



NEWSLETTER

UCLG-MEWA Newsletter / Issue:2 / August 2012

UCLG MEWA Congress will take place in Baghdad >>

Alanya Municipality is protecting its cultural heritage >>

Urban Renewal: Beyoğlu Municipality >>

Less Energy Sources ... More Competition >>

Energy Efficiency Practices in European Cities ...

Dear Members,

In this issue we have approached an important subject for all parts of the world and primarily for the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) Region: Increasing Energy Demand and Energy Wars. We have also included some epitomic projects from European Cities on Efficient Energy.

Among the best practices, we are bringing up Alanya Municipality who owns an important historical and cultural heritage and carries out significant projects in order to protect this heritage and the project of Çankaya Municipality “Çankaya 1000 Children Chorus”.

You will find the general information on the structure and functioning of local government in Bahrain. We have also provided information on the creation and structure of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, which is one of the regional sections of UCLG and represents 350 million African citizens.

Urban renewal is a topical issue nowadays. We believe you will find the Project of Beyoğlu Municipality very interesting: ‘Tarlabası is Renewing’

Lastly, in the activities part, we aim to inform you about the past and on-going activities related to UCLG and UCLG-MEWA.

Yours sincerely,

Mehmet Duman

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General

CONTENTS:

City Councils	3-4
UCLG Africa Section	5-6
Local Government Systems in Bahrain	7
Heritage Protection Projects by Alanya Municipality	8-9
Çankaya 1000 Children Chorus	10-11
Urban Renewal Beyoğlu Municipality	12
Energy	13-17
Activities	15-27

Owner

Mehmet DUMAN

Coordinator

Genk TIKIZ

Editor-in Chief

Sema SAK

Contributers

Sümevra GÜÇLÜ

Süleyman SÜRAT

Büşra MÜFTÜOĞLU

V.Mehmet AKSU

Dovile BARTULYTE

Adrian LICHA

Dominique GATTO-KOÇ

Lokman AKGÜN

Hamidullah BAYRAM

Tuğba EKŞİ

Designed by

Sedrettin KONUK

Pınar KELEŞ

Environmental Workshop by City Councils of Turkey



Study Group on Environment to the City Council of Gaziantep organized a workshop titled “Cities of the Future: Human, Environment, and Build” on July 6th -8th with the participation of Councils, which have actively working Environment Assemblies or Study Groups on Environment in Turkey.

The acts passed by City Councils in their own cities were introduced and current environmental issues were discussed during the presentations of the representatives from different cities. During the workshop the emphasis was put on the living space that is going to be shaped by people who are conscious about the environment, in order to have access to the possibility of living in eco-friendly cities. The information and views produced throughout the workshop indicated that climate change we are facing today is the result of unconscious and rapid consumption, and its negative results affects almost all peoples, cutting across all boundaries of the world.

In the struggle with the problems, a consistent, long-term, and sustainable approach should be followed

and solutions to keep the earth more habitable for next generations must be produced. City Councils, having the mission of raising awareness and offering suggestions to the decision-making bodies, wish for a society that has sustainable consumption patterns, an understanding of such a life style, and use the natural resources reasonably, putting an emphasis on renewable energy.

There was contribution to the concept of protecting the environment - at home, at work, at school, and in each part of life - that more or less each segment of the society and people from the ages of seven to seventy can do. Citizens and decision-makers have to know their duties and have to protect the environment (air, water, earth, and climate) in order to have rich and generous crops from land, to drink clear and healthy **water**, to have a balanced and habitable climate, to breathe fresh air now and for generations to come.

The workshop ‘**Cities of the Future: Human, Environment, and Build**’ consists of two main titles.

Charter of the Result

Forming a mutual consciousness on environment

- Spreading of consciousness on the environment, teaching and educating about the environment should take place at each stage of formal and informal education, especially pre-school education, and classes related to the environment have to comprise of different researches, practices and fieldwork by means of the Ministry of National Education (MEB) of Turkey.
- Establishing a center for technological education by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism of Turkey; teaching materials that include educational videos, computer software, and CDs have to be provided for the use by the whole society.
- Ministry of Environment and Urbanism of Turkey has to raise awareness about the public opinion via written and visual media with the participation of statesmen, scientist, artists, and opinion leaders, in order to improve the environmental consciousness.
- Standard and current education programs have to be formed in cooperation with professional associations in the sector managed by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism of Turkey, in order to inform businesses about sustainable climate, environment, and energy.

Implementing the use of renewable energy and recycling

- A set of studies on the spreading of use of new and renewable energy sources have to be carried out by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey. Also, it has to contribute to decreasing the environmental pollution and emission of greenhouse gasses, encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.
 - New technologies that have low energy consumption have to be supported by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey.
 - Required studies have to be carried out by Local Governments on decreasing the emission of greenhouse gasses in order to decrease the negative effects of climate changes. As it exists in the case of Gaziantep, "Climate Action Programs" have to be prepared in the other cities as well.
 - Municipalities have to start fulfilling their responsibilities and their fundamental duty in the sphere of the gathering and usage of recycled waste.
 - The Ministry of Forest and Water Management of Turkey, and NGOs should speed up plans in forming forest areas that are one of the most important elements in the struggle with global climate change.
- City Councils declare, considering aforementioned views, suggestions and determinations, and having a mutual consciousness on environment, to have cities of the future; to follow what is done by local governments, to support sustainable energy, climate, and policies on water, to aim to increase environmental awareness.



United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)



U C L G A

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)

The UCLGA is the umbrella organization and the united voice and representative of local governments in Africa. It results from the unification of the three pre-existing continental groupings of local governments, namely the African Union of Local Authorities (AULA), the Union des Villes Africaines (UVA) and the Africa Chapter of the Unao dos Cidades y Capitaes Lusofono Africana, (UCCLA). It is an institution that gathers 40 national associations of local governments from all regions of Africa as well as the 2000 cities that have more than 100.000 inhabitants. Therefore UCLGA represents nearly 350 million Africans citizens.

UCLGA is a founding member of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) world organization, and its regional section for Africa. UCLGA is currently headquartered in the City of Rabat, The Kingdom of Morocco, where it enjoys a diplomatic status as a Pan-African International Organization.

As regional section, UCLGA is in charge to defend UCLG's goals on the African continent. The principal goals of UCLGA are: to promote decentraliza-

tion in Africa, to contribute to the building of African Unity through local governments, to support the setting up and empowerment of national associations of local governments, to promote exchange of experiences and best practices among African local governments and with local governments from other regions of the world, the flagship of such platforms of exchange being the Africities Summit organized on a triennial basis by the UCLGA.

Structure of UCLGA

UCLGA is composed by four different bodies: the General Assembly, the Pan African Council of local government, the Executive Summit and the Presidency.

General Assembly

The role of General Assembly is to elect the executive body and it is composed of all members.

Pan-African Council of local governments

The Pan African Council of local governments is the principal policy making body of the UCLGA, it



Khalifa Sall: Mayor of Dakar, UCLG Vice-President

meets once a year in ordinary meetings but it can meet in extraordinary meetings. It is charged with translating the policy decided by the General Assembly into strategies and implementation programs.

The roles of the Pan-African Council include:

- Electing the members of the Executive Committee from among its members
- Electing the members of the Presidency from among the members of the Executive Committee
- Electing the members and the Chair of the Financial Management Committee from among its members
- Approving the annual program of activities and the annual activity report submitted by the Executive Committee
- Approving the annual budget and accounts of the UCLGA submitted by the Executive Committee
- Making final decision on admission and/or cancellation of membership proposed by the Executive Committee
- Members of the Pan-African Council represent Africa on the UCLG World Council

The UCLGA Secretary General is a member of the Pan-African Council ex-officio (with no voting right), and serves as the secretary to the Pan-African Council sessions.

Executive Committee

With its sixteen members, the Executive Committee is the principal decision-making body of the UCLGA. It is composed of the five members of the Presidency, ten other members who represent equally all five sub-regions of the continent and the Secretary General (with no right to vote). Its decisions are binding to all the members of the organization. The Executive Committee may by resolution delegate powers and authorities to subcommittees established by it, or to the members of the Presidency or to the Secretary General. Members of the UCLGA Executive Committee represent Africa on the UCLG World Executive Bureau.

Presidency

With one president and five vice-presidents, the Presidency is the principal political representative of the UCLGA and shall represent the organization at functions, meetings and events to which it is invited.

The members of the presidency are nominated by the Pan-African Council among the members of the Executive Committee who chair the five sub-regions of the continent which are: North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa.

The President is nominated by the Pan-African Council among the members of the Presidency for a period of one year, which is renewable.



Jean Piere: UCLGA Secretary General

BAHRAIN

As United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia section, we undertook a study for gathering information on the local government legislation in the 15 countries (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) located in the MEWA region. In our newsletter we will inform about the local government systems in above-cited countries. In this issue we approach Bahrain.

Local Government Systems in Bahrain

Land Area	: 250 km ²
Population	: 1.04 million (2010-2011)
Gross Nat. Income per capita	: 26,664\$ (HDI-2010)

Human Development Index (HDI) Status

Ranked 39th out of 169 countries & grouped as “**Very High Human Development**” (UNDP-2010)

Political Regime

Pursuant to the Constitution, the system of governance in Bahrain is **constitutional hereditary monarchy**, based on the separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities.

Constitution & Provisions on Local Authorities

The Constitution of Bahrain was ratified on 6th December 1973, with major amendments being issued on 14th February 2002. Specific provisions in the Constitution concerning local authorities are included in **Articles 50 & 114**.

Laws on Local Authorities

The Law on Municipalities, being the first written law in Bahrain, was issued as early as 1920. The new Law on Municipalities, enacted in 2001, granted women the right to vote and stand as candidates for municipal councils.

Other Legislation Concerning Local Authorities

Another significant law concerning local authorities is the Law on the Organization of Governorates, enacted in 2002 (replacing the Law on the Organization of Governorates of 1996) that has restructured the provinces in the country.

Administrative Divisions

Bahrain is administratively divided into five governorates. Each governorate is administered by a Governor appointed by the Ministry of Interior.

Types of Local Authorities

Under the political reforms of 2002, five municipal councils were formed corresponding to Bahrain's governorates. Each municipality is managed by an appointed Director General under the supervision of 10 elected members.

Electoral Processes & Local Elections

Bahrain witnessed its first municipal elections as early as 1924, which allowed the participation of women. The first municipal elections under the 2002 Constitution were held in May 2002, and most recently, in October 2010.



Alanya Municipality is protecting its cultural heritage

Alanya district boasts an important cultural heritage with its geographical position, historic fabric and natural beauties. Alanya Municipality cooperates with government agencies and non-governmental establishments to protect this historical and cultural heritage and hand it down to next generations as well as carries out important projects and aims to increase awareness of being a citizen by this work.

In this context for the first time on district basis in 2006 KUDEB (Offices of Protection, Application and Control) was founded. In 2009, Center of Area Management was put into service and the Plan of Area Management was prepared. The Plan of Area Management is the first of its kind in our country because it was carried out in an area which has archaeological, urban and natural features.

As a part of cultural heritage studies, some works were conducted with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Alanya Museum to include Alanya Castle to the List of World Heritage. As

a result of these activities, Alanya Shipyard and Castle were nominated to the list.

There are historical structures such as Kızılkule, Shipyard and Tophane in the Alanya Ancient City. In this area, as a part of **Kızılkule – Tophane Axis Project**, in accordance with the concept of modern museology, the Shipping and Maritime Museum with indoor and outdoor expositions is being built. The area also has archaeological remains and the Alive Museum, where visitors could find different activities, will be created and the spaces with cultural functions will be constructed.



Displayed Object

As a result of the studies in the region, safe tour routes were devised, environmental monitoring and illumination were introduced, repair of exterior (in the Shipyard) was provided. Besides, partial renovation of harbor walls, storehouses, and structure of Tophane; restoration of undefined structures, which will be used for exposition and the conversation center; and restoration of the historical Girene Fountain were

Best Practices

completed. In this way the fountain was made functional again. The inactive well in the Shipyard was cleaned, as a consequence of the cooperation between the Municipality of Alanya and 360 Degree Research Group, some expositing objects were located to five compartments of the Shipyard and the **Axis Project's** area.

Kale Kapısı in the Tunnel position, which is one the six historical gates of the Ancient Alanya City, is an area dedicated to Alanya Municipality with its bastions and walls. The area of "Counseling and Information Center for Visitors about Castle and Aspect Terrace" (in the construction plan aims to protect the Alanya Castle) is being repaired.

The graffito are under guard

Thousands of graffito on the Historical City Walls make Alanya unique. Alanya Municipality prepared a series of projects for protecting the graffito and opening them to the public. Besides the Municipality started identifying and photographing the details of the gates, windows, ceilings in the traditional houses.

Traditional Alanya houses are returning to life

Alanya Municipality is bringing life to the traditional Alanya houses. These houses are allocated to the municipality for a certain time by their

owners or publicized by the Municipality. For example, the registered structure named "Hamamlı Ev" (Hammam Home) has been used as the Alanya Municipality Directorship of Culture and Social Affairs and Area Management after its restoration. A traditional Alanya house in Alanya Castle was allocated to the Municipality for 20 years. The house was arranged in a way, which represents the traditional life, and it was opened as Ömürlü Kemal Atlı Culture House. Restoration is not limited to historical structures. A registered building in İskele Avenue was opened for visitors as the Alanya Municipality Culture House and Herbarium.

Azakoğlu Mansion was allocated to the municipality by the owners for 15 years in order to support the consciousness of being a citizen/urbanite and create city memory. Municipality started working to put the building into service as the Alanya Municipality Hüseyin Azakoğlu City Museum. In this context, municipality is collecting materials for exposition and doing the oral history studies.



“Çankaya 1000 Children Chorus” Project by Çankaya (Turkey) Municipality



Being one of the most important projects of Çankaya Municipality for children, “Çankaya 1000 Children Chorus” is aiming to contribute to the cultural and artistic development of the children.

Chorus are important not only for bringing up artist and music lovers but also for artistic, intellectual and personal development of children. This is the reason of this Project. Founded in 2009 primarily to contribute to the cultural and artistic development of the children, 1000 Children Chorus aims to realize many social targets. Because local governments are supposed to work not only for the basic local services but also for the artistic development of the society.

In this context, the mission of 1000 Children Chorus is to:

1- Announce that all children – in accordance with their ages – can sing.

2- Support to the chorus and their instructors in the primary schools.

3- Support all chorus for children in Ankara, include them to the Project and unite them in different activities.

4- Provide opportunity for children to meet with international chorus through festivals and recognize foreign songs.

1000 Child Chorus is not only one chorus. It consists of 1400 members from 36 different chorus which each of them have approximately 40 chorists from Çankaya Municipality, NGOs and Primary Schools. The principles of 1000 Children Chorus are: give priority to children and protect children's rights, support children's life and development, to respect the differences and do not discriminate, develop participation, freedom of expression, personality and abilities of children.

The basic education programme in the

Best Practices

framework of 1000 Children Chorus Project bases on making the music popular. This education programme has two main points; “Basic Music Education” and ‘Chorus”. “Basic Music Education”, aims that the children have basic theoretical music information in a funny way by playing. Chorus consist of the implementation of these theoretical information.

Although we can not learn all languages, through music we can communicate and be friends with the children of the world.

1000 Children Chorus consist of art consultant, conductor, instructors, children and coordinators. The age of children range from 09 – 12. Only with the approval of the instructor, younger children can join the chorus. All children with healthy voice can join on condition that they pre-register and enter the placement test which is announced in the beginning of each semester. Once children are accepted, they are placed to classes up to their age and knowledge and get education as long as the instructors approves with the parents knowledge until they are 14 – 15 years old. Members elder than 15

years old and willing to continue chorus may join “Youth Preparatory Chorus”

Repertoire Commissin which consists of conductors, instructors and mucis teachers determines the repertoire of the chorus. The songs with educational and artistic qualifications are backbone of the programme.

The Chorus practises are realized between October 15 and May 15, once a week (Saturday or Sunday) and it lasts one hour.

The Project has been supported by different institutions such as: Hacettepe University, Ankara State Conservatoire, Ankara University State Conservatoire, Bilkent University Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, Society of Music Instructors, Sevda Cenap And Music Foundation, Polyphonic Chorus Society and Ankara Polyphonic Music Society.

1000 Children Chorus had very big concerts in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. On 23 April 2010, the chorus with its 1200 members had a concert in company with Presidential Symphony Orchestra.



Urban Renewal in Beyoğlu (Istanbul/Turkey)



Urban regeneration, as the actions being taken to improve the environmental conditions, aims to reconstruct the debris and amend the deterioration of the economic, social, physical and urban space. The objectives of the urban transformation can be defined as exploring the causes of the corruption of urban areas and social devastation, in order to become a continuum of exchanges that make up the fabric of the urban space. This way it can allow successful socio-economic progress to be delivered to the public, avoiding unnecessary urban development and ensuring the widespread use of urban areas.

Beyoğlu Municipality is one of those who took serious steps on the course of urban renovation. Beyoğlu Municipality with the project of 'Tarlabaşı Yenileniyor' is a leading example in Turkey. In addition to this project, Beyoğlu Municipality is as well working on other projects of urban renewal, namely, Kasımpaşa, Okmeydanı and Örnektepe.

The Case Of Tarlabaşı

Tarlabaşı district, neighboring Taksim Square and İstiklal Street, which are important centers, was unable to secure for itself economic and cul-

tural development. The buildings along the boulevard could not bring in large-scale commercial and cultural activities as a result of high crime rate and the deterioration in the area. The historical location of the major renovation project is essential for the restructuring of the potential of Beyoğlu. The launch of commercial activities associated with this renewal project will bring changes to the value of land, quality of life and the service in the area. Tourism and qualified investments in the service sector will provide an economic revival to the project area and its surroundings and will be an opportunity for the development of the entire Tarlabaşı neighborhood. Thus, this project will rejuvenate the dormant part of the city and become the first step to ensuring successful adaptation.

One of the most important goals of the project is to complete regeneration of the aging infrastructure in an unhealthy environment due to lack of maintenance that could meet the demands of modern life. Underground car parks will be created for all dwellings and social activity will be intensified by the creation of pedestrian areas. When the project is completed, the city center of Istanbul will attain a new life.

Increasing Energy Consumption and Wars for Energy

Mankind has since 19th century transformed from an agricultural society to an industrial society. The transformation to the industrial society caused a shift of needs to development and sustainability of the state economy as well as the formation of countries' economic activities in terms of this new order. "Energy" is the foremost of those requirements.

Energy demand that appeared with the Industrial Revolution formed the foreign policy of states. Until the middle of the 19th century, hegemonic states, which struggled to control trade paths and trade centers that brought benefit, began considering energy resources and/or energy transit paths as an essential aim of their foreign policy, in order to keep up with industrialization.

In order to guarantee the resources for the supply of energy, countries implemented policies that had caused conflict throughout history, even brutal wars. Lastly, the Gulf War, experienced in our recent history (1990-1991), and the Invasion of Iraq (2003-2011), are good examples of brutal wars that included the intention to control energy resources. Invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and thereby experienced wars in the Gulf and Iraq with the intention of capturing petrol sources, show how strongly industrial states emphasize their energy supply.

The Iraq War neither was the first, nor will it be the last war aiming to guarantee energy supply to industrialized countries. Due to the current situation at the energy market, it is believed that there is a strong possibility of having reasons for conflict which may cause new brutal wars. Yet, developed economies mostly need petrol, natural gas, coal at producing energy and a supply of Plutonium for nuclear energy, and they generally cover their needs with import. There are limited natural resources that are demanded all around the world. In contrast to that, the demand for the energy

increases day by day. This situation causes both the increase of prices of goods and competition among energy-demanding countries. On the other hand, current political uncertainty, especially in the Middle East and African countries which have petrol, natural gas, coal, and Plutonium resources, is another reason which causes increasing prices and makes the supply of resource insecure. Therefore, there is a possibility that states could engage in armed interstate conflict for cheap and reliable resources in such a conjuncture.¹

Increasing Competition over Petrol and Natural Gas

If we would analyze the market of petrol and natural gas, we would see more intensive competition than is the case with other energy products. Because of the shrinkage at the energy market and increasing energy prices, we can see that demand and supply are becoming increasingly unrelated to each other, and in the same way current competition becomes more aggressive.

After the global economic crises of 2008-2009, the global economy started to recover itself in 2010, and this situation also became an augmenting element for energy consumption. As a result, energy demand of the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as energy demand of non-member states of OECD such as China, India, which have always enjoyed economic enlargement, increased; energy import experienced a radical rise at a global scale.

If we work on the numbers, we can recognize that the biggest surge of energy consumption since 1973 happened in 2010, with an estimated increase of 5.6%.² According to the report of USA Ministry of Energy which is known as "Energy Information Administration" (EIA), energy consumption will continue to rise rapidly un-

til 2035; daily consumption of liquid fuel will reach 112 million barrels from 85 million barrels today.³

In addition to the increasing demand for petrol and natural gas, another factor that caused the increase of prices is the decrease of current reserves. Petrol and natural gas reserves are decreasing, especially in the North Sea, lying between England and the Continental Europe, and in Mexico. Instead of them, new inadequate reserves are being opened.⁴ If we analyze the volume of how much these mentioned country deposits decreased, we see that even though Norway was producing 3,422 thousand barrels of petrol in 2001 daily, in 2009 it produced only 2,350 thousand barrels of petrol daily. While England was extracting 2,087 m³ of gases from the North Sea in 2009 daily, this amount decreased to 1,988 m³ of gases.⁵ It is also known that other reserves all around the world are running lower day by day. According to many experts, petrol deposits mostly will run out in around 2040, due to the increasing petrol production if it continues to be consumed as it has been in the past.⁶

Beside those two elements that caused the increase of petrol prices, another factor is that most of the known reserves are in the countries where political uncertainty exists. Political uncertainty in the Middle East, political depression in petrol producing countries such as Nigeria and Sudan in Africa affect the prices negatively, and there is suspicion about the safety of the delivery of imported petrol to consumers.

Decision-makers of developed countries always encourage the search of hydrocarbon reserves in order to overcome from this negative situation. Generally, new-found reserves were in offshore locations, which are difficult areas for petrol extraction and it shows that more investment is required to do this.⁷ Consequently, working for petrol extraction in difficult geographies is another

reason of rising costs and energy prices.

Developed economies in need of energy have started to consume natural gas because of the negative situation in the petrol market. Yet, countries that have gas reserves aren't seen as reliable gas suppliers by Western developed economies. Nowadays, Russia with natural gas reserves amounting to 44.8 trillion m³ is the country with the biggest natural gas deposits in the world.⁸ Again Russia is a country that has world's second largest natural gas reserves and world's eighth largest petrol deposits.⁹ It is the second largest petrol producer with 10.2 million barrels daily, following Saudi Arabia.¹⁰ With these properties, Russia is an indispensable country, and as a result has political hegemony over the EU and other countries which import natural gas and other energy sources from Russia. This situation is not good for the EU¹¹ as 36% of its gas need, 31% of its petrol, and 30% of its coal supply comes from Russia. Europe is concerned about the supply of natural gas from Russia because they have already experienced difficulties such as the gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine, stopping the gas transfer from Russia over Ukraine to Europe. Hence, Russia can use it as a political trump. Thus, other gas producing countries should be found aside from Russia, first and foremost Nabucco¹² and other projects.

It is quite difficult to find an alternative country to Russia in the natural gas market. Energy does not exist in every country and lucky countries which have it (natural gas), might have political uncertainty or be located on a geography that experiences armed conflict. Among these countries, Iran is the most important. Iran is a country which has gas reserves of approximately 30 trillion m³. But as it is known, this country has serious problems with the West regarding its nuclear activities and may encounter an intervention at any time. Therefore, even though it is a rich

country in respect of both petrol and natural gas, pulling down the prices of petrol and gas and accessing its resources without any trouble looks impossible.

Another country that has natural gas amounting to 25 trillion m³ is Qatar. Yet, this third country in the world regarding natural gas resources is located in the Middle East, which has political uncertainty. There is a risk in importing natural gas from Qatar especially due to the Arab Spring and to the closed Strait of Hormuz by Iran.

Looking at their conditions, Iran, Russia, and Qatar¹³ aren't considered to be sustainable energy suppliers, even though they have approximately 70% of the world's natural gas reserves. Lastly, another reason that causes the increase of prices is that developed and developing countries, espe-

cially India and China, are on the wait for those reserves.

It is known that there is a limited amount of petrol and natural gas reserves and that day by day they are even decreasing. However, increasing energy consumption, influenced by developing economies, and emerging regional political uncertainties in recent years make the energy more expensive. Neither energy derived from a nuclear reactor nor coal is an alternative to the energy produced from petrol and natural gas, due to their high cost and being a threat to the environment. For this reason, there will be a possibility for an interstate armed conflict unless much more is invested in wind power, solar power, clear and renewable energy such as biogas, and the over-use of energy in the light of current conditions is avoided.

¹Ann Florini, Benjamin K. Sovacool, "Bridging The Gaps in Global Energy Governance", *Global Governance*, Vol. 17, 2011, p. 59.

²BP (British Petroleum), BP Statistical Review of World Energy June 2011, http://www.bp.com/assets/bp_internet/globalbp/globalbp_uk_english/reports_and_publications/statistical_energy_review_2011/STAGING/local_assets/pdf/statistical_review_of_world_energy_full_report_2012.pdf, erişim tarihi: 4/8/2012

³EIA(Energy Information Administration), International Energy Outlook 2011, http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/more_highlights.cfm#world, erişim tarihi: 4/8/2012

⁴Stuart Harris, "Global and Regional Orders and the Changing Geopolitics of Energy", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 2010, Vol. 64, No. 2, p. 168.

⁵US. Energy Information Administration, <http://www.eia.gov/countries/country-data.cfm?fips=UK>, erişim tarihi: 2/6/2011

⁶Gioietta Kuo, "Will Natural Gas Replace Oil", *World Future Review*, Spring 2012, s. 8.

⁷Nikolay Kaveshnikov, "The Issue of Energy Security in Relations Between Russia and the European Union", *European Security*, 2010, Vol. 19, No. 4, s. 588.

⁸CIA - The World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2179rank.html>, erişim tarihi: 5/8/2012

⁹Energy Information Administration, "Russia Energy Data, Statistics and Analysis – Oil, Gas, Electricity, Coal", <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Russia/pdf.pdf>, erişim tarihi: 7/6/2012

¹⁰CIA - The World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rs.html>, erişim tarihi: 1/8/2012

¹¹Avrupa Komisyonu Resmi Web Sitesi, http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/russia/russia_en.htm, erişim tarihi: 2/2/2012

¹²Bkz. Nabucco Gas Pipeline, <http://www.nabucco-pipeline.com/portal/page/portal/en>, erişim tarihi: 7.8.2012

¹³Stuart Harris, *a.g.e.*, s. 169.

European City Initiatives in Energy Efficiency

Nation-wide policy is a crucial component for reaching goals such as sustainable development and the efficient use of energy. However, the actions taken on the local level is what makes an impact in the most direct way. Initiatives of municipal governments and cities on these issues are not only welcomed but nowadays are even expected and considered a part of what a real local government of the people ought to do. To varying levels it has certainly become a practice in Europe.

Municipalities of Vienna (Austria) and Münster (Germany) have begun implementing city-wide projects of energy conservation by introducing

CO₂ each year.

The city of **Oslo** (Norway) has recently decided to reap the benefits offered by energy-efficient street lighting systems. 10,000 High Pressure Sodium street-lighting columns have been installed in the streets of Oslo. These can be individually controlled from a central location and the lighting can be dimmed when appropriate, which helps to reduce energy consumption and extend lamp life. Tougher efficiency standards for street lighting and lighting control can have a significant impact on the totality of city's energy consumption and lead to significant reductions of energy use.



quite stringent building standards and energy efficiency requirements. The municipal program in **Vienna** established a list of more than 100 ecological requirements which are now mandatory for all municipal procurement and contracting. This has led to annual cost savings of about 17 million Euros and 30,000 tons of CO₂ emissions reductions. The implementation of stringent thermal performance requirements for residential buildings in **Münster** resulted in the construction of over 5,600 low-energy housing units and 85 energy efficient commercial buildings, saving the city 13 million kWh and at least 3,400 tons of

Producing energy from waste is yet another way of reducing CO₂ emissions. This technology has been for years used by the city authority of **Freiburg** (Germany). The operating municipal anaerobic digestion plant converts 36,000 tons of household organic waste into 4 million m³ of biogas and 15,000 tons of fertilizer. In **Göteborg** (Sweden) waste-to-energy production saves annually around 200,000 tons of CO₂. The biogas is then burned generating 7 GWh of electricity annually. In **Stockholm** (Sweden) the resultant biogas is used as a fuel source for inner city buses, garbage trucks and taxis.

Combined heat and power (CHP) systems can also offer substantial improvements in efficiency. There are two main approaches to CHP installation. The first uses waste heat, such as that arising from the process of electricity generation itself, to heat building. The second approach outputs a specific heat load and exports the electrical energy it generates to the local network. The municipality of **Helsinki** (Finland) initiated the con-

struction of a CHP plant and is now able to generate more than enough electricity to meet the needs of the city, therefore Helsinki Energy sells surplus energy to the Nordic grid. At the same time, it produces 92 % of the city's district heating. All of this means higher efficiency of energy use, lower CO₂ emissions as well as substantial economic profit.

The municipal action plan of the city of **Barcelona** deserves special attention. This action plan consists of various management, supply and consumption, social and communication as well as economic and legal strategies which promote an environmentally sustainable city, reducing air pollution and the consumption of fossil fuels in the process. Concerning legal instruments, Barcelona is the first European city to have a *Solar Thermal Ordinance*. According to this by law, all new buildings and building undergoing major refurbishment are obligated to use solar energy to supply 60 % of their running hot water requirements. This has led to a major expansion in the surface

of solar thermal square meters which in turn means a wider use of clean and safe energy and in the long run contributes to the reduction of pollution in the city. Due to the success of the communication campaign and the idea of the project in general, the Barcelona Solar Thermal Ordinance has become a model for other municipalities and many cities in Catalonia have adopted similar local regulations.

The dissemination of knowledge and good practice can encourage cities to invest not only in short-term projects dealing with immediate needs of the people but in long-term sustainable solutions that future generations could thank for. Cooperation between local governments, private businesses and citizens can immensely improve the quality of life, and this is especially true for big cities that require big decisions and actions. Local initiatives, local solutions, especially in this world of uncertainty, declining resources and increasing levels of pollution can make a great difference to the benefit of city dwellers and in turn, if combined, amount to global solutions.



Decentralization : Strong Instrument for Local Democracy and Development



Nearly 200 representatives of local and central governments, regional and international organizations and members of the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly gathered in Tunis, Tunisia on 28-30 May 2012 to debate decentralization and the constitutional process in Tunisia. The conference was jointly organized by the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT), UCLG, the Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Government), the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) and the Arab Town Organisation (ATO).

The conference was opened in the presence of representatives of central government, the President of the Local Government Commission of the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly and Dr. Kadir Topbaş, President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul. Mr. Saifallah Lasram, Mayor of Tunis and FNVT, recalled in his opening speech the principles that should be included in the new constitution to strengthen the role of local government and local democracy. Mr. Said Mechichi, the Secretary of State in the Minister of Interior in charge of the Reformation, reaffirmed on behalf of the Minister of the Interior

that decentralization is an essential option for the future to consolidate the unity of the State. Dr. Kadir Topbaş reaffirmed the commitment of UCLG to assist the authorities and local actors to consolidate Tunisian local democracy.

After a first general discussion on issues of decentralization, the participants developed, in three parallel workshops, debates about the balance between decentralization and devolution, the role of local authorities in development and their relationships with civil society.

In the first workshop, Mr. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, made a speech presenting the region and the actual situation in terms of decentralization, by underlining UCLG-MEWA activities serving to the strengthening of local democracy and decentralization in the Middle East and West Asia region.

Dr. Ahmet N. Helvacı, former sub-governor and former mayor from Turkey, presented the Turkish experience of local government and decentralization.

A general consensus has emerged on the need to promote anchoring of political, administrative

Activities

and financial decentralization in the new constitution of Tunisia to enshrine the principles of local autonomy, to create different levels of local communities and ensure an appropriate split of responsibilities and resources between different levels of government, encourage citizen participation and provide a legalisation of controls on local government.

During the three workshops, participants discussed several issues such as the status of regions as territorial level management to reduce regional disparities, the weakening of the controls exercised by central government on local authorities and the relevant place to establish the best connection between local administration and central government for more constructive collaboration between the different spheres of government; the need to strengthen and diversify the local tax system and ensure a transfer of

resources to local authorities on transparent and predictable basis, improving transparency and efficiency of management and the creation of a local government service as well. Regarding civil society issues, the participants considered that participative democracy must go hand in hand with representative democracy. Participants officially recorded the changing role of civil society as associations of allegiance to a role of intelligence. It was also noted that a third of the country is not yet municipalized and priorities should be to give to all citizens the same rights.

In conclusion, local authorities have warned against neglect they face and called on parliamentarians to receive constituent local authorities to establish a dialogue on the constitutional process. They also proposed to promote pilot projects of citizen participation to help developing the new legislation.



The Partners Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations took place in İstanbul

The Partners Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UN AoC) convened in Istanbul, Turkey on 31st May – 1st June 2012, at the invitation of Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, and was co-chaired by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. A special session of the Forum, entitled as “The Alliance of Civilizations, Cities, Citizens” was dedicated to cities, local governments.

70 countries, 15 international organizations, and a significant number of corporations, foundations and NGOs took part in the Forum, affirming the Alliance’s position as a global platform for cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation at a time of growing global interdependence.

More than half of those present pledged new support for the Alliance’s work – both financial and in kind, thereby enabling the Alliance to better plan its future activities and consolidate existing projects. Additionally, participants discussed a wide range of topics relevant to the mandate of the Alliance, including commonly shared values essential for coexistence, cities and diversifying local governance, and the role of the private sector in supporting cross-cultural activities.

Moderated by Mr. Josep ROIG, UCLG Secretary General, the Session on “The Alliance of Civilizations, Cities, Citizens” had Dr. Kadir TOPBAŞ, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey, President of UCLG and UNACLA; Mr. Khalifa Ababacar SALL, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal and the UCLG Vice-President for Africa; Ms. Linda LEES, Founder and Director, Creative Cities International, USA; Mr. Lütfü SAVAŞ, Mayor of Antakya, Turkey; and Ms. Snezana SAMARDZIC-MARKOVIC, Council of Europe's Director General for democracy, as main speakers. This session dedicated to the local authorities was organized by UCLG-MEWA.

President TOPBAŞ renewed to President SAMPAIO, UN Alliance of Civilizations High Representative, UCLG’s commitment to the work of Alliance and the promotion of peace and dialogue.



UN First Lady Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek visited UCLG-MEWA



The spouse of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Mrs. Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek visited the International Youth Leadership Academy (IYLA) located in the UCLG-MEWA building in Istanbul, Turkey on 1st June 2012.

The International Youth Leadership Academy is a partnership among UNICEF, Save the Children, Habitat Center for Development and Governance (an NGO from Turkey), Corio, United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), and the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD). In the framework of a protocol signed by UCLG-MEWA, UNICEF and WALD, trainings are conducted in the UCLG-MEWA building. UNICEF and Save the Children contribute in the international curriculum of the academy.

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General Mehmet Duman, UNICEF Deputy Resident Representative Regina de Dominicis, CORIO Representative of Turkey Esra Yalçın and Honorary President of Habitat for Development

and Local Governance Sezai Hazır delivered welcoming speeches. Following the presentation about IYLA, Mrs. Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek took floor and answered the questions of young people.

86 young people from 43 different cities in Turkey have been volunteer trainers in IYLA since 2010. Presently, 1.572 young people between the age of 15-30 have been trained by volunteer trainers in the scope of IYLA. Furthermore high school students, under the age of 20, disadvantaged youth (young people who are vulnerable to crime, young women, and teenagers in orphanages) are also involved in trainings.

So far, trainings on different topics such as ICT Literacy, CISCO IT (Cisco Information Technologies) Networking, Communication, Project Management, Financial Literacy, Discrimination and Hate Speech on New Media, HIV/AIDS, Documentary Movie Making and Social Responsibility, Conflict Resolution, Negotiation and Mediation have been organized.

UCLG Co-President Wan Qingliang Visited President Kadir Topbaş



Mr. WAN Qingliang, former Mayor of Guangzhou and Vice President of China Association of Mayors came to İstanbul on 17th-18th July, 2012, and visited Kadir TOPBAŞ, the president of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). During his visit to İstanbul, Mr. WAN Qingliang's, the Co-President of UCLG, was accompanied by TIAN Kaisheng, Consulate General of China in Istanbul, CHEN Gugui, Senior Vice Mayor of Guangzhou Municipal Government, WANG Xudong, Director General of Guangzhou Economic & Trade Commission, LIU Baochun, Director General of Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office, LI Ming, Director General of Bureau of Urban Planning of Guangzhou Municipality, ZENG Kaizhang, President of CCPIT Guangzhou, YUAN Zhimin, Chairman of Guangzhou Federation of Industry & Commerce, Chairman of Kingfa Sci. & Tech. Co., Ltd., HUANG Hehong, Party Secretary of CPC Conghua Committee, Director General of the Standing Committee of People's Congress of

Conghua City, TAN Zhixiang, Director General of Guangzhou Cooperation Office, Zhang Fangyou, Chairman of Guangzhou Automobile Industry Group, LI Chuyuan, Vice Chairman & General Manager of Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. and FANG Jizhang, Vice Mayor of Conghua City Government.

WAN Qingliang, the Co President of UCLG, inaugurated İstanbul Guangzhou Day, which was held in Four Seasons Hotel, with a vast group of businessmen with him on the first day of his visit. Distinguished persons from the business world made speeches in this ceremony, as part of the "China Year in Turkey" event for 2012.

Co-President WAN was accompanied by Kadir TOPBAŞ, President of UCLG, and Josep ROIG, General Secretary of UCLG, in his two-day visit. On the last day, after the lunch hosted by Kadir TOPBAŞ, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor, he visited President TOPBAŞ in his office.

In the meeting, the issues on the agenda of UCLG World Organization were discussed the most extensively. The details connected with the Press Conference of International Guangzhou Urban Innovation Awards, which was arranged right after the meeting, were finalized.

After this concilium, the events passed on to the Press Conference that was to be held in İstanbul City Hall. In the Press Conference, where International Guangzhou Urban Innovation Awards were advertised, the signing ceremonies (Sister City Protocol between İstanbul and Guangzhou and the Memorandum of Understanding between UCLG-MEWA and Directorate for External Relations of Guangzhou (GZFAO) Municipality) also took place. CHEN Rugui, Guangzhou Deputy Mayor; Adem



BAŞTÜRK, General Secretary of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality; Josep ROIG, General Secretary of UCLG; WAN Qingliang, Guangzhou Province General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and Co-President of UCLG; Kadir TOPBAŞ, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Mayor and President of UCLG; TIAN Kaisheng, İstanbul Deputy Consul-General of People's Republic of China; Mehmet DUMAN, General Secretary of UCLG-MEWA; LIU Baochun, Director of External Relations of Guangzhou Municipality, were present in the meeting. After the speeches of WAN, Co-

President of UCLG, and TOPBAŞ, President of UCLG, the conference passed on to the signing ceremony.

Memorandum of Understanding between UCLG-MEWA and GZFAO, which aims to support the cooperation between the two organizations, was signed by Mehmet DUMAN, General Secretary on behalf of UCLG-MEWA, and LIU Baochun, General Director, on behalf of GZFAO. The Protocol of Cooperation is intended to promote the International Guangzhou Urban Innovation Awards in the region of

MEWA, encourage members of MEWA to participate in the competition. It also aims to show the support and encouragement of the Guangzhou Office for the activities arranged by MEWA General Secretariat.

Press Conference ended with Josep ROIG, General Secretary of UCLG, Qingliang WAN, Co-President of UCLG, and Kadir TOPBAŞ, President of UCLG, answering journalists' questions. After the last official event, which was the Press Conference, Co-President WAN was sent off by TOPBAŞ, ROIG, General Secretary of UCLG, and DUMAN, General Secretary of UCLG-MEWA. Then President TOPBAŞ, Josep ROIG, General Secretary of UCLG, and Mehmet DUMAN, General Secretary of UCLG-MEWA, exchanged evaluations about the agenda of the organization.

World Urban Forum



The 6th Session of the World Urban Forum will be celebrated by UN-Habitat jointly with the Italian hosts on 1st-7th September in Naples.

Mr. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General will attend the forum and deliver a speech. The theme for this year's Forum will be 'The Urban Future'. The topic which will be addressed through 4 focused Dialogues will focus on Urban Planning, Equity and Prosperity, Productive Cities, Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment.

In addition to the Themes, there will be specific meetings of particular relevance for the Local Governments Agenda.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos thanked the Government of Italy and the Naples municipality for agreeing to host the event. "We look forward to working with UN-HABITAT and other partners to make the next World Urban Forum even more successful than the previous ones," he said.

"The Forum has become the preeminent conference on all things urban. People come together at these events to exchange notes and learn from each other about the problems and opportunities offered by urbanization," Dr. Clos said.

The Forum brings together government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental organizations, academics, grassroots women's organizations, youth and slum dwellers groups as partners working for better cities.

Also the regular annual meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA), chaired by the President of UCLG Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, will take place on Sunday 2nd September.

CEMR General Assembly Meeting

General Assembly Meeting of European Section of UCLG (CEMR) will take place in Cadiz (Spain) on 26th – 28th September 2012. The meeting will deal the following topics: decentralization, democracy and development. CEMR Secretary General **Frédéric Vallier** says: "Europe is changing, the crisis has given European leaders the opportunity to redefine the future of our continent, be it from a political, economic or financial point of view. These changes will have a great impact on our municipalities and regions, which is why CEMR believes it is necessary to involve all local, regional, national and European government actors in a partnership revolving around three main aspects: decentralization, democracy and development" and adds: **Decentralization** because, in these times of crisis, the issue of allocating power to the different spheres of government is on the table in most European countries. Thus, our Congress will aim at bringing local and regional leaders together to exchange and learn from one another in person! **Democracy** because we firmly believe that there is no true democracy without local democracy. Indeed, municipalities and regions are the level of governance closest to the citizen and are thus best placed to encourage the active participation of citizens in local political life. **Development** because in these times of major economic and social instability, local and regional leaders should count on their own capacity to mobilize citizens relevant actors on the ground to put into place initiatives and create jobs notably for young people."



The meeting will be a knowledge exchange opportunity bringing together local and regional government representatives primarily from Europe and all over the world.

This year, the historical city of Cadiz is celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the *Peña*. Signed in Cadiz, it is the world's third oldest democratic constitution and the first to establish the principles of freedom, civil rights and citizenship in Spain. In this context meeting in Cadiz is very meaningful.

CEMR's General Assembly with 55 member associations from 40 European countries, representing 100 000 local and regional authorities, will be an important networking opportunity and platform for exchange.

Ban Ki-moon nominates Kadir Topbas as a member of the post-MDGs High-Level Panel



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 31st of July 2012 the members of a High-Level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). **Among the 20 personalities of this High-Level Panel, Mr. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul and**

President of UCLG, has been nominated. This nomination comes as recognition of the work accomplished by our Organization and its members towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. According to a recent study, the goals set on reduction of poverty, slums and access to water will be achieved; it is worth highlighting that these are fields in which the actions of local and regional authorities is of particular relevance.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon asked the High-Level Panel to prepare a bold yet practical development vision. The Panel will hold its first meeting in September, in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly. It is expected to submit its findings to the Secretary-General in the first half of 2013.

Members of the panel;

Susilo Bambang YUDHOYONO	PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA	Co-President
Ellen Johnson SIRLEAF	PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA	Co-President
David CAMERON	PREMIER MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM	Co-President
Fulbert Gero AMOUSSOUGA	BENIN	member
Vanessa Petrelli CORREA	BRAZIL	member
Yingfan WANG	CHINA	member
Maria Angela HOLGUIN	COLOMBIA	member
Gisela ALONSO	CUBA	member
Jean-Michel SEVERINO	FRANCE	member
Horst KOHLER	GERMANY	member
Naoto KAN	JAPAN	member
H.M Queen RAINA of Jordan	JORDAN	member
Betty MAINA	KENYA	member
Abhijit BANERJEE	INDIA	member
Andris PIEBALGS	LATVIA	member
Patricia ESPINOSA	MEXICO	member
Paul POLMAN	NETHERLANDS	member
Ngozi OKONJO-IWEALA	NIGERIA	member
Elvira NABIULLINA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	member
Graça MACHEL	SOUTH AFRICA	member
Sung-Hwan KIM	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	member
Gunilla CARLSSON	SWEDEN	member
Emilia PIRES	TIMOR-LESTE	member
Kadir TOPBAŞ	TURKEY	member
John PODESTA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	member
Tawakel KARMAN	YEMEN	member
Amina J. MOHAMMED	BM	member



Gaziantep to host 7th Silk Road Mayors' Forum



Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality is organizing the “7th Silk Road Mayors Forum” which will be held on 9th-11th of November, 2012.

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) in cooperation with Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality will be the hosts of the forum, which will bring together different structures of the United Nations, countries, entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations and participants from all over the world.

“7th Silk Road Mayors Forum” will be an opportunity for supporters of the Silk Road from many different countries and cultures not only to create a network but also to build fruitful future relationships.

Among the participants, beside Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and President of UCLG, Dr. Young Hoon Kwaak, President of World Citizens Organization (WCO), Asım Güzelbey, Mayor of Gaziantep, Erdal Ata, Governor of Gaziantep, and Derviş Eroğlu, President of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, will join the forum.

In the forum, there will be presentations on two different themes: “Protection of Cultural Heritage and Children of Silk Road” and “Traditional Silk Road Trade toward E-Trade of Tomorrow”.

Africités Summit will take place in Dakar on 4th-8th December 2012

The City of Dakar will host the 6th edition of Africités Summit from 4th to 8th December 2012.

The 6th edition of the Africités Summit has as a subject “Building Africa starting from its territories: Which challenges for the local governments?”

The summit will aim to examine the impact of the dynamic of urbanization, globalization and democratization (with the corollary of decentralization), on the reorganization of the settlement and development of the continent, and her inscription in the world of today and tomorrow.

Nearly 5000 people are been expecting to come. The participants represent all the protagonists of the African local life and their partners from other regions of the world: ministers in charge for the local governments and ministers in charge of sustainable development and of employment; central and local administrations representatives; civil society organizations, economic operators of the public and private sectors, researchers and academics; international cooperation agencies.





UCLG-MEWA Congress will take place in Baghdad



UCLG-MEWA Congress (Executive Bureau, Council and General Assembly Joint Meeting) will take place on 11th – 13th January, 2012, in Baghdad (Iraq) at the kind invitation of Baghdad Municipality. In the first day GOLD III (Global Observatory for Local Democracy) national experts and regional coordinators will meet to discuss the progress on the report. Also the 3rd Meeting of UCLG Committee on Urban Health will take place. In the second day two meetings will be held in the following themes: Effect of Desert Storms in MEWA Countries and Local Governance Systems in MEWA Countries. In the last day following the UCLG-MEWA Congress, there will be bilaretal meetings and social programmes.

On Friday, 11th January, 2013:

- a) 09⁰⁰-12⁰⁰ GOLD III evaluation meeting with country experts (tbc).
- b) 14⁰⁰-18⁰⁰ UCLG Committee for Urban Health 3rd Meeting

On Saturday, 12th January, 2013:

- a) 09⁰⁰-12⁰⁰ Meeting on Effect of Desert Storms in MEWA Countries
- b) 14⁰⁰-18⁰⁰ Meeting on Local Governance Systems in MEWA Countries

On Sunday, 13th January, 2013:

- a) 09⁰⁰ - 12⁰⁰ UCLG-MEWA Congress
(Executive Bureau, Council and General Assembly Joint Meeting)
- b) 12⁰⁰- 13⁰⁰ City Twinning Ceremony
- c) 14³⁰- 18⁰⁰ Bilateral meetings, social programs, visits to historical and touristic areas.