INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMPETITION CIU HABITAT PROMOTION

Every 20 years, the United Nations General Assembly convenes the Habitat Conference in order to make resolutions and make agreements oriented towards a sustainable urban agenda around the world. This conference is the most important event of the United Nations on sustainable urban development because it seeks to identify the problems for the establishment and creation of the New Urban Agenda for the XXI Century.

Habitat III will provide a unique opportunity to discuss the importance of the challenge of planning and managing cities, towns, and villages worldwide with the purpose of achieve its role as engine of sustainable development in an increasingly urbanized planet.

The Government of Ecuador, through the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Architect Association Pichincha Province, has proposed the participation of the universities around the world and has invited them to participate in the International University Preliminary Projects Competition CIU HABITAT called: CHALLENGES OF MARGINAL HABITAT IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN GLOBE: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.

The competition seeks that the universities, through their professors and students, are actively involved in presenting innovate proposals of intervention for human settlements which have common problems in many regions around the world, such as: Coastal communities and the ecosystems around them. Settlements placed on areas of high vulnerability and risk from natural disasters like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. And, the habitat and poor housing of marginal settlements.

A magnitude-7.8 earthquake on the Richter on April 16th, 2016, and two magnitude-6.8 aftershocks occurred on May 18th, 2016 have struck the coast of Ecuador. These quakes have highlighted the vulnerability to natural disasters that have all the countries located around the circum-Pacific belt. The historical constructive foresight, the inappropriate development practices which raise the level of impacts for the poor, and the resilience of affected populations. All of them demonstrate the importance and transcendence of the CIU HABITAT competition.