Foreword

The Technology and Development Institute (TDI) of the East-West Center in Hawaii is pleased to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the publication of this volume.

This collection represents a timely and most unusual contribution to the identification of, and proposed solutions for problems, and to methods for improving the quality of life in human settlements throughout the world. The contributing authors are recognized experts in fields of direct concern in human settlements, including adequate shelter, public health measures (safe water-supply systems and sanitation), food, energy, transportation, communications, and a workable system for better management of natural resources. The papers represent an effort to pull together a comprehensive cross-section of problems and innovative solutions to provide valuable insights and strategies for solving many of these problems in different socioeconomic and climatic environments. The strategies should be of value to all persons interested in human habitation, such as planners, designers, public officials concerned with habitation in its broadest aspects, policymakers, and academicians.

TDI's primary interest in collaborating in such a publication is to project its own substantive emphasis on the role of technology in promoting development. Its program mandate, as one of the East-West Center's problem-oriented institutes, is to seek understanding and better relations between East and West through cooperative generation and application of knowledge

about technologically oriented aspects of social and economic development. Accordingly, the institute focuses attention, through its research, professional development and graduate studies programs, on the fourfold problems of employment-oriented development planning, technological adaptation, entrepreneurship development, and public policy and institutional development. In this context, the institute is concerned with social, economic, cultural, and political factors which affect development and the adoption of new ideas. Its focus is on the adaptation, innovation, and diffusion of technologies appropriate to the development situation of each national society.

One of the institute's major activities relevant to technological adaptation is concerned with low-cost housing technology. Cooperative research and development efforts among a number of Asian and American institutions have been ongoing with major substantive and coordinative participation on the part of TDI. The effort in housing technology is intimately related to the other three problem areas and is based on the premise that innovations here must satisfy a number of economic and sociological factors. Among these are:

1. Reduction of the cost of an acceptable housing unit.
2. Creation of a significant number of new jobs through the net effect of technological innovations on the combined building-material and construction industries.
3. Consideration of the attitudes of the people concerned, so that the final product is both useful and usable.
4. Provision of low-cost water supply and waste-disposal systems for public health-control measures.

The solutions will require interdisciplinary action among architects, economists, engineers, and social scientists to provide the necessary framework for analyzing all the problems inherent in applying low-cost housing technology to different socio-economic environments. Ultimately, the total spectrum of the problems of human settlements will be addressed, ranging from

research on and development of building materials and designs to methodology of physical planning, social and functional aspects of low-cost housing, and developing a viable indigenous building-industry base.

The institute's cooperative project in low-cost housing technology is described in Part III of this book.

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