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The Development Planning Unit  
University College London

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Diary

# dpu news

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# focus on

## The Iraq conflict and beyond – towards a framework for analysis

by Robert Biel

Robert Biel's book *The New Imperialism* (Zed Books, 2000) is shortly to appear in an Arabic edition, translated by respected Palestinian scholar Mazen Husseini. For this occasion, Robert has been working on a chapter which not only updates the book to deal with recent events, but also explores a new theoretical framework, necessitated by the complexity of the current situation. In the early part of 2003, Robert addressed these themes in several talks, two of which were held in the DPU at the time of the Iraq war.

In this specially-commissioned presentation for DPU News, Robert summarises certain key issues. The full version of the chapter proceeds to dissect the 'anti-terrorism' agenda and the role of the Iraq war within it, arguing that the latter is partly diversionary. The chapter describes new trends challenging the dominant system to which the present phase of outright aggression is ill-equipped to respond. Inevitably, attempts will be made to salvage some aspects of an 'evolved' imperialism - but it may be too late!

At the time of the recent war, the allies kept shifting their ground about their aims. This suggests either confusion, or that they have something to hide. The reality probably involves elements of both. There are indeed hidden agendas. But at the same time, the ruling interests are genuinely rudderless: the fundamental drivers of change are things which they cannot control or understand, and in these circumstances they fall back on what is most familiar.

We need to explain what the fundamental drivers are, and on this basis unpack the motivation of the political agendas. To achieve this, we must first seek to bring together certain usually-separate concepts into a unified socio-ecological model. The work of Malcolm Caldwell pointed towards an imperialism theory which would take up the traditional theme of the dominance of resources, and follow this to its logical conclusion, particularly with respect to energy (Caldwell, 1970). We can carry this further by integrating new conceptual elements from other areas of the literature. An example is the use we could make of the

notion of 'exergy': whereas 'energy' is simply a different expression of matter, 'exergy' defines a concentrated form of this matter, one sharply differentiated from its environment (for example, a pure form of 'raw material') (c.f. Dincer

2002). The implications are twofold: it is socially useful - and therefore potentially an object of struggles over its control and influence; and the process of using it up is associated with entropy or dissipation. We therefore pinpoint the social factor, the responsibility of socio-economic systems for minimising this dissipation in the design of both machines and management structures (c.f. Wall 1973). A system which increased, or thrived upon, dissipation would be revealed as irrational.

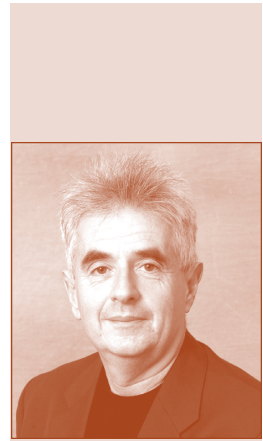
Let us now take this one step further and attempt to unify the concept of power: 'power' is used both in social theory (for example, centrally in International Relations theory) and in thermodynamics. We could seek a unified definition, as the 'capacity to produce effects' (Gale 1998).

If we now take these two points together, we could argue the following: political and military power permits the monopolisation of exergy, and on this basis, capital accumulation could proceed through accelerated dissipation, without any incentive to minimise it. The purpose of such a holistic framework is now to be able to disaggregate the various elements within it in a new way - particular to the interaction between social and resource issues. To take a concrete problem: it is often said that the Iraq war was 'about oil', but what does this really signify? In a sense, the 'natural' dimension controls the

social, as a remarkable passage in Marx's work makes clear (Marx 1970, [1875]): if you control raw materials/energy, people will be obliged to work for you under your terms. But the relationship also works the other way round. Before you can control resources, you have to crush the resistance of people who obstinately seek to maintain their 'commons': this can be seen in the colonial period, or today in the battles over the privatisation of the power sector (electricity generation or water) in the South. So it is the social which determines control of the natural which in turn determines control of the social! This seemingly complicated chain of reasoning is exactly what is needed to escape the simplistic argumentation in some of the debates about US-British war aims: the next countries to be invaded may be ones with few natural resources but strong social movements!

This takes us to our central problem - the crisis of governance. Invading countries is not a very clever form of governance, so why have things developed in this direction - in a sense, backwards, towards a 'primitive' form of imperialism?

Over much of its history, the system of world domination by the great powers and their economic actors has - while retaining key features from the days of classic imperialism



DPU students preparing for the London peace march

Xiangming Ma

a century ago (Biel 2000b) - been able to change and adapt. In particular, beginning around 1980, the system seemed to be developing into something which could truly be called a 'new' or 'evolved' imperialism. It is this which has begun to unravel over the past six years or so. Let us define this structure before considering how it unravelled. The defining characteristic is the tendency of power to become more structural and institutionalised. The new management systems (based on flexibility and subcontracting) permit a degree of de-restriction of international trade, safe in the knowledge that small firms must spontaneously enslave themselves by seeking market niches. Governance structures evolved accordingly. At a national and sub-national level, something called 'civil society' was given the blessing of the dominant discourse. The state, which establishes a kind of equilibrium with civil society, pluralises itself: different political parties can 'compete', but this competition is circumscribed by consensus over broad policy options (Robinson 1996), in particular a fatalistic attitude to globalisation, which their vocation can only be to facilitate. The nature of this consensus is fine-tuned by Northern donors, who can further their goals of the moment by selectively aiding particular civil society actors (Hearn 2001). Turning to the supranational level, we find an emerging symbiosis between international NGOs and the Bretton Woods institutions; and, particularly significant, the emergence of a rules-based system, more multilateral and institutionalised, and apparently more impartial, than the old imperialism.

The economic aspect of this is represented by the WTO, but we could also mention a political aspect: a revitalised UN (in George Bush snr.'s 'New World Order' project), humanitarian intervention and the development of the international law on human rights. Ideally, all these things (even the 'best' part of it, the International Criminal Court - c.f. Guyatt 2000, p. 70) could be manipulated by the dominant interests, placing their control over labour and resources on a much more solid foundation where it no longer seemed to be an expression of their selfish interest.

Why then was the above structure permitted to unravel? One can separate the answer by looking first at the contradictions within the new structures themselves; and secondly by examining the external factors bearing in on them.

The internal causes can be seen under two aspects. The first is a long-term issue whose history extends, at least in United States foreign policy, practically right through the past century: the fear that multilateral structures could restrict the scope of unilateral action in pursuit of perceived national interest. One sees this in US failure to join the League of Nations after its creation in 1919, or its refusal to sanction the establishment of an International Trade Organisation after World War II. The second internal cause is something more specific to the recent phase in international relations: the fear that the new universe of national and international 'civil society' could become the cradle of a Frankenstein monster, inhabited by unruly actors like recalcitrant NGOs or popular campaigns who could even hook up with Southern states in unexpected ways. Particularly dangerous would be the 'virtual' space in which the struggle over the control of raw materials and labour was played out: the world of electronic communications. The events which brought this threat home were the stalling of the WTO process at Seattle in 1999 and the world-wide anti-globalisation movement linked with the Mexican Zapatistas.

Let us now consider the wider, external, context within which the governance structures are situated, and which also provided the context for the social threats which have



Xiangming Ma

emerged over the past few years. Something was occurring which we could loosely call a crisis. It will be useful to disaggregate this into three aspects. The first is a crisis of a given mode of accumulation, a 'large-scale' cyclical crisis (distinct from the 'short' business cycle). The global socio-economy can at times undergo

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**Statement of the Development Planning Unit  
on the Threat of War**

The planned war against Iraq is morally wrong and will increase the instability which it purports to resolve.

In particular, it will have disastrous effects on the development goals which the DPU upholds. Specifically, it will:

- Ignite a catastrophe in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, with terrible humanitarian, economic, political, cultural and ecological consequences
- create a precedent for conflict in other regions, encouraging states to acquire arms to protect themselves from similar intervention, and thereby withdrawing resources from development
- undermine the principles of cosmopolitanism and encourage the perception of a 'clash of civilisations'
- further politicise development aid, turning this increasingly into a tool of 'coalition-building'
- undermine the authority of the United Nations, and hence weaken its multilateral development agencies

This action, taken in defiance of public opinion in the vast majority of countries, clearly contradicts our vision of a world order in which ordinary women and men can shape their individual and collective destinies.

The DPU therefore unreservedly condemns the current drive to war with Iraq.

DPU Statement issued during the events that led to the war against Iraq and posted on the DPU website on 15 March 2003

extremely profound qualitative changes of its whole systemic structure. In recent history, this has happened twice: in 1945 with the generalisation of Keynesianism in the North, import substitution in the South, the GATT process of trade liberalisation etc.; and then around 1980 with the generalisation of neo-liberalism, structural adjustment, the new management systems and subcontracting. Each such change is preceded by a

prolonged phase of economic stagnancy and social unrest: in this sense, the present socio-economic system may be beginning to unravel, and it would not be surprising if the same happened to the governance structures which have evolved in its midst.

The second aspect is what I will call the crisis of social sustainability. The problem can be understood in this way: the economic dynamic simply assumes that the social basis will reproduce itself, but there is always a risk of accumulation taking on a form where it simply eats up its

own social base, generating dangerous positive feedback loops where sustainability eventually collapses. Northern states have in the past sought to redress this through public policy, but the global accumulation process possesses no equivalent structures.

(continues page 9)

# research on

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## SERVICE PROVISION GOVERNANCE IN THE PERI-URBAN INTERFACE (PUI) OF METROPOLITAN AREAS

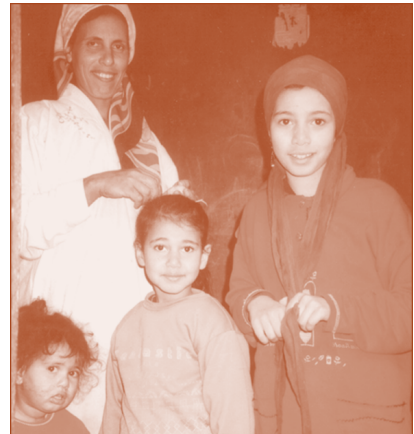
As part of DPU's 'Peri-Urban Interface Programme' a new DFID-funded research project entitled "Service Provision Governance in the Peri-Urban Interface (PUI) of Metropolitan Areas" got off the ground in March 2003. This is a three-year project, run by the DPU in collaboration with several other institutions including five research partners in as many metropolitan areas: G. Dattatri from Chennai in India, Dr. Ayman El-Hefnawi from Cairo-Giza in Egypt, Dr. Wilbard Kombe from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Dr. Maria Luisa Torregrosa from Mexico City in Mexico and Dr. Miguel Lacabana from Caracas in Venezuela. The UK team comprises Dr. **Julio Davila** (project manager), **Adriana Allen** and **Pascale Hofmann** with inputs from Dr. **Edesio Fernandes** and **Michael Mattingly** from the DPU and Dr. Esteban Castro from Oxford University.

Based on findings from literature reviews and from assessment of the above-mentioned case studies, the project seeks to enhance urban governance and management for the benefit of the poor and to increase the access of low-income households to adequate urban services, more specifically through better guidance on the governance and management of water and sanitation. A workshop held in London at the end of May provided an opportunity for the research partners to meet for the first time. Its main aim was to develop a common analytical framework. The five country partners shared their knowledge about the case study areas, while the UK team addressed conceptual issues related to governance, provision of and access to services, and informality. It became clear from the presentations that the speci-

ficity of each case - with respect to environmental, social and economic circumstances, the existing level of water supply and sanitation and the identity of stakeholders - limited the amount of generalisation which can be made. At the same time, three areas could be identified as the main dimensions to be considered in the assessment of each case study, and as elements in a common analytical framework: 'the PUI of Metropolitan Areas', 'governance of water supply and sanitation services' and 'the peri-urban poor' (focusing on the 'water poor', i.e. those being deprived of access to services). Accordingly, each country partner is now asked to prepare a detailed environmental profile (outlining urban, agro-productive and natural systems), an institutional mapping of the provision of basic peri-urban services in sampled PUI localities of the metropolitan areas (distribution of roles and responsibilities in the public, private and community sector - formal and informal) and to identify the 'water poor', i.e. the population without access to adequate water supply and sanitation services. Each case study will involve more than one locality so as to capture the diversity in the water supply and sanitation services system. Outputs will be disseminated through a variety of means, including a project website, local, regional and international workshops, project newsletters and a book. To find out more, please contact Ms Pascale Hofmann [p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk)

## THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH ON POOR MEN AND WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS IN DAMIETTA, EGYPT

**Sheilah Meikle** and **Patrice North** together with Dr. Hanaa El Gohary (resident Social Development Advisor to the SEAM project and Professor of Sociology at Cairo University) have jointly undertaken a study to assess the relative impact of economic growth on the livelihoods of poor and non-poor urban men and women in Damietta Governorate, Egypt. This study aimed to test the hypothesis that economic growth, and the policies that support it, have a disproportionately negative effect on the livelihoods of poor urban men and women when examined from an environmental perspective. The study undertook over



A family being interviewed in Damietta

100 interviews with men and women spread over 2 cities, Damietta and Ezbet El-Borg, the two villages of El Sayala and El Shara (chosen because they are the economically fastest growing settlements in the Governorate), as well as with other key informants. The interviews used the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework as a means of analysis. Initial findings indicate that most of the environmental problems experienced by the sample group are common to both the poor and non-poor. However, the degree to which the poor experience these problems is greater than the non-poor. In terms of livelihoods this means that the poor are considerably worse off, particularly in an urban context, because they have fewer assets to support their essential environmental coping strategies. For example, poor families have limited options for coping both with sanitation blockages and overflows. In this case, the poor resort to manual removal of the blockage and as a result suffer skin diseases and other infections as well as psychological stress. The non-poor have more resources to pay for mechanical pumping of sanitary blockages and the influence to pressure municipal authorities to undertake the work. Not only is the negative impact greater but the poor also experience a reduction in human capital (in this case health, but in other cases also education). This means they have less capacity to participate in the growing economic opportunities that are available in the areas in which they live. As a consequence they are further disadvantaged. A DPU Working Paper will be available early next year. [s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk)



Pascale Hofmann

PUI Workshop group at the DPU



People repairing and expanding their houses in the Barrio Pogolotti, Havana

## RESEARCH IN THE BARRIOS OF HAVANA

by Ronaldo Ramirez

To carry out urban research today in Havana, Cuba, one must re-tune preconceived ideas about development issues. All countries are different but after a life devoted to developing countries one comes to expect some common features such as extreme social inequalities, high urban poverty, irresponsible or distant governance. Many of these negative features are also present in Havana today, but one is forced to examine the differences between the nature and the appearance of these phenomena. There is poverty, particularly manifested in the awful housing conditions that seem to affect most of Havana inhabitants, whatever their status. However, the impacts of universal and massive programmes of education, health and social assistance mean the poor are not ill, weak, abandoned or lacking a future. Poverty appears in the contrast between the expectations of a healthy and well-educated community and the limitations created by a rigid economic and political structure, to which one must add 30 years of economic aggression by the USA. This is the general context of our current urban research in Cuba.

### The research project

The objectives of the research are well defined by its title: "Factors for Successful

Community Initiatives at the Barrio Level". It was designed and is co-ordinated by professor Kosta Mathey, from Darmstadt University, where the project is based. There are other associated institutions such as the Technical University of Havana and TRIALOG, an international scientific NGO. The project is sponsored and financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Urban Development Research Programme. Apart from Kosta, the research team includes the sociologist Reinhard Aehnelt, the architect Octavio Tapia, and myself from the DPU, all supported by a group of young research assistants. The Cuban contribution consists of the architect Gina Rey, from the Technical University, and the sociologist Rosa Oliveras.

In the 1990s Cuba had to face a grave crisis. Until the beginning of the decade the central government had assumed responsibility for the delivery of almost all basic needs required by the population. Material means, though scarce, were available due to the country's integration in the COMECON block. With the disintegration of the block Cuba found itself abruptly lacking all kinds of resources. The country entered the so-called *Período Especial*, with severe austerity measures and the end of central government provision of many goods and services. At the same time the emergency created the space for local initiatives. Decentralised actions became a necessity and were encouraged to replace central delivery and to make best use of local resources. Although the conditions have improved, this general situation remains today.

### The barrios of Havana and its Talleres

Most of these local initiatives take place in the *barrios* of Havana. These are not administrative units of the city, but well-known residential areas recognisable by specific physical features, cultural identities and historical experiences shared by the residents. It is in the *barrios* where the multi-dimensionality of community life is alive and where housing appears integrated with environmental conditions, childcare, health, artistic education, training, attention to the aged, and many other initiatives. The field-work is being carried out in four of these "barrios" - amongst the poorest in the city: in Balcón Arimao-Novoa, El Canal, Pogolotti and Santa Fe.

As part of the drive to promote local initiatives, and at the same time to offer an outlet for their realisation, many "barrios" have *Talleres de Transformación Integral* (Workshops for Integral Transformation). These are agencies staffed by a small group of qualified professionals - architects, sociologists, teachers - that live in the barrio, have the ability to communicate well with the other residents and the technical capacity to identify local social and urban problems and to organise community initiatives to deal with them. The *Talleres* are creative instances placed between the strictly local level and the higher urban structures in Havana. The *Talleres* became the local foci of the research, the agencies that facilitate the identification of local initiatives and local actors, the places where individual and collective meetings take place.

### The field-work

The field-work of the research consisted in identifying local initiatives directed to improve conditions in the barrios, to describe them by means of individual and collective interviews with the local actors responsible, and then to examine the influence of seven factors in their success or failure. These examinations were done in collective meetings with the participation of local residents. The seven factors considered were: 1) the origin of the initiative; 2) the importance of community identity; 3) the influences of local leaders, 4) political support from local or national bodies; 5) local mass-organisations; 6) community organisations; and 7) international organisations and funding.

During the first stage, in 2002, the team identified 65 local initiatives covering a wide area of interests. These included physical projects such as the building of houses and the provision of street lighting; cultural projects such as local historical research; initiatives to incorporate children in educational, artistic and sport activities; environmental projects such as the use of solid waste and the creation of community and individual orchards; the care of old people; and many others.

During the second stage, in 2003, these initiatives were examined collectively with local residents in terms of the seven criteria indicated above. Currently, as the third stage, the research team is identifying the findings and writing the final report.

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# head on

## Academic news

### MSc FIELD TRIPS 2003

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 study visit to a developing country. As well as drawing the various elements of the course together, the 2-3 weeks trips are used to demonstrate their utility and application to a real situation. Last May, DPU students took part in Field Trips in Accra, Ghana; in Arusha, Tanzania; and in Galle, Sri Lanka.



Etienne von Bertrab

#### Strategic intervention in Accra

by Etienne von Bertrab (ESD student)

In **Accra**, one of the fastest-growing cities in West Africa, **DAP**, **ESD**, **UDP** and **UED** students, accompanied by Michael Mattingly and Julio Dávila, set out to elaborate a diagnosis and propose a set of strategic interventions aimed at improving the living conditions and livelihoods of two communities:

1) **James Town** in the now called Old Accra. This community -once formed by the original settlers, 'the Ga'- was at the heart of the city and had a relatively prosperous economy (predominantly fishing-based), but was importantly affected by the transfer in the 1960s of the harbour activities to another location, and is nowadays confronted by general poverty, high population density, deteriorated housing, and poor urban and social services; and 2) the village of **Gbawe** located in an area experiencing a very rapid land-use change which is creating a shortage of land for farming services and, as a peri-urban area, faces both the positive and negative impacts of the urban sprawl. Most of the time was dedicated to meetings

with local authorities (Accra Metropolitan Assembly and the Ga District Assembly), representatives of central government, NGOs, academics and researchers from local and international organisations. These sessions helped us to achieve a more comprehensive understanding, and in many instances the different viewpoints resulted in interesting discussions.

The group's interest and motivation didn't end in the formal visits to the communities: a number of initiatives were set up. We gathered precious information from informal conversations with men and women of the communities. Not only did we visit an almost-vanishing ancient fishing community, but we also participated in the chieftaincy meetings, where traditional chiefs discuss their collective affairs. We had the opportunity to present our findings and recommendations to representatives of local government and other institutions, and a set of recommendations are contained in our report. We had the marvellous opportunity to look at these places as development planners with an enriched view built at the DPU, to make relevant connections of inter-linked issues affecting many countries (such as the impact of SAPs at the local level and the focus on macro-economic policies). All this wouldn't have been possible without the valuable support of George Opatá, Emmanuel Lashon-Cudsiw and the ex-DPU students Farida Shaikh and Veronica Ayi-Bonte, and without the warmth and openness of the James Town and Gbawe communities. We hope that this experience and the work accomplished during our field work will develop DPU's involvement and connections with vibrant Ghana even further.



The DPU group was warmly received by the elders of the Quartey family, traditional Gbawe landholders

Etienne von Bertrab



Katja Schäfer

#### Working towards a common Goal: Urban Heritage Conservation in Galle

by Katja Schäfer (ESD student)

In May 2003, the BUDD field trip was carried out in the **Old Town of Galle** - Sri Lanka, as a research project on the impact of Urban Heritage Conservation on the 'host community' living within this protected area. It was conducted by an integrated team bringing together BUDD students with the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF), an organisation concerned with heritage issues within the old town, local CBOs and the resident community as well as institutions and organizations acting nationally and internationally such as the Urban Development Authority (UDA) Galle, the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sri Lanka. Galle is the main city and provincial capital of the Southern province of Sri Lanka. Due to the combination of being an important economic and transport hub combined with the significant cultural heritage of the old town, the town of Galle has the potential of developing into a centre of national and international importance. Ongoing peace negotiations create hope for more tourists visiting Sri Lanka in the future and therefore Galle has been chosen by the Sri Lankan Government to be developed as one of the main cultural attractions within the country. The Old Town of Galle occupies with its 38 ha just a small part of the city area of Galle (in terms of population, approximately 1/40 of the city as a whole) is one of the few still inhabited fortifications from Dutch colonial times in a South-East Asian context. This led to its listing as a 'living monument' by the UNESCO World Heritage committee in 1988. Nevertheless, under the pressure of economic and tourist development, the urbanscape and the existing social cohesion within the Fort are under threat. In order to preserve the historic urban fabric for the future, a sustainable conservation process has to be implemented, not only conserving and enhancing the built environment but also the social aspects directly



linked to economic development. Political commitment to this urban area and its priorities should not be questionable. Urban conservation is a continuous process and might never be finished. The preservation of the historic urban fabric linked to attracting tourists,

Anna Soave



foreign investors and economic development, should benefit both the region and the local community. A superficial approach to urban conservation focusing on maintaining the Galle's streetscape to attract tourism might actually break up the community, displace local people and create a "museumised" dead monument.

The objective of the BUDD field project was to understand the social and economic interdependencies of a community living in a UNESCO World Heritage listed historic urban fabric, the constraints and opportunities in the case of Galle Fort. It was important to get familiar with the history of the place, observe current development processes, and interview stakeholders and local government officials. Several workshops were organised, including three 'Planning for Real' sessions with different groups of the community (children, men and women), to understand the institutional structures and their interrelationships, and the concerns of the people. The BUDD group proposed a viable scenario for the future development of the Dutch Fort within the city as a whole. Its approach to urban conservation and related concerns, focused on the resident community as a very vulnerable 'entity' living within the fortifications. Despite being directly affected by future interventions, it has little or no voice or power to influence or oppose the outcomes of possible future interventions implemented through government top-down decisions. The BUDD proposals focused not only on a series of local interventions related to the improvement of the housing provision, building conservation, employment opportunities, traffic control, lighting and waste management, but also on the opportunities for the enhancement of communication channels between the different stakeholders involved in the urban conservation process, especially between decision makers and the residents of Galle Fort. The 'host community' is not always aware of what it actually means to live in a World Heritage Site, both in terms of constraints and opportunities. Collaborative planning should be encouraged and awareness campaigns commenced with no further delay.



Katherine Quinteros

### Poverty, Energy and Gender in Daraja Mbili and Elerai Wards, Arusha by Katherine Quinteros (SDP student)

This year's SDP field trip was a return to the Community Development Training Institute (CDTI), based outside Arusha, Tanzania. Our Tanzanian partners from CDTI greeted Sheilah Meikle, Patrice North and the seven of us like old friends, an attitude that was to become a feature of our trip. Once settled on campus and a fantastic day's Safari in Ngorongoro Crater (we saw two leopards!), we went straight to work.

A workshop was held at CDTI to examine the relationship between energy, poverty and gender at the household level in Arusha, the themes we were to explore. Participants included stakeholders from CDTI, DPU, Arusha Municipal Council (AMC) and several local organisations and NGO's. This served to provide us with in-depth knowledge of the local context with regards to differing views on gender relations and their impact on decision-making processes. The workshop introduced the concept of Levy's Web of Institutionalisation as well as discussing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With the issues placed in context, we divided into teams to work in Elerai ward and in Daraja Mbili; both are unplanned settlements experiencing high levels of poverty. Our objectives were: (i) to prepare a report for the Arusha Municipality on the relationships between energy, poverty and gender in poor households in both wards; and (ii) to make a detailed recommendation for an energy-related intervention which could address the strategic gender needs of women within these two communities.

The interviews with the key stakeholders, including representatives from the AMC's Sustainable Arusha Program (SAP) and the other relevant organisations, added further insight into the complexities of the issues. In the field we used various PRA tools such as semi-structured and key informant interviews, transect walks and observations.

Once provided with our main body of information we were able to develop suitable recommendations for the Arusha locality. We spent most evenings discussing our findings late

into the night with our CDTI partners! We were given the opportunity to present our preliminary findings to an open workshop providing a platform for constructive criticism and further discussion. Our trip culminated in the planting of a tree to signify the growing relationship between CDTI and DPU, which I would extend to include the warm reception we received from community and institutional members and the appreciation felt by the SDP team.

### DPU extramural activities



Anna Soave

### A visit to the Spa Hill Allotments

On a beautiful day of June, Robert Biel, co-director of the DAP MSc course, took a group of students for a visit to Spa Hill Allotments in south London, where he himself farms an experimental plot. These allotments have been in continuous use since the early part of the 19th century, and have remarkably resisted being engulfed by the surrounding urbanisation, thanks to the dedication of succeeding generations of plottolders. During the visit, the DPU group was given a short lecture on the history of the Allotments and the struggle and campaigning necessary to prevent the local authority seizing the land for building. In his plot, Robert explained the general principles of organic agriculture as a viable and realistic solution to the food crisis, showing different cultivations methods, composting systems and results. The visit aimed to reveal the benefits of urban agriculture within cities and its possible contribution in terms of food and quality of life.



Anna Soave

# hands on

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

## PERI-URBAN INTERFACE IN KUMASI, GHANA

During a week in November and again in May, **Michael Mattingly** was in Ghana as adviser to the management of the Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP) research of DFID on peri-urban interface (PUI) production systems. Research on the PUI of Kumasi city-region is at the stage of a pilot project for the selection of the plans for improving livelihoods of poor people affected by the urban expansion of Kumasi. These plans were produced by communities themselves through processes of participatory action planning.

Two special problems have arisen. First, DFID research funding provides little scope for the provision of the capital needed to implement the pilot project in order for the research to be able to extract lessons from it. Therefore, Michael has been exploring with the research team ways for the NRSP

to access local capital for use in micro-credit financing that is fundamental to the pilot projects.

Second, the development assistance aspect of the pilot project has commanded the full attention of the researchers. There has been a need to re-establish research as the true focus of the pilot project.

The local NGO that is leading the research - the Center for the Education and Development of People (CEDEP) - is building its capacity to facilitate the access of poor people to micro-credit as a spin-off to the research.

The response to the pilot project has been very good, with many people from the villages submitting proposals for changing to alternative production processes that take advantage of the proximity of Kumasi and its markets.

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## INTEGRATED URBAN SERVICES IN CAMBODIA

**Patrick Wakely** is leading an international team of researchers on a study for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) looking at the integration of urban service delivery in low-income communities in Phnom Penh and three provincial towns in Cambodia.

Cambodia has a highly centralised and rigidly stratified public administration that operates through national line ministries that reach right down to the local level, with virtually no degree of co-ordination between service providers at the provincial, municipal or community levels. At the same time, the government has an ambitious national poverty reduction strategy based on devolution and participation at all levels, and a 'Decentralisation and Decongestion Policy' for the devolution of decision-making and authority.

The principal objective of the study is, therefore, to examine ways by which these somewhat extreme positions can be drawn together. To do this it is looking at attitudes and approaches to the administration of primary health care and education and the maintenance and management of affordable water delivery and sanitation with a view to developing some degree of co-ordination between them.

A review has been made of the policies and programmes for the education and health sectors and of the procedures by which the Government of Cambodia are implementing them. At the other end of the scale, a survey covering some 1,700 households has been conducted together with carefully targeted focus group discussions with groups of women "household managers" and young men and women in 17 lowest-income communities in Phnom Penh and in the provincial towns of Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Chan and Kampong. These embrace seriously deprived central area slums with relatively easy geographic access to city-centre services, peripheral squatter settlements with lower densities but tenuous access to services, and officially relocated communities in Phnom Penh that have been forcibly moved from their centrally located sites to the periphery of the city some 25 kms from

Patrick Wakely

## DPU LEADS A DFID CONSORTIUM

A consortium of academic and research institutions and consultancy firms, led by the DPU has won a three-year contract to supply advisory services to the British Government Department for International Development (DFID). The consortium, which embraces 65 experienced researchers and professionals (18 of them DPU staff and Associates) is made up of the DPU; Geoffrey Payne Associates; GHK International; the International Development Department of the School of Public Policy in the University of Birmingham; the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); Levitt Bernstein Housing International; the Max Lock Centre in the University of Westminster; and the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) in Loughborough University.

The Enabling Agreement contract allows DFID to commission any institution/firm or

individual member of the consortium, at short notice, to undertake work. Though such contracts may be for any type of consultancy in the urban field, it is likely that the majority will be to provide policy advice to DFID's central departments in London and operational and institution support to DFID's country programmes. For instance the Consortium has already been commissioned to provide advice to a new Urban-Rural Change team in the DFID Policy Division in London, and it has been approached to undertake an urban poverty study in China by the China desk in Beijing.

The Consortium, which is being co-ordinated by **Patrick Wakely**, provides a new opportunity for the DPU to work together with the leading urban and regional development professionals and researchers in the United Kingdom, which without doubt will have a beneficial impact on its courses and students.





Private sector water vendors in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

their former places of work, education and social contacts.

The preliminary returns from the survey reveal a situation of considerable deprivation in terms of access to social services and infrastructure, a loyal but guarded confidence in the government's ability to improve the lot of the lowest urban income groups, a trust of independent NGOs working on their behalf, and a mixture of trust and suspicion of community based organisations and local leaders.

All this will be brought together in a report (an ADB Study) that will make strategic proposals for the integration of the planning and management of urban social service delivery and the maintenance of infrastructure in low income settlements, perhaps through a system of locally managed one-stop-shops. It will also make the case for greater community participation and the formation of inter-sectoral partnerships for the planning and management of social services. The findings and proposals of the study will be discussed at length in a stakeholder workshop in Phnom Penh in September. Important participants in the workshop will be the new government, following the national elections in July this year.

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(continued from page 3)

There is some evidence that today the problem is becoming acute, a realisation which surfaces in a confused way, within the dominant discourse, in concepts like 'social exclusion' or 'sustainable livelihoods'. My hypothesis is that successive solutions to the economic problem tend to make the social problem worse, and a point of no return may be reached where society is hard to regenerate. Let's illustrate this concretely: over the past couple of decades the economic system has moved towards narrower, niche markets; the state has declined along with the social solidarity it represented; the 'flexible' labour demanded by the subcontracting system is increasingly precarious, while the spread of export promotion models in the South means that, as long as an external demand is present, their economies can continue to 'grow' while poverty remains or worsens.

The third aspect is the ecological crisis. Here, my central argument is that entropy is profitable, and this is a major factor in the undermining of the possibility of an 'evolved' capitalist/imperialist system over the past 30 years. It is perfectly possible for the system to generate a radical reformist blueprint, as the famous Limits to Growth report showed (Meadows 1972); but it seems likely that it cannot implement it! This is simply because the throughput of resources generates a profit at every stage. The problem is moreover intensified with the increasing preponderance of speculative finance capital - expressed for example in the futures market where bets on the price fluctuations generated by future resource dissipation can profitably be traded.

It is therefore perfectly possible for us to reject a Malthusian statement that the earth is objectively at the limits of its carrying capacity, while recognising that, as defined by the 'needs' of the current accumulation dynamic, there are 'limits' which are beginning to surface... with important implications for policy.

These three crises interlock in practice: the case study which would capture this the best - although we haven't space to develop it here - is the rise and fall of the Enron corporation. Combining, in a novel way, the control of physical resources (by actually running the power sector), with the intangible finance-capital dimension where speculative decisions are traded or 'hedged', Enron belonged in a way to the era of 'evolved' imperialism: developing countries, softened up by structural adjustment, were

forced to privatise basic services including the power sector and water, and Enron was on hand to gobble them up. Management gurus praised Enron as the company of the future: invasions and gunboat diplomacy would become redundant, or at least only supplementary! But Enron failed, eventually becoming in December 2001 the biggest corporate bankruptcy in US history. And an important factor in this was resistance, both local and global.

Popular movements, conscious of the collapse of social sustainability and of heightened moves to grab the scarce resource-base of the planet, fought back: the Indian state of Maharashtra was one instance where Enron overreached itself. This corporate collapse acted in turn to accentuate the accumulation crisis.

It was this sense of impending crisis and resistance which ultimately fathered a panicky response. Responding both to their own fears that the 'evolved' structures would be cumbersome, restrictive or even outright dangerous; and to the fact that these structures were under attack anyway, key policy lobbies among the dominant actors moved to position themselves for future repression. This is the true basis for the anti-'terrorism' agenda. With it, the 'evolved' form of dominance has melted away. ■

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# hands on

(continues)



Anna Soave



Anna Soave

Two moments of the pilot community planning workshop organised in Jakarta

## NEIGHBOURHOOD UPGRADING IN INDONESIA

**Babar Mumtaz** has spent the last year in Indonesia (again!), this time as Team Leader and Housing Finance Specialist for a consultancy for the Asian Development Bank to develop a project aimed at poverty alleviation through neighbourhood upgrading and living and livelihood improvement. The project builds upon the considerable Indonesian experience with KIP (the Kampung Improvement Programme) but extends and integrates it to urban development planning on the one hand and to secondary and individual service and infrastructure on the other hand. It also draws upon the lessons learnt by CoBILD (the Dutch/UNDP Community-Based Initiative for Local Development developed by Babar Mumtaz during his previous stint in Indonesia) to put in place financing mechanisms to provide small loans to households. The programme has introduced an integrated system of problem-identification, planning and implementation that involves the community at all levels from neighbourhood improvement to the city shelter strategy. The decentralised processes of participatory planning are supported by an integral training and capacity-building process. Indeed, the whole is designed to be developed as a

learning-by-doing activity, with the initial action serving largely to provide the training grounds for further and more extensive intervention. The capacity-building includes the support to the setting up of neighbourhood and community groups and institutions through to specific skill-oriented training of professionals. All infrastructure and neighbourhood improvement that serves the community is funded by (a maximum of 15%) of the City's annual development budget, with up to 60 to 90% matching grants from Central Government, while all improvements to individual housing and property can draw upon the micro-finance managed by local financial institutions. These loans are unsubsidised, but require no collateral. All those residents in a designated neighbourhood qualify if they form a local area improvement group (20 to 50 households). The group elects officials and draws up a prioritised list of households (the local administration officer certifies that all those on the list are bona fide residents). Initially, only the top 10% get a loan. If they make regular repayments, then after the second month another 10% of the list gets a loan. Thereafter, as long as the repayments are regular, members will be able to get further loans. If there are

delays or defaults, a system of support kicks in - but if it is unable to rectify the situation, no further loans are made to the group. Office bearers are eligible, but must start off at the bottom of the list. The community acts as the local collector of the repayments for the financial institution, but is paid annually only upon successful repayments. This fee may be returned to the original borrowers or be used for community purposes. The project is providing commercial banks with both financial guarantees and the training to encourage their participation in what is for them uncharted territory. The expectation is that once an alternative system has been demonstrated to work successfully, the private sector will carry on without the need for such guarantees and indeed will innovate and build upon the initial experience.

Most of the processes and procedures used for the participatory planning were originally developed by Babar Mumtaz for and with the BUDD students in Georgetown, Rawalpindi, Havana, Beirut, Valetta and elsewhere. **Wita Simatupang** (BUDD 2001-02) has been working full-time member of the team and, as an Indonesian, was especially able to bring valuable insights to the participatory processes.

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View of one of the settlements (left) and a moment of the gender workshop (right)



### Review of PROSPECT (The Programme of Support for Poverty Elimination and Community Transformation) Lusaka, Zambia

Between November 2002 and January 2003 **Michael Mattingly, Sheilah Meikle, Nick Hall** (WSP International Management Consulting), **Chileshe Leonard Mulenga** (Institute of Economic and Social research, University of Zambia) and **David Sanderson** of CARE-UK undertook a review, for DFID, of CARE's PROSPECT programme. PROSPECT, initially a five, extended to a six years programme of pilot projects, aimed to alleviate urban poverty in 13 peri-urban

compounds (poor informal settlements) in Lusaka and one in Livingstone. It sought to do this by focusing on three activities: the provision of improved access to better quality water, the building of capacities within Area Based Organisations (ABOs) and the empowerment of individuals through the improvement of their access to financial credit. It also aimed to promote gender equity and environmental health. PROSPECT interventions have had, at least in the short term, a positive impact on the livelihoods of those households identified, (through community participatory assessments of well being), as the poor and poor-

est groups. The current challenge for the programme is not only to maintain established benefits but also to ensure the programme's longer-term sustainability. This will require follow-up action. Such action could take one of two directions. Either it could focus on seeking greater impacts through the delivery of services to more poor people. Or it could aim to build capacities in institutions of communities, government, and civil society, not only for providing improved services but also for increasing participation in decision-making, promoting community ownership, and empowering individuals. [s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk)

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SWISS DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Over the last five years the DPU has provided support to the Gender Desk in Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) within a framework contract. Since 1993, SDC had a policy for what they termed 'gender balanced development'. Building on this, and "to ensure more systematic integration of gender in SDC's activities", over the last year the DPU has been providing support in the development of a new policy entitled "Gender Equality: A Key for Poverty alleviation and Sustainable Development" (SDC, 2003). Strengthening their gender mainstreaming strategy, the new policy lays out the rationale for SDC commitment to Gender Equality, a set of guiding principles, possible entry points for mainstreaming gender and a clear definition of the responsibility for monitoring the progress of gender mainstreaming in the organisation. Running parallel to the development of the gender policy, the DPU has also been involved in the development of a tool-kit to help SDC and their partners to put the policy into practice. Led by **Claudy Vouhé**, a DPU Associate and member of the DPU's

Gender Policy and Planning team working with SDC, the tool-kit, entitled "*Gender in Practice: A tool-kit for SDC and its partners*" was published in 2003. It comprises a set of separate pages, each dealing with gender mainstreaming in a different phase in the SDC planning process. Complementing this, the DPU also continues to run the bi-annual training in gender mainstreaming for SDC staff and their partners, both from Switzerland and the field. In April, **Caren Levy** and **Claudy Vouhé** ran the English speaking workshop and in September **Claudy Vouhé** and **Nadia Taher** will run a training workshop in French. While all these initiatives come from the Gender Desk in headquarters, SDC has adopted a flexible and open approach to gender mainstreaming, in which many co-operation offices at country level have incorporated gender in their country-specific strategies and tools. Thus, 10 years after the first policy was put in place, the Gender Desk proposed a "capitalization workshop" for all those working with gender in SDC development co-operation. SDC is committed to the process of "capitalization" in all its work, as part of their commitment to organisational learning. This workshop and

all its related activities represent the first full "capitalization" experience in SDC. The DPU was asked to help in its organisation and to facilitate the four days put aside for the workshop, entitled "Capitalization of Gender in SDC: Learning from Experience". The workshop was held in June 2003 in Fribourg, Switzerland. The workshop was organized around a series of themes, developed out of the experiences put forward by SDC and its partners for presentation and discussion in the workshop. These were Working With Men In Women-Focused Interventions; Methods And Tools To Mainstream Gender; Challenging Social Relations; Assessing Change In Gender Relations; Gender As a Transversal at Country Level; and Gender Mainstreaming in Sector Programmes. From the DPU, **Caren Levy, Nadia Taher, Claudy Vouhé** and **Julian Walker** provided the facilitation. The workshop was attended by approximately 60 women and men, from Switzerland and the full range of countries in which SDC operates. The DPU now has the task of putting together a publication from the workshop, to reflect SDC's experience of working with gender mainstreaming over the last 10 years. [c.levy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.levy@ucl.ac.uk)



Farewell party for Ronaldo and Ruth in the house of Jae Cheong Ryu, in Seoul, attended by the participants in the DPU special courses offered to members of the Korean National Housing Corporation

## An emotional visit to Korea

Ronaldo Ramirez

*A few weeks ago I received the most unexpected, also the most pleasing, email from Korea. Dr Seo Hwan Lim, one of my PhD students in the early 1990s and now a senior researcher in the Korean National Housing Corporation, wrote that he had met some of the members of the KNHC that have attended the two special courses the DPU offered in 1996 and 1997 to the corporation, that they have commented on how useful the courses have been for them and - this is the most emotional part to me - how much they have enjoyed my teaching.*

*As a result they invited me and Ruth, my wife, to visit Korea for a week. We went and had the most impressive programme, organised mainly by Dr Lim and Jae chong Ryu with the participation of practically all the 20 students who came to London in the 1990s. The activities included my lectures at the KNHC and at the Institute of Urban Studies of Yonsei University. The latter was attended by students and by Dr Eun Kook Lee, Director of the Institute and by Emeritus Professor Chung Hyun Ro, who contributed to my presentation by underlining the many similarities of the social housing process in Korea with the rest of the countries of the South. We visited temples, palaces and museums accompanied by our hosts, but also slums, shanty-towns and housing developments, had seminars with NGOs and research groups, and had several pleasant social reunions with our friends. In all these meetings people manifested their most warm feelings and recollections of their time in the DPU. Some of the teachers were mentioned many times and the most popular were without doubt Alex and Stephan, our two young assistants at that time and the ones that were able to build more stable relationships still lasting today. Ruth and I were surrounded by love, care and friendship. It is indeed difficult to imagine anything more gratifying for an old teacher than to receive such noble feelings from his past students.*

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## DPU Events

### INVESTIGATING THE EXPERIENCE OF POOR HOUSEHOLDS & COMMUNITIES: A Joint DPU-ODI-DFID-World Bank Workshop on Urban Longitudinal Research Methodology

Investigating the Experience of Poor Households & Communities: A Joint DPU-ODI-DFID-World Bank Workshop on Urban Longitudinal Research Methodology

Every two years the DPU organises a major international conference, seminar or workshop based on a current theme of its work in education, research and consultancy. In May 2003, a Workshop was held to examine the current state of the art in social science research methods applied to the study of developmental trends over substantial periods of time in the incidence or reduction of poverty among urban households and communities in different regions of the developing world.

The Workshop was organised jointly by the DPU and the ODI (Overseas Development Institute) with funding from DFID and the World Bank, and was co-ordinated by **Michael Safier** and Dr. **Caroline Moser**, formerly at the DPU and subsequently LSE and the World Bank, who was responsible for the design of, and participation in the event. The workshop brought together researchers from Africa and Asia involved in a collaborative projects in three cities, as well as leading figures in longitudinal research methodologies from Britain and America who have conducted enquiries in many parts of the third world.

Thirty six people participated in the meeting over two days, in which ten research studies and/or methodological approaches were presented and discussed in an intensive and highly informative manner, covering both quantitative and qualitative (and mixed), household and community panels, illustrating the contributions from socioeconomic, sociological, anthropological (and mixed) standpoints. The Workshop heard from Dr. Deepa Narayan, Director of Social Research at the World Bank, on the future plans to develop global research on "getting out of poverty", a programme closely concerned with matters discussed in the meeting, which she attended throughout.

The proceedings of the Workshop will shortly be available in the form of two DPU Working Papers, one edited by Caroline Moser and the second by Michael Safier.

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In March 2003 the final workshop of the "Communication for Sustainable Urban Livelihoods - CSUL" research project (see DPUNews No.44) was held at the DPU in London. The DPU's research partners from Rio de Janeiro, Nairobi and Colombo presented and discussed their research findings and strategic proposals over a 2fi day period. **Liz Riley** and **Patrick Wakely** are now in the process of preparing the final report, which will be out in August 2003.

## International Networks

With support from the British Council, in April **Julio Davila** and **Edesio Fernandes** travelled again to Brasilia, Brasil, as part of an academic link with the Department of Geography at the University of Brasilia entitled "Methodological discussion and application of Ecological-Economic Zoning in Urban Areas" (see DPUNews 44). Apart from a series of internal discussions with local academics aimed at producing a number of joint activities and publications, they each gave a lecture to a wide audience of academics, Master's degree students and government officials. Julio lectured on "Rural-urban linkages: International approaches and experiences" and Edesio spoke about "Juridico-political dimensions of urban and rural land policies".

Julio was then invited by the Department of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, to lecture on "The peri-urban interface: Key features and intervention". The visit to Recife was also a good occasion to explore with the staff of the department, which includes former DPU student Dr. Fatima Furtado, possible ideas for future collaboration.

In March 2003, **Julio Davila** attended a two-day seminar in Milan, Italy, entitled "Global and Local: Confronting the Challenges of Regional Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". The seminar was one of a handful of parallel activities organised by the Inter-American Development Bank as part of its annual Governors meeting. The seminar brought together academics, politicians, Bank staff and private sector representatives for a series of theoretical discussions and presentations of case studies on regional integration and regional development in the American continent.

# publications

In May 2003 **Patrick Wakely** participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as a member of the UK government delegation and to address the plenary session dialogue on Strengthening Local Authorities. Whilst other invited speakers (notably USA, France, the World Association of Cities (WACLAC) and the international Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the mayors of San Fernando, Philippines) gave emphasis to strengthening the capacity of local government to operate within conditions of globalisation, Pat stressed the need for local government to promote and support decentralisation to lower levels of local governance and administration. He called for city authorities to take the rhetoric of subsidiarity, devolution and partnership seriously and to examine ways to improve communication and understanding between local administrations, low income communities and the commercial sector.

**Patrick Wakely** also participated in a meeting of the Best Practices and Local Leadership steering committee, which discussed the next round of the Dubai Awards and new approaches to "Best Policies" and "Taking Best Practices to Scale". Some 30 DPU Alumni were at the Governing Council meeting as members of their governments' delegations or international agencies, organisations and accredited NGOs. It's a great place to meet.

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**Ramirez Ronaldo** "Evaluación Social de Políticas y Programas de Vivienda: un análisis de la contribución de la vivienda a la reducción de la pobreza urbana." in Journal of the Instituto de la Vivienda de la Facultad de Arquitectura, Universidad de Chile, n.45.

**Ramirez Ronaldo** "Notas Sobre Medio Siglo de Políticas de Vivienda", in *Vivienda Popular*, Journal of the Facultad de Arquitectura de la Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay.

## staff news

**Pascale Hofmann** ([p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk)) joined the DPU in April 2003 to work as research and teaching assistant to the EPM Programme. Pascale came to the DPU with a Diploma in Landscape and Open Space Planning from the Department of Landscape, Architecture and Environmental Development of the University of Hanover. In the year 2002



she successfully completed her MSc in Environment & Sustainable Development at the DPU. She has worked as a planner at the Institute for

Urban Hydrology in Hanover and at a number of landscape consultant firms. After completing her MSc at the DPU, she re-joined Groundwork UK, where she was involved in EU funded projects aiming to develop harmonising tools for community led regeneration of derelict land. At Groundwork, she was also involved in the London-wide PR campaign to launch the Groundwork London Partnership, and in the design and implementation of local regeneration projects in the London Borough of Southwark. She should be contacted for any enquiries regarding the **EPM Programme** or the **MSc in Environment and Sustainable Development** during the maternity leave of Adriana Allen.

Our warmest welcome goes to Tomás, **Adriana Allen** and Graham's son born on 9 July 2003.



Our congratulations to **Frankie Liew** and **Yukiko Fujimoto** who got married in June 2003.

Congratulations also to **Charlotte Spinks** and **Stuart Lemanski** who got married in July 2003.

# connections

## Letter's corner

**Anne Boisvert** (International Housing studies, 2001-2) is working on a major consultancy in Laos, implementing the National Urban-Rural Basic-Infrastructure Development Strategy, part of a plan aiming to move Laos from the status of "least developed country" to that of "developing country" by the year 2020. Her work involves the formulation of technical feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, participatory mechanisms, cost sharing mechanisms and gender action plans. [anneboisvert@yahoo.com](mailto:anneboisvert@yahoo.com)

**Kinni Kansara** (SDP, 2000-2) has taken on a new post as youth worker and centre manager for a local youth centre in London. Kinni writes: "Grahame Park Estate, where I work, was built in the 70s on the old aerodrome site used by American and British soldiers in the Second World War. It's been an interesting area to come and work in after being on the Development Planning course since it is clearly evident to many that the negative social and economic consequences experienced by the community are strongly connected with the design and planning of the Estate. It would be a very interesting place for future DPU students to research".

**Sang-il Yi** (Ph.D. 2002) has been appointed Professor at the University of Seoul, Korea [sangilee@asianavenue.com](mailto:sangilee@asianavenue.com)

**Atsushi Fujino** (UDP 1998-9), has been working, since 2000, for an international development consulting firm/think-tank, KRI International ([www.kri-inter.co.jp](http://www.kri-inter.co.jp)), an affiliate of one of the

Japan's largest engineering consulting firms, Nippon Koei. Atsushi writes, "Since joining KRI I have worked for several Japanese overseas assistance projects, including an institutional development project in the Philippines, an education planning project in Malawi, and an evaluation survey in Indonesia. I'm certain my experience at DPU has equipped me with an excellent foundation to be a development planning specialist." He adds "Please give my contact information to any student who is interested in working for a Tokyo-based consulting firm, as I am happy to see them anytime." [afujino@fides.dti.ne.jp](mailto:afujino@fides.dti.ne.jp)

**Michael Koeniger** (DAP 1998-9) has for the last three years been working in Indonesia with an American aid NGO, Church World Service (CWS). He works in CWS ([www.cwsindonesia.or.id](http://www.cwsindonesia.or.id)) as a Technical Advisor and is involved in proposal writing, training and liaising with donors. [michael@cwsindonesia.or.id](mailto:michael@cwsindonesia.or.id)

**Jose Luis Lezama** (PhD 1999), has been appointed the new Director of the prestigious Centro de Estudios Demográficos y de Desarrollo Urbano at El Colegio de México, in Mexico City. [jlezama@colmex.mx](mailto:jlezama@colmex.mx)

The DPU Working Paper by **Madeleine Church** et al., *Participation, Relationships and Dynamic Change: New Thinking on Evaluating the Work of International Networks* (DPU Working Paper No. 121, 2003) has been attracting international attention. Madeleine writes "I am getting responses from people from all over. A team of two evalua-

tors from Holland have just used the ideas in the paper to design their own framework, and sent me a letter of thanks. They said it was 'path-breaking work'." (Madeleine's paper can be downloaded on [www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu)) [mad@evaluation.u-net.com](mailto:mad@evaluation.u-net.com)

**Makol Bona Malwal** (DAP 2000-1) was invited to deliver a presentation on The Conflict in the Sudan at Uppsala University, Sweden in May this year.

**Patrick McAlpine** (ESD 1998-9, and more recently Teaching Assistant at the DPU) has taken up a post in Guernsey, working on indicators to measure the Island's 'transition' into sustainability, including issues related to its ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Patrick writes: "One of the things that has been quite interesting is working with others around the island to try and improve the indicators we have. One example has been with a ground pollution/ quality indicator for which we are trying to measure for pesticide/ herbicide use, for this I have been mediating between the water board, the islands agricultural advisor and the environmental health." [patrick.mcalpine@gov.gg](mailto:patrick.mcalpine@gov.gg)

**Shannon Bradley** (DAP 2001-2) has just taken up a new post at the at the University of Victoria Centre for Global Studies, on Vancouver Island, Canada ([www.globalcentres.org/index2.html](http://www.globalcentres.org/index2.html)). Shannon writes "I am always drawing upon my knowledge gained at the DPU and specifically from the International Politics module. Currently, I am working on a project on enhancing legitimacy in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) -- so attempting to work on

## staff news (continues)



### Edesio Fernandez appointed Director in Lula's Ministry of Cities

Dr **Edesio Fernandes** has been appointed Director of the "National Programme to Support Sustainable Land Regularisation" in the Ministry of Cities in Brazil. Over the past six years, Edesio, a lawyer by training,

has worked closely with DPU colleagues mainly in the fields of urban land and urban environment. He will be based in Brasilia until April of 2004.

This new ministry, one of President Lula da Silva's first initiatives after taking over office in January this year, recognises that Brazil has been totally transformed by rapid urban growth since the mid-1950s. The vast majority of Brazilians (83%) live in urban areas, but until now there was no proper, comprehensive urban policy at a national level, only a fragmented, sectoral, and highly inefficient approach.

The new ministry aims to provide a national

framework for planning, policymaking, and management in the fields of social housing, sanitation, public transportation, and urban programmes.

Edesio recently wrote: "As you can imagine, the challenge is huge, there are endless problems, enormous difficulties, and scarce resources, but I and my colleagues have many ideas and are full of energy. I was in Brasilia last week, and I already started a promising and innovative process of inter-ministerial discussion around the first draft of the national policy on informal settlements which I have put together."

[edesiofernandes@compuserve.com](mailto:edesiofernandes@compuserve.com)

global governance issues while building capacity and decision making processes for developing countries." [bradleys@uvic.ca](mailto:bradleys@uvic.ca)

**Igor Nemirov** (DAP 1998-9) has taken up a new post with the British Council in St. Petersburg, Russia ([www.britishcouncil.ru/spb](http://www.britishcouncil.ru/spb)), overseeing the opening of their new Knowledge Learning Centre. [igor.nemirov@britishcouncil.ru](mailto:igor.nemirov@britishcouncil.ru)

**Asa Jonsson** (UDP 1998-9) writes: "I have now worked and lived in Bangkok for 3 years. I am still at UN-ESCAP, and have shifted Sections to the Poverty Reduction Section (formerly Human Settlements Section). I feel like I have landed in the right place, back to the issues of urban development & the DPU days. It is very exciting to back in this 'field' again!" [jonsson.unescap@un.org](mailto:jonsson.unescap@un.org)

**Damodar Acharya** (DAP 1997-8) writes about his work as a Programme Finance Officer for 'Canon Collins Trust for Southern Africa (CCETSA) started in November 2000. The Trust ([www.canoncollins.org.uk](http://www.canoncollins.org.uk)) is committed for the development of human resource in Southern Africa and I am responsible for the management of grants to the trust including financial management of the Trust. Damodar and his family (he now has twin girls) live in London. [damodar@canoncollins.org.uk](mailto:damodar@canoncollins.org.uk)

**Leonard Bufumbo** (DAP 1999-2000) sends his greetings from Uganda: "Ever since I came back I have worked in the area of HIV/AIDS, starting with Makerere University and now MRC (UK) in its programme on AIDS in Uganda. It's now close to three years and I am enjoying it." In the meantime, the "school bug" seems to have caught up with him again: Leonard would like to take a research degree around the topic of health communication, maybe in the UK.

**Sikapale Chinzeu** (MSc DAP 2001-02) sends his greetings from Lusaka, where he has been recently promoted to Operations Director of World Vision Zambia. He writes: "I manage 20 large scale programs (...). I must admit that the MSc programme at UCL greatly equipped me with the necessary skills to fit in well in such a challenging role". [sikapale\\_chinzeu@wvi.org](mailto:sikapale_chinzeu@wvi.org)

**Maria Leonor Alves Maia (Nona)** (MSc UDP - PhD 1996) writes from Recife: "I'm fine, a happy mother of two beautiful little girls - Beatriz and Helena. Recently I've been involved with the Local Government as an urban project director for the Empresa de Urbanização do Recife. It was an exciting experience and I learned a lot about the government structure, politics and the city. Now

I'm working at the Federal University of Pernambuco, Department of Engineering, lecturing in the MSc and undergraduates courses. I'm interested in issues related to mobility, accessibility and land use planning". [nona@ufpe.br](mailto:nona@ufpe.br)

**Claudia Schneider** (UDP 2001-02) writes to us from Jakarta: "Since last February I work for GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) in their Jakarta office. I have been engaged in the URBAN QUALITY (UQ) project ([www.urbanquality.org](http://www.urbanquality.org)) for carrying out an impact monitoring assessment as well as for preparing a project progress review. "UQ Civil Society and Inter-Municipal Cooperation for Better Urban Services" was launched two years ago; it focuses on strengthening local decision making in selected municipalities, in the light of the current decentralisation process in Indonesia. The focus is on cooperation between, first, the civil society organisations together with the local governments, and second, the municipalities amongst themselves. The objective of these types of cooperation is to improve the quality of urban services. The selected cities are located in Java, Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). During my assignment I planned and implemented an impact monitoring assessment of UQ by setting up questionnaires and then undertake 'structured interviews' with various counterparts at local level. I concluded the assessment by writing an analysis report. The focus of the analysis was to explore the issue of "How has URBAN QUALITY influenced processes, structures and relations amongst key stakeholders and actors at local city level? What implications arise out of this in regard to future project phases?". The aim of the analysis was not to assess the performance of UQ, but rather to examine processes, structures and relations between key stakeholders and actors at the project level in selected municipalities. Currently, I am preparing a project progress review of UQ which will take place in next August and September. [cl\\_a\\_schneider@yahoo.de](mailto:cl_a_schneider@yahoo.de)



Wita Simatupang facilitating a community planning workshop

## BABIES' CORNER

**Lawrence Salmon** (ESD 2001-2) writes: "My baby boy and I are fine, 'Guillaume' is born on October 16th 2002, he is now a lovely baby who just starts smiling".

**Srinivas Sampath** and his partner Mythili have had a baby girl, born on June 9th 2003 at New Delhi

**Wita Simatupang** (BUDD 2001-02) writes from Jakarta: "I have been working in the Project Preparation for the Neighborhood Upgrading and Shelter Sector Project (NUSSP) in Indonesia, with Babar Mumtaz for Culpin Planning Ltd. The proposed Project, prepared with the DG of Housing and Settlements, is trying to address the current issues both in supply and demand side of housing for the urban poor in Indonesia. It is comprised of three components, which are Neighbourhood Upgrading, Housing Finance through small loans, and New Areas Development; all are aligned with capacity building programs for stakeholders at all levels. The implementation is proposed to be started in several Pilot Cities, which then will be scaled off to other cities throughout Indonesia. The Project recognizes and develops the previous initiatives in Indonesia, e.g. KIP and CoBILD, but is open to new initiatives that are more relevant to current issues. The Project also supports the Government of Indonesia's policy of decentralization by addressing Local Governments and their Agencies as the main key actors to carry out the Project.

The project, to be financed both by the ADB and Local Government, is very challenging, especially for me. Working (and negotiating!!) with many stakeholders, including the lending agency, the Government, the formal finance sector; and struggling to convince NGOs to work together (instead of separately!). We have been also trying to promote participatory methods for the community to propose their development recommendations, - completely not as beautiful as the ones I did in BUDD, but really down to earth. Well, with few scars and bruises! It has been a very significant experience for me: like another year of MSc, but in the field!"

# opinion

## RADICAL CHANGES IN DFID Some reflections on their impact

Earlier this year the Policy Division of the British government's Department for International Development (DFID) went through a major organisational change that could have a significant impact on international support to urban development and poverty reduction in urban areas.

For the last thirty years, professional and technical advice have been given to DFID's country programmes and the regional divisions that administer UK development co-operation to Africa, Asia and the Caribbean through a system of full-time Advisers grouped in professional departments (Economic, Health, Education, Social Development, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Urban Development, etc). Each of these departments was headed by a Chief Adviser who controlled two budgets: one that allowed the contracting of specialist advice and technical assistance; and the other for commissioning research. In the case of the Infrastructure and Urban Development Department (IUDD) this amounted to some £40 million annually for technical assistance and consultancy and £18 million for the Knowledge and Research (KaR) programme.

Under the leadership of the head of IUDD, Chief Engineering Adviser John Hodges, DFID gained enormous respect and became highly influential in urban development and urban poverty reduction amongst the international donor community. For example IUDD (DFID) provided substantial financial and technical support to UN-Habitat and, together with the World Bank, had a significant role in the development of the Cities Alliance. It had an important influence on the UNDP/UN-Habitat Urban Management Programme and supported the UNEP/UN-Habitat Sustainable Cities Programme. At the same time, through the commissioning of studies, the dissemination of best practices and the KaR Urbanisation Research programme, IUDD had a significant impact on understanding the importance of urban areas to national development, recognising the special charac-

teristics of urban poverty and in promoting good urban governance, participation and community-led development. Its strategic approaches to these issues were captured in the DFID target strategy paper "Meeting the Challenge of Poverty in Urban Areas" (2001).

The current changes have been made in order to ensure that as much as possible of the UK aid budget goes directly to reducing poverty in developing countries. The Policy Division is reducing its spending by a third and dispersing the advisors and their departmental budgets to the regional and county programmes and to a series of short-life "issue specific" teams in the Policy Division. Amongst the teams there is currently one concerned with Urban-Rural Change (URC) to which three members of the former IUDD Urban Group are attached. However, the issues with which it is principally preoccupied do not embrace many of those that were central to the concerns of the former IUDD Urban Group. Michael Parkes, the Senior Urban Advisor, is a half-time member of the Policy Division. His other post is in DFID's International Division, which deals with the multi-lateral aid agencies (the United Nations, World Bank, European Union, etc). Thus he is well placed to influence the continuation of support to UN-Habitat, the Cities Alliance, the urban support programmes of the EC, etc. There is, however, no guarantee that he will receive the level of political or financial support that the IUDD Urban Team once enjoyed.

It remains to be seen whether the British Government's championship of support to poverty reduction through urban development in the South will continue under the reorganised DFID Policy Division, or whether it will join USAID, the Netherlands, SDA (Switzerland) and CEDA (Canada), all of whom have drastically reduced their urban support programmes in recent years. Whatever the outcome, the DPU will continue to exert what pressures it can to keep urban issues high on the development co-operation agenda.

*Patrick Wakely*

## diary

### DPU NOMINATES ANNA TIBAIJUKA FOR HONORARY DOCTORATE

On 9 September 2003 UCL, authorised by the University of London, will confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (Engineering) on Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. This nomination was put forward by the DPU which has worked closely with UN-Habitat for many many years and was honoured by her visit in 2002.

Anna Tibaijuka is the first African woman to hold so senior a position in the United Nations. Her education, which started in a village primary school in central Tanzania, culminated in a Doctorate of Science in Agricultural Economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala. From 1993-98 she was Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Dar-es-Salaam during which time she was a member of the Tanzanian delegation to a number of international conferences on development issues. She was appointed Special Co-ordinator for the Least Developed Countries for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and led the difficult negotiations between the LDCs and the World Trade Organisation. She has a particular interest in the role and rights of women, notably as Founding Chairwoman of the Tanzanian National Women's Council. She has published five books and numerous articles on issues of international development.

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