

NAHRO  
International Committee  
October 25, 2008  
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Room 207  
San Antonio, Texas

**Members in Attendance:**

Henry Alvarez	Rick Gentry	Bill Povalla
Kerron Barnes	Liz Glenn	Booty Reed
Don Bibb	Joe Gray	Claude Roy
Julie Brewen	Pat Gustafson	Steve Rudman
Thomas Coleman	Maggie LaMont	Leroy Smith
Barb Cook	Branna Lindell	Henrietta Snipes
Margarita Decierdo	Stella Madrid	Ed Talbot
Steve Falek	Elizabeth Morris	Jane Vincent
Apolonio Flores	Ray Murphy	Alan Zais
Michael Gallegos	Mary Paumen	

**Others in Attendance:**

Stephanie Bamford  
Mary Barron  
Akinola Popoola  
Saul Ramirez  
Renee Rooker  
Kimberly Sneed-Matthews  
Nick Volk

**Discussion**

Chairperson Jane Vincent opened the meeting at 9:30 AM. Committee members introduced themselves. Ms. Vincent recognized international guests.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Morning discussion will include a review of conference-related details and a presentation regarding the United Nations as it relates to NAHRO's NGO status. Subcommittees will meet late morning and report out after lunch. President Rooker and CEO Ramirez will address the group in the morning and Senior Vice President Akinola Popoola will address the committee regarding Transpire in the afternoon.

Led by Julie Brewen, the Committee reviewed details regarding the exhibit hall booth. Committee members were asked to staff the booth during specific exhibit hours. The Committee also discussed details about the international breakfast scheduled for 7:30 AM on Monday morning. The format of the breakfast has been modified from prior years; no ticket exchange or reservations are required. Details regarding the Monday evening

dinner were also provided. Members were encouraged to attend the international reception in the President's suite on Tuesday evening.

Nick Volk read a letter of welcome to NAHRO from Habitat International. A summary of membership benefits was provided.

Mary Paumen motioned to approve the Minutes of the Committee meeting for July 24; Julie Brewen seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Vincent reviewed International Committee goals that were adopted in January 2008 and serve to guide activities of the Committee through Fall 2009. Goals include work in the following areas: Lange Award, Study Exchanges, Communications, Partnerships, Education/Research and interrelations with NAHRO as a whole.

**“UN 101” session:**

Mary Paumen gave an overview of the organization of the UN.

Stephanie Bamford spoke about her work with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and specifically as chairperson of HUMAN and invited interested committee members to consider joining HUMAN. See attachments for more details.

Stephanie Bamford took questions about how NAHRO's International Committee can become more involved with their UN NGO status. Vice President Vincent encouraged members to consider committee involvement during their subcommittee meetings.

President Renée Rooker and Executive Director Saul Ramirez visited the committee, thanking them for their work.

**Tri-Country Conference**

Stella Madrid, Bill Povalla, Steve Rudman, Betsy Morris and Maggie Lamont spoke about their experiences at the recent Tri-Country conference in Toronto. All were impressed by the city, the conference program, and the U.S. policy paper written by Jennifer Lavorel. Povalla offered to write and disseminate several white papers on various programs/efforts discussed at the conference.

The committee then broke for subcommittee breakouts and lunch.

**Subcommittee Reports**

*Julie Brewen reported for the Communication subcommittee.* The subcommittee is in the process of finalizing the Committee Resource Guide, which will be posted in PDF format to the NAHRO website. The subcommittee also proposed creating a separate, non-member protected International Committee webpage. The International Brochure is

completed and available at the International Booth. The subcommittee is still trying to determine how to address NAHRO's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Pat Gustafson and Stella Madrid are on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee, and will do some brainstorming. The subcommittee is also working on how to successfully communicate experiences/lessons from study exchanges back to the full NAHRO membership.

*Liz Glenn reported for the Education subcommittee.* There was much discussion about the proposed Netherlands asset management study. The fundraising process will need to start soon, and the role of NAHRO staff in the study and/or fundraising therefore needs to be determined. It was suggested that the asset management study as part of the 2010 Tri-Country Conference, to be hosted in the US by NAHRO, would be an appropriate topic for the conference agenda.

Ms. Glenn noted that Mr. Remi Feredj, INTA Vice President and an official with the Paris Transit Authority, has asked to make a presentation at NAHRO's Legislative Conference in 2009. (See attached summary.) This connection was coordinated by INTA representation to the International Committee Kerron Barnes.

*Bill Povalla reported for the UN NGO/Partnerships subcommittee.* There was further discussion of what to do with information/papers gathered at Tri-Country Conferences. It was suggested that they could be posted on a new International Committee webpage on the NAHRO site. Matching a "directory of expertise/skills" with the UN Directory of opportunities, a listing of hearings and meetings that is available to NGOs, was also proposed as a way to become more involved with that organization.

Nola Popoola and Kimberly Sneed-Matthews presented on the e-Procurement system.

*Barb Cook reported for the Lange subcommittee.* The subcommittee proposes sending out personal invitations to previous award winners, inviting them to submit applications, in early February.

*Alan Zais reported for the Study Exchanges subcommittee.* Alan Zais motioned, Julie Brewen seconded and the Committee passed a resolution to send a formal acceptance letter to China for 4-5 delegates to visit Shanghai in the first half of 2009. (A copy of the resolution adopted by the committee and invitation from the Foreign Affairs Office of Shanghai Municipal People's Government is attached.)

The subcommittee also agreed that definitive learning points need to be determined well beforehand and discussed with the Chinese. This should be standard protocol for all exchanges, and should also help guide selection of exchange delegates. The key points developed by the subcommittee include the following: 1. Revitalization and new construction of affordable housing and infrastructure; 2. Affordable housing operation; 3. Social services; 4. Affordable housing as a political component (details attached). All International Committee members were asked to review the protocol and forward any comments to Alan Zais.

The Committee also recently sent a letter of acceptance to the Ministry of Housing and Construction in Israel to send a delegation in the first half 2009, following up on Committee and Board of Governors action in July 2008.

Mr. Zais reported that Joe Saenz is still enthusiastic about planning a trip to Mexico. He is composing a letter of interest in order to determine which agency would be an appropriate host/point of contact. The trip is proposed for fall of 2009. Alan Zais also mentioned that he is thinking about the location of future exchanges as well.

Kerron Barnes reported that an INTA/French delegation, comprised of officials from the Paris Transit Authority, visited New York City in September to look at housing, urban renewal and transit issues. The trip was successful, and as noted as part of the Education subcommittee report, Mr. Remi Feredj expressed interest in attending the March Legislative Conference.

Ed Talbot gave a PowerPoint presentation on his recent trip to the Chuuk islands, where he studied the environmental effects of wreckage of WWII battleships.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Barron

**Attachments:**

Habitat International Membership Benefits

UN Structure

ECOSOC

Draft Study Exchange Protocol

Invitation from Shanghai

Resolution to the Board of Governors regarding Shanghai

Mr. Feredji presentation outline

Letter of Acceptance to Israel