

THE GREAT CITIES OF AFRICA

By popular demand, our full edition will be published after the ATA 10th Ecotourism Symposium in Calabar, Nigeria. This allows our North American and World media team to tell the story of "The People's Paradise" first hand. The result? Positive, far-reaching coverage for Nigeria and her African neighbors. *A Printernet Edition.*

Africa's Historic Capitals of Culture and Gateways to Sustainable Tourism

by Jerry W. Bird, Photos by Muguette Goufrani

With an Africa Travel Magazine office a few steps from Western Canada's largest convention center, and our publication warehouse down the street, a we've represented Africa at many major events over the past decade. The Municipal Marketplace and Conference has topped our agenda each year, but the biggest event in this important category happened this July with the UN World Urban Forum³, thirty years after Vancouver hosted the first UN Habitat, which laid the foundation. The twin goals of Habitat are "Adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world." Three years earlier, the United States Conference of Mayors launched a successful Mission to Africa, as a new sustainable partnership to meet challenges of Aids pandemic.

Photo: Nairobi, Kenya: Culture is in the forefront as. Maasai attend a conference at the InterContinental Hotel, which has just completed major renovations. In two years, spending 60 days in the country, we witnessed major beautification and cleanup projects in this emerging metropolis. Similar initiatives are underway in Ghana and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to name a few we have visited. These separate events set the stage for several ongoing projects on our editorial menu. Today's media spotlight shines on Calabar, Nigeria, proud host of ATA's 10th Ecotourism Symposium, followed by Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, site of ATA's 32nd World Congress, and Kampala, Uganda, home of the IIPT-ATA 4th Africa Peace Through Tourism Conference.

Did you know? Since 1976, over 30 African cities have hosted events by the Africa Travel Association? This astonishing support represents 22 different countries - no other travel industry organization even comes close. What's more, a key reason for ATA's wide acceptance is the fact that Africans share in the leadership. For example, our ATA Presidents are African Tourism Ministers - responsibility, action and example comes right from the top.



Africa's Mayors play a starring role

Africa's nominations for World Mayor Awards were Antananarivo, Madagascar, Johannesburg, South Africa, Maputo, Mozambique and Tunis, Tunisia. Other key participants included: Benin - Raoul Akodjigbe Houessou Mayor of Lokossa, Burkina Faso - Simon Campaore Mayor of Ouagadougou, Madagascar - Olga Ramalason. Mairesse d'Antsirabe, Maroc - Mohamed Sajid, Maire de Casablanca, Namibia - Rosina Hoabes Mayor of Windhoek, President of Association of Local Authorities of Namibia, Senegal - Robert Sagna, Mayor of Ziguinchor, Senegal - Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, Mayor of Kaolack, Tanzania - Adam Kimbisa, Mayor of Dar es Salaam, Tunisia - Mounira Boukmiha, Adjointe au Maire, City of Tunis, Uganda - James Sseggane, Mayor, City of Kampala. Representing ATA Canada Chapter, we welcomed our African colleagues, interviewing them for the magazine and escorting several groups of mayors on a cultural tour, which included the University of British Columbia. This gesture was one way for us to repay the wonderful hospitality we have enjoyed in 11 years with the Africa Travel Association as its media voice Having just returned from West Africa we were especially pleased to meet Patricia Appiagyei, Mayor of Kumasi, Ghana's second-largest city in Ghana



(1.5 million). Abdelkader Sidibe, mayor of Bomako is trying to develop a school system with only 50 kids per classroom instead of the current 150-200. The forum brought together an unprecedented number of mayors - about 100 of them - and several sessions focused on city governments.

Photo- above right: Mayor Patricia Appiagyei of Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city with Africa Travel Magazine's Muguette Goufrani and Hon. David Quay Annang, Municipal Chief Executive of Tema of Tema, Ghana Please visit our award winning, Google-friendly website www.africa-ata.org. Search from over 3,500 pages on Africa travel, trade and tourism. Learn how our media team can be a reliable partner on the marketing scene. We invite your comments, anecdotes and items on the African city or cities of your choice. E-mail africa@dowco.com or fax (604) 681 6595. Links: Sister Cities International, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004, Tel: 202-347-8630, Fax: 202-



African Mayors Star at World Forum. People Makie It Happen.!

(With some 10.000 participants from over 100 countries, the Third Session of the World Urban Forum paved the way for a new drive forward on the international urban agenda in a world of rapidly growing cities. Just as the Habitat I Conference in Vancouver in 1976 placed local community concerns on the international agenda and highlighted the critical importance of inclusiveness, the Forum in Vancouver, 30 years later, lived up to its promise of moving ideas to action. It symbolized inclusiveness, with balanced participation from public, private and civil society sectors. Compared to previous sessions of the Forum, there was a notable increase in private sector participation. The Quest for innovative ideas and practical solutions - rare for a meeting convened by the United Nations - was underscored in the six Dialogues, 13 Roundtables and more than 160 Networking Events, Ministers, mayors, academics, community-based organizations, federations of non-governmental organizations, and the private sector shared their insights and experiences on what would improve the quality of life in



local governments, state and provincial governments, national governments, the private sector and civil society organizations - to work harder to solve urban problems and challenges. There was widespread agreement that they all must do their part, rather than simply transfer responsibility to others.

They agreed that risk-taking and the pursuit of innovation must characterize municipal leadership it cities are to achieve sustainable development. Vancouver's example in taking the lead in such areas as air and water quality, public transit

the world's growing cities. The inclusive approach followed at the Forum is a model for cities. Some are already following this model while others would benefit from doing so. It was promising that participants, in such large numbers and from all walks of society, began to converge towards an outline for the way forward:

They agreed on the need for all urban players - citizens,

and planning was mentioned often in this context. They agreed that appropriate engagements, partnerships and relationships need to be build in an inclusive manner to better understand challenges and develop practical solutions. Participants from many parts of the world presented examples that can serve as guideposts for these strategies. They agreed on the importance of transparency and accountability. Citizens need to be informed of challenges and steps taken by governments to address them. Transparency goes hand-in-hand with accountability, which speeds up the process of enhancing actions that work and curtailing those that do not work.

The spirit and enthusiasm evinced at the Forum in formal and in the Interstices are difficult to capture in words. But it was very clear that ev

FACES AND VOICES OF AFRICA AT THIS EVENT((The conference speaker list included many high profile Africans. Here are just some of the people who shared their expertise and experience with participants at WUF3:

SPEAKERS FROM AFRICA(Contact numbers and some biographies available.

Ali Ê Mohamed Shein: Vice President, Government of Tanzania



