

Dubai model hailed as sustainable

The Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings & Urban Habitat (CTBUH) has acknowledged Dubai as a model of a sustainable urban future. In its 8th World Congress that ended in Dubai last month, participants agreed that Dubai is well suited to lead the world in creating sustainable dense cities, if it followed new radical fundamental planning and sustainable designing strategies. The congress saw participants representing 44 countries and 92 speakers presenting papers on a variety of topics related to the congress theme "Tall and Green: Typology for a Sustainable Urban Future."

"The race to achieve new heights has not been without its challenges. Interestingly, the Dubai government's vision of contributing to a more sustainable built environment seems to best sum up the aspirations of those leaders gathered here," said Antony Wood, CTBUH Executive Director. Habiba Al-Marashi, the co-founder and Chairperson of



(From left) David Scott, Chairman of CTBUH and Hussein Nasser Lootah, Deputy DG, Dubai Municipality.

Emirates Environmental Group, discussed the urban challenges facing Dubai due to the current construction boom. Speaking at the Congress, Dr Andy Davids, Technical Director – Structures, Hyder Consulting Middle East, the international advisory and design consultancy, said: "The cost of construction in the Gulf is lower when compared to other regions of the world.

Contrary to common perception, construction cost is less in the Gulf compared to Europe, North America and some countries in Asia. This is mainly due to the lower cost of importing building products, labour and processes into the region. At the same time, the efficiency of Gulf contractors and the quality of their work is on par with the best available in the rest of the world."

Dubai Properties woos Indian investors

Dubai Properties has concluded its participation at the luxury show 'Mumbai Extravaganza 2008', where it showcased its latest projects to high net worth Indian visitors. Mohamed Binbrek, CEO of Dubai Properties, said: "Indian nationals are amongst the top investors within the booming real estate market in Dubai. The geographical proximity of India makes it an increasingly attractive sector for property developers in the UAE to contemplate. India itself is an emerging and credible market that boasts many international conglomerates and high-net worth investors with whom we are keen to meet and conduct business with."