

المنظمون

Organizers



Eastern Region Municipality



Under the Patronage of  
**H. R. H. Prince Meta'ab Bin Abdul Aziz**

**Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs**

**Symposium on " The Role of Cities and Municipalities in Responding  
to the Needs of Children and Young People in Saudi Cities"**

*Eastern Region, 21-23 Muharram 1427H, 20-22 February 2006*

Children and young people below 18 years form 45% of Saudi Arabia's population; thus they constitute about half of the present and all the future. Islamic Sharia has ensured their rights within the family and the community. The world community has also agreed in 1989 on several rights which were formulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC). Saudi Arabia, together with virtually all other countries, has ratified the agreement. Various government departments and civil society organizations honor this agreement and strive to ensure its application.

The unprecedented urban and population growth in Saudi cities during the past few decades, together with the expansion of responsibilities delegated to local authorities, necessitated responding to the needs of children and young people in cities, such needs include providing adequate schools, play grounds, safe walkways, facilities for culture, sports and recreation as well as protection from violence, abuse and all factors that put them at risk. In addition, it necessitated enacting legislations and planning regulations that help achieve adequate urban environments conducive to the physical, psychological and creative development of children.

Negative social phenomena (such as the prevalence of homeless and street children) have adverse impacts on the child as he/she is exposed to various risks. Cities are also affected negatively as their ability to attract investors and tourists is reduced significantly by those negative social phenomena. So, there is a responsibility and a greater role for municipalities, in coordination with concerned government departments and community organizations, to initiate programs to address such phenomena.

The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) has started, during the past few years, to draw attention to these issues and to raise the awareness of municipal leaders on issues of children and young people, through conferences, workshops, studies and publications. Within this framework, AUDI has launched, with support from the World Bank and other international and regional organizations, the MENA Child Protection Initiative (CPI). The CPI aims to improve the wellbeing of children, through focused activities and to enhance the capacities of local authorities in the region, and to build and diffuse knowledge and distinguished international and regional experiences and best practices, as well as to attract financial resources to support child-oriented programs initiated by local authorities.

To achieve a better understanding of issues and needs of children in Saudi cities and municipalities, AUDI and the CPI intends to organize, in cooperation with the Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) and the Eastern Region Municipality, a symposium to address the situation, issues and needs of children in cities through presentation of research papers, discussion and exchange of experiences.

## Objectives:

- To identify the key issues and needs of children and young people in Saudi cities and municipalities.
- To identify the role of municipalities in caring for children.
- To review successful international practices and programs.
- To explore modern means and ways for providing children needs and requirements.

## Themes and Topics:

### *1. Children's rights and the role of cities and municipalities in Ensuring them:*

- Human rights and children's rights.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children's rights in urban areas.
- The role of cities and municipalities in ensuring children's rights.

### *2. Children and Young People's needs in urban areas.*

- Need for basic services (viz. health, education, safety and security).
- Other basic household needs (e.g. adequate housing, employment opportunities, etc).
- Role of municipalities, other government and non-government agencies in provision of those needs.

### *3. Inclusion of children and young people in sustainable urban development.*

- Fundamentals of sustainable urban development (SUD).
- Inclusion of children and young people in various SUD stages.
- Examples of inclusion of children and young people in SUD.

### *4. Child Friendly Cities.*

- The Child Friendly Cities (CFC) Framework.
- Features of CFCs.
- Practical steps towards developing CFCs.
- Regional and international experiences.

### *5. Design of Child-Friendly urban environments.*

- General features of urban environments that are friendly to children and young people.
- Urban planning principles and guidelines for friendly urban environments (e.g. streets, walkways, parks, bicycle routes, etc).
- Design and policy guidelines for child-friendly schools and kindergartens.
- Regional and international experiences.

### *6. Good practices in caring for children and young people in urban areas.*

### **Organizers:**

The symposium is organized by:

- The Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)
- The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI)
- Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs - Eastern Region Municipality
- The MENA Child Protection Initiative (CPI)

### **Participants:**

Mayors, municipal leaders and officials, representatives of relevant government agencies and NGOs in Saudi Arabia, international and regional experts and organizations (specially UNICEF, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the World Bank, the International Institute for the Urban Environment, ...etc).

Participants and / or their sponsors shall pay for their travel and accommodation.

### **Venue:**

**Gulf Meridian Hotel, AlKhobar, Eastern Region.**

### **Date:**

**20-22 February 2006, 21-23 Muharram 1427H.**

### **Exhibition:**

The symposium will be accompanied by an exhibition in which municipalities, donors and co-organizers will present their exhibits.

# Symposium on " The Role of Cities and Municipalities in Responding to the Needs of Children and Young People in Saudi Cities"

## Program

### Day one: Monday 20 February 2006, 21 Muharram 1427H

- 19:00 – 20:00 Registration & Reception
- 20:00 – 21:00 Opening Session honored by **H.H.Prince Jalawi bin Abdulaziz bin Masa'ad**  
Deputy Governor of the Eastern Region
- \* Recitation from the Holy Quran
  - \* Speech by H.E. Eng. Daifalla Al-Otaibi, Mayor of the Eastern Region
  - \* Speech by a representative of children & young people.
  - \* Speech by H.E. Mr. Nassir Bakr Al-Qahtani, Executive Director, AGFUND.
  - \* Speech by Eng. Mohamed bin Hamid Al Nagadi,  
Under-Secretary for Planning and Programs, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA)
  - \* Speech by H.E. Mr. Abdullah A.Al-Nuaim, AUDI President
  - \* Keynote speaker: H.E. Nidal Al-Hadid, Lord Mayor of Amman  
" Role of Municipalities in caring for children and young people"
  - \* Distribution of commemorative plaques.
- 21:00 – 21:30 Opening of Exhibition.

### Day Two: Tuesday 21 February 2006, 22 Muharram 1427H

#### **Session One: Chairperson: Mr. Jebrin A.Al-Jebrin, Director of Projects Dept., AGFUND**

- 08:30 – 08:45 Speaker: H.E. Eng. Nidal Al-Hadid, Mayor of Amman  
(Read by Ms. Samar Dudin, Member of Council)
- 08:45 – 09:15 "Children and young people's needs in urban areas and the role of cities and municipalities in addressing them"  
Dr. Selim Iltus, City University of New York
- 09:15 – 09:35 "International treaties relevant to children and the role of municipal authorities in implementing them"  
Dr. Elie Mekhael, Secretary General, Higher Childhood Council, Lebanon
- 09:35 – 09:55 "Children Rights and the role of cities and municipalities in implementing them"  
Dr. Hamad Al-Ougla, Dean, Hail College of Technology.
- 09:55 – 10:30 Discussion
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break

#### **Session Two: Chairperson: H.E. Eng. Daifalla Al-Otaibi, Mayor of the Eastern Region**

- 11:00 – 11:20 "Young People in Sustainable City Development: Objectives & Principles".  
Dr. Juan-Felipe Sanchez, Senior Advisor, Children and Youth Unit, World Bank
- 11:20 – 11:30 Discussion
- 11:30 – 12:00 " Young People in Sustainable City Development: Development: Practical Steps"  
Dr. Juan-Felipe Sanchez, Senior Advisor, Children and Youth Unit, World Bank
- 12:00 – 12:30 Discussion.
- 12:30 – 13:30 Break.

### **Session Three: Chairperson: H.E. Eng. Nidal AlHadid, Lord Mayor of Amman**

- 13:30 – 14:00 " Towards establishing child-friendly cities "  
Dr. Eliana Riggio Chaudhuri, Consultant, Italy.
- 14:00 – 14:30 "Regional planning for children and young people in London"  
Ms. Caroline Boswell, Director, Children & Young People Unit,  
Greater London Authority.
- 14:30 – 15:00 Discussion.
- 16:00 – 18:00 Visit to Prince Sultan Center for Science and Technology followed by Dinner party hosted by the Eastern Region Municipality

### **Day Three: Wednesday 22 February 2006, 23 Muharram 1427H**

#### **Session Four: Chairperson: H.E. Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz AlShiddi, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education and Secretary General, National Committee for Childhood**

- 08:30 – 08:55 National and Regional Experiences in Caring for Urban Children and Young People.  
Experience of Al-Madina Al-Munawara Municipality  
H.E. Abdul Aziz Al-Hussayin, Mayor of Al-Madina Region
- 08:55 – 09:20 Experience of the Eastern Region Municipality.  
H.E. Daifalla Al-Otaibi, Mayor of the Eastern Region.
- 09:20 – 09:45 Experience of the Greater Amman Municipality.  
Ms. Samar Dudin, Council Member Greater Amman Municipality
- 09:45 – 10:10 Discussion.
- 10:10 – 10:30 Break.

#### **Session Five: Chairperson: Eng. Abdulaziz bin Ali Al-Abdulkareem, Under-Secretary, for Technical Affairs, MOMRA**

- 10:45 – 11:05 "Child-friendly urban environments: Features and components"  
Mr. Tjeerd Deelstra  
Director, International Institute for the Urban Environment, Netherlands.
- 11:05 – 11:15 Discussion.
- 11:15 – 11:45 "Child-friendly urban environments: Practical steps"  
Mr. Tjeerd Deelstra  
Director, International Institute for the Urban Environment, Netherlands.
- 11:45 – 12:00 Comments: Dr. Masaad Al Mosaind- Chairman - Dir'iyya Municipality
- 12:00 – 12:15 Discussion.
- 12:15 – 13:00 Break.
- 13:00 – 15:00 **Round Table: Role of Cities and Municipalities in Caring for Children and Young People**  
**Facilitator: H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al-Ali Al Nuaim, AUDI President**

**Participants:** H.E. Mayor of Medina Al-Munawara, H.E. Mayor of Eastern Region; Under-Secretary for Planning and Programs, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs; Under-Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs; Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education and Secretary General, National Childhood Committee; Mr. Jebrin Al-Jebrin, representatives of young people, representative of women, representatives of charitable and NGOs.

- 15:00 – 15:30 Recommendations and Closing.