

WORLD URBAN FORUM



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Press Release
For Immediate Release

Kuala Lumpur Makes History for Equality, Inclusive and Accessible Cities at the World Urban Forum 9.

Kuala Lumpur February 11, 2018:

A unique live aerial human art project, CITIES FOR ALL: A Vision for Unity, made history at the United Nations World Urban Forum 9 in unprecedented scale.

500 diverse participants from Kuala Lumpur and around the world joined together on Sunday, February 11th at 9:30 am. The words CITIES FOR ALL were spelled out and captured from above by two drones in videos and photos.

The historic Merdeka Square was turned into a gathering field where local and international people with and without disabilities from all backgrounds united in sending a message to the world that cities should be inclusive of everyone, including older persons and people with disabilities. Also in attendance at the event were the Malaysian Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Tan Sri Noh Omar, participants from the World Urban Forum, schools and university students. The World Urban Forum Run preceded the Aerial Art Advocacy project which brought runners into the event.

The project was directed by the internationally renowned artist John Quigley, producer and human rights activist. Dr. Victor Pineda, President of World ENABLED opened the event with a brief speech to share why it is important for every member of society to be included in all urban development. Locally sourced t-shirts and umbrellas were handed out and participants formed the letters for the phrase "Cities for All." An organization owned and run by people with disabilities, Ras Network and OKU Sentral, was hired to handle the logistics for the event.

The event was designed to elevate the way in which people think about inclusion around the

world; to show that cities should be accessible and inclusive to all – people with disabilities, older persons, children, people living in poverty – and they should be included in all urban development and planning process.

The event celebrated the historic inclusion of people with disabilities and other partner constituency groups being given a seat at the table to discuss the implementation of the United Nations New Urban Agenda which was developed at the United Nations Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016. During the Habitat III conference, artist John Quigley also did a human aerial art spelling out the word “Inclusion.”

The CITIES FOR ALL Aerial Human Art event included:

- 520 participants
- 30 wheelchair users
- 12 people who are deaf
- 19 people who are blind
- Academics and students from local universities
- Two busses of students from the University of Technology Mara
- Two drones
- 200 umbrellas
- 550 t-shirts

Speakers included:

- **Dr Victor Pineda** (President, World Enabled, Founder, Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development (DIAUD) network, Co-Chair, people with disabilities partner constituency group)
- **Ras Adiba** (President and founder of a people with disability organization, OKU Sentral, TVN7 Newscaster)

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Ford Foundation

Photos and video credit: Q Specter and World Enabled

