



WORLD HABITAT DAY ACTIVITIES 2008

The World Habitat Day is celebrated by the members of the UN countries on the first Monday of October every year and this year world Habitat Day will be held 6th October. Ministry of Housing and Common Amenities as the national focal point of UN-Habitat with the collaborated of Ministry of Urban Development and Sacred Area Development will implement several development projects in all parts of the country with the focus on Moratuwa City.

The theme of this years World Habitat Day is “**Harmonious Cities**”. Under the guidance of the Minister of Housing and Common Amenities Mrs. Ferial Ashraff and Minister of Urban Development and Sacred Area Development, Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena has decided to have an integrated development programme in Moratuwa city to commemorate the World Habitat Day 2008.

The United Nations chose the theme of “**Harmonious Cities**” for 2008 to raise awareness about the problems of rapid urbanization, its impact on the environment, the growth of slums, and the urbanization of poverty as more and more people teem into towns and cities looking for a better life.

This year special attention of the World Habitat Day is paid for the school children. It is expected to get the contribution of the school children to make this programme successfully. National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) has organized all island Art and Essay competition to mark the World Habitat Day and also organized speech and Drama competition for the school children in the Moratuwa city with the assistance of the Mortuwa Municipal Council and Ministry of Education.

29th September to 05th October has been declared as “Habitat Week” of World Habitat Day 2008 to mark the World Habitat Day which will be commemorated on 06th October. Accordingly, habitat projects to be implemented in Moratuwa local authority area and all parts of the island including North and Eastern areas.

Commencement of inauguration of the construction work of housing projects with the usage of low-cost building materials, hand over ownership of the houses to the householders, reconstruction of houses with the participation of householders and conducting workshops and seminars to the school children are also implementing under this programme.

The programme of the Moratuwa city to mark the World Habitat Day will be commenced from the special Shramadana programme which will be held in Soysapura housing scheme (the biggest housing scheme in Sri Lanka) on 13th September. Members of the Moratuwa Municipal Council including His Worship of the Mayor of Moratuwa, officials of the NHDA, Condominium Management Authority and Ministry of Housing & Common Amenities will participate this Shramadana programme with the house holders of Soysapura housing scheme.

Following Activities will be implemented in Moratuwa electorate with the celebration on World Habitat Day.

29 th September and 02 nd October (8.30 am to 12.30 pm)	World Habitat Day School Seminar at NAITA Auditorium, Katubedda, Moratuwa
1 st October (3.00 pm)	Ceremonial opening of reconstructed Community Centre, Library & Sports Pavilion of Soysapura Housing Scheme
2 nd October & 5 th October	Ceremonial / Inauguration and opening various settlement & environmental projects of Moratuwa Electorate
3 rd October (9.00 am)	World Habitat Day Technical Work Shop at NAITA Auditorium Katubedda, Moratuwa
6 th October (9.30 am)	World Habitat Day National Conference at Buddhist Congress Hall, Moratuwa

This events will be organized National Housing Development Authority, Urban Development Authority, Lunawa Environmental Improvement & Community Development Projects with the guidance of Ministry of Housing And Common Amenities, Ministry of Urban Development & Sacred Area Development and Moratuwa Municipal Council.

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Urban Development and Sacred Area Development, Hon. (Mrs.) Farial Ashroff, Minister of Housing & Common Amenities, Hon. Jeevan Kumaratunga, Minister of Land Development, Hon. Reginald Cooray Chief Minister of Western Province, Hon. Rohana Dissanayake, Minister of Urban Development, Hon. Geetanjana Gunawardena, Minister of Housing and Hon. Samanlal Fernando, His worship Mayor of Moratuwa with participate this event.
