

RESURBE III MEXICO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON URBAN RESILIENCE Empowering Communities for Local Action

International and academic experts together with 14 communities and civil organizations from 4 Mexican States (Mexico, Saltillo, Puebla, Chiapas) gathered at the UNAM to rethink the new challenges of urban and regional transformations.

RESURBE III International Conference on Urban and Regional Resilience "Empowering Local Communities for Action" under the International RESURBE Programme on Urban Resilience, generated by the International network Recycling the Cities (RECNET) and its allies, was successfully closed.

The RESURBE program seeks to promote research, capacity building and urban development projects worldwide and support the policy in resilience at local and regional level (adaptation, mitigation and risk to climate change).

The International Conference on Urban and Regional Resilience RESURBE III has **focused on promoting discussion on the empowerment of communities to carry out local actions** through three main axes:

- Delineate the challenges of real life that local communities face to achieve resilience, from the social, environmental and economic conditions from the immediate and long-term risks.
- Redefining the role of universities in identifying and implementing practical solutions for urban resilience, supporting local communities.
- Define scopes for knowledge creation and joint exercises as an exchange between communities and the different stakeholders at the local level to support actions for resilience, promoting community empowerment.

The Nobel Peace Prize Dr. Rigoberta Menchú, opened the conference as keynote speaker, attended by over 400 attendees; and she also opened the plenary session on the second day of Conference, the *Communities Day*.

With the **presentation of 125 papers from 12 different countries**, experts in areas from architecture and urbanism, ecology, engineering, sociology to humanistic areas, it has been possible to have an interesting cross-disciplinary exchange. Moreover, discussion and interaction of these experts with members of the 14 communities of Mexico present the second day of the event, the "Day of the Communities", has enabled the exchange and transfer of information between all attendees.

The International Conference was also incorporated into the official program some alternative spaces to improve the exchange, such as videoconferencing sessions, which allowed the presence of some of the international speakers who could not travel to Mexico, and the Speakers' Corner, where experts could exchange information in a highly interactive and flexible format, which in turn encouraged interaction with students of the Faculty of Architecture of the UNAM.

The organizing committee RESURBE III will soon publish the winners of the RESURBE AWARD (coming in: www.recitynet.org and www.resurbe3.com).

RESURBE III Organizing Committee