



**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.

The activities on offer were numerous and to gain a breadth of understanding whilst focussing in specific issues David participated in a range of activities during the conference.





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. It was clear that responses to National disasters were clearly evident and reflected in the global media whilst 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.

It became apparent that 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.

It is clear 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 UN-Habitat 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.**





