



## Meeting Summary

### **GREEN BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA: A MEXICAN PERSPECTIVE**

Mexico City

20–21 February 2007

This public workshop allowed panelists and participants to exchange with one another ways to improve sustainable building practices in North America. It had a special focus on issues and opportunities in Mexico and provided an opportunity for leading experts from Canada, Mexico and the United States to share experiences and lessons learned in this rapidly emerging field.

It also provided input into the early stages of a CEC Secretariat report, "Green Building in North America, Opportunities and Challenges." The Secretariat will present this report to top environmental officials in Canada, Mexico and the United States in late 2007 or early 2008. The report's recommendations will be informed by its key findings, background papers by green building experts, the advice of a distinguished international advisory group, and consultation with the public.

#### **THE TOPICS DISCUSSED**

Panelists and workshop attendees discussed a number of important topics and emerging trends. These included what is green building; the environmental and economic benefits of green building; specific examples of green building in North America; how green building markets might

evolve over the next 25 years; and the differences that exist in green building between Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Specific panels addressed issues on energy, climate change and the building sector; green financing and market consolidation; institutional efforts for green building; greening residential buildings in North America; tourism; and energy conservation efforts at Walmart.

#### **EMERGING THEMES IN MEXICO**

Common themes that emerged from the workshop included a general agreement that promoting green building should be part of a strategy in Mexico to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy security by increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and promoting new forms of energy. It was also generally agreed that green buildings could help improve public health and the environment and give governments an important tool to address regional environmental issues such as water scarcity and waste management.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Speakers and attendees provided a number of recommendations on how to better promote green

building. A number of speakers noted that legislation and financial programs should be strengthened and reinforced and that Mexico should develop a voluntary rating system for buildings. Many speakers noted that these programs would be particularly beneficial for the housing sector.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on this workshop, including agendas and speaker's presentations, please visit the CEC website at [www.cec.org/greenbuilding](http://www.cec.org/greenbuilding).

