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The **Secondary Cities (2C) Initiative** helps build local capacity in geospatial technologies to improve urban planning for resiliency and emergency preparedness, build local partnerships and networks, and discover, collect, and share open data in under-resourced cities.

In October at the Habitat III conference in Quito, the city of **Esmeraldas, Ecuador** was selected by the State Department as the newest city to join the **2C Initiative**. The project will create map data on issues identified by local stakeholders as critical, including vulnerable populations, disaster preparedness, and community resilience. The Office of the Geographer will partner closely with U.S. Embassy Quito, the Regional Environmental Office at U.S. Embassy Lima, university faculty in Quito and Esmeraldas, and the local municipality and communities to implement the project.

The 2C Initiative was also promoted at a booth in the official Habitat III exhibition area, hosted by the U.S. Department of State in partnership with Esri and Ecocity Builders. Over six days several thousands visited the booth to see over 40 presentations.



At the 2C booth at Habitat 3 Exhibition, with exhibits from left to right: Secondary Cities, Urbinsight, and Esri.

Postcards from Quito

10/18 Secondary Cities in Esmeraldas!

Today we announced the launch of a Secondary Cities partnership with Esmeraldas, Ecuador!

The Secondary Cities Initiative builds local capacity to harness geospatial technologies. These tools help build resilience against natural disasters and climate change, and also aid urban planning and management of growth.

Learn more at:
goo.gl/BvupiX



Ambassador Todd Chapman, Mayor Lenin Jose Lara Rivadeneira and his wife, Ambassador Nancy Stetson, and US State Department Geographer Lee Schwartz at announcement of the partnership.

Why Esmeraldas?

- **Capital city** (pop. 161,868) of greater Esmeraldas Province (pop. 534,092)
- **Growth rate of 5.7%** - almost three times the national average
- **Complex economy:** the key port of northern Ecuador; marine terminal and oil refinery; agriculture and livestock exports; timber exports with rainforest deforestation concerns; growing tourism
- **Diverse social dynamics:** home of sizable Afro-Ecuadorian and indigenous populations
- **Prone to natural disasters** (landslides, tsunamis, flooding, and earthquakes): April 2016 earthquake caused significant damage
- **Provincial border with Colombia** has led to influx of refugees fleeing war

Our "Postcard from Quito" featuring the new 2C partnership with Esmeraldas was extremely popular, becoming the 11th-most engaging tweet of the day across all State Department Twitter accounts!