



dpu

The Development Planning Unit  
University College London

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for poor urban livelihoods  
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# dpu news

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# focus on

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ENERGY FOR POOR URBAN LIVELIHOODS

Its contribution to poverty reduction<sup>1</sup>

by Sheilah Meikle and Alison Bannister



Sheilah Meikle



Interview area, suburb of Guiyang, China

Energy permeates people's lives. It provides a central point of reference for the poor's livelihood strategies. If available, it can improve prospects in many areas of life: for example, enhancing education prospects by reducing the time spent gathering fuel or cooking and allowing for home study; or it may reduce crime by lighting streets. Communities and households without access to modern energy such as electricity and LPG (liquid petroleum gas) can be socially and technologically excluded. The combustion of some fuels contributes to poor indoor and outdoor air quality, with serious consequences for health and natural resources. For example, burning biomass, charcoal and coal releases smoke and other air pollutants which particularly affect those closest to the stove (i.e. women and children). Urban outdoor pollution can be equally damaging par-

ticularly from burning fossil fuels with high levels of sulphur. Health consequences include increases in asthma and aggravation of existing heart conditions. Poor management and unsustainable use of traditional fuels can contribute to soil erosion, reduced soil fertility and desertification while the combustion of fossil fuels can contribute to acid rain and climatic change. Long term, this reduces available resources for the poor.

### Energy Consumption Strategies

Household energy types and consumption levels are determined by:

- Income
- Intrahousehold income distribution
- Fuel availability
- Fuel prices
- Distribution network proximity
- Cultural preferences
- Demographic distribution
- Physical environment (rural or urban)

The Energy Ladder (figure 1) represents the fuel types that might be used by households as their prosperity increases. A typical household Energy Ladder for cooking will progress from traditional fuels (in order: dung, crop residues, wood, charcoal and coal) to modern fuels (in order: kerosene, LPG and electricity). The Energy Ladder's fuel order corresponds to increased technological efficiency, decreased CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, emissions and particles, and increased capital costs.

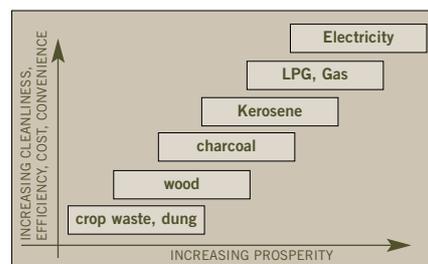


Figure 1: The energy ladder

Source: Report on 'Public Health and Household Energy'

### The scoping study

The findings reported here are drawn from a DFID funded Knowledge and Research proj-

ect - *Energy, poverty and sustainable urban livelihoods*, undertaken by a joint DPU and FES team<sup>2</sup> in collaboration with teams in Indonesia, (Centre for Regional and Urban Development Studies, Institut Teknologi, Bandung); China (Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing); and Ghana (Energy Foundation, Accra).<sup>3</sup> The teams included both energy and social development expertise.

The research used qualitative techniques and a sustainable urban livelihood framework to explore the energy/poverty relationship for poor households in two poor urban communities in Ghana – Moshie Zongo in Kumasi and Chorkor in Accra; and in two poor urban communities in Jakarta, Indonesia – Kelurahan Kramat and Kelurahan Gedong; and the Ruban area, in a suburb of Guiyang City in Guizhou province, China.

It developed relevant indicators for analysing and assessing the link between energy and sustainable livelihoods; considered the robustness of the Sustainable Urban Livelihoods (SUL) framework for analysing the energy/livelihood relationship, including its value in assessing macro-meso-micro linkages; and made recommendations on how to incorporate energy into the SUL framework and whether to refine the framework itself. The team developed three context specific methodologies.

### The impact of energy related policies, institutions and processes on poor households

The study clearly shows that households' long-term aspirations and investment have been curtailed, in Indonesia and Ghana by the policy impact of the 1990s crisis, and specifically the shock of energy price rises, and in Guizhou by the environmental impact of an energy intervention project.

Ghana and Indonesia responded to national financial crises and debt burdens by changing the cost of energy and mix of energy subsidies. In Ghana, the government increased the cost of petroleum by 64% and electricity by 96%. In Indonesia, subsidies on domestic

energy products – motor gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, and fuels oils as well as electricity – were suddenly reduced and restructured. These changes had a catastrophic effect on people's livelihoods.

Both countries target energy policy to benefit the poor, but without achieving the desired result. Ghana has a policy of stepped electricity charges, whereby the more one consumes, the higher the unit cost. Although intended to benefit poor people, this strategy fails to recognise their actual energy management strategy: in reality, the poor often share the cost of one electricity connection in order to save money, bringing their consumption quickly up to the higher unit cost rate. In Indonesia it is the wealthy, because they use significant amounts of energy, rather than the poor that benefit from energy subsidies.

Guizhou province in China has focused on improving the environment by introducing stricter controls on coal production and consumption, including the promotion of cleaner fuels such as coal gas for domestic consumption. However, the implementation of these measures has not been effective – for example, clean coal gas is available only to those households with an urban registration – rural migrants cannot access the system.

#### **Impact of changed policies on poor households**

In Ghana, prior to the increase in energy costs, almost all households used kerosene and charcoal for cooking. Many also used electricity for lighting and some electrical appliances, most commonly TVs and irons. In Indonesia, the majority of energy is used for cooking and lighting, with kerosene the dominant but declining energy of preference.

Electricity, available in most urban areas, is increasingly preferred, but for the urban poor, its high cost ensures that kerosene remains the dominant fuel.

In Guizhou coal is used by households because of its relative cheapness but again its intensity of use varies according to wealth. Employed urban people use coal and other energy sources whereas rural households rely solely on coal. They do not possess the infrastructure for piped gas, although they may use liquefied gas or firewood. The lower the household income, the greater the proportion of income spent on energy: poor families spend between 30-50% of their income on energy, whereas those with higher income spend less than 10%. The use of energy is determined in part by the 'internal living environment' of the home. For example, as the rural poor have no bathrooms they bathe less frequently and tend therefore to use less energy than the urban poor to heat water.

The negative impact of crisis forces families to heavily reduce all expenditures and prioritise expenditure on essential food and energy for food preparation; the transition to cleaner energy would entail an initial cost which the poor cannot easily contemplate. In Guizhou, the policy of switching industry to cleaner fuel may not improve the livelihood of the poor: local residents perceive that the decline in SO<sub>2</sub> has been counterbalanced by an increased presence of soot, polluting water and land and making houses much dirtier. The study clearly shows that households' long-term aspirations and investment have been curtailed. Aspirations to improved education, a comfortable life for older persons, and access to labour saving equipment have

been sacrificed. Households have been forced to concentrate instead on their short-term objectives – accessing sufficient food, energy and clothing to survive as a family unit, placing them under considerable strain. This strain is experienced differentially by men, women, children and other vulnerable groups such as older people or the physically or mentally challenged. Women have had to work longer hours to find cheaper fuel and food and to manage its collection and preparation. Men have had to spend longer hours looking for work or where work is available longer hours to generate enough money. Children have had their education disrupted. Older people have had to struggle to survive.

#### **Coping strategies**

Poor households have adopted three main types of strategies to accommodate the impact of increased direct and indirect energy costs on their already limited household budgets. Firstly, they have changed the type of energy they use, switching to cheaper options. This has involved a shift down the energy ladder. In Ghana households reduced their use of kerosene and increased their use of fuelwood (a cheaper option), but did not significantly reduce their use of charcoal.

#### **Types of coping strategies**

- Change in type of energy used (involving a shift down the energy ladder)
- Reduction in overall consumption of energy
- Reduction in expenditure on non-energy goods

Secondly, poor households have reduced their overall consumption of energy. In both Ghana and Indonesia they have reduced the number of meals cooked per day from three to one or two, limiting electricity consumption by going to bed earlier and reducing their use of television and other electrical appliances such as irons and radios. Thirdly, the poor have reduced their expenditure on non-energy goods. For example, in both Ghana and Indonesia, poor households have withdrawn children from school, and in Indonesia some children and older persons have been sent to extended families in the country. Furthermore, poor households have stopped purchasing large durable items, such as fridges, and stopped spending on recreational activities, including travelling to visit friends and relatives or partaking in social activities. In China, the perceived

*(continued page 5)*

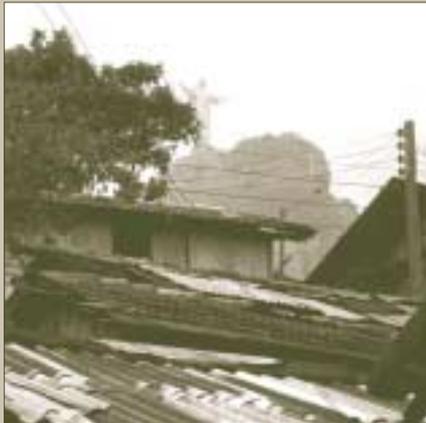
Proximity of local factory to an intensive farming area, Guizhou Province, China

# research on



[www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/research.htm)

DPU Archive



## Participation and communication in three cities: Rio, Colombo & Nairobi

This DFID funded research project, officially titled Communication for Sustainable Urban Livelihoods - CSUL (see DPUNews No.42) is being directed by **Patrick Wakely** and **Liz Riley**. Its overall research objective stems from the observation that the current paradigm of 'partnership' in urban development and management is widely used and accepted, but there seems to be little understanding of what it means. Broadly a partnership is a relationship based on an agreement to share both benefits and risks. (It thus differs from 'participation' that implies that an unequal relationship - one party participates in the initiative of another). Therefore partnership depends upon a high level of 'trust' between partners. Trust depends upon 'understanding' - understanding the strengths and weaknesses, goals and aspirations, and the capacities of each partner by each partner. Understanding depends upon 'communication' - the ability to transfer not only information but also understanding. The bottlenecks in this progression of observations are being examined in three cities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The three cities were chosen for their complementary differences in experience and approach to local government and communication. Colombo has a long tradition of government support to community development and organisation and participation in slum upgrading but, in part as a result of this, it does not have a well-developed urban NGO movement. Nairobi does have a well-organised and rapidly growing urban NGO sector but the city's administration is complicated by having a democratically elected City Council (NCC), responsible for infrastructure and urban services, that shares the same boundaries with a centrally appointed Provincial Administration responsible for leg-

islative issues, including land administration. Rio de Janeiro, which is considerably bigger than the other cities, does not have a tradition of participation and the many slum upgrading programmes that have been initiated by the metropolitan government, including the vast and well-known Favela Bairro programme (see DPUNews No.39), have been 'top-down' with little local participation. The project is in two phases: the first 18 months, which has just been completed with a national workshop in each city, has been the main research phase; the next six months will be spent developing implementable strategies to improve communication and understanding within and between low-income communities and local government agencies.

In **Colombo**, where the DPU research partner is Sevanatha Urban Resource Centre, the primary enquiry was conducted in 6 informal settlements representing an upgraded and an unimproved slum in 3 representative urban areas of Colombo. A survey of Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) officers was also conducted. The principal findings are that slum dwellers get things done by lobbying MPs and city councillors direct, who then instruct CMC officers to take action. (It seems that there is always someone who knows someone who knows the driver of the minister or a servant in a councillor's household). This has alienated the professional staff of CMC and line ministries, leading to low morale and a lack of public sector maintenance in low-income neighbourhoods. The proposals will be based on the appointment of a Task Force, under the patronage of the Mayor, to determine a new paradigm - "Colombo the Inclusive City", based on new approaches to participation. This will coincide with a process of decentralising CMC administration to 6 District centres and a new communication strategy.

In **Nairobi**, the DPU partners are Wendy Taylor, an independent researcher, and Sarah Gitau, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Development, University of Nairobi. The primary enquiry focused on surveys in three of representative slums, 6 urban civil society organisations and NCC officers. The principal findings are a high degree of political awareness and semi-informed discussion in sections of slum communities, which tend to be fragmented leading to a recognised

need for intra-community communication and community-NCC information flows; the need for intra-departmental communication within NCC and between NCC and the Provincial Administration; the increasingly sophisticated level of communication and co-ordination between urban NGOs, which is very impressive. The proposals are to use an on-going government programme - Local Authority Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) - that is aimed at involving low-income communities in setting their own priorities for investment in infrastructure and having some control over local development budgets as a vehicle for developing local and inter-sectoral communication strategies and to reactivate the Nairobi Informal Settlements Co-ordinating Committee (NISPPC) that brings together central and local government actors with civil society organisations, community leaders and the interested private sector.

In **Rio**, the DPU is working with IBAM (Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal) and IBASE (Instituto Brasileiro de Análises e Econômicas). The primary enquiry was conducted in 2 favelas, one high profile and a beneficiary of Favela Bairro, the other has not been upgraded. A review was made of civil society organisations and municipal utility companies that are in contact with these settlements. The principal findings are the complexity of interest groups in the settlements and the oppressive and pervasive dominance of drugs dealers. The proposals are likely to concentrate on local-level information management.

A **final workshop** that brings together the research partners from all three cities will be held at the DPU in London in early March.

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Aerial view of Bairro Salgueiro, Rio de Janeiro

J.M. Jauregui, source: www.jauregui.arq.br

## Discussing regional-environmental planning in Brasilia

In April-May 2002, **Julio Dávila** and **Edesio Fernandes** travelled to Brasilia as part of a British Council-funded link entitled "Methodological discussion and application of Ecological and Economic Zoning (ZEE) in Urban Areas". The local counterpart is the Department of Geography at the University of Brasilia, with Dr. Marília Steinberger as local co-ordinator. The ZEE is a regional-environmental planning instrument currently in use in several Brazilian states, including three in the Amazon region. These three are the focus of the link. This trip follows from the one conducted in 2001 by Edesio and Adriana Allen, while Marília and her colleague Brasilmar Ferreira had come to London to attend the Conference on the Peri-Urban Interface (see DPU News 43). Julio and Edesio were involved in 3 main activities:

1. Review of the work performed so far.
2. Agreement on how to proceed for the next two and a half years of the link (an immediate goal is to work on a small number of publications, but in the longer term the intention is to put together a research proposal to examine the potential use of the ZEE as an instrument for PUI planning).
3. Over two evenings Edesio and Julio shared the stage with local experts for a series of open lectures attended by staff and students at the University and officials from various ministries. Julio presented one aspect of the PUI research and was followed by Joe Leitmann, from the World Bank, (responsible for a Pilot Program to Conserve the Brazilian Rain Forest) who spoke about environmental problems in Third World cities, while Edesio made a presentation about environmental management and urban policy in Brazil. Future plans include two workshops in the cities of Belem and Manaus in the Amazon basin in April.

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Julio Davila and Edesio Fernandes with other members of the team



Simone Purohit

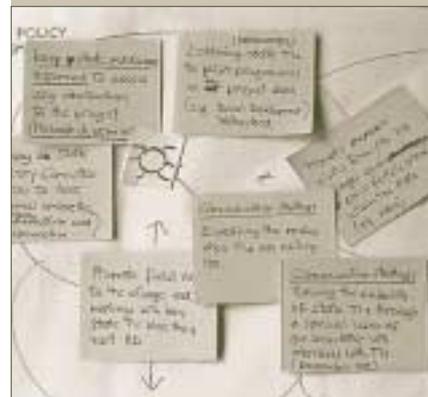
## Living with hope at the edge of the city, India

In October 2002, **Adriana Allen** worked in Hubli-Dharwad and Bangalore, India, on the project Enhancing Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management in Peri-Urban Villages, which will run until 2005. In Adriana's earlier Participatory Action Planning Project (PAPP) conducted in Hubli-Dharwad in 2001 (see DPU News 43) villagers had identified the livelihood and natural resource issues important to them, and action plans (intervention strategies) were developed. Under the new project, these are now being implemented.

The three actions plans focus on improving the management of own natural resources (e.g. soil and water management, livestock health camps); improving the management of common natural resources (e.g. forest management to improve access to fodder and grazing, creation of forest community committees) and the promotion of alternative livelihood options (e.g. social marketing for artisans products, formation of self-help groups where these did not exist before). The team are breaking new ground by trying to link together research with development, planning with implementation and monitoring, and understanding the linkages between livelihoods and natural resource management in peri-urban areas.

Adriana visited heads of key departments, who all agreed to support the project by re-

## Participation in the Hubli-Dharwad Workshops, India



Simone Purohit

directing existing and new schemes to the six villages where it operates; this reflects the favourable environment in which the state of Karnataka is pursuing policy innovations, particularly in relation to the need to strengthen urban and rural governance and the links between them. Following these interviews, she spent most of the time in Hubli-Dharwad, working with the local team in devising a strategy for the involvement of target institutions at the district and state levels. These discussions made full use of the web of institutionalisation model pioneered by the DPU. After long deliberation, a new name was chosen for the project: Nagaradanchina Janara Ashakirana (NAJA), which in Kannada means "Living with hope at the edge of the city".

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# head on

## Academic news

### The Impact of Energy on Poverty, Arusha, Tanzania

by Patrice North

A research project on the impact of energy on poverty was carried out in Tanzania in May 2002, for the Social Development Practice (SDP) field trip. It was conducted by an integrated team bringing together the SDP students with staff from the Community Development Training Institute (CDTI), Tengeru.



Team spirit in action

The research had the major objective of preparing a report for the Arusha Municipality on the relationship between energy and poverty in households in two communities in Arusha and make a detailed recommendation for an energy-related intervention which could lead to an improvement in the livelihoods of poor families.

Many interesting issues arise from this creative linking of the energy and poverty issues. Among these, I have chosen to highlight: (i) an innovative methodology and, (ii) what the research reveals about the relationship between energy and poverty. The research was participatory and used a sustainable livelihoods framework (SLF).

Interviews were held with a total of 26 stakeholders drawn from two wards (1 peri-urban and 1 urban) in Arusha Municipality. In the peri-urban ward, all 8 interviews were held in male-headed households, while in the urban Ward, 3 were in female-headed households and the remaining 5 in male-headed households.

#### What is poor? The search for criteria

It was essential to identify poverty criteria to ensure that the team interviewed poor households. In participatory discussion, the CDTI team concluded that the definition of poverty should build upon existing knowl-

edge of the social and economic conditions of the wards, and the team used its local knowledge to define 17 different poverty criteria which encompassed human, natural, physical, financial and social assets.

Attempts were also made to derive more participatory poverty criteria from:

(i) the subjective rating of a household, on a high-low poverty scale, by a hamlet leader which could be used as a yardstick to assess levels of poverty in other households; (ii) the characterisation, by a village chairman, of rich households for the same ward. A 'rich' household was one that had '2 cows and electricity'.

The meaningful indicators of poverty, derived from local knowledge and direct experience in the field, were found to be:

- Renting a room
- 6 or more people to a room
- Shared pit latrine
- No land
- No livestock
- Traditional house with mud walls and tin roof



Firewood bundles on sale near a local market

However, since the above data was not available for all 16 households it was decided to select 3 criteria that differentiated the poor from the non-poor households in both wards. These were: amount of land, number of livestock, and types of housing (i.e. owned / rented and quality of building materials).

A pairwise ranking of all households against the final 3 criteria showed a greater number of poor people in the urban area than the peri-urban area. Although the poor in peri-urban areas are more likely to have land and livestock, and it could be argued that these



Patchwork of different building materials: outer perimeter wall of a Masaai compound

criteria do not discriminate between poor and non-poor households, many of the urban households interviewed were Masaai who continue to keep livestock and frequently own productive land in rural areas. In both areas, land and livestock appear to be more highly valued than quality of housing.

#### The poverty-energy relationship

**Natural Assets:** The urban poor are unable to access fuel wood for free, and are more vulnerable to seasonal changes in its availability and price. Therefore, whatever strategy they use to maintain a household supply of energy for cooking and/or lighting (e.g. stealing wood, paying a higher price for firewood, switching to a higher cost fuel such as kerosene, reducing the frequency of cooking) there will be a negative impact on their food intake, and therefore health.

**Physical Assets:** Lack of space in urban areas adversely affects the very poor. Cramped living conditions make cooking over open fires impossible for those who rent rooms, so higher cost fuels have to be used (e.g. charcoal and kerosene) and stoves bought.

**Financial Assets:** Poor households lack the financial assets required to change to a new source of energy and are unable to save money by buying in large quantities.

**Human Assets:** The interviews reveal that any change to an alternative source of energy must take account of household needs, knowledge, family size, preferences, activities and beliefs. Both men and women must be involved at all stages, both in the identification of needs and in any decisions about alternative types of household energy. The issues which we identified include:

- **Lack of knowledge about alternative sources of energy**
- **Family size.** The quantity of food that is required for a large family can not be cooked on many of the available stoves



Stoves for a range of different fuels

since they are too small.

- **Dietary preferences.** The types of dishes preferred by households and what this means in terms of size of stove and types of fuel needs further research
- **Attitudes and beliefs:** e.g. women do not like cooking while standing. The use of a more efficient source of energy will have a social impact in the household. Men will be prepared to boil water and warm food thereby giving women more time for productive work. The time women spend in collecting firewood will also be reduced.

We can therefore conclude that the poverty-energy relationship is another dynamic in the poverty cycle, which results in the poor paying more for an inferior service with the short-term and long-term livelihoods of women being the most adversely affected.

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For the third consecutive year the MSc. Social Development Practice (SDP) students conducted their fieldwork in Arusha, Tanzania. They lived on the campus of the CDTI Tengeru and worked with CDTI staff on the relationship between energy and poverty in households in two communities for the Arusha Municipality.

- Some comments from SDP students and staff, and CDTI staff about the fieldwork:
- "Real partnerships take patience, time and effort from everyone. (...) our fieldwork was a 'real' partnership"
  - "Laughter and learning - the recipe for collaboration!"
  - "Team work and building: technical, research, and outreach"
  - "Hard work and fun (...) - an invaluable learning experience for everyone involved"
  - "(...) was the most exciting learning experience in my life. Thank you!"
  - "Tanzania, Tanzania, Nakupenda"

## DPU extramural activities

### MSc field trips 2002

The third term of the DPU MSc courses focuses on integrating the learning and refining the understanding of the processes of development through an application of the frameworks introduced in the previous terms. The latter is done through a **field trip**, which is an integral part of the course, and consists of a study visit to a developing country. As well as drawing the various elements of the course together, the 2-3 weeks trip is used to demonstrate the utility and application to a real situation. Further insight is also achieved through the preparation of a written report, which is completed back in London and usually sent back to the local partners and collaborating institutions.

Last May, DPU students have taken part in the Field Trips in Cairo, Egypt; in Arusha, Tanzania; and in Valletta, Malta.

In **Cairo**, ESD, DAP, UDP and IHS students have been addressing the problems and potentials of different aspects of urban development problems, e.g. Solid Waste Management and the New Towns Project, and worked on strategies that reflected principles of sustainability, social justice, good governance and economic viability. They visited numerous sites and conducted interviews to local community members, organisations, and authorities.

In **Arusha**, SDP students have been studying the relationship between energy and poverty in households (see article on previous page).

In **Valletta**, BUDD students have been working on the challenging problems facing the capital of the Mediterranean island of Malta, mainly due to the depopulation trend of its historical quarters. The students developed Urban Design proposals that tackled the vicious circle related to the dilapidation of the housing stock, the worsening quality of life and the inhabitants consequently moving to nearby cities. The team explored ideas focusing on the roots of these problems and identified three main areas of concern: (i) the Built Environment, (ii) Community and Social Networks, and (iii) Tourism and Mobility.



Anna Soave

Collecting data in Valletta (above) and in Cairo (below)



Anne Boisvert

### Development in practice: Supporting communities in action



Anna Soave

As every year, in early November, all current MSc and Phd students from the DPU have taken part in the traditional 'Windsor Workshop' that took place at the Cumberland Lodge, near Windsor Castle. In the 3-days workshop, students worked together on a real case study: the resettlement and rehabilitation of railway squatter

settlement residents in Mumbai, India. All the exercises were interactive and envisaged serious role playing. This led to some very interesting negotiation processes between the represented interest groups. All participants then contributed to the definition of the strategies that were discussed in the final (and very lively!) plenary session.

# hands on

DPU staff consultancy work, training and professional courses in the UK and abroad and DPU's participation in international networks.



Michael Sattler

## Le-Yin in Beijing

At the invitation of China International Centre for Economic & Technical Exchanges (CICETE) under the Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation, **Le-yin Zhang** was in Beijing between 8th and 14th September to facilitate the Inception Workshop for the project entitled "City Planning, Management and Development for the 21st Century." The project is co-financed by the UNDP and the Chinese government. CICETE is its executive agency. Le-yin writes: "The project can be seen as another element in UNDP's response to the accelerating urbanisation in China, which is forecast to almost double the country's urban population in the next 10 years, and the lack of institutional capacities to manage this tremendous change. While a previous UNDP funded project looked at small cities, the current project aims to facilitate capacity building among medium-sized Chinese cities. Another direct output from the project will be a Policy Recommendation Paper on City Planning and Management, hopefully providing inputs to the Chinese government's forthcoming policy paper on urban issues. Activities will unfold in six pilot cities, including planning exercises of various kinds and policy-related studies, as well as study tours and workshops. The remit of the expert team was to help the cities and the national programme office to decide the project's work plan for the next 3 and a half years.

What we introduced was the notion of integrated planning, which unlike the bureaucratic masterplan is strategic, problem-solving, research-based and market-driven. It is characterised by close linkages between different components of city planning (e.g.

economic planning, physical planning and environmental planning) on the one hand and between planning, resource mobilisation and institutional reforms on the other. This approach was very well received. As a result of the one-week workshop, the links between the objectives of the project and the activities at both national and local levels have become much clearer. The national component now envisages a series of workshops to meet the common needs of the cities (e.g. on strategic planning methodology) or to deal with issues of common interest (e.g. industrial restructuring). Emphasis for city level activities has shifted from the undertaking of planning exercises to the close examination of one or more locally relevant problems or issues. I expect my involvement with the project to continue" [le-yin.zhang@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:le-yin.zhang@ucl.ac.uk)

## Building the legal foundation of the democratic city in Porto Alegre

In July 2002, **Edesio Fernandes** worked in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in running the *9<sup>th</sup> Law and Urban Space Workshop* of the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space (IRGLUS). The workshop's general theme was "Building the legal foundation of the democratic city" - see the information and conference papers on [www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br](http://www.portoalegre.rs.gov.br)

Edesio writes: "The venue chosen for us to renew our long-standing discussion on the relations between law, development, planning and management in urban areas could not be any better than Porto Alegre, the capital of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, which was also the venue of the celebrated 2001/02 World Social Forums. Over the last fourteen years, Porto Alegre's

"Popular Administration" has initiated and consolidated a whole range of very important planning policies and management strategies, including the introduction of the world-famous "Participatory Budgeting" process and other innovative tenure policies which aim to democratise the access to land and housing. All such progressive urban policies and strategies have been supported by very significant legal changes, which have been critically assessed in frequent open discussions involving local policymakers, public administrators, academics and social organisations. Given the fact that we all have so much to learn from Porto Alegre's experiences, and also taking into account the recommendations made in our 2000 Cairo Workshop that we should try and change the format of



Porto Alegre City Hall

Citizen's meeting, Porto Alegre

our meetings to some extent, the present conference included presentations by local people and organisations, alongside talks by guest speakers and presentation of papers by IRGLUS members. The opening session of the Workshop was organised by a group of lawyers, planners and NGO members from Porto Alegre, under the coordination of Betania Alfonsin, its aim being to provide participants with general information on the policies, programmes and laws implemented in Porto Alegre. Former Municipal Mayor, Tarso Genro, delivered the keynote speech on the meeting's general topic - "Building the legal foundation of the democratic city", followed by presentations by local people on the way Porto Alegre had tackled the work-

shop's four sub-themes, namely "Democratising the access to urban land and housing: the role of planning law" - "Property rights, land markets and value capture planning / fiscal / legal mechanisms" - "Local power politics: popular participation in the decision-making process" - "Sex, gender and the city". More than ever in the past, the organisation of our meeting expressed the nature of IRLUS: informality, co-operation, friendliness and competence! The workshop was preceded by two important related meetings, also in Porto Alegre: the first ever meeting of the Brazilian Network on Urban Land Regularisation (a branch of the Latin American Network on Land Regularisation in Urban Areas sponsored by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy); and the Second Brazilian Urban Law Conference, assessing the important national urban policy law, the City Statute, enacted in Brazil in 2001.

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Participative consultation, Porto Alegre

Porto Alegre City Hall

## Environmental aspects In Urban and Regional Planning in Uruguay

In July, **Adriana Allen** went to Uruguay to run a one-week course under the title "Environmental aspects In Urban and Regional Planning", which was attended by forty professional from all over the country. The course was part of the first semi-distance Masters Programme in Territorial Planning and Urbanism run by the School of Architecture of the University of the Republic. The programme is coordinated by Alicia Iglesia (DPU Housing MSc 1994): [mot@farq.edu.uy](mailto:mot@farq.edu.uy)

## Gender Mainstreaming in Basle

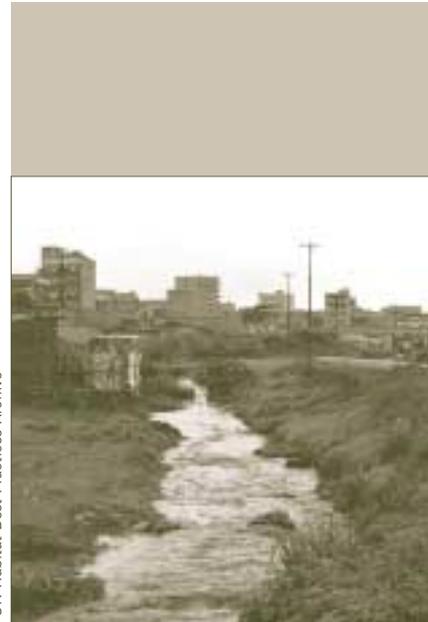
In May 2002, **Caren Levy**, and **Claudy Vouhé**, visited Basle, Switzerland, to conduct a three day training session on Gender Mainstreaming in Development Co-operation for the Swiss Development Corporation; most of the people who attended came from, or had responsibilities in, Eastern Europe and the Caucuses. Caren writes that "this session raised many interesting issues, often quite different from those in our usual Africa - Asia - and Latin America-based workshops. The workshop went well, and feedback was very positive." Caren and Claudy also gave their comments on the mid-term strategy for the new governance division of the Swiss Development Corporation, in which the gender desk is now located. [c.levy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.levy@ucl.ac.uk)

## Country Poverty Assessments in Dominica and the British Virgin Islands

In June 2002, **Sheilah Meikle** worked in conjunction with a Halcrow team, specifically with Louise Porteous (ex-DPU student) and Joe Wood, on a Caribbean Development Bank Project, undertaking a Country Poverty Assessments in Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. The work is being implemented jointly with members of the National Assessment Team (NAT) in each country. These poverty assessments determine the characteristics, extent and causes of poverty; and identify effective strategies, programs and projects to reduce poverty. Each assessment comprises a survey of living conditions, a participatory poverty assessment/ community situation analysis and an institutional analysis. During this visit the team focused on an institutional analysis in each country and on training selected members of the NATs. After having prepared the relevant reports, Sheilah and Louise returned in November to present their findings with some initial suggestions for action to the government agencies. [s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk)

## Cities Alliance Evaluation

Brussels, 8 October 2002  
**Nigel Harris** and **Patrick Wakely**, with inputs from Juliet Pierce from PARC and **Le-Yin Zhang**, have just completed a Cities Alliance Evaluation. It involved visits to Washington, Nairobi, Manila and Tokyo and to São Paulo, Rio and Salvador, Bahia. [w.wakely@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:w.wakely@ucl.ac.uk)



Potential spaces for urban agriculture in a slum at the outskirts of Nairobi

UN-Habitat Best Practices Archive



UN-Habitat Best Practices Archive

## Urban food security in Africa

During May 2002, **Michael Mattingly** visited Nairobi to take part in a workshop on urban food security in Africa, jointly organised by UN-Habitat, FAO, the Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (SIUPA), and the IDRC (in Canada). About 50 people participated. Michael attended as part of his work with the Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP). The aim was to help develop a strategy for disseminating outputs of the Peri-Urban Interface (PUI) research of the NRSP to potential users at an international level. Michael presented a paper integrating the findings of NRSP research regarding the role of PUI food producing land in the livelihoods of poor people, focussing on Kumasi, but bringing in material from research on Hubli-Dharwad and Kolkata urban-regions. Later in the conference, when chairing the workshop on land use planning, Michael witnessed an interesting discussion between urban planners and advocates of urban farming, leading to a conclusion that peri-urban farming was not given the attention that it deserved. For more info: [www.cipotato.org/siupa/](http://www.cipotato.org/siupa/) [m.mattingly@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.mattingly@ucl.ac.uk)

# hands on

(continued from page 9)

## Working With Gender in Child Labour: Capacity Building in IPEC

On behalf of the DPU Gender Policy and Planning Programme, **Caren Levy** and **Nadia Taher** have begun working with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) at the International Labour Organisation, to support gender mainstreaming in their work through capacity building. IPEC operates within the framework of two ILO conventions, the ILO Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, No 182, 1999, and the Minimum Age Convention, No 138, 1973. "The ILO estimates that, around the world, some 250 million children between the ages of five and 14 work for a living. Almost half, some 120 million, work full time, every day, all year round. As many as 70 per cent toil in dangerous environments. Of the 250 million children concerned, some 50-60 m. are between five and 11 years old and work, by definition, in hazardous circumstances, considering their age and vulnerability." (ILO, 1999, *A New Tool to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour*, ILO Convention 182)

According to Convention 182, the worst forms of child labour comprise: all forms of slavery, including the sale and trafficking of girls and boys, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour (including the use of children in armed conflict); prostitution and the production of pornography; use of girls and boys in illicit activities like the production and trafficking of drugs; and any work which is likely to harm the health, safety and morals of girls and boys. In pursuit of the terms of the conventions, IPEC's engages in advocacy, research, programmes and projects. The number of girls and boys in child labour alone make this a formidable task, but IPEC's work is made even

more complex by the sensitivity of the issue in many contexts. On the one hand, girls and boys crucial make important contributions to the real incomes of low income households. On the other hand, are also often involved in work which is illegal and closely associated with national and international criminal networks.

A number of initiatives have already been introduced towards mainstreaming gender in IPEC. They disaggregate much of their data by sex. Thus for example, while girls predominate in activities related to prostitution, there is evidence of the increasing presence of boys in this area. Similarly, although boys predominate as recruits in armed conflict, there is evidence that girls are also involved in forced labour as prostitutes and domestic workers in the camps of combatants. Other IPEC initiatives include a gender mainstreaming strategy and a study on 'good practices', which highlights a innovative practices working with gender in different contexts.

The DPU/IPEC programme started with a two-day needs assessment at IPEC HQ in Geneva, in October 2002. This involved a series of small group meetings with 41 staff members from every part of IPEC to discuss their different tasks and their approach to gender in their work. A number of stimulating ideas came out of these discussions, which formed the basis of the DPU's first report, "Beyond the Gender Paragraph". The first of 3 workshops that took place in November just outside Geneva, involving 16 participants, built on the wealth of experience among IPEC staff. Through the application of the DPU gender policy and planning methodology, they examined the implications of gender in their various activities and began to formulate possible strategies to strengthen the gender mainstreaming process in specific ongoing work. Other training is scheduled for early next year, as well as a system of 'coaching' to follow-up and consolidate staff capacities and team work focused on gender relations in the eliminating the worst forms of child labour through the involvement of girls and boys themselves, their parents, employers and governments.

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[n.taher@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.taher@ucl.ac.uk)

## International networks

In September **Julio Davila** has been appointed an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, and joined **Caren Levy** as member of UCL's Academic Board.

In July, **Marc Weiss** from the Prague Institute for Global Urban Development (non-profit organization devoted to research, teaching, discussion, publication, and action on the major issues related to urban development around the world: [www.pragueinstitute.org](http://www.pragueinstitute.org)) visited the DPU and met with Robert Biel and Julio Davila. Possible areas of collaboration were discussed, specifically to do with academic networking and the setting up of a doctoral programme in collaboration with other international institutions.

At the end of October 2002, **Anna Soave** represented the DPU at the UN-Habitat Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme (BLP) Annual Steering Committee Meeting and the parallel Dubai Awards Seminar event, both hosted by the Dubai Municipality. Whilst the Steering Committee Members discussed the policies and procedures that guide the work and activities of the BLP and of its partners, the International Seminar focused on the lessons learned from the 2002 Best Practices initiatives. The ten international laureates, representing the 2002 cycle's most successful practices, were invited to present their initiatives and exchange the experiences gathered in the field. The speakers ranged from city mayors to grass-roots. For more information:

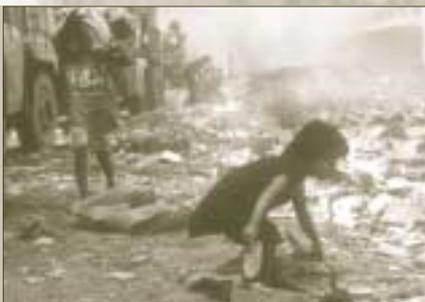
[www.bestpractices.org/](http://www.bestpractices.org/)  
<http://dubai-award.dm.gov.ae>

The unveiling of the Dubai Awards monument and (below) Anna Soave and other Steering Committee Members



background picture: ILO / J.M. Derrien

ILO / J. Maillard



Working in a garbage dump, Smockey Mountain, Manila, Philippines

## Speakers' corner

### Poverty, Social Injustice and the Rise of Political Islam

In June 2002, **Nadia Taher** was invited by the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) to give a presentation on the theme of Islam and Development Co-operation. The aim of the workshop held in Bern was 'to increase the understanding of delegates from SDC and aid agencies to the special features associated with development work in predominantly Muslim partner countries including the partly fundamentalist context and to acquaint them with new points of contact with the Islamic culture for use in their work'.

There were around 40 participants, mostly from SDC, but also some from Swiss NGOs and the media. Nadia spoke on 'Use of Islam for Political Purposes', specifically on 'Poverty, Social Injustice and the Rise of Political Islam'. The talk was followed by small group discussions and a plenary focusing on the challenges SDC faces in understanding the rise of political Islam, its implications for their policies and programmes.

[n.taher@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.taher@ucl.ac.uk)

### Energy, Gender and Poverty Reduction

As a member of the World Renewable Energy Congress 2002 Energy, Gender and Poverty Reduction technical committee, **Sheilah Meikle** attended this year's congress, held last July in Cologne. Technical sessions were held on the theme of energy, poverty and gender. They included the delivery of papers and a one-day workshop. Participants included D. Jones, senior energy adviser from DFID; A. Altwajiri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and Prof. E. Cecelski, Director of ENERGIA (an international network on energy and gender). Sheilah presented a paper and was responsible for a workshop which discussed issues around poor women's access to energy services and how energy can reduce poverty. [www.wrec.de/](http://www.wrec.de/)

[s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk)

**Fernando Aragon-Durand**, a PhD student, attended the WSSD in Johannesburg and talked about 'Disasters Mitigation & Conflicts' in the workshop Bridging Science with Local Concerns organised by Lead International. The workshop aim was to discuss with different local people ways to make scientific work around 10 key areas of sustainable development accessible to local, multi-sectoral leaders for use in their policy and decision-making roles. [www.lead.org](http://www.lead.org)



Fetching water from the polluted river, Guizhou Province, China

(continued from page 3)

negative impact of soot pollution has led households to either purchase potable water or walk long distances to obtain clean water.

#### Impact on assets

The coping strategies adopted by poor households are having dire effects on household assets. There is ample evidence from Ghana and Indonesia of a failure to invest in social capital. For example, families can no longer afford to visit family and friends or take part in the social activities, such as providing gifts and participating in weddings, which build social capital. In Ghana, social capital is further depleted by the breakdown of relationships resulting from conflict over the management of electricity bills. In all three case-studies there is a decline in human assets, resulting from a decline in health because of poorer nutrition; inability to afford medicines and medical treatment. Physical assets are also being degraded in all three countries. Household stock is deteriorating, while, in Ghana and the Kelurahan Gedong area of Jakarta there is increasing pressure on natural assets as more firewood is cut to meet the growing demand from households unable to afford

#### Impact on assets and livelihood outcome

- Failure to invest in social capital
- The physical assets of households are being depleted
- Increasing pressure on natural assets
- Reduction in financial resources
- Decline in human assets
- Greater livelihood vulnerability

kerosene. In China soil, crops and water are being polluted by soot. In Indonesia there is increased reliance on natural resources, such as land to grow food for personal consumption and income generation. With families experiencing a reduction in all assets, livelihoods have become increasingly vulnerable. They are therefore less prepared to cope with future shocks and stresses and, with constrained educational opportunities, it seems probable, unless this situation can be changed, that these families have little hope of improving their situations.

This research has important messages for policy makers, practitioners and researchers both in energy and urban poverty reduction fields. It shows that an holistic approach to development needs to take into account the role that energy can play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. More research is needed but this scoping study has started the process.

[s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk)

<sup>1</sup> The project was originally conceived by Sheilah Meikle (DPU) and Andy Gilchrist, Future Energy Solutions (FES). The DPU team was led by Sheilah. The FES team was initially headed by C. Caffall and later Alison Bannister (overall project manager). It would not have happened without the support of the local partners in Indonesia, China and Ghana. A DPU working paper is being published and will be available on the web.

<sup>2</sup> FES is part of AEA Technology plc (AEAT)

<sup>3</sup> The Indonesian team was led by Haryo Winarso (ex DPU PhD student); the China team by Huang Ping and the Ghanaian team by Alfred Ahenkorah

#### Relevant sources

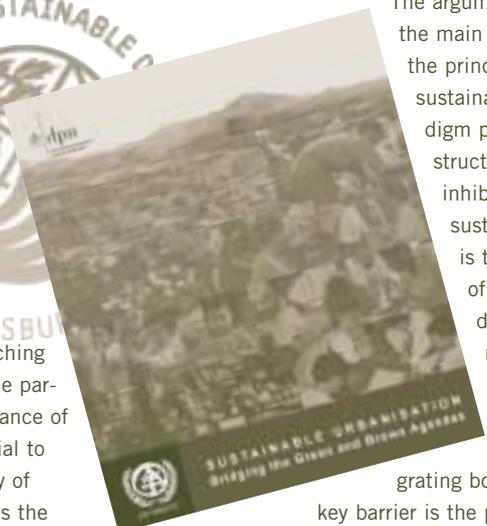
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# publications

## Sustainable Urbanisation: Bridging the Green and Brown Agendas,

DPU, London, ISBN 1 874502 40 4  
HS/672/02E

New and far-reaching approaches to the participatory governance of cities are essential to the sustainability of urban life. This is the unequivocal message that emerged from both Agenda 21, endorsed by more than 160 countries at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, and the Habitat Agenda that came out of the City Summit in Istanbul in 1996. The recent World Summit on Sustainable Development — also known as Rio+10 — has represented a unique opportunity to assess the outcomes and impacts of Agenda 21 and to provide renewed impetus for implementation. Over the last decade, Agenda 21 has inspired innumerable global initiatives and local innovations, but how much has the consensus that was reached in 1992 resulted in a more socially just, environmentally sound, economically vibrant and politically accountable world? When measured in terms of tangible outcomes, the answer is far from satisfactory. Many have therefore argued that the agendas for a sustainable future have failed to fully mobilise people, governments and the business community in addressing the urgent problems affecting cities and societies today and in the future. Since the adoption of the Habitat Agenda, a systematic effort has also been made to document these initiatives and innovations, providing a wealth of knowledge, experience and lessons for further reflection, action and consolidation. This book examines some of these lessons and their institutional and policy implications in the belief that more sustainable forms of development will increasingly depend on creating strong links between local initiatives and national and international responses.



The argument of this book is that the main problem does not lie with the principles advocated by the sustainable development paradigm per se, but rather the structural barriers that have inhibited local actions towards sustainability. One key barrier is the different approaches of environmentalists and development planners. A major aim of this book is to build a bridge between these two by exploring the added value of integrating both approaches. Another

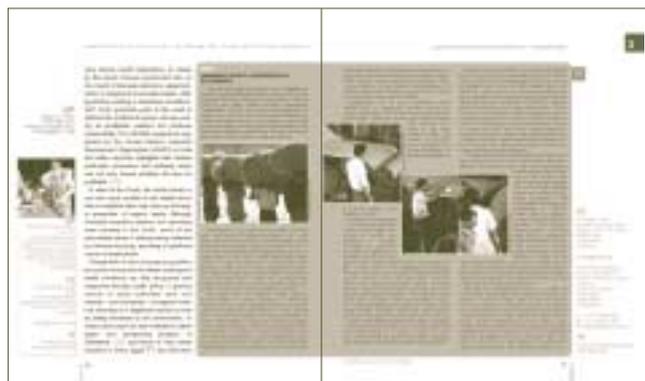
key barrier is the political and institutional context within which local communities and cities operate. As cities and local communities do not function in isolation from the wider spheres of power and decision-making, much of what can be achieved through local action can only be sustained, institutionalised and scaled up by removing the obstacles at the national or international levels. Throughout its four chapters, the book explores how to move from 'localising' to 'globalising' local action towards sustainability.

Sustainable urbanisation means recognising and acting upon the need for strategic alliances and partnerships between central and local government, NGOs and civil society organisations, urban communities and households, and the private sector. It means addressing urban economic development, social justice and cultural diversity as parts of the same political process of development. It means bridging the gap between urban environmental degradation (the Brown Agenda) and changing attitudes to the patterns in the use and reuse of the earth's resources (the Green Agenda).

This book makes the case for sustainable urbanisation by bridging the green and brown agendas. It advocates that in a rapidly urbanising world, the quest for more sustainable development will increasingly depend on

how well we manage and govern cities. It shows, through the analysis of more than 70 case studies, that these approaches are already being implemented throughout the world. It argues, however, that the impact of many of these experiences has been confined to the place and society where they took place, yet they all offer lessons that could be transferred to others. Towards the end, the book presents a set of interlinked approaches to consolidating and scaling up sustainable urbanisation strategies to all levels. Like its companion, this publication is intended for decision-makers at all levels, community leaders and women and men concerned with and engaged in environmental and development issues, be it in preserving the global commons or in improving the local living environment. We hope that the ideas and case studies presented stimulate further action and debate for a sustainable and urbanised world.

Prefaced by Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director UN-Habitat, this book is a companion of *Implementing the Habitat Agenda: In Search of Urban Sustainability*, also jointly produced by the DPU and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with financial support from the Infrastructure and Urban Development Department (IUDD) of the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The book was directed & written by Adriana Allen and Nicholas You; managed and researched by Sonja Meijer; researched and written by Adrian Atkinson, Patrick McAlpine, Nathan Marom, Salma Nims, Anna Soave (also graphic design), Julian Walker; with contributions from Julio Dávila and Edesio Fernandes.



**Dávila, Julio**, 2002, "Bogotá: Progress with-in a hostile environment", in Henry A. Dietz and David J. Myers (editors), *Capital City Politics in Latin America: Democratization and Empowerment* (co-authored with Alan Gilbert), Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder; pp. 29-63, ; ISBN 1-58826-040-2.

**Allen, Adriana & Julio Dávila** (co-editors), 2002, "Mind the Gap! Bridging the urban-rural divide", *ID21 Insights*, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, (available from [www.id21.org/urban/](http://www.id21.org/urban/)). In the same way that rural areas have been a source of food, raw materials and labour for cities, cities have historically been places of opportunity for rural dwellers. Cities provide markets for agricultural products, specialised services (health, higher education, wholesale, government and finance), and even sources of temporary employment and shelter for some rural household members. The nature and intensity of rural-urban linkages vary between regions of the world and even within countries, as well as in response to economic, political and environmental factors.

Planned interventions seeking positive changes in rural-urban linkages that both enhance the use and state of natural resources and improve the livelihoods and living conditions of peri-urban poor women and men are still rare. However, the last few years have seen the emergence of a number of research and development programmes and projects pursuing these aims. The aim of this Insights issue is twofold. On the one hand, it aims at providing a better understanding of the problems and opportunities faced by poor women and men as the linkages between urban and rural areas become increasingly blurred. On the other hand, it examines how these issues are being addressed through a number of interventions, ranging from policy change to community action.

**Dávila, Julio**, 2002, *Urban Poverty Reduction Experiences in Cali, Colombia: Lessons from the Work of Non-profit Organisations*, International Institute for Environment and Development, London, (available from [www.iied.org/rural\\_urban/downloads.html](http://www.iied.org/rural_urban/downloads.html)).

**Meikle, Sheilah**, 2002, "The Urban Context and Poor People" in Rakodi C. and T. Lloyd-Jones, *Urban Livelihoods: People-Centred Approach to Reducing Poverty*, London, Earthscan.

**Safier, Michael**, 2001, "Confronting 'Urbicide' Crimes against Humanity, Civility and Diversity and the Case for a Cosmopolitan response to the attack on New York ('9/11')" *CITY journal*, Vol.5, No. 3, pp. 416-29.

**Safier, Michael**, 2001, "The Struggle for Jerusalem: Arena of Nationalist Conflict or Crucible of Cosmopolitan Co-existence? On Collective Cultural Identities, Critical Theories and Insurgent Practices: Lessons from a 'Limit Case'", *CITY journal*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 135-168.

This article arose out of a long-standing interest in and involvement with the recent historical and contemporary development of the city and its collective cultural - national, ethnic and religious - groups, with particular reference to the intractable conflict among Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs who share

the space of this permanently divided city. The article challenges the basis of the present popular and political perception of the conflict over the city, and promotes an alternative future of peaceful co-existence in a shared city including the capitals of both the Israeli and (future) Palestinian states. It seeks a way through the nationalist impasse created by the comprehensive failure of the Israeli government authorities to 'judaise' East Jerusalem and 'disintegrate' Palestinian local government and civil society. Finally it seeks to generalise from the Jerusalem experience to the increasing number of divided cities worldwide where a 'revolution in consciousness' is required, based on principles of "cosmopolitan development".

**Safier, Michael**, 2002, "On Estimating 'Room for Manoeuvre' in Urban Planning The 'Metropolis 2000' debate of 1993 revisited, looking back from 2002: On Achieving Social Justice through progressive planning in the era of turbo- dynamic globalisation, neo-liberal structural adjustment and intensifying cultural conflict", *CITY journal*, Vol.6. No.1, 2002, pp.117-131.

## staff news

After many years working in the DPU, mainly on the analysis of housing policy development and the impact upon the urban poor and their housing processes, **Liz Riley**, has decided to move to Cumbria, Northern England, where she has the firm intention of making the most of the beautiful surroundings, far from the hassle of London, and enjoying her new-born baby Oscar.

After many years of invaluable work, **Frankie Liew** has left his DPU post as Course Administrator. The 'hot seat' has been filled by **Nkenji Okpara**, assisted by **Paul Holloway**. Both are dealing with prospective students enquiries, correspondence, grant applications and general administration of the DPU courses.



**Charlotte Spinks**, who joined the DPU in October 2001, has left us to start her PhD at Oxford. We wish her good luck!

**Patrice North** (SDP 2001-02) has just joined the DPU. Patrice has extensive research and consultancy experience in Indonesia having worked for both the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta and for Simon Fraser



University, Vancouver for a period of more than 13 years. She is now working in the field of social development as Dr. Sheilah Meikle's research assistant. In January she will be researcher on a project in Damietta, Egypt examining the impact of economic growth on poor men and women's livelihoods. She is also providing teaching support for the Social Development Practice programme.

# connections

Letter's corner

**Annamarie Swai (UDP 1998-89)** writes "When I last wrote I was working in Nairobi as the assistant regional representative for an Italian NGO called UNA. I am still with the NGO, which is a consortium of 7 NGOs. I am currently based in North East Somalia, Puntland in a town called Bosaso. We have a Municipal project here, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Bosaso Municipal Authority to deliver services to the population. I am working on the waste management component (Adriana will laugh at that!) - we are in the process of developing a pilot solid waste management system for the town. It is interesting and challenging work (more challenging right now as I am nearing my 2 months in the field and desperately need R&R!) I am enjoying my experience and expanding my "skills" - I am also in the process of developing, with our technical consultants, a project proposal for Hargeisa Urban Water Supply in Somaliland, and will be off to Hargeisa for a week on Monday to undertake a follow up assessment mission."  
[afiniani005@yahoo.com](mailto:afiniani005@yahoo.com)

**Chih-hua Tsai (DAP 1998-89)** is at present working as Assistant Research Fellow at the International Exchange and Cooperation Division, Science and Technology Information Center (STIC), National Science Council, Taipei, Taiwan. Over the past year, she has been Chief Editor of an English language periodical Sci-Tech Focus, a monthly report on science and technology development of the Asia-Pacific Region, of which 3,000 copies are distributed worldwide. [http://nr.stic.gov.tw/ejournal/SciTechFocus/SciTechFocus\\_e.htm](http://nr.stic.gov.tw/ejournal/SciTechFocus/SciTechFocus_e.htm)  
She recently made official visits to the CSRS (Center for Science Research & Statistics) in Moscow, Russia and BMBF (German Federal Ministry for Education & Research) in Berlin, Germany. Among other things, Chih-hua has been working in the area of studying how to improve Taiwan's capability in producing fuel cells and other forms of renewable energy. [chtsai@mail.stic.gov.tw](mailto:chtsai@mail.stic.gov.tw)

**Halil Yidirim (Ph.D. 2000)** is at present working as Associate Professor at Zonguldak Karaelmas Universitesi in Turkey [halilyidirim@hotmail.com](mailto:halilyidirim@hotmail.com)

**Montserrat Reus-Martí (ESD 2001-02)** is at present doing an internship in the European Secretariat of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) located in Freiburg (Germany). ICLEI is an international environmental agency for local authorities with members that include cities, towns, counties, municipal areas and regions, as well as a network of city alliances and a coordinator of city campaigns. Montserrat's responsibility is for the DISCUS programme, a research project co-

financed by the European Commission, aiming at developing institutional and social capacities for urban sustainability. It started in December 2001 and lasts for 3 years. Its central purpose is to understand the conditions leading to the emergence of efficient governance for urban sustainable development in Europe. The results of the project will be based on a detailed evaluation of 40 local authorities from Southern, Western, Eastern and Central European countries and Scandinavia. Fieldwork taking place in the selected local authorities will encompass document analysis, in-depth interviews with key actors (in local government and other stakeholder organizations), and questionnaires for both local government officers and representatives of stakeholder groups. Montserrat Reus-Martí will take part specially on the data collection from the Spanish and Portuguese case studies.  
[montserrat\\_reus@hotmail.com](mailto:montserrat_reus@hotmail.com)

**Nosakhare Boardi (DAP 2000-01)** has begun a new post with Médecins sans Frontières, and is at present taking part in a training programme in New York and in the Netherlands. [nboardi@hotmail.com](mailto:nboardi@hotmail.com)

**Oba Donald Nwandu (Msc 1984)** obtained the Council seat for Nigeria in the International Union of Architects. Despite the fact that Nigeria was one of the Union's founding countries, the whole of West Africa is under represented, whereas both South and North Africa have a strong voice in Union matters. This imbalance was the anchor for Oba Nwandu's campaign and he clinched victory at the second ballot. [obanwandu@hotmail.com](mailto:obanwandu@hotmail.com)

**Anna Kilson (Environment Short Course 2002)** writes: "I want to let you know that I had a great time at DPU. The subject I chose to write about has been useful for my job. I am implementing a selective collection of solid waste in Brazilian Government buildings based on the conclusions developed in my final report. The individual study programme in Urban Environmental Planning and Management: Implementing Local Agenda 21 was very important to my professional life".

**Sara Pires (ESD 2001-02)** has just been appointed professor of Economic Planning at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. She is responsible for setting up a new the undergraduate programme in Public Administration at the Law Faculty.

**Walter Mendonça Filho (DAP 2001-02)** has just been appointed as Project Co-ordinator in the Near East and North Africa Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) [www.ifad.org/operations/regional/2002/pn/pn.htm](http://www.ifad.org/operations/regional/2002/pn/pn.htm)

**Fabio Eon (DAP 2000-01)** has just taken up a new post with UNESCO in Brazil, working directly under the Director for Brazil, which is the biggest UNESCO directorate after Paris. Among others, the projects include AIDS, World Heritage, Distance Education and Vocational Education, and Advocacy. Apart from this, Fabio has been working on setting up an Electronic newsletter on social responsibility. About this, he writes "Brazil, after the dictatorship, has seen a boom of the NGO sector (200,000 NGOs officially registered) and civil movements. 'Citizenship' was the agenda in the 80s and the next years should be dominated by 'social responsibility' and the 'third sector'. Companies are asked to invest in social projects, and foundations are being created out of the blue. The electronic domain already exists and the site is almost finished (a good webdesign). The idea is to send the electronic newsletter free of charge to all those registered - it will contain interviews, articles, case-studies, and other interesting information to be updated weekly." [fabioeon@hotmail.com](mailto:fabioeon@hotmail.com)

**Igor Nemgirov (DAP 1999-2000)** has begun a new post working for the British Council as a Regional Premises Manager in Moscow.  
[Igor.Nemgirov@britishcouncil.ru](mailto:Igor.Nemgirov@britishcouncil.ru)

**Sangil Yi (Ph.D. 2002)** has a new post as Researcher at the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs (KIHSA).

**Joao Tedeschi (DAP 2000-01)** is at present working for the Environmental Agency in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Initially responsible for the waste management division, he was made responsible, during 2002, for the preparation of a document about the state of the environment in Sao Paulo State for the UN Summit on Sustainable Development Rio+10 (or Johannesburg 2002). After this he began working on a project concerning climate change and Ozone layer depletion, which includes the implementation by Brazil of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, which Brazil ratified in July. At the same time, Joao has begun teaching at two Colleges in Sao Paulo. He is teaching an 'Economics for Administration' undergraduate course, and a Waste Management module for a Specialization Course in Environmental Planning & Natural Resources Management. [jtedeschi@hotmail.com](mailto:jtedeschi@hotmail.com)

**Mirjam van Donk (DAP 2000-01)** is back in London from South Africa. She was approached by ActionAid to take up a temporary post as policy advisor to the Director until the end of the year 2002, following which, the Director of the UNDP Regional Project on HIV and Development in sub-

Saharan Africa has asked her to conduct a 6-month project on the impact of development planning systems on HIV/AIDS. [mvandonk@worldonline.co.za](mailto:mvandonk@worldonline.co.za)

**Milagros Alvarado (DAP, 2000-01)** has written that she is now in charge of a capacity building program for the employment of youth. She is the appointed National Program Coordinator and is actively involved in the present negotiation process to ensure their funding with IDB. On the other hand, she is also kept busy by her 9 month-old son Joaquin and is very happy. [malvarado@mtpe.gob.pe](mailto:malvarado@mtpe.gob.pe)

**Carlos Flores (DAP 2000-01)** writes "I would like to share with you my current life here in Mexico. After I came back from Europe I have been working hard to establish a consulting firm specialized on development and urban issues. I have had the opportunity to contend for several contracts in my state, today I received the results of one of the projects. It is about a diagnosis of the automotive industry in the central western region of the country. The basis of my proposal has been the courses I received from you, and I am very happy to say that by proposing your approach to understand industry (in a global context) we got an offer to sign a contract to conduct the study. The proposal has been evaluated by UNDP as the most suitable for this case. I wanted to share this moment of happiness with you and to express my gratitude for the efforts you have made to share with us your knowledge. At the moment we are negotiating more contracts with different government agencies where the approaches from Robert Biel, Caren Levy and Jorge Fiori are being accepted and seen as very relevant to discover new perspectives of the development process in Mexico. Thank you very much for your commitment."

[caflores@cybercable.net.mx](mailto:caflores@cybercable.net.mx)

**Diana Siller (ESD 2000-01)** writes from Mexico: "It turns out that the United Nations Consensus on Financing for Development happened right here, 6 minutes away from me (Monterrey, Mexico)!

Previous to the UN starting with its meetings, a forum took place for civil society and NGOs around the world to discuss themes that were hardly pronounced at the plenary session (small things like human and environmental rights for example). So everyone was trying to get some money!! it sure seems like a game alright.... I went to this forum to "participate" and it turned out really inspiring to me (although many critics say it was "a joke"). It felt a little bit like DPU once again with people from all over the world talking issues on development, rights, equity, participation, sustainability, economies, etc. Its always an experience to share your own case with a foreigner isn't it? i felt that by that simply happening we all gain something from those three days of consultation before the

UN started, information empowers people no?. Now i'm seeing some light at the end of the tunnel, hopefully i'll be working on the environment/development field soon. [artemisa34@hotmail.com](mailto:artemisa34@hotmail.com)  
United Nations Consensus on Financing for Development: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

**Anne Boisvert (International Housing Studies, 2001-02)** writes: "I am now writing from Vientiane (Laos). Before leaving London, I have accepted a 6 months position in the National Department of Housing and Urban Planning, as Field Manager for a project aiming at building up the National Strategy for Urban-Rural Development (focussing on Basic Infrastructure). A challenging project! I have already been working in Laos for two years (1998-2000) at the Urban Research Institute. So it's a real pleasure to be back and see people and the country again." [anneboisvert@yahoo.com](mailto:anneboisvert@yahoo.com)

**Amr Attia (PhD 1999)** is at present serving as a member of the technical committee to select the design for the new Egyptian Museum in Giza, one of the most prestigious construction projects in the world. Peter Cook, Professor of Architecture in the Bartlett also serves as a member of the panel on this project. The Museum will be located on a 50 hectare site, in an area that has been placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list with its necropolis and the Giza pyramids, with which the new museum will have a strong visual linkage. The complex museum and facilities programme has to provide the estimated 3 million visitors per year with a vast range of services and information covering the entire Pharaonic period. It aims to be enjoyable, entertaining, educational and cultural for all visitors. The latest computer and information technologies will be used to make the new Museum the first global virtual museum, an essential component of an information highway linking museums of Egyptology, and their publics, around the world. They have received more than 1,500 competitions entries.

[amrattia@yahoo.com](mailto:amrattia@yahoo.com)

**Moussa Adama (Gender short course)** writes from Mali: "I went to Kadiolo for a training on gender and health sector. It was very interesting. At first they did not feel very concerned but we examined the hard infrastructure and the soft (all about the participation of communities), the *de jure* and *de facto* situation, so as to see the discriminatory laws and practices; they found out that they need gender more than anybody. It was curious some doctors did not know that in the national regulation a woman no longer needs the permission of her husband to go for family planning. There is also a complete black out about abortion which is actually prohibited but also accepted when the life of the mother is in danger - but in that case who pays for

## BABIES' CORNER

**Matilda Quainoo (ESD 2001-2)** has given birth to a baby girl. All our congratulations to both.

**Lia Navarro (Phd 1999-2001)** writes to share with us her happiness for the arrival of her daughter Valentina, born in August. "... she has changed our lives completely ...".

**Lawrence Salmon (ESD 01)** wrote recently with great news: "My baby boy and I are fine, 'Guillaume' is born on October 16th, he is a lovely baby who just starts smiling now".

it? We also examined things about HIV transmission, female genital cutting, nutritional taboos for girls, boys and pregnant women, and also all the ceremonies during the naming of a boy or a girl. We did many cases studies both at a national and local level. I was not very sure at the beginning of the training session but they were so interested that they invited me for a 2<sup>nd</sup> session for the end of the year. [moussaadama@hotmail.com](mailto:moussaadama@hotmail.com)

**Elisa Paster** writes that she has been working for a law firm in Kansas City, USA, dedicated to land use and planning law; her responsibilities have included zoning and agricultural preservation. The firm includes Robert H. Freilich, one of the key figures in sequenced growth-management schemes for urban development, who won a historic Supreme Court ruling in support of such schemes. Elisa is also at law school, and serves as editor of the Natural Resources Journal, an international, interdisciplinary forum devoted to the study of natural and environmental resources. "We are always looking for good articles so I also writing to encourage DPUers to submit articles." [pasterel@law.unm.edu](mailto:pasterel@law.unm.edu)

**Max Velasquez (MSc 1986-87)**, sends us an update from Honduras on his professional activities: in 1998 he joined ESA (Economia, Sociedad y Ambiente: [www.esa.hn](http://www.esa.hn)). The company, based in Honduras, works throughout Central-America and the Caribbean and deals with numerous issues, including the modernization of water infrastructure, municipal development, institutional capacity-building, strategic planning, local economic development and socio-environmental research. Since a year Max has been working as Director of a Technical Unit that has been established in conjunction with a local Bank, to administer IDB loans. Through these loans the municipalities of Tegucigalpa y San Pedro Sula are able to implement the modernization of important urban infrastructure, such as water provision, waste management, transport and marginalized neighbourhoods. [mvelasquez@esa.hn](mailto:mvelasquez@esa.hn)

# opinion

## Democratizing partnerships? Some reflections on the WSSD outcomes

by Dr. José Esteban Castro<sup>1</sup>

My own impression of the Summit's results is overall positive, although I remain highly sceptical of the actual commitment of the key global players in relation to the actions required to meet the agreed development targets. On the one hand, with hindsight, it can be argued that the main resolutions reached, such as halving the world population without access to water and sanitation by 2015, fostering the development of clean energy services or reversing the decline of the world's ecosystems, represent a clear step forward from the immediate pre-Summit situation. They also represent a defeat, however limited and fragile, for the main opponents of the Summit, in particular the hard-line rightwing sectors and the traditional energy lobbies in the US and elsewhere. On the other hand, the actual commitment of the key players to achieve the proposed goals remains an open question. The main reason for this scepticism should not be sought in the simple projection of past failures to the future?remember the missed targets of the Water Decade?? or in the cynical negation of the human capacity for non-egoistic, unselfish, cooperative action. It rather emerges from a critical examination of some of the basic assumptions underlying the current model of development been offered to developing countries. The central problem could be probably summarized as: can we have development that is environmentally sustainable, business oriented, and simultaneously promote substantive democracy in developing countries?

Let us think about one of the most cherished outcomes of the WSSD, that is the hundreds of partnerships between governments, private corporations and other actors that were announced during and after the Summit. Although some of these partnerships may bring about substantial improvements in their particular fields, the

large scale mobilization of financial, technical and human resources required to achieve the targets casts shadows on the capacity of the international community to deliver the goods within the framework of the prevailing policy models. Why? Perhaps the crucial point is the gap between the rhetoric of the mainstream policy jargon, whereby "partnership" entails a positive and supposedly balanced interaction between the public, private and voluntary sectors, and the actual policy process which is oriented at fostering the primacy of the private sector over the other "partners". If we want to move further and explore what the conditions are for democratic participation in the decisions about the form that the development process should take, the prospects seem to be very grim as illustrated by the situation of Argentina, the country that during the 1990s became the showcase of the prevailing development policies. The WSSD has opened new possibilities, showing the potential that negotiated agreements and multi-sector partnerships may have in contributing towards achieving the ambitious targets set by the international community. However, successful partnership will require the enhancement of the conditions for substantive democratic governance and the empowerment of civil society in developing countries, which can only happen through radical changes to the prevailing policy model centered on largely unchecked private sector sovereignty.

<sup>1</sup> Dr Castro, Lecturer at DPU and the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, participated in the Plenary Session "Capacity Building and Partnerships" of the Forum on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development organized by the European Commission and the South African Government during the WSSD.



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## diary

### HALF A CENTURY OF THE DPU

Fifty years ago, in March 1953, a conference was held at UCL on "Tropical Architecture". It was the brainchild of Adedokun Adeyemi a Nigerian architect studying in Britain. He pointed to the need for the education of architects and planners from the developing and tropical countries to give some coverage to the social, economic and climatic conditions of the countries where they would be working.

The conference responded to this by mandating Otto Koenigsberger and Maxwell Fry to establish such a course. The Architectural Association agreed to take on the venture and the first post-graduate course was started in the following October.

Eighteen years later, in 1971, the much expanded Department of Development and Tropical Studies at the AA moved to UCL as the Development Planning Unit.

So the next issue of *DPUNews* will be celebrating fifty years of education, training, research and consultancy in urban development policy, planning and management with a special issue.