

# CTBUH World Congress kicks off

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## Role of skyscrapers, mega-projects and new cities discussed

THE Council on Tall Buildings & Urban Habitat's (CTBUH) began its 8th World Congress at a local hotel under the theme 'Tall and Green: Typology for a Sustainable Urban Future.'

On the first day of the Congress speakers discussed the role of sustainable skyscrapers, concentrated mega-projects and 'new' cities in future urban developments and the new generation of skyscraper form: tall, articulated towers.

"With more than 62 skyscrapers, including 12 super-tall buildings under construction, Dubai provides the perfect backdrop for the CTBUH 8th World Congress," said Antony Wood, CTBUH Executive Director. "Therefore, we decided to hold our 8th congress in Dubai as a testimony to the Emirate's achievements in terms of the colossal construction activity taking place here especially in tall buildings and sky communities."

With more than 800 delegates from 42 countries already registered to hear 92 speakers, the three-day Congress will highlight state-of-the-art in developing, designing, building, and operating

sustainable skyscrapers and technologies concerned with energy use reduction and energy generation.

"In an age where humans are looking to live vertically in tall buildings and create communities in the sky, rather than on the ground, developers, urban planners, architects, governments and the community at large have a huge role to play in making sure these densely populated areas remain as environmentally friendly as they are wondrous," Wood added.

The Chicago-based CTBUH is a multi-disciplinary group with a membership of over 7,000 individuals and corporations, comprising world's leading architects, engineers, builders and developers, representing more than 77 countries.

"In my opinion, skyscrapers are one of the most compelling and exciting modern artifacts, they are 'a misty transition towards paradise' as someone said once," said David Scott, CTBUH Chairman and congress co-chair. "In a city like Dubai, all buildings make a lot of sense; they are seen as a solution



David Scott and Antony Wood during the congress.

to high demand for city centre office and residential space and as a crucial landmark to boost the brand identity of the city.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Andy Davids, Technical Director - Structures of Hyder Consulting Middle East, said that the cost of construction in the

Gulf is lower when compared to other regions of the world.

He said that contrary to common perception, construction cost is less in the Gulf as 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 at par with the best available in the rest of the world, he added.

On the second day, the speakers will deliver their speeches on topics World's

Tallest, Instant Cities and International Tall Overview.

On the third day the speakers will discuss Alternative Design Thinking, Facades and Structural Dynamics, USA, Asia and Australia experiences, financial and other aspects and safety measures.