



2010 International Housing Conference and Exhibition

The Southern African Housing Foundation (SAHF) the catalyst for bringing housing professionals from around the world together, supporting the development of sustainable communities, recently hosted its Annual International Housing Conference and Exhibition in Cape Town which was attended by delegations from United States of America, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Netherlands and African countries. The focus of this year's conference "Green Technology for Sustainable Human Settlements" created lively debate and highlighted the need to reduce the carbon footprint.

Minister Bonginkosi Madikizela, Minister of Human Settlements in his address stressed the need for change and that his department would take the lead in implementing innovative building systems with special focus on green energy saving measures.

Egmont Ottermann of PPC said "It is about making life for our grandchildren not only possible but better"

Madikizela said "Another important consideration is financial sustainability, which in turn has different facets. There is the economic sustainability of a human settlement which speaks to its integration with the rest of the town or city. Do its residents have access to social amenities and economic opportunities that will allow it to develop as a vibrant community? I'm not saying we need to go quite as far as requiring people to provide basic services for themselves - Zimbabwe's economic recovery clearly still has a long way to go - but we do need to re-instill among our citizens those values of personal responsibility and ownership.

"Dr Colin Stuhlfelder, Glyndwr University, spoke about the involvement of people and communities and "individual responsibility" being key to Wales' One Planet Strategy; while on the other side of the coin, Rory Gallocher related JOSHCO's challenge of getting some of its tenants to accept their responsibility to pay their modest monthly rental. He made the important point that the continued description of housing as a benefit is damaging."

Malcolm McCarthy of NASHO, spoke of the need for greater choice. People have different housing needs and different tenure requirements at different stages of their life. He believes we need to consider demand side vouchers and soft loans over a range of options.

Climate change will impact especially the poor - with increasing fuel costs, water scarcity and energy shortages.

Prof. Paddy Gray, President of the Chartered Institute of Housing, United Kingdom, also referred to fuel poverty - with 10 percent of income of low income families in the UK spent on heating alone, and households suffering from dampness and condensation; while Anthony Hodson-Curran also said that the simple cost of heating their homes is what is trapping people in poverty.

Akinola Popoola, President of National Association of

Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), United States of America, said "We need to educate people about the benefits of going green, but we need to tie it to human needs."

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Energy, Bheki Khumalo said "green technology is expensive, but it is imperative for sustainability. But we need to consider more than just the upfront costs. As a number of speakers pointed out, one needs to consider the full cycle of the building. How much money is saved on energy - both for the household and for the municipality or utility which doesn't need to expand its generation or distribution capacity as fast"

SAHF acknowledges achievements in the housing industry



As part of the conference proceedings the Southern African Housing Foundation held its annual National Housing Awards Ceremony at an African Evening Experience which took place on Tuesday, 12 October 2010 at Moyo, Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, acknowledging achievements in the housing industry providing awards for Housing Person of the Year, Best Local Authority, Project of the Year, Community Development of the Year, Social Housing Project of the Year, Special Merit Awards and cash prizes to students for outstanding excellence. The awards were handed over by Minister Bonginkosi Madikizela, MEC for Human Settlements, Western Cape.

The recipient of this year's Housing Person of the Year was awarded to Deon Kruse in recognition of vision, leadership and professional approach to the implementation of community housing and service delivery where his initiatives have improved the quality of life for many families. The Student of the Year with a R10,000 cash prize was awarded to Gregory Coe in recognition of his research report, making a significant contribution to the understanding of innovative opportunities for mortgage lending. This relevant and useful research is as a result of his focus and persistence in gaining access to key market players.

In addition the Chartered Institute of Housing in the United Kingdom also provided a R10,000 cash prize for academic achievement to Bhekithemba Matsebula in recognition for obtaining the highest average course marks of the entire MSc Housing Class and for diligence, time management and excellent research capabilities within the Masters Degree Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand.

This year a special merit award was awarded to Rory Gallocher, JOSHCO, in recognition for his leadership and professional approach to service delivery. His vision and strategic management style has culminated in the provision of affordable, good quality and attractive housing for the community.

Local Authority of the Year was awarded to Overstrand Municipality in recognition for providing the local community with affordable, good quality, environmentally friendly housing and services under adverse conditions. The Local Authority was commended for harnessing local labour and resources completing projects within time and budget.

The Social Housing Project of the Year was awarded to SoHco Amalinda Housing in recognition of a significant contribution towards providing quality, well managed and affordable rental accommodation for income earners below R7 500 per month giving exceptional value to the community.

This year the category, Community Development Project of the Year was awarded to Makhulong A Matala in recognition for the outstanding achievement in providing community support programmes in education, recreation and poverty relief, creating social cohesion. The organization was commended for offering many activities and imparting skills for a better quality of life for ordinary South Africans

The Housing Project of the Year, under R120 000.00 per unit, was awarded to the Grabouw Rooidakke Sustainable Housing Development Project in recognition of the project's unique design and innovative layout giving the community access to good quality and environmentally friendly housing. The development maximized the use of local resources and labour to the benefit of the broader community.

The Housing Project of the Year, over R120 000.00, this year was awarded to Morgan's Village Phase 3, developed by Cape Town Community Housing Company, in recognition of the organization providing an innovative approach to funding, well designed good quality and low maintenance affordable housing. The company was commended for providing community support in the form of consumer education and training to sustain the project.

Housing Project of the Year, over R500 000.00 per unit was awarded to Norwood Gardens & Riverton Mews, developed by Communicare in recognition for the provi-

sion of affordable, good quality and well designed housing units, providing easy pedestrian access with a range of social housing and home ownership for the middle income community.

The exhibition that ran alongside the activities of the Southern African Housing Foundations International "Green Technology for Sustainable Human Settlements" Conference was split over three floor of the conference venue at the Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town A number of government departments, developers and manufacturers used the opportunity to maximize effect with a number of practical, interactive and innovative stands.

This year's conference provided a high standard of presentations by professionals and academics alike and delegates greatly benefited by the networking opportunities at the functions organized by the SAHF.

