

Habitatjam

What is the Habitat JAM? Imagine tens of thousands of people around the world connecting in real time over the internet to discuss and debate key issues about urban sustainability. Imagine world-class thinkers leading and moderating the discussions. Imagine new global networks being fostered between people who wouldn't have connected before. Imagine the results that could be achieved by this unprecedented global conversation and collaboration. This is Habitat JAM.

As part of the preparations for the third session of the World Urban Forum, the Government of Canada, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, will sponsor a global 72-hour internet event. From December 1st to 3rd, 2005, the Habitat JAM will gather input and create actionable ideas for the Vancouver World Urban Forum agenda and add richness to the Forum's content.

During the three-day Habitat JAM, people from around the world will take part in discussions. The JAM will help forge a holistic view on some of the most urgent and controversial issues that face a rapidly urbanizing planet – issues that can only be solved through broad, global consensus.

Who will take part in the Habitat JAM? Young and old, rich and poor, students, workers, and people whose ideas are not usually heard in global discussions will participate in the Habitat JAM. More than 100,000 diverse people will join representatives from national/local governments and international organizations, elected leaders and legislators, urban planners and architects, grassroots organizations and global NGOs, experts and academics, financiers and builders, and development specialists in the JAM. And high-profile moderators such as government leaders, celebrities, royalty and key thinkers will help draw a unique and enormous crowd to this pioneering event.

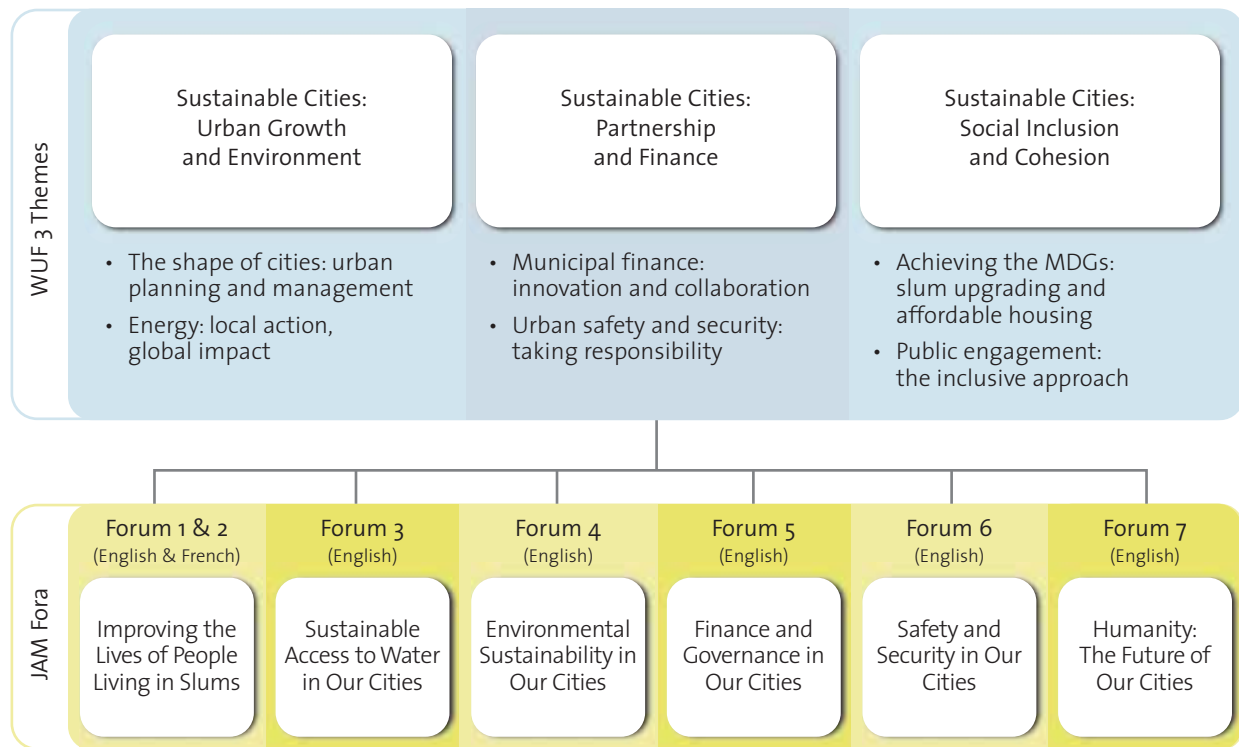
What is the World Urban Forum?

The third session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2006,



is an initiative of the United Nations' Human Settlements

Program (UN-HABITAT). Held every two years, World Urban Forum 3 will bring together as many as ten thousand people to debate ideas and issues about urban development in a global context of rapid change.



What is a JAM? A JAM is an internet-based event and idea stimulation vehicle. A democratic process without hierarchy, it offers people from all walks of life the opportunity to come together to present and evaluate ideas on how to solve a focused set of issues or problems. Together they pioneer a new form of global problem-solving to create a vision, build consensus and turn goals into reality in a world without boundaries.

This is no simple chat room! The JAM technology uses familiar Web browsers, allowing registered users to post comments in the forums, respond, create dialogue, and interact with others around the world. The JAM offers a radically new form of democratic and pragmatic engagement, one that promises to empower people to take charge of the decisions and forces that affect their lives.

What topics will be discussed at the JAM? The content of the Habitat JAM will focus on urban sustainability issues for both developed and developing countries, related to the themes of the World Urban Forum (see above). Subject matter experts and moderators will add their expertise, so the JAM's discussion framework will continue to evolve throughout the three-day event.

What will be the impact of Habitat JAM? The Habitat JAM will add richness to the content for the World Urban Forum. It will start conversations and build new networks that bring enormous potential to global problem-solving. The JAM will add value by:

- finding important patterns, themes and learning on specific issues across borders and hemispheres;
- learning from participants and representative stakeholders who are closest to the action;
- creating a body of data to support ongoing research;
- helping drive change through the sense of immediacy of a time-defined event; and
- providing a sense of common purpose, keeping participants focused on finding actionable ideas to solve key urban issues.

What can I do?

Habitat JAM is recruiting moderators, facilitators, subject matter experts and champions for this unprecedented global dialogue.

Spread the word – be a catalyst for change!

Learn more @ www.habitatjam.com.

