

**SPEECH GIVEN AT THE BANQUET OF 40<sup>TH</sup> IAHS WORLD CONGRESS  
ON HOUSING IN FUNCHAL, MADEIRA, PORTUGAL**

Dear Professors Oktay Ural and António Tadeu,

Even though I am away, my thoughts are with you all and I hold all of you in my heart.

When Camões, symbol of the Portuguese language, described the discovery of the sea route to India by the Portuguese, he referred to the great Island of Madeira [Translation by William Julius Mickle - 1776]:

“Nam’d from her woods, with fragrant bowers adorn’d  
From fair Madeira’s purple coast we turn’d  
A shore so flow’ry, and so sweet an air  
Venus might build her dearest temple there.”

From the conquest of Ceuta in 1415, to the arrival in Japan in 1543, the Portuguese have sought to discover new cultures and connect the world.

Dear Participants, Dear Friends,

Fernando Pessoa, the modern poet once wrote [Translation based on the edition by Teresa Sobral Cunha, Notes in Memory of Master Caeiro]:

“In the city the big houses shut your sight with a key  
Hide the horizon, push your eyes far away from all the sky  
Make us smaller because they take away what our eyes can give us  
And make us poor because our only wealth is seeing.”

For over 40 years, thanks to Prof. Oktay’s wisdom, vision and love, the International Association for Housing Sciences has urged us all to seek more open, healthier, and more sustainable cities, where our eyes can see and our lives can be the happiest.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to Prof. António Tadeu and his fantastic team at ITeCons, for organizing this Congress, which is of great scientific value, and which will leave us all with unforgettable memories.

Prof. Vitor Abrantes

