

Foreword

Initiatives like this encourage young people to express their ideas in ways that help them discover and build up their talents. The inspiring art presented here is a fine example of how young people can be empowered and given a voice through artistic expression.

Our quest for adequate shelter for all, and smart, sustainable urban development is wonderfully reflected here in the Young Artists Competition held to mark World Habitat Day 2009 in Iran. It gives us a fresh eye on architecture, settlements and urban identity in the Persian Gulf Region – the main theme of the competition.

This work also reflects human settlements and climate change, water and settlements, habitats and ecosystems, and human rights – just to name a few that stand out. Further, we cannot forget to mention the cultural component of the art in context.

In some of the artwork here we see culture tied into the nature of the settlements and architecture of the region. It is important for communities to visualize the places of the region through the medium of art, in order to encourage the evolution of ideas for making our habitations more liveable and sustainable, especially as far as youth are concerned.

This is particularly significant in a part of the world which contains some of the world's oldest cities and most ancient civilizations.



Anna Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT