

## WORLD HABITAT DAY CELEBRATIONS, 2010

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as “World Habitat Day” to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. This year, the World Habitat day was celebrated on October 4, 2010. The theme for this year’s World Habitat Day was “Better City, better life”.

National Housing Bank has been celebrating World Habitat Day as an annual event through the conduct of various activities viz. Essay Competition, release of booklet containing award winning essays from previous years, a “Habitainment Quiz”, which are all conducted around the theme of the World Habitat Day.

### HABITAINMENT QUIZ 2010

As a part of the World Habitat Day celebrations in 2010, the National Housing Bank in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre, organised a fun-filled event called “*Habitainment Quiz 2010*” for the institutional and individual members of the India Habitat Centre. The idea behind the event is to raise awareness on the significance of “World Habitat Day” and to provide an opportunity to the employees and members of India Habitat Centre to bond in a fun-filled and informative event.



The event brought together the employees of various institutions working within the India Habitat Centre including its individual members. The event witnessed participation from over 100 teams from amongst the various institutional and individual members. The various institutions which participated in the event included teams from NHB, TERI, HUDCO, CDC,

National Foundation for India (NFI), IHC, Indian Oil Corp, OWH and some Individual Members of the India Habitat Centre. The qualifying round was held at the Amphitheatre of the India Habitat Centre followed by the *Quiz Finale*.

The quiz was hosted by Gautam Bhimani, a well known sports commentator and host associated with ESPN-STAR. He has not only travelled around the world to cover international cricket matches but is also a prominent quiz host, who has covered many live events.

On October 4, 2010, participants had started to gather at the amphitheatre a little



after 1.00 p.m. in the afternoon. It was a pleasant afternoon and in a short while, Gautam Bhimani courteously invited Mr. R. V. Verma, Chairman and Managing Director, National Housing Bank, for lighting the ceremonial lamp and inaugurating the event with a few words.

Mr. Verma, while addressing the audience expressed that such events were essential to not only draw the attention of the people towards significant issues



pertaining to settlements and livelihood, but also educating the general public on how to be responsible citizens, who should not only care for their city but also the environment in which they live. Finally, he thanked all the participants and the audience for their keen interest in the event and wished them the very best for the event.

Soon it was time for the proceedings to roll on. The first stage was the Qualifying

Round where all the participating teams were given a set of 25 questions to answer. On the basis of their scores at this stage, a group of six teams would be selected who would be competing in the Final Rounds. The questions were thought provoking and revolved around diverse backgrounds ranging from Arts & Culture, Geography, History, Films and Entertainment, Literature, Music, Housing & Habitat etc.





While the audience answer scripts were being evaluated, Mr. Darain Shahidi, who was invited as a special guest for the event, was invited on the dais. Mr. Shahidi is a well known journalist and a host/presenter associated with IBN7 news channel. He shared some of his experiences associated with the India Habitat Centre and life in Delhi. This year, a special contest was also conducted during the Quiz where the audience was asked to write in 50 words their idea of a “Better city Better life” or draw/sketch the vision. The top three ideas would be rewarded with cash prizes and attractive gifts.

After the qualifying round was concluded, the six teams who were selected for



audience.

Gautam was at his wittiest best during the introduction rounds as well as during the subsequent rounds. He kept the audience as well as the participants entertained with his witty one-liners. The final stage was comprised of six rounds which were based on themes like “Identity and City” where questions were based around life in the city, its landmarks, culture, current affairs etc. There were also some interesting Audio-Visual rounds for which LCD screens and sound equipment were installed on the dais. When a team failed to answer a question, it was passed on to the next team, who if unable to answer, would pass it on to the subsequent teams. This was an opportunity for the other teams to score bonus points. If none of the teams on the stage were unable to answer, the question would be passed on to the audience, who had the opportunity to win attractive prizes, by correctly answering them.

The “Awesome Twosome” maintained their dominance through the various rounds and was leading the points tally before the start of the last round owing to their exceptional performance during the various stages. The team from RIS

was following them closely. During the last round, the RIS team displayed a 'never say die' attitude which eventually led to their scores being tied with the team from Indian Oil at the end of the round. A tie-breaker question was posed to the two teams which was eventually answered by the team from RIS, who were then declared as the winners of the Habitainment Quiz 2010. The team from Indian Oil was declared second and the individual member team "The Lodhi Road Irregulars" were declared third.



The winning team from RIS was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of ₹ 20,000. The team from Indian Oil which bagged the second position won a cash prize of ₹ 10,000 and the third prize of ₹ 5000 was awarded to the "The Lodhi Road Irregulars". The audience also had a gala time through the various audience participation rounds, where questions were posed to the audience and the correct answers were awarded prizes. All the

participants were awarded attractive "Habitat" themed jute bags.

The winners of the "Better city, better life" contest were awarded attractive



prizes by Mr. R. V. Verma. The first prize of this contest which carried a cash prize of ₹ 2000 along with an attractive bag was awarded to Siva Kishan of TERI, whose vision was "the source of all life is balance" along with a sketch depicting nature and city life. The second prize which included a cash prize of ₹ 1000 along with an attractive bag was awarded to Ashwini Choudhary of

JNU, Delhi who envisioned that a "better city, better life is in the lap of nature" and drew a beautiful sketch to highlight the same. The third prize which carried an award of ₹ 500 and an attractive bag was awarded to Srisha and Papia from CAPART whose vision was "Save yourself, save the world. Be green, think green". Their sketch depicted the need to employ environment friendly practices in day to day life. The quiz ended with the organizers and the participants proceeding for High Tea.

## **WORLD HABITAT DAY 2009 ESSAY COMPETITION: PRIZE DISTRIBUTION**



As a part of the World Habitat Day celebrations in 2009, the National Housing Bank had organized an essay competition. The Competition was open to all employees of Reserve Bank of India, All India level financial institutions, Housing Finance Companies registered with the National Housing Bank and Scheduled Commercial Banks. To felicitate the winners of the

World Habitat Day 2009 Essay Competition, a prize distribution ceremony attended by senior level officials of NHB was organized on October 04, 2010. The prize winners of the Essay Competition were awarded their winners certificates and prize money by Mr. R. V. Verma, Chairman and Managing Director, National Housing Bank.

## **World Habitat Day Celebrations, 2010: Launch of NHB-AWE 2010**



As a part of the World Habitat Day celebrations, National Housing Bank releases a booklet every year, where the winning entries of the World Habitat Day Essay Competition and details of Habitainment Quiz, among other initiatives of the Bank are published. The 2010 edition of the NHB-AWE booklet was released at a function organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban

Poverty Alleviation by the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation & Tourism, Kumari Selja and Sh. R. V. Verma, Chairman and Managing Director, National Housing Bank.