

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### **International Sustainability Conference Coming to Washington, DC** *Greening the World's Capital Cities to meet September 15 – 18, 2008*

**Washington, DC** – Leading experts on sustainability will join international delegates from fifteen capital cities in Washington, DC next week to attend the 2008 Capitals Alliance conference, *Greening the World's Capital Cities*. This year's conference, hosted by the National Capital Planning Commission, will highlight the timely and important topic of creating a more sustainable planet.

By 2050, three-fourths of the world's population is expected to reside in cities. Delegates will explore the impact this will have on our quality of life and the role of capital cities in leading the way to a more sustainable future. Taking part in the week-long exploration will be delegates from Abu Dhabi; Bogotá; Brasilia; Canberra; Copenhagen; Helsinki; Islamabad; Moscow; Oslo; Ottawa; Paris; Stockholm; Tshwane; Vienna; and Washington, DC.

Sessions, which are open to the public, will examine ways to put more national capitals on the road to a greener and more sustainable future. Some of the world's most respected leaders in the field will share their knowledge and discuss strategies behind successful green practices; explore the effects of green design on architecture and public space; and discuss the real meaning of green as they distinguish between reality and rhetoric. In addition, representatives from capital cities around the globe will share the latest sustainability projects now underway in their respective cities.

The conference opens on Monday, September 15 with a keynote by renowned author and documentary filmmaker **Herbert Girardet**. He will discuss why creating sustainable cities is a key challenge to urban planners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and why we have only about ten years to “get serious about the environment.”

Other speakers include **Larry Beasley**, retired Vancouver planning director; **Cassio Taniguchi**, former mayor of Curitiba, Brazil; Stockholm Mayor **Sten Nordin**; Urban Planning Council General Manager **Falah Al Ahababi** from Abu Dhabi; **Frances Beinecke**, president, Natural Resources Defense Council; former Pittsburgh mayor **Tom Murphy**; **Robert Stacey**, executive director, 1,000 Friends of Oregon; and grassroots activist **Majora Carter**. District and regional presenters include U.S. Congressman **Earl Blumenauer**; DC Mayor **Adrian Fenty**; **Thomas Hicks**, vice president of LEED Programs at the U.S. Green Building Council; National Trust for Historic Preservation President **Richard Moe**; DC Office of Planning Director **Harriet Tregoning**; DC Director of the Environment **George Hawkins**; and **David L. Winstead**, commissioner, U.S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service.

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Featured events throughout the week include a *Green DC Sites* tour. Delegates also will have a unique opportunity to take part in a live BIMStorm™— an internet-based collaborative charrette. Planners in Washington and around the world will simultaneously develop design alternatives for the new master plan of Tshwane, South Africa. Another featured event is a joint evening program with the National Building Museum, *World Leaders on Sustainability*, featuring leaders from around the world sharing important changes that are taking place across the globe as part of recent efforts to create a more sustainable planet.

Capitals Alliance is an international forum for capital city planners from around the world. Founded by Brasilia, Canberra, Ottawa, and Washington, DC in 2001, the Alliance enables a valuable exchange of information on issues and challenges that are unique to national capitals. The week's schedule is as follows:

**Monday, September 15: Planning for Sustainability**

*Keynote Address: Understanding the Complex Relationship Between Cities, People, and the World*  
9:00 a.m., National Press Club, Ballroom, 529 14th St., NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC

*Panel Discussion: What it Means to be Green*  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., National Press Club, Ballroom

**Tuesday, September 16: For the People By the People**

*Featured Address: Promoting and Sustaining Smart Growth Policies*  
9:00 a.m., Donald W. Reynolds Center, Nan Tucker Auditorium, 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, DC

*Panel Discussion: Building Momentum for Change*  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Donald W. Reynolds Center, Nan Tucker Auditorium

*BIM Storm™ 2008 Capitals Alliance: Tshwane, South Africa*  
1:30 – 4:30 p.m., National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 500N, Washington, DC

*Poster Session: Capital Cities Sustainability Projects*  
5:00 – 7:30 p.m., National Capital Planning Commission

**Wednesday, September 17: Capitals Leading the Way**

*Workshop: Capital Cities Leading the Way*  
8:30 – 11:15 a.m., National Capital Planning Commission

*Panel Discussion: World Leaders on Sustainability*  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m., National Building Museum, Great Hall, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

**Thursday, September 18: Green Capitals**

*Panel Discussion: Impact of Green Design on Architecture & Public Space*  
9:00 – 11:30 a.m., National Building Museum, Great Hall

*Featured Address: Building a City that Fosters our Green Goals*  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m., National Building Museum, Great Hall

*Closing Afternoon Remarks*  
2:00 – 2:30 p.m., National Building Museum, Great Hall

Note: Members of the press are kindly requested to email [lisa@ncpc.gov](mailto:lisa@ncpc.gov) or [athena@ncpc.gov](mailto:athena@ncpc.gov) to register for the planning sessions. For further details please visit [www.capitalsalliance.org](http://www.capitalsalliance.org).