings (IFSB). His experiences have afforded him the opportunity to promote increased building safety and fire prevention throughout the world by means of information sharing and technological innovation. He has served on international, national, state, and local committees involved with building code and construction issues; and received a variety of prestigious awards for innovation, industry excellence, and quality performance. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, Mr. Myers' career spans more than forty years in construction, architecture, and building code enforcement.



UN-HABITAT

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME
AND**

THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF BUILDING OFFICIALS



The World Organisation, at its inception, sort to work with the United Nations in the development of a Society that provided support towards the development of human settlements and the enhancement of the quality of life for individuals within those settlements through the development of life skills. The role of the Building Official in the creation of these environments and the ability to respond at times of emergency through the utilisation of their skills.

The positive interaction of both groups enabled agreement in principle to promote both parties mutual interests and a general understanding to promote the concept of education and advance this through the dissemination of information and it was on the basis of mutual trust and in the spirit of friendly cooperation, UN-HABITAT and WOBO (the Parties) agreed as follows:

The parties will dedicate their efforts towards establishing closer ties with respect to the dissemination of knowledge in the building science, technology~ unification of legislation, building, fire and allied codes, procedures, practices and directives, standards, research, safeguards from potential hazards, post disaster projects, housing project's best practices, social housing, eradication of disease and poverty, prevention of fire risks, administration, enforcement and training, to encourage and promote in all countries of the world the establishment of study and action within each nation and communication between citizens to recommend awards, prizes, research and contribution, to hold meetings, assemblies, conventions, conferences, seminars, courses, workshops and congresses of a local, national or international character in all parts of the world.

World Organisation of Building Officials - Governors meeting Ohio September 2017



The World Organisation of Building Officials, as part of their 2017 program, was pleased to be hosted by the International Codes Council at their Annual Conference in Columbus Ohio.

The meeting provided the opportunity for the Governors to meet and share presentations and developments for the future under the guidance of the WOBO President; Paul Myers and the WOBO Secretary/Treasurer; Majed Dabdoub.

The interaction between the Governors enabled a full review of the developments that have taken place within the last 2 years, the transfer of administration and the links to the United Nations in terms of consultation and member input.

It was essential that the group move forward with direct linkage and promotion within the membership, their organisations and the members of the development teams both locally, nationally and within the global context.



From left to right; Majed.A.Dabdoub, Secretary/Treasurer, Paul E. Myers, President, Raymond Y.M.Chan Vice President

To promote this initiative, a full discussion of the current and proposed Bye-Laws took place to ensure that the structure allowed for dynamism to develop over the coming years.

A new website is currently under development and will be populated with current and historic information during the coming months. It is envisaged that the website will also provide a vehicle to present activities proposed and those under development for the future.

As part of the United Nations initiative it was agreed that participation would take place within the World Urban Forum — UN Habitat for a Better Urban Future — “WUF9”.

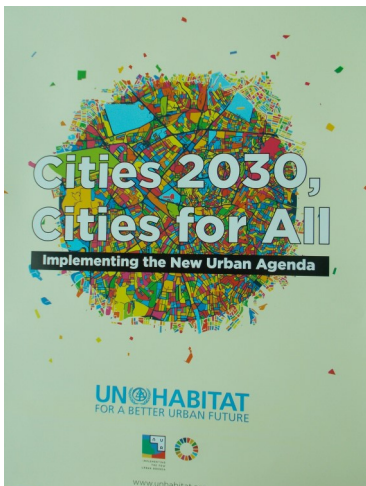
The event was convened as part of the 9th session of the World Urban Forum with the theme of Cities 2030; Cities for all; Implementing the New Urban Agenda, by the United Nations Human Settlements Program [UN-Habitat], hosted by the Government of Malaysia. The venue was scheduled to be the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 7th—13th February 2018.

A WOBO Governors meeting was scheduled for 2018, It was also proposed to prepare for the WOBO World Congress and participate in the 2019 International Codes Council Conference in Las Vegas.

The support provided by the International Codes Council also enabled the Governors to participate in technical presentations and share knowledge with the presenters and exhibitors supporting the conference.

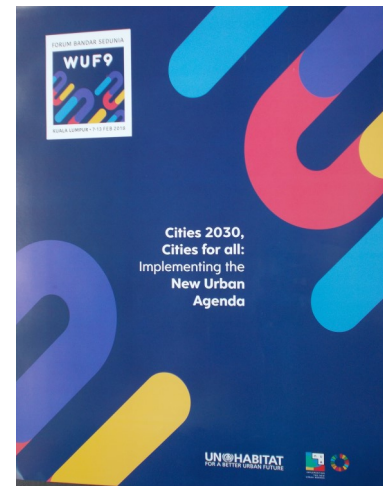


From left to right; Majed.A.Dabdoub, Paul E. Myers, David Gibson, Majed.A.Dabdoub, Harbi S. Arafat, Omkar Nath Channan, Raymond Y.M.Chan, Stephen D. Jones



The World Organisation of Building Officials, as part of the reinforcement of its links within the United Nations Habitat, was represented by Governor David Gibson, at the World Urban Forum 9 that took place in Kuala Lumpur.

The event focussed on Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda. The event provided an opportunity not only to focus on the new urban agenda but also the move towards a reinforcement and achievement of sustainable development goals.



Hosted by Malaysia and held in Kuala Lumpur, with sessions delivered within the Convention Centre, the event provided a dynamic mix of themed presentations, training, and practical application which was supported by a range of technical activities and visits. A key focus at the highest political level

identifying both the need to cater for all and the initiatives put in place both within Malaysia and within the global context. This was reinforced by the multi-organisations bringing forward and reporting on their activities to date and setting goals for the future looking to reinforce collaboration and maximise the resources available.



It was clearly identifiable that a significant role exists for the Building Official in the generation of Local, National and International Regulations with supported guidance at all levels. It was apparent that the role would extend beyond the generation through the application and reinforcement of activity in the event of disasters.

A key theme was the strengthening of the resilience of Human Settlements. **In seeking to explore the opportunities for the Building Official, David looked at disasters and the response to those disasters both within a National and an International context,** a reminder was given to remember the regular disasters that occur on both a seasonal and daily basis



around the globe. A predominant theme was the goal of Partner Development and Ownership, looking at the ability of the organisations and individuals to respond from day one in the seeking and provision of shelter. The individuals within the disaster zone needing to be the first responders with a theme of self recovery and involvement in the creation of temporary solutions. The targeting of assistance and the allocation of resources were activated within a dynamic situation very much a “what, when and how” scenario operating within the context of limited resource, both material and physical. from historical performance that we have not always got things right and the necessity for ownership and forward thinking from day one, reinforcing the need for cooperation and collaboration was evident. It was staggering to experience the emotion and commitment of hundreds of organisations and thousands of people contributing and seeking to achieve the conference theme of “Cities for All”.

It is only possible at this stage to raise further awareness of the activities of the UNHabitat and its partnering organisations and as Building Officials offer our support where possible to achieve sustainable societies.

The forthcoming World Urban Forum, WUF10 is scheduled to be held in 2020 and is to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The 2019 meeting of The World Organisation of Building Officials [WOBO] is scheduled to take place at the ICC 2019 Conference in Las Vegas.

Further details to follow.



WOBO is a member of the International Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Territories (ICOSCAT-CIVTED)

This coalition coordinated by the NGO Urbanistes Sans Frontières (USF) and represented now by 100 members in 35 countries is composed of 5 types of entities:

– NGOs, associations or collectives, Universities, training or research centres, Professional Institutions or Associations, Large or small companies, Local Authorities

The objectives of the coalition are to;

– Act collectively developing public policies at local, regional and global levels, working for sustainable development of cities and territories.

– Promote the partnership for sustainable cities and territories between different actors at public, economic, private and civil society.

– Facilitate the application of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local and regional level.

The coalition is open, organizations or entities sharing the same values are invited to join us. Here is our text [ICOSCAT](#) and the registration form may be found on <https://urbanistes.typeform.com/to/i9Gpq2>

This year, the United Nations has selected the theme Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities; because cities need support to become resilient and develop their capacity to absorb the impact of hazards, protect and preserve human life and limit damage to and destruction of public and private assets while continuing to provide infrastructure and services after a crisis.

ICOSCAT-CIVTED Coalition is aligned with the UN's goals and supports UN-Habitat programs and actions.



WSSET is a non-profit organisation led by Saffa Riffat, Professor in Sustainable Energy and Head of the Institute of Sustainable Energy Technology at the University of Nottingham, UK. WSSET has played an important role in consolidating practical partnerships between academic and industrial organisations, as well as promoting sustainable

development worldwide. The role of WSSET is becoming increasingly important as the world seeks to find solutions to issues related to climate change and its impact on the planet. www.wsset.org



Emergency Preparedness and Response

Natural disasters can create a variety of hazards for workers. Preparing for an emergency plays a vital role in ensuring that employers and workers have the necessary equipment, know where to go, and know how to stay safe when an emergency occurs. OSHA's [Emergency](#)

[Preparedness and Response page](#) provides information on how to prepare and train for emergencies and the hazards to be aware of during cleanup and recovery operations. www.osha.gov