

ACHR e-news

News from groups around Asia about what's happening in the region . . .

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)

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APRIL 2026

Happy New Year 2026 from ACHR

As we welcome the New Year, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) extends our warmest wishes to all our members, partners, and community leaders across the region. The past year has once again shown the strength of collective action, communities organizing, learning from one another, collective housing training and advancing inclusive, people-centered solutions for housing, land, and justice. Your dedication, solidarity, and resilience continue to inspire regional learning and transformation. As we step into the New Year, we look forward to deepening our collaboration, strengthening community-led processes, and advancing the shared vision of cities where everyone can live with dignity, security, and opportunity. May the New Year bring renewed hope, good health, and continued solidarity in our common journey.



ACHR PROJECT UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE REGION

COLLECTIVE HOUSING FOR COLLECTIVE VOICE

Throughout 2025, the ACHR project "*Asian Hub for the Social Production of Housing*", in partnership with **urbaMonde** and funded by the **Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC)**, has continued to promote community-led housing initiatives across the region. Affectionately known as the *Collective Housing Project*, this initiative has made significant progress in advancing collective housing models that prioritize community ownership, social equity, and sustainable urban development. Teams across 11 countries (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Mongolia) have been actively engaging with local governments and community-based organizations to advance policy dialogue and implement pilot projects. The academic collaboration has been a key highlight this year, playing a crucial role in strengthening the project's overall impact.

Main Highlights of the Collective Housing Training in Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 2025

The Collective Housing Training 2025, organized by ACHR, CAN, and POCAA, was held from October to November 2025 through a hybrid format combining global online sessions with an in-person co-creation workshop in Korail, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Supported by UrbaMonde and the Clean Cooling Collaborative (CCC) and implemented in collaboration with a wide regional network of community organizations, NGOs, and professional groups across Asia. The training revisited over 15 years of community-driven collective housing practices. It engaged more than 250 participants from over 20 countries, including young professionals, community facilitators, development practitioners, and students, with a shared focus on people-led solutions to urban housing challenges.

The online component consisted of eight interactive webinars held between 6 October and 5 November 2025. These sessions explored five key thematic areas: citywide planning and upgrading, access to finance for housing, participatory planning and youth engagement, disaster and climate resilience, and people-centric development. Case studies from Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh illustrated how community mapping,

We need to look at people as the scale of change. This is what collective housing is about, to change 180 degrees from what is existing- from rigid, market-driven housing development to people-driven systems. We have to see the opportunity of a livelier, happier, more possible, more flexible, more diverse kind of housing process to be collectively developed by the people.

Somsook Boonyabancha
Chairperson
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)

International Training on
Collective Housing



This training is about shifting the narrative of urban development and about understanding how housing can be treated as a community process and a path to social justice.

Lajana Manandhar
General Secretary, ACHR
Executive Director, Lamanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal

International Training on
Collective Housing

We didn't just build a physical bridge that connected both sides of the canal; we saw an opportunity to connect the people from the community with the city, a bridge of understanding. When it finished, the success was not only for the community but for everyone.

Net Tharawin
Community Architect, Jal Baan Group
From his experience with the "Imagine Mae Khu Project" in Thailand

International Training on
Collective Housing

The co-creation process requires starting slow, like nature. After consistently doing small actions, there is a BOOM! Lot's of group will come together, many things will start happening. Like the Monsoon!

Suhailey Farzana
Community Architect & Co-founder
Platform of Community Actions and Architecture (POCAA)

International Training on
Collective Housing

collective land ownership, savings systems, and negotiated partnerships with local governments can lead to inclusive and scalable housing solutions. A key cross-cutting insight was that collective housing is not merely a technical solution, but a social and political process rooted in trust, negotiation, learning, and community power, captured by the shared philosophy, **“Let people and nature be the solution.”**

A major emphasis of the training was the role of savings and collective finance as the foundation of collective housing. Experiences shared from Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand demonstrated how savings groups build trust, leadership, and negotiating power, enabling communities to secure land, access loans, and engage with formal institutions. Similarly, sessions on participatory planning highlighted the importance of youth engagement, creativity, storytelling, and co-design as tools for shifting power relations and ensuring that development processes reflect lived realities rather than external assumptions.

The in-person co-creation workshop in Korail, Dhaka, held from 16 to 22 November 2025, translated online learning into practice. Participants worked closely with Korail community leaders, youth groups, and local experts, using participatory tools such as mapping, design exercises, and group discussions. Divided into thematic groups focusing on housing innovation, infrastructure, community finance, governance, and the community's relationship with the city, participants developed practical proposals grounded in community knowledge and priorities, which were presented back to residents for feedback and collective reflection.

Overall, the **Collective Housing Training 2025** strengthened regional networks, deepened shared learning, and reinforced the value of community-led approaches to housing and urban development. The hybrid format expanded access while remaining rooted in real-world contexts, and participant feedback emphasized that meaningful development begins with listening to people's lives and experiences. The training generated renewed momentum for cross-country collaboration, policy engagement, and grassroots innovation, reaffirming that sustainable urban transformation emerges through trust, continuity, and collective action, keeping people firmly at the center of change.





FIVE MODEL CITIES PROJECT

At the heart of the 5 Model Cities project is the commitment to scaling up and sharing lessons from community-led processes. Drawing from the experiences and insights gained in the initial five cities, the project aims to deepen and expand these approaches to new contexts. This isn't about simply replicating models; each city brings unique challenges and opportunities. The project adapts solutions to local realities while strengthening community networks, participatory data collection, and engagement with city authorities.

During this year, all cities participating in the Five Model Cities Project made significant progress on the ground. This period marked substantial achievements across the cities, including the construction of a number of houses and the implementation of small-scale projects prioritized by the communities themselves. In addition, new partnerships were established and existing relationships were strengthened with local government authorities, further reinforcing collaboration and institutional engagement at the city level.

In old cities such as Dhaka and Iloilo, the project has created opportunities to forge strategic collaborations with national governments, opening pathways for city-wide upgrading of low-income communities. In Iloilo and Mahalaxmi, the funds from the previous phase were revolved and new families in other heritage settlements received this support to renovate their homes. In new cities such as Jeetpursimara and Muntinlupa, the initiative has successfully leveraged local government engagement, resulting in the allocation of public funds for a range of community development projects, and establishment of city level community funds. Most countries are now actively implementing housing work while simultaneously expanding community savings networks and building stronger ties with local authorities.

The regular virtual team meetings have fostered synergy among participating countries, enabling them to learn from each other's experiences, share strategies, and collectively address challenges during implementation.



CIVIC MEDIA AND YOUTH ADVOCACY: THE YCIV PROJECT

This quarter witnessed remarkable youth mobilization across two vibrant cities, with numerous capacity-building workshops, cultural events, and civic engagement initiatives creating lasting community impact.

Bhuj, India Highlights

The Asanjo Film Festival "Asanjo," meaning "ours" in Kutchi was the main highlight of the year which was successfully held on December 27–28. It marked a vibrant celebration of youth creativity, storytelling, and community expression. The festival showcased 33 compelling short films from across India and Nepal, each reflecting diverse perspectives on urban life, identity, and belonging. This milestone event represented the culmination of an intensive civic media journey that began in September, when participating youth initiated the process with story development and field-based shooting, followed by dedicated post-production work through November. The festival not only provided a platform for young voices to be heard but also created a shared space for dialogue, reflection, and cultural exchange among communities. Central to this achievement was the Civic Media program, which equipped local youth with practical filmmaking skills through a series of structured and immersive workshops. Participants progressed step-by-step, from learning how to design interviews, frame narratives, and capture visuals, to mastering editing techniques and finalizing their films. The program was particularly impactful in bridging technical skill gaps, as several participants had little to no prior experience with digital tools. Despite these initial challenges, the youth demonstrated remarkable growth, confidence, and creativity, ultimately producing meaningful visual stories that highlighted local issues and realities.





Dharan, Nepal Highlights

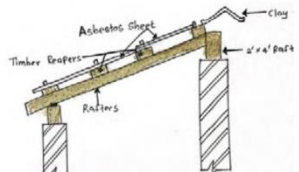
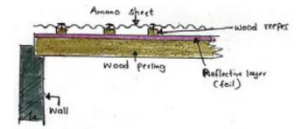
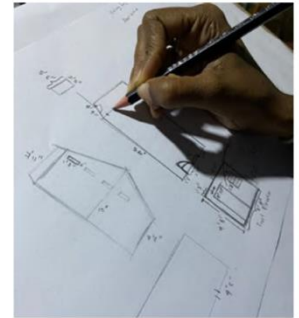
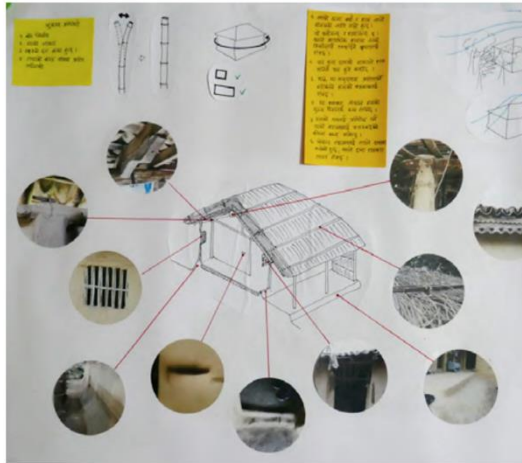
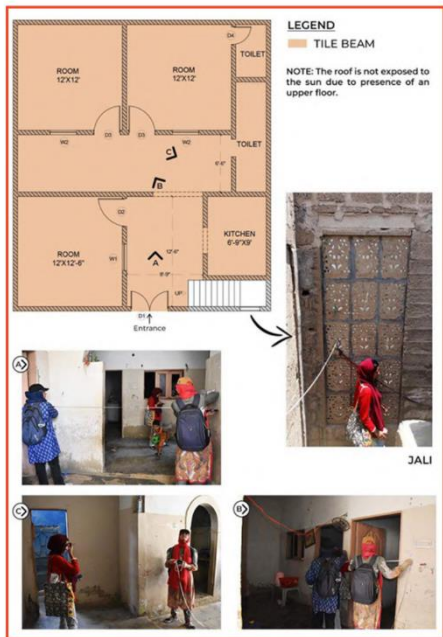
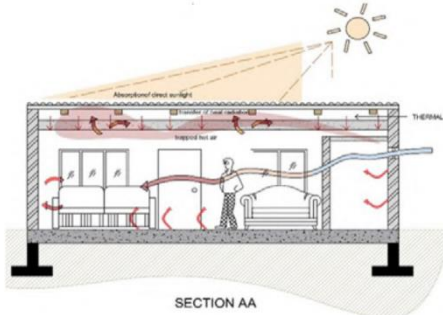
The Community Action Plan (CAP) exhibition marked a significant moment of advocacy in Dharan, where local officials acknowledged the challenges presented, validated the authenticity of community concerns, and expressed commitment to collaborate with residents to implement solutions aligned with their expectations. The CAP process demonstrated the power of participatory planning and grassroots advocacy by strengthening youth leadership, enhancing civic engagement, and opening constructive dialogue between communities and government. This initiative not only brought visibility to long-standing issues but also laid the foundation for inclusive urban transformation. Tangible outcomes included successful advocacy for drainage slab replacement near Shri Shiksha Sadan Secondary School and youth-led facilitation of budget discussions in the Folkland community, which improved civic awareness. Expanding their exposure globally, Dharan youth also participated in IIED's International Online Exchange Program alongside 13 organizations from the Philippines, Indonesia, and India, where they shared video concepts on landfill management and learned global civic media techniques. At the same time, the Photo Walk Program engaged 24 youth in capturing Dharan's diversity through photography, leading to the exhibition "Dharan, Through the Viewfinder of Youth." This was further reinforced by the second phase of the "Youth Leadership Development Program: Commitment in Action," which strengthened civic engagement skills using approaches such as Appreciative Inquiry and Kaizen. Complementing these efforts, an eco-hike to Sagurigadhi was organized to promote environmental conservation while fostering community wellness and a sense of collective responsibility.

COMMUNITIES ON THE FRONTLINES OF HEAT AND THEIR FIGHT TO KEEP HOUSING COOL: ACHR's Regional Cooling Project

In many of Asia's cities, families wake already sweating, the air heavy before the day begins. Rapid urbanization, shrinking green spaces, and a changing climate have turned heat into a relentless and increasingly dangerous threat. The poorest residents suffer most: they live in small, crowded homes with metal roofs, little ventilation, and no relief from sweltering temperatures that rise higher each passing year. Cooling has become an urgent matter of survival, especially for those who cannot escape the heat. Wealthier households retreat to air-conditioned apartments, malls, or cars. The poor must cope on their own: with fans that strain their budgets, with shade made from cloth and bamboo, and with everyday habits and simple tricks passed carefully from neighbor to neighbor. Over the past two years, ACHR has worked with communities in eight Asian countries to understand how people experience and respond to extreme heat. Supported by the ClimateWorks Foundation and its Clean Cooling Collaborative, this work looks not at technology alone, but at how heat is tied to land and housing conditions, and how community-led approaches can bring cooling onto the housing agenda. Cooling is not just a technical challenge; it is a question of justice, of dignity, and of who gets to live comfortably in our urban future. The stories of daily survival and ingenuity: mothers watering hot roofs in Dhaka, children sleeping on rooftops in Karachi, neighbors planting trees in Bangkok, and cooperatives in Jakarta experimenting with new housing designs. The accounts of endurance, adaptation, and innovation lay the groundwork for the project's final stage: the participatory development of passive cooling solutions for urban poor households in Asia, and a collective rethinking of housing and settlements in ever-hotter cities.



This year has mapped out how heat disrupts daily life and how communities across Asia are already acting. Their inventiveness and collective strength show that solutions are not only possible, but they are also already in motion. What comes next is to build on these foundations: to co-design cooling strategies with communities, strengthen their systems of organizing and financing, and scale up passive solutions that fit local realities. The next step in this series will turn more directly to these solutions. It will showcase building adaptations, nature-based approaches, and models for collective action that can make homes and neighborhoods cooler, healthier, and more resilient. Above all, it will carry forward the principle at the heart of this work: that cooling is not a privilege, but a shared right, and that the best solutions begin with the people who are already creating them.



Toward cooler homes and fairer cities ...

COMMITTEES ON THE FRONTLINES OF HEAT AND THEIR FIGHT TO KEEP COOL

HOUSING byPeople IN ASIA

Member of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights | November 23, December 2021

FACING HEAT

THE IRONMAN COURT

URBAN DRUG BROTHERS

Are you on our mailing list?

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HOLDING THE HEAT
 Making the Case for Cooling in Poor Communities

Holding the heat, Making the case for Cooling in poor Communities

This special issue of the ACHR newsletter is on urban heat and passive cooling. Warm thanks go to the Climate Works Foundation for funding support and to all community members and their networks for so generously sharing their stories and knowledge. This newsletter shares stories of daily survival and ingenuity. These accounts of endurance, adaptation, and innovation lay the groundwork for the project's final stage: the participatory development of passive cooling solutions for urban poor households in Asia, and a collective rethinking of housing and settlements in ever-hotter cities. To read the full Newsletter, click [here](#).

UPDATE ON YEAR II OF HEALTHY HOUSING PROJECT

The Healthy Housing Project, supported by the International Institute of Urban Health and implemented by ACHR, is a three-year research initiative aimed at rethinking housing through a decolonized and community-centred lens. During its first year, a strong foundation was established through a combined approach of desktop research and community-driven inquiry. Reviews of housing policies and frameworks in Pakistan and Indonesia revealed lingering colonial influences and systemic inequalities, which were further explored through participatory activities such as community mapping, data collection, and advocacy training. The focus is on Karachi and Jakarta, given the complexities and housing precarity in both the cities. These two approaches enabled a deeper understanding of how historical legacies shape present-day housing conditions.

Key milestones were achieved by project partners, Urban Resource Center in Pakistan and Rujak Center for Urban Studies in Indonesia. The team in each city In Indonesia, Rujak advanced critical desk research through reading groups, writing workshops, and archival exploration, while also facilitating field visits and public discussions in Jakarta. Technical outputs such as Settlement Cards and comparative reflections aligned with WHO standards were completed. In Pakistan, the URC grounded its work in Karachi through strategic preparatory processes, stakeholder engagement, GIS-based mapping, and a decolonized literature review framework centred on lived realities. Looking ahead, the next phase will focus on refining research tools, expanding fieldwork, strengthening community engagement, and enhancing coordination across partners to ensure timely and impactful outcomes.

ACHR CONNECTS WITH THE COMMUNITIES



ACHR celebrates women in housing and settlements upgrading

On March 18, 2025, ACHR marked International Women’s Day with a special online event celebrating the invaluable contributions of women leaders in community-driven housing movements across Asia. Women have long been at the forefront of securing housing rights, negotiating with authorities, and leading the development of homes, infrastructure, and services in their communities. This gathering brought together inspiring women from across the region to share their experiences, challenges, and achievements, reinforcing the importance of regional solidarity in advancing gender equality and empowerment. The event served as a powerful reminder of the role women play in shaping more inclusive and resilient cities. Read the full report [here](#).

ACHR Delegation Visits Earthquake-Hit Cities in Myanmar, Calls for Community-Led Recovery

A small delegation from the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), led by Somsook Boonyabancha, visited earthquake-affected areas in Mandalay, Naypyidaw, and Yangon to express solidarity and deliver direct support to impacted communities.

The team brought financial contributions, essential supplies, and messages of encouragement from community networks and supporters in Thailand. The visit aimed not only to provide immediate relief but also to better understand the situation on the ground and explore ways to support longer-term recovery.

In Mandalay, significant damage was observed across several neighborhoods. Many small alleys and multi-story buildings showed signs of flooding and structural impact. Religious buildings, including churches, temples, and monasteries, were generally damaged. However, many traditional wooden houses appeared to have withstood the disaster comparatively well.

The situation in Naypyidaw was reported to be more critical. More than one hundred residential buildings were destroyed, with some individuals still believed to be trapped under collapsed structures. Rescue and recovery efforts were described as limited, while flooding further worsened living conditions for affected families.

Already vulnerable low-income communities, along with sections of the middle class, have been left homeless and dispersed throughout the cities. Temporary shelters have emerged, where newly displaced families are living alongside long-established roadside communities. Food shortages, illness, income loss, and the inability to repair damaged homes are pressing concerns. According to local observations, there has been limited visible government-led rehabilitation support to date.

The broader political context continues to complicate relief and rehabilitation efforts. Ongoing tensions between the military government and opposition groups in both urban and rural areas have restricted movement, organizing, and independent relief operations.



Young people, including women between the ages of 18 and 30, face risks of forced recruitment or arrest. Restrictions on the transfer and distribution of funds have made it difficult for community-based development initiatives to operate effectively.

Despite these challenges, community networks in Thailand mobilized financial and in-kind contributions to support information gathering and establish a central kitchen for displaced families. Beyond providing meals, the kitchen functions as a shared community space where families can gather, exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and explore collective solutions.

Support is also being extended by nursing organizations and grassroots networks from other cities. Continued collaboration with the Women's Savings Network in Yangon, known for its experience in community housing initiatives, is seen as vital to strengthening long-term recovery.

ACHR representatives emphasized that the most important resource in the rebuilding process is the people of Myanmar themselves. By creating spaces where communities can sit together, eat together, and plan together, recovery efforts can rebuild not only homes but also social bonds and collective resilience.

Sharing Thai Baan Mankong Lessons in Jakarta

Somsook visited Jakarta from 21–23 May to join a meeting organized by the national coalition with the National Development Planning Agency. The coalition, Rujak Center for Urban Studies, Urban Poor Consortium, and ArKom, is working with the national government on two pilot collective housing projects in Jakarta and Yogyakarta. The meeting, involving key ministries, focused on cooperative housing, with Somsook sharing lessons from Thailand's Baan Mankong program, particularly its revolving fund mechanism. The support is provided to the country team when strategic intervention is required from the ACHR secretariat.

Visit in UNESCAP, Thailand with UN-habitat head: Lajana's experience

Visiting the Ban Mankong project in Bangkok is always a source of inspiration. Over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to visit several Ban Mankong communities and witness firsthand the remarkable transformations that have taken place - turning once precarious living conditions into secure, dignified housing with tenure security.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of visiting yet another Ban Mankong project, this time joining the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach, and her team. It was a powerful reminder of what's possible when communities, governments, and development partners come together.

The key takeaway for me from this visit: scaling up housing solutions is not only possible - it's achievable when alternative financing mechanisms are in place and when there is strong collaboration between communities and governments. The Ban Mankong model continues to be a beacon of what inclusive, people-driven urban development can look like.



ACHR's Visit to Dhaka

In June 2025, Lajana and Lumanti visited the Platform of Community Artisan and Architecture (POCAA) team in Dhaka to learn from their ongoing community-based work in Korail and Gabtoli. In partnership with ACHR, POCAA is implementing initiatives under the Clean Cooling Collaborative and the 5 Model Cities program, focusing on improving living conditions in some of the city's most densely populated informal settlements. During the visit, the POCAA team, led by Mahmuda and Rubaiya, organized meetings with community groups in Korail community. The team engaged closely with Nogor Abad, a community collective actively working to enhance the urban environment and housing conditions for marginalized residents.

A key highlight of the visit was understanding how urban agriculture has been used as a powerful tool to bring communities together, fostering collective action and shared responsibility. In Korail, the largest informal settlement in Dhaka, home to nearly 300,000 people, residents face extremely challenging living conditions. Despite this, with POCAA's technical guidance, several families have introduced practical and innovative improvements, such as upgrading kitchens, kitchen gardens, communal agriculture, adding windows for better ventilation, and making small but impactful changes to their homes.



POCAA has also played a crucial role in connecting these communities with like-minded organizations, thereby strengthening networks of support and collaboration. As part of the visit, the team met with faculty members from the Architecture and Design Department at BRAC University to explore potential partnerships. Kabir led the discussions, which focused on how academic institutions can play a critical role in shifting stakeholder mind-sets toward improving conditions for marginalized communities. The meeting also explored the

possibility of organizing collective housing training programs in Dhaka, drawing on the city's rich experiences and lessons in community-led development.

Overall, the visit provided valuable insights into how grassroots initiatives—when supported by technical knowledge and collaborative networks, can significantly improve living conditions and empower communities, even in the most challenging urban environments.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COALITION PARTNERS



Peer-to-peer learning between Nepal and Bangladesh

Learning and exchange visits to Kathmandu, Jeetpursimara, and Kalaiya were organized on February 2025 as part of the Collective Housing Project under the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) network, reinforcing peer learning and regional solidarity. Facilitated by Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, the visit brought together colleagues from the Platform for Community Action and Architecture (POCAA) and community leaders from Korail, Dhaka, and Jhenaidah, Bangladesh. The exchange enabled rich horizontal learning through interactions with women leaders and cooperatives in Godavari and Mahalaxmi Municipalities, including inspiring engagements with Thecho Mahila Jagaran Cooperative and Didi Bahini Cooperative, showcasing the transformative role of women's collective action in social and economic empowerment. The delegation also

visited Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City to learn from Deep Shikha Women's Cooperative and the Urban Poverty Alleviation Forum, gaining insights into community-led finance systems and youth engagement in addressing urban poverty. Field visits to housing projects in Kalaiya and Jeetpursimara, along with interactions with municipal authorities, highlighted effective partnerships between local governments and community organizations in advancing housing and basic services. Overall, the exchange proved to be a deeply enriching experience for both Bangladeshi and Nepali teams, strengthening mutual learning, community engagement, and appreciation of the power of women-led cooperatives in driving inclusive development.

Award to Hunnarshala, India

Hunnarshala has received appreciation from the Honourable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, for its outstanding support to the Rural Home Stay Programme of Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB). Through its dedicated and tireless efforts, the Hunnarshala team has empowered communities in more than 60 villages by providing vernacular house designs and technical assistance. The initiative has not only strengthened local livelihoods but has also attracted tourists to experience and appreciate the culture, traditions, and values of rural communities. This recognition reflects Hunnarshala's continued commitment to sustainable development, community empowerment, and culturally rooted architecture.



National-Level Land Reform Dialogue and Launch of First Housing Cooperative Festival in Indonesia

A national-level dialogue on land reform was marked by the launch of the First Indonesian Housing Cooperative Festival at Kampung Susun Kunir in May at Jakarta.

The event began with a guided tour of Kampung Susun Kunir, organized in collaboration with ASF Indonesia. Participants observed firsthand how community-led housing initiatives can respond to urban land challenges while promoting collective ownership and inclusive development. A public discussion on cooperatives and urban agrarian reform followed the tour. The dialogue brought together community members, activists, and practitioners to reflect on the role of housing cooperatives in securing land tenure, ensuring fair access

to housing, and strengthening grassroots participation in urban development.

The launch represented more than a ceremonial gathering. It marked the beginning of a collective movement. Together with urban residents, organizers are building Housing Cooperatives as a strategy to advocate for fair, safe, and sustainable living environments. Participants shared stories, experiences, and solidarity, reinforcing a shared commitment to long-term structural change in Indonesia's urban housing landscape. Organizers expressed appreciation to everyone who attended and contributed and announced that further events and dialogues will continue to strengthen the movement for equitable land and housing rights.



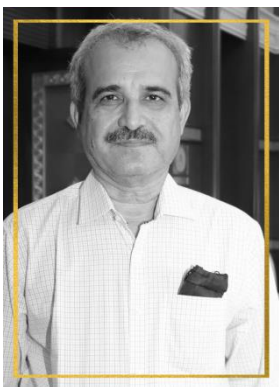
Lumanti and Department for Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) signs Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and Lumanti Support Group for Shelter. The purpose of the memorandum of understanding is to assist national, provincial and local governments in providing housing access to low-income groups. It aims to showcase sustainable housing model projects and enhance access to essential infrastructure and services in unregulated communities. Additionally, the agreement seeks to increase the participation of community organizations in the housing policy-making process and to strengthen the capacity of partner organizations in promoting sustainable and inclusive housing. Furthermore, it promotes and encourages activities aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and other disasters. On behalf of the Ministry of Urban Development, Director General Er. Macha Kaji Maharjan has signed the memorandum of understanding, while the Executive Director Ms. Lajana Manandhar has represented Lumanti in the signing process.

Intermediate Finances Fund in Philippines

HPFPI has developed a stronger collaboration between communities Urban Poor Affairs Office (UPAO), and the Local Government Unit (LGU) through the 5 Model Cities. In terms of the LGU, a bottom-up approach was created in the budgeting process and was strengthened on the city level with the adoption of the intermediate finances fund which operationalizes a budget to be used by the community. Through the project, the organization was able to present an alternative model to high-rise building projects for high-density areas. Thus, increasing collective housing advocacy.

UPAO Muntinlupa committed to seeking a BIR tax exemption, while the community pursued government subsidies and congressional support to lower land development costs. A PHP 34 million, zero-interest loan over eight years was approved by local government unit. A PHP 2.5 million was added by HPFPI through 5 Model Cities project.



IN MEMORY OF

**Muhammad
Younus**



29th December 2025

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to our dear friend Muhammad Younus, Director of the Urban Resource Centre, Pakistan. He had been associated with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights since its very beginning, offering invaluable guidance, insight, and unwavering support.

We remember Younus as a warm, gentle, and deeply committed individual who touched countless lives through his work at the Urban Resource Centre in Pakistan. His calm presence, kindness, and sincere concern for people will be deeply missed. Though he is no longer with us, his contributions and the values he stood for will continue to inspire us.

ACHR would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones, URC team and all those mourning this great loss.

FROM THE ACHR SECRETARIAT

The ACHR Secretariat continues to carry out its work from its two main bases in Bangkok and Kathmandu, maintaining strong regional coordination and collaboration. Somsook, Lajana, and Lumanti have remained as the three core pillars of ACHR, each playing a vital role in guiding the network and supporting its regional processes. Their combined leadership and commitment have helped sustain momentum across countries and strengthen connections among community networks. This coordination has been essential in linking local actions with regional learning and advocacy. At the same time, Natvipa (Nat) ensures that administrative functions run smoothly, while Angkana (Jim) manages ACHR's finances with care, accountability, and transparency and Shristina supports the program documentation and communication.

This newsletter contributes to documenting experiences, capturing lessons learned, and strengthening knowledge sharing across the network, which helps inform future planning and decision-making.

The year 2025 has once again highlighted the strength and importance of collective action. Across the region, communities have continued to organize, support one another, and learn through shared experiences. Collective housing initiatives, training, and exchanges have further strengthened people's capacity to lead their own development processes. These efforts have continued to promote inclusive, people-centered solutions for housing, land, and social justice, reinforcing ACHR's vision of building cities that are more equitable, resilient, and responsive to the needs of all.

-Somsook, Lajana, Lumanti, Nat, Jim and Shristina



*ACHR E-News is a publication of the **Asian Coalition for Housing Rights**. This issue was edited Shristina Shrestha, with great big thanks to Lumanti, for the contributions; to all Coalition partners for their continued dedication, photos, and shared explorations; to Somsook and Lajana for her oversight; to all partners and donors who supported these initiatives; and to everyone in the community networks across Asia for leading the way in transforming their cities.*