



HOUSING AND URBAN UPGRADING in Yantai, China



UN-HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

The Human Settlements Financing Tools and Best Practices Series

Housing and Urban Upgrading in Yantai

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HOUSING AND URBAN UPGRADING

in Yantai, China



United Nations Human Settlement Programme

FOREWORD



The global housing crisis, especially in the developing world, is getting worse by the day making the right to adequate shelter a quest that is becoming more and more difficult to meet, despite the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals.

Such is the rate of urbanization—the influx of people into towns and cities, and their natural growth—that the world has now reached a point where for the first time now, half the global population lives in towns and cities.

By the year 2050, six billion people—two-thirds of humanity—will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements and slums, of the developing world. In the developing world, this is happening so fast that slums are mushrooming in what is termed the urbanization of poverty.

This makes it imperative that we use every means at our disposal to ensure that we at UN-HABITAT, and our partners, keep applying ourselves to Target 11 of the Goals – to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

And for this, we need innovative governance, and local thinking and reporting if we are to bring hope to the urban poor. Equally importantly, we need to support our towns and cities, indeed our countries, to adopt pro-poor policies and strategies that will obviate the need for further slum creation.

It is against this background, that the Human Settlements Financing Tools and Best Practices series focuses on the development of know-how, knowledge and tools so that Member States can learn from China’s experience in delivering affordable housing to the poorest of the poor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Anna Tibaijuka". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, 2008
Executive Director
UN-HABITAT

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The Chinese city of Yantai's achievements in the area of housing and urban upgrading projects have won national and international recognition. Slum and urban upgrading is a major plank in UN-HABITAT's agenda and strategy. Therefore, ongoing slum and urban upgrading initiatives can learn from successful experiences around the world and further explore innovative methods and tools to further their objectives.

This is why the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, requested a review of the experience of the city of Yantai (Shandong province, China; area population: 6.5 million) with regard to housing and urban upgrading, including financing mechanisms, for possible replication in, and comparison with, slum and urban upgrading policies in other parts of the developing world. This knowledge development and sharing mission to Yantai was undertaken by Xing Quan Zhang between 5 and 10 December 2005. Particular thanks are due to Wang Guo Qun, Jin Yan Ming, Li Bing Zhi, Mu Yibin, Sun Jianwen, Zhao Lijing, Chu Liang, Yan Hongmao, Sun Xiao Li, Gao Chijin, Fan Guoyao, Luan Shen Ming, Huang Yongping, Shao Jie, Li Shou Peng, Liu, Yang, and Ge Song, who are respectively from the municipal authority and the banking, development and community sectors in Yantai.

This report was prepared by Xing Quan Zhang mainly based on interviews and site visits to housing and urban upgrading projects in Yantai. This mission took place as Yantai experienced its heaviest snowfall on record. The Yantai Municipal Authority led the operations of cleaning up the snow on traffic roads, and did remarkably well. During subsequent site visits, in a way it was not a surprise to see that the same efficiency had been achieved in housing and urban upgrading.

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