The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) model is an initiative of UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign, conceived as an open space for critical exchange between all stakeholders and partners involved in promoting sustainable urbanization. James Cook University is holding an UTC entitled ‘Urban livability in tropical Australia through urban diaries and community engagement’ which will focus on the relationships between urban planning and design, and public health towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda locally.

The UTCs will be day-long workshops based upon discussions and the development of action plans to Cairns and Townsville with the input and active participation of multiple stakeholders including government, professionals, academics and community in general. The event will count on the participation of Mr Charles Wolfe through an awarded Fulbright Specialist Program grant by the United States of America Government. These UTCs will use urban diaries as tools, consistent with the New Urban Agenda’s call to action and implementation of equitable framework. Results of the event will be presented to Cairns Regional Council and Townsville City Council and a final report for each city will be produced for the United Nations addressing prospective policy, planning and regulatory response.

Charles R. (Chuck) Wolfe is Principal of Seeing Better Cities Group, a consulting firm, and an American lawyer. He is Affiliate Associate Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington in Seattle, and a Visiting Scholar at KTH University, Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. He holds professional degrees in urban planning and law, and complements his consulting and law practices with writing on urban issues. His books, Seeing the Better City, (2017), and Urbanism Without Effort (2013), prioritize the visual sense, pluralistic observation methodologies, and tools addressing urban change. As a Fulbright Specialist, Chuck will be based at JCU in Cairns, and will facilitate community consultation, related action plans, and outcomes.

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