Focus on 
Land management traditions that benefit poor people in the modern city 
by Michael Mattingly & Alain Durand-Lasserve

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LAND MANAGEMENT TRADITIONS THAT BENEFIT POOR PEOPLE IN THE MODERN CITY
by Michael Mattingly & Alain Durand-Lasserre

Badly served by formal government and private sector land delivery systems, poor urban residents increasingly obtain shelter on land provided through other means. In the context of sub-Saharan African cities and towns, this has encouraged the development of forms of land delivery that have their roots in customary practices. Many poor urban people are housed through transactions that borrow features from traditional customs of land management, so that their claims to land rights can be defended. These transactions depend upon support of familiar social networks, instead of the backing that governments give to land delivered in accord with their rules and regulations.

Neo-customary systems seem to be based on their capacities to create trust that others will support an individual’s claim to the land rights. This trust arises from a confidence in the customary social relationships that have been embedded in the land delivery system, either because the original entitlement was derived from customary principles or because the process of allocation incorporated customary practices. This is equivalent to the trust that buyers in other delivery systems place in a government, when they house themselves on land that has been surveyed and registered.

All the cases examined in nine African countries by a recent study* showed that a significant proportion of the urban population has been relying on such neo-customary practices. For example, the urban villages of Dakar, in which traditional chiefs allocate land rights, are vast; nearly all of the expansion of Dar-es-Salaam takes place upon land that is transferred directly from customary users. The allocation of traditional land rights for urban use around Johannesburg has become noticeable to the point that it is a hot political issue. In Nairobi, large areas of private land are bought and sub-divided to members by companies made up entirely of people from the same clan or family. The available data does not distinguish neo-customary land delivery from other informal ways, so it is not possible to quantify the extent of the practice. For the same reason, one cannot assume that neo-customary systems are being used increasingly. Yet, this is likely since the use of informal land delivery systems in urban Africa is growing, and neo-customary is a major one of them.

Why is so much use made of neo-customary systems?
These systems are less bureaucratic and more flexible than formal ones. They require low transaction costs and their time for delivery is short. Often they provide better security of tenure than other informal land delivery mechanisms. This means they provide affordable land more quickly. Moreover, they deliver sufficient quantities of land to be effective alternatives to the formal systems provided by government and the private sector.

Neo-customary land delivery systems continue to exist because formal private sector housing is limited in its ability to reach poor households by the presence of restrictive regulations (for example, rent control in Nairobi) and inappropriate norms and standards of land development. The overcomplicated, extremely slow, and unnecessarily rigid procedures of state systems mean that serviced public land is not, in fact, made accessible to poor people, and therefore fails to provide for a strategy of progressive improvement of housing that is favoured by poor households. Since public land delivery is also undermined by corruption and illicit practices, it is clear that neo-customary systems, whatever their illegality, can be as effective (if not more so), in reaching poor people as formal systems. But it is not always they who are the principle users of neo-customary systems.

Low quality living conditions result
Despite these advantages, neo-customary systems result in land development that is badly planned: often occurring in places where there is a risk to health and safety, it always lacks adequate access to basic services and is usually laid out in ways that make the installation of service infrastructure unnecessarily expensive. Neo-customary actors do not have the required financial resources or guarantees in terms of security of tenure to invest in the provision of adequate urban services. It is left to local authorities and residents to improve the service infrastructure at a later time. But then, public authorities find themselves confronted with land use and spatial growth patterns that are unlikely to be compatible either with immediate concerns for public health and safety, or with long term planning objectives.

What does the future hold?
These systems will probably continue to operate. On the one hand, the factors that have given rise to them are not likely to disappear in the foreseeable future. On the other, the systems seem sufficiently effective
attitudes towards informal settlements in integration are adopting more flexible hand, government institutions aiming for operations towards one another. On the one movement by government and neo-customary in the nine cases. Rather there are signs of no major conflicts between regimes reported. To the surprise of many perhaps, there were Uganda. as has been witnessed around Kampala, those living under regimes of modern states, even to hold up against counter claims from living in accord with them, neo-customary numbers of people agreeing to them and governance of African cities. With significant believe that the existence of multiple regimes given urban area. Stren (2004) and others the existence of more than one regime in a customary delivery systems are evidence of with regard to land management, neo-customary functions.

Recognising diverse urban regimes With regard to land management, neo-customary delivery systems are evidence of the existence of more than one regime in a given urban area. Stren (2004) and others believe that the existence of multiple regimes is a distinguishing characteristic of the governance of African cities. With significant numbers of people agreeing to them and living in accord with them, neo-customary practices possess a legitimacy valid enough even to hold up against counter claims from those living under regimes of modern states, as has been witnessed around Kampala, Uganda.

To the surprise of many perhaps, there were no major conflicts between regimes reported in the nine cases. Rather there are signs of movement by government and neo-customary operations towards one another. On the one hand, government institutions aiming for integration are adopting more flexible attitudes towards informal settlements in general and those created by neo-customary systems in particular. In some countries - Uganda and South Africa, for instance - this includes the recognition of customary rights by national constitutions. In some countries, it includes the introduction of new governmental land management procedures that allow claims originating from customary practices to become formally recognised (for example, in Uganda, Ghana, and Namibia). There are also programmes to strengthen tenure or to improve land planning and service provision that are undertaken in partnership with neo-customary actors. On the other hand, neo-customary actors are increasingly trying to operate according to minimum rules and procedures regarding registration of land rights. For example, in Senegal and Benin transactions are sometimes witnessed by officials, and records are made of them. Some of these actors are also incorporating elements of planning and the delivery of basic services.

These are positive signs in a world where economic globalisation is accentuating the differences between different urban regimes, with the potential for strife. Benjamin (forthcoming) has drawn attention to contrasting circumstances in Bangalore, India where the land demands of direct foreign investment overwhelm and overrule the claims of poor people by capturing control of aspects of the government regime. The resulting split of the formal land delivery system into that for the weaker urban residents and that for global capital produces a competition between the two that harms poor people.

Policy implications All this has implications for policies of the regimes of formal governments. Neo-customary land delivery systems may, under certain conditions, be a sound and sustainable alternative way to provide land for low-income households. Attempts to dismantle them may reduce the ability of poor urban dwellers to obtain housing. At the very least, if they challenge neo-customary land delivery systems at all, governments should therefore have good reasons, that justify the probable loss to poor people. In fact, governments may find it easier and more effective to serve the needs of poor people by supporting neo-customary systems than by attempting to improve their own systems of land delivery. Nevertheless, some interventions by public authorities may be justified that reduce the greatest weaknesses of neo-customary systems - the lack of services, high costs of service upgrading, dangerous locations, and opportunities for land disputes. The evidence suggests that the viability and sustainability of neo-customary systems will be strengthened if public authorities encourage neo-customary practices to be compatible with formal procedures, while making formal procedures more accommodating to neo-customary practices.

These findings question the appropriateness of land management models put forward in the name of modernisation by many international finance institutions - such as the World Bank - with the support of local government officials. Those models fail to take into account the diversity of tenure rules that have legitimacy under the different property systems that coexist in a given place, thus worsening the exclusion of the majority of the African urban population.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


*a collaboration of Alain Durand-Lasserve and Michael Mattingly during 2003-4 with more than a dozen colleagues working in these countries, financed jointly by PRUD of the French Government and DFID of the UK Government.
ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN THE PERI-URBAN INTERFACE OF METROPOLITAN REGIONS

Formal and informal practices

A three-year DFID-funded research project has been examining ways to improve urban governance and management of water and sanitation services (WSS) for the benefit of the poor in the peri-urban interface of metropolitan regions (see DPU News 45). Between February and April 2004, Adriana Allen, Julio Davila and Pascale Hofmann undertook a number of 10 day visits to the five case studies covered by this comparative project, namely Chennai (India), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Cairo-Giza (Egypt), Mexico City and Caracas (Venezuela).

In most cases this included focus group discussions with peri-urban communities, interviews and detailed site visits. Although each case study has particular characteristics, in overall terms it was found that current formal strategies to improve access to WSS tend to neglect the reality of peri-urban communities and the informal practices of peri-urban women and men to cope with service deficiencies. Lack of water supply is perceived by most stakeholders as a more serious problem than sanitation. Partly as a result of lower densities when compared to more central areas, the need for sanitation facilities is seen as less urgent. However, these perceptions tend to neglect key dimensions such as future rapid densification processes, immediate health risks and contamination of aquifers and rivers. Even institutionally, water supply and sanitation tend to be treated differently, giving precedence to water supply, partly because water is more easily subject to commodification and partly because in some cases the two services are dealt with by separate agencies. The above observations were further confirmed during the workshops. When participants were asked to identify problems and opportunities in the WSS system on the basis of the different stages of the water cycle (see diagram), they seldom paid attention to the issues of disposal and treatment and concentrated instead on the other steps in the water cycle.

The participatory exercises, involving a number of stakeholders in each locality, highlighted important environmental, managerial, accessibility and accountability challenges. While the case studies reveal a wide spectrum of flexible arrangements in the provision of WSS - including a growing involvement of both the private and community sectors - all too often coping strategies by peri-urban dwellers do not find the necessary support from the formal system. In Mexico the importance of rainwater harvesting, reuse and recycling was highlighted by members of the community but these practices at present lack technical and financial support to offer a viable alternative. In the cases of Dar es Salaam and Cairo, current strategies to improve access (including privatisation of the formal system) overlook the reality of peri-urban residents and small firms, while informal private vendors are largely ignored; this has implications not merely for a reliable and affordable access to these services but also for the livelihoods of a substantial number of people. The table on the right provides an overview of the different formal and informal practices through which peri-urban dwellers (including the poor) gain access to water.

As for access to sanitation facilities, the spectrum of practices is less diverse. Most peri-urban dwellers use septic tanks and pit latrines (private or public), very few being connected to an underground sewerage network. Some even lack the most basic facilities, resulting in the practice of open defecation.

The workshops further revealed a frequent lack of cooperation and communication between agents operating at different levels. For instance, in Cairo-Giza, the national government department responsible for WSS legislation and construction of WSS facilities does not involve the local authorities, who are accountable for the operation and maintenance of these facilities, in the decision making, leading to conflicts between the different government levels. Plans to privatise water supply and sanitation are underway in several of the case studies. Rarely do these plans include specific strate-
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<th>Provider</th>
<th>Formal practices</th>
<th>Informal practices</th>
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<td>Public sector</td>
<td>• Piped network (HH connections and public standpipes)</td>
<td>• Public provision distorted by bribery practices</td>
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<td>• Wells and bore-wells (not Mexico)</td>
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<td>• Provision by tankers</td>
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<td>• Water kiosks (Dar es Salaam)</td>
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<td>• Negotiation with communities through ‘technical water boards’ (Caracas)</td>
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<td>Private sector</td>
<td>• Buying from licensed tankers (not in Cairo)</td>
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<td>• Buying packaged water (cans, bottles, sachets)</td>
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<td>• pipes sold directly by bucket or through push carts</td>
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<td>• and bicycle vendors (Dar es Salaam)</td>
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<td>Community</td>
<td>• Own individual wells and bore-wells (not Mexico or Caracas)</td>
<td>• Rainwater harvesting (not Caracas)</td>
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<td>• Piped network (community organisation agreement with local authority (Mexico) or public water company (Caracas))</td>
<td>• Water theft</td>
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<td>• Piped network kiosks and taps run by the community with NGO support (Dar es Salaam)</td>
<td>• Gifts or paid provision from neighbours</td>
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<td>• Boreholes and kiosks run by the community (Dar es Salaam)</td>
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and some of the papers produced so far are available on the PUI programme website. To download and for more information about the project in general visit www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/pui, or contact Pascale Hofmann p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk

Energy and the urban poor

Sheilah Meikle and Patrice North recently visited Arusha, Tanzania as part of the DFID-funded research project on “The impact of energy use on poor urban women and girls’ livelihood in Arusha, Tanzania”. They write: Together with our Community Development Training Institute (CDTI) colleagues we delivered 2 one-day workshops, in Daraja Mbeli and Kaloleni communities where we have been undertaking our research. The workshops aimed to test our findings by presenting them to the communities for their comments and to start a discussion of energy related problems, their causes and possible community-based solutions. Everyone is amazed when they realise that 30-40% of poor households’ income is spent on energy. Both workshops had an excellent level of attendance and most importantly half of those attending were community members. The Daraja Mbeli workshop was opened by Paul Laiser, Mayor of Arusha. The second workshop included a number of Municipal and NGO participants. Amazingly one NGO representative came from Dar es Salam at his own expense. Both included a number of journalists. There has been a one-page spread in Arusha Times http://www.arushatimes.co.tz/2004/7/local_news_6.htm, with more articles promised in the Kiswahili press. Officials were enthusiastic about our findings and their possible impact, and were keen to discuss opportunities for future work in the energy field in Arusha, as well as a continuing link between CDTI and DPU. An outline of this work has now been reported in DFID’s Energy Newsletter www.dfid-kar-energy.org.uk s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk p.north@ucl.ac.uk

Research on - DPU NEWS 47
MAINSTREAMING RURAL-URBAN COLLABORATION IN LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT PRACTICES (Hubli-Dharwad, India)
by Adriana Allen

Whilst much of the focus of the urban agendas has been on improving living conditions and the environment in inner cities and slums, the urbanisation process is not restricted to cities, and involves more than the social and physical dimensions of housing, infrastructure and urban services. Cities rely on their surrounding hinterland for a wide range of resources, including water, energy, building materials and sources of food. Cities, in return, provide the goods, services and the market place for rural and agricultural production. This mutual dependence, however, is a delicate one, and its balance is affected by competing jurisdictions and interventions on the urban-rural fringe, which often result in conflicts in land use and lost opportunities in maximising the potential positive impact of urban-rural nutrient flows and urban-rural links between food producers and consumers. More sustainable forms of urbanisation require a coherent approach to the urban-rural interface.

Since 1998, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of organisations in the twin city of Hubli-Dharwad (Karnataka, India) promoting a participatory action planning process to improve the management of natural resources and to generate alternative livelihoods in peri-urban villages. Since the year 2000, this work has involved two action research projects coordinated by Dr Robert Brook from the University of Bangor and funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID). Focusing on the poor, the process has moved from community mobilisation, through planning, to the implementation of action plans. My role has been to consider opportunities and constraints for improving the understanding of local and state authorities (both urban and rural) about the environmental and livelihood conditions of the peri-urban poor and seek ways to institutionalise rural-urban collaboration in the thinking and action of target institutions (TIs).

Common deficiencies in the quality of, and access to, information and expertise in sustainable urban development in India, and particularly in Hubli-Dharwad (HD), include fragmented and outdated approaches to management and planning and lack of expertise in approaches that could maximise synergy in urban-rural links. These problems are aggravated by a strong division between urban and rural decision-making systems, as each operates with different planning and management ‘cultures’. There are indeed precedents in India for fostering specific mechanisms for rural-urban collaboration. Already in 1963 the Rural-Urban Relationship Committee made the recommendation that rural and urban areas should be treated as a continuum. However, a strong divide still characterises the way in which urban and rural authorities operate. Whilst the former focuses almost exclusively on physical aspects and operate with a strong separation between planning and management, rural authorities are primarily concerned with short-term, socio-economic planning, adopting a non-spatial planning approach, with no attention to land use decision making, physical planning or environmental concerns. These problems are compounded by the view of the Indian village as a typified traditional society. Even in a peri-urban context, communities are constructed as simple and harmonious and characterised by intimate relations. This poses challenges in the way in which governmental and non-governmental organisations operate, often with a simplified and paternalistic view of peri-urban dwellers, particularly the poor, as powerless and apolitical actors.

During my last visit to HD in February 2004 and throughout the subsequent months, a number of interesting developments have taken place with regard to the above objectives. My main purpose was to focus on the target institutions, monitoring progress and identifying constraints and opportunities to move the process forward. Although the exercises conducted with the team revealed significant progress in TI involvement, several constraints were also identified. So far, the project has successfully ensured the support of TIs in the implementation of the action plans (mainly in the provision of resources and technical advice), and thirty interviews conducted with district officials show a very positive shift in officials’ attitudes towards the peri-urban interface, participatory planning and rural-urban collaboration. However, the interviews also revealed the need to do further work to ensure that changes at the individual level are mainstreamed into the institutional behaviours of rural and urban agencies.

A District Steering Committee (DSC) was created to promote the interaction between urban and rural agencies, peri-urban villagers and NGOs. It provides a useful platform to generate awareness among government officials and politicians about the need to work beyond jurisdictional boundaries, and a number of themes have been identified by DSC participants for the creation of task forces to promote rural-urban collaboration. The formation of these task forces is fully backed up by the new District Commissioner and will hopefully set a precedent for a new approach among government agencies.

During the February visit, together with the project coordinator, Dr Sangeetha Purushotanan, I participated in a meeting of the EU-TERI-IRMA network on ‘Sustainable Settlements in Peri-urban Areas with Special Reference to Impact of Transport and Energy on Natural Resource Management’. The meeting was held at the Institute for Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand, Gujarat. This was a good opportunity to present the process and outcomes of the HD project, to reflect on the lessons learnt so far from the project’s institutional component and to examine their transferability. The presentation was well received both by the European and Indian members of the network, which confirmed that, despite some limitations highlighted above, the work done so far in Hubli-Dharwad is a pioneering experience in fostering rural-urban collaboration across government and community organisations. a.allen@ucl.ac.uk

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PhD Speakers’ corner

Ethics in Fieldwork: Connecting Theory with Practice
by Christoph Woiwode

Research ethics, despite being discussed during PhD methodology seminars, are rarely an issue referred to after fieldwork is done. Some codes of ethics offered by various anthropological organisations to researchers provide practical advice, though. Four such organisations spring to mind, namely the American Anthropological Association (AAA), the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth (ASA), the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA), and the German Workgroup Development Anthropology (AGEE e.V.). The guidelines of these organisations have some salient features in common that relate to circumstances faced during fieldwork. In 2002-2003 I conducted fieldwork in India for my PhD thesis about the communication of urban risks between slum dwellers and the municipal corporation of Ahmedabad, using a methodology which combined semi-structured and informal interviews, participant observation and participatory workshops. This experience shows that ethical challenges lurk in many situations.

Respect is a crucial and central dimension involving a personal and moral relationship between the researcher and other people. It was not easy at times to adjust to certain aspects of work culture prevalent in the NGOs and the municipal corporation. During data collection, the principle of free decision of respondents to take part, suitable time and period of research (respecting working hours, holidays and festivals, etc.) all raise issues of respect. This is also to secure the quality of data - an informant who is unwilling to talk will most likely make up some nice stories.

One of the most difficult aspects to be handled during fieldwork was informed consent, the belief in the need for truthful and respectful exchanges between researcher and the people of the study. Explanation had to be given repeatedly regarding purpose of study, anticipated consequences of the research, anticipated use of data, possible benefits of the study and possible harm or discomfort that might affect participants, as well as issues of confidentiality. Informing others about the research is a dynamic and continuous process, not something that is done once and for all in the beginning.

Anticipating harms refers to minimising dis-

DPU extramural activities

Mostar - Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH)
by Wai Han Leekel Tang (ESD student)

Last April, Michael Safier organised a study visit to Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina), with students of the Cosmopolitan Development course to understand the challenges and potentials of urban development issues in a post-conflict situation.

In addition to a series of meetings with local NGOs and development partners, the students met representatives of OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and OHR (Office of High Representatives), respectively in charge of the city economic development and the application of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Lively and glowing, wounded but still standing with dignity, Mostar is a very moving city and I was instantly bewitched by the magnetism it radiates. The visit reminded me of the poem "Le dormeur du val", in which the French writer Arthur Rimbaud (1888) depicted a young soldier apparently sleeping peacefully in a quiet pastoral valley, bathed in sunlight with a river running joyfully. But as we get closer, the lack of breathing and the two red holes in his chest revealed abruptly the bleak tragedy of the war; the young soldier is not sleeping but had succumbed to his injuries. After three years of combat, the conflict opposing the Croat and Bosniak citizens of Mostar ended in 1995; however, the scars of this tragic episode are not only still visible in the physical environment but are anchored in some citizens’ minds and it is translated into a situation of rather odd municipal management characterised by the coexistence of two divided and compartmentalized institutions and functions in health-care, education, planning and regulatory services as well as for communal infrastructure. This is inefficient given the relatively small number (105,000) of its population. The high cost of doing business consequent to the tax-revenue supported redundancy and complex administrative offices is detrimental to the city’s economic development.

Through presentation by the OHR about the new City Statute drafted in December 2003, the students were able to understand the prospect of a more sustainable institutional structure that will enable the administration to better serve the interests of its constituent peoples. The guiding principles should unify the administration and ensure better efficiency as well as a representation of the city administration that reflects its census.

Academic news

INNOVATIVE MSc COURSE ON HOUSING, SLUMS AND THE CITY - to be launched

Responding to the increasing need for affordable MSc Courses and those that address the more practical issues of development, the DPU is developing the first Course of what could prove to be an exciting, innovative approach to international learning.

Housing has been one of the longest-established areas of the DPU and probably the most innovative in combining theory and practice in tackling real-world problems. The new Housing MSc, "Housing, Slums and the City", conforms to all of the current norms and requirements of a MSc Course at UCL, and will be subjected to the same rigorous standards of scrutiny and oversight. The entrance qualifications, requirements and procedures will be the same as any other MSc, and participants will have a comparable teaching load and examination procedures. The main difference will be in the programme of studies.

Students will arrive and register at the DPU at the same time as all the other MSc students, but the teaching will be front-loaded in favour of contact hours, with all of the taught classes concentrated in the first six weeks, with extensive hands-on support for reading and writing skills and using the WebCT (the UCL's teaching Intranet), electronic reference libraries and the Internet. After the six weeks, students will not be required to stay in London, but may return to their own cities with a programme of 'home work' that will rely more on using local material as case studies. Students will be expected to present and discuss their papers with their tutors as well as their classmates, using WebCT, and will submit their papers electronically, for assessment and feedback. All students will then reassemble in April, for 5 weeks, in a city in a Developing country, where the DPU staff will continue the teaching programme. The programme in the host city will start with taught classes with an emphasis on theory and refer extensively to the literature, but after the third week, the emphasis will shift to the practical application of theory, using the host city as a live case study. The students will work in conjunction with local authorities, on a selected residential area, and will study, analyse and attempt to resolve its problems. As well as the group work and exercises, students will also submit analytical papers based on their own reflections. Before leaving, each student will have the opportunity to develop an outline for a dissertation, which they will write over the following three months and submit in September. For this, students will receive support and advice from supervisors via the Internet, and engage in group discussions with their colleagues using WebCT.

During the last week of the course in the case study city, an open, International Housing Conference will be organised, to which the previous year's students with Distinctions or Commendations will be invited to present papers.

As well as having a more intensive, hands-on learning experience which closely relates theory to practice, the new MSc will provide the opportunity for much greater flexibility, especially in the use of time and the ability to link work and studies. It will also be considerably cheaper for most students. Though the fees for the course will be the same as that for other MSc Courses, it will include the costs of the Field Trip (flights, accommodation). However, the costs of staying in London will be reduced, possibly saving as much as £8 to -10,000.

The intention is that the first Housing, Slums and the City Course will be offered in October 2005, with limited places. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, get in touch with the DPU (n.okpara@ucl.ac.uk) for further details.

MSc FIELD TRIPS 2004

"Akwaaba (welcome)"..."Don't Loose Hope"..."In God we trust"...
by Himanshu Sikka (UDP student)

"Three phrases" that students of DAP, ESD, UDP and UED along with Julio D Dávila, Le-Yin Zhang and Michael Walls came across time and again in their 10 day rendezvous with the 'gateway of western Africa', 'the land of smiles' - Ghana. The mission - to provide technical advice to a number of key stakeholders in order to help them devise a set of strategic interventions aimed at improving the living conditions and livelihoods of the poor in the three localities in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, namely James Town, Gbawe and Ashaiman. Less than even a fortnight was never going to be enough.

Akwaaba (welcome) to Ghana- A huge hoarding in front of the airport was enough to indicate what was coming - two weeks of warm welcomes escorted with smiles. Then, whether it was the meetings with government officials, NGOs, Chiefs or the communities involved, we always felt at home and suddenly the blistering summer of May 2004 seemed more than pleasant. The resulting discussions were a big assistance to the numerous doubts that had emerged during the background studies. A closer look at the contrasts that existed between the traditional chieftaincy system and the new 'democratic' assemblies, and how the two complemented each other, provided a useful insight on the issues involved.

Don't Loose Hope - seemed the motto of the clan. In all the destitution and poverty that existed in these settlements, one could find the three golden words written in some corner, reminding everyone of the better days to come. While James Town, being an overcrowded, deficiently serviced fishing town, was seen fighting the fierce competition from the big fishing companies to safeguard its dismal livelihood, the people in Gbawe, on the peri-urban interface, were found struggling to counter the changing landscape of their area, from being a traditional village to a rapidly growing middle-class urban sprawl. Ashaiman, a home for...
enough to tell the plight of these industrious workers and about the kind of opportunities that existed. But even in all this adversity, people surely had hope for a brighter future, even when they were prepared for the worst.

In God we trust - A handcraft seller was fascinated by this young man from India who studied in London and was doing a research project on Ghana. The researcher was amazed by the salesman’s knowledge of India, form Bollywood to its national politics. What staggered the researcher more was the salesman being a college graduate, visibly unable to find a formal sector job. The board on his shop said, IN GOD WE TRUST, and he called the researcher ‘Olubunmi’ (meaning God’s gift), as he felt that this researcher will soon become a practitioner and use his knowledge to help them out of their hardship. Laden with such trust, and a few souvenirs (to remind him of his promise), the researcher had to move on.

The last few days of this stopover in our academic lives, were spent measuring the length and breadth of the country, trying to understand what lies behind these ‘three phases’ and what made Marcus Garvey say ‘No one knows when the hour of Africa’s redemption cometh. It is in the wind, it is coming. One day like a storm, it will be here. When that day comes, all Africa will stand together.’ Many of these questions still remain unanswered.

(The credit of the success of this visit goes fully to the smiles and warmth of James Town, Gabwe and Ashaiman communities, their Chiefs and to the valuable support of George Opata, Enmanuel Lashon -Cudsiw, Ismaeel J.J. Avisah, Veronica Ayi - Bonte and many other officials & organisations who gave us their valuable time. Many thanks to the DPU staff for helping us have such an enriching experience).

Parade Gardens Found
An exploration of an alternative for the NHT
Housing proposal in Parade Gardens
by Manosh Dé (BUDD student)

For three weeks in May 2004, Kingston, the capital of irie Jamaica, was home to the students of BUDD, Babar Mumtaz and Katja Schäfer. The trip was conducted under the aegis of the National Housing Trust (NHT) of Jamaica who invited the students to critique and improve the institution’s own proposal for a neighbourhood housing scheme in downtown Kingston known as Parade Gardens (PG).

The initial reading and briefing revealed that political allegiances to Jamaica’s primary political parties, the People’s National Party (PNP) and the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), had divided PG for many years with frequent wars. This had led to the formation of garrison communities known by their unofficial names Tel Aviv (PNP) and Southside (JLP). As a result, streets, plots and homes were often divided between people. Though this division still exists today, there is a relative state of peace that has prompted the government under PNP to implement a housing scheme for almost 1500 households in the area before the next elections.

Unfortunately NHT, the implementing body, is under pressure from the government to employ contractors who have prescribed the use of four storied walk-up apartments whose size and construction require the existing neighbourhood fabric to be completely changed. Besides, the new scheme would accommodate only 700 of the 1500 families of PG in its new flats besides uprooting existing social networks and many homes that are in good condition.

The students set up base in Patrick Stanigar’s office, an architect based within PG, documenting, studying and analysing community needs, and overcoming security concerns to spend time in the area. The initial surprise and suspicions of the community were soon overcome with the interest and bonhomie of the students who absorbed all that was around them to come up with a completely new proposal that took its roots in the people and addressed their physical, financial and social aspirations.

The detailed survey of sample areas in Tel Aviv and Southside, conducted with facilitators from within the community, revealed homes in good condition, upgradable homes and underused social facilities which was felt could become the nucleus around which the new plots could be developed. The preservation of the existing street grid and flexible layout configuration highlighted other advantages; including maintaining social networks, low spending on infrastructure, and the continuation of lane and yard living. They also made suggestions regarding the creation of employment opportunities by harnessing the inevitable government spending in the area by training the local population to build their own homes. BUDD recommended that by adopting a bottom up approach through the creation of a Parade Gardens Management Trust the viability of the project would be enhanced as the local groups would unite to maintain ownership of the project to ensure its sustainability.

The results, synthesized with the students’ convictions honed during the year’s Masters course, were presented to the NHT in the presence of the different government agencies including the Urban Development Corporation, members of the Caribbean School of Architecture and MP Cummings, and demonstrated that it was possible to provide one-storey homes and yards for all who wished to remain in the community while still preserving a majority of the present urban fabric. Respect to all the friends in Jamaica for making the whole experience come alive.
Academic news (continues)

Exploring Gender Energy Needs in Kaloleni and Daraja Mbili, Arusha.

by Anna Kilkenny (SDP student)

In May 2004, the students of SDP accompanied Sheilah Meikle and Patrice North to Arusha, Tanzania, enjoying the experience of field work with the assistance and hospitality of the Community Development Training Institute (CDTI), with which the DPU has developed a long-standing friendship and working partnership. Our group of eleven students was divided into two teams to explore the nexus of gender, energy and poverty in Kaloleni and Daraja Mbili Wards of Arusha district. These wards are primarily unplanned, with limited access to electricity, and residents most often depend on charcoal and firewood for energy use. The objective was to conduct research and analysis on the gender energy needs of local residents in order to propose an energy-related intervention that could potentially improve their livelihoods. Having established Terms of Reference and reviewed existing research, a transect walk of our respective wards enabled us to observation existing income generating activities, types of energy use, and gender roles, while identifying key informants for interviews. We conducted semi-structured interviews with identified stakeholder, including local residents and business men and women, officials from Arusha Municipal Council and representatives of local non-governmental organizations; and then, using problem tree analysis, facilitated focus groups in order to assess factors which influence energy use and the role of energy in income-generating activities. Our recommendations included a tool-for-hire programme, bio gas development and cooperatives for manufacturing energy-efficient stoves and briquettes. These proposals were then presented to various stakeholders at our final workshop at CDTI, and DPU staff and students on return to London. We are most grateful for the leadership and assistance of both DPU staff and CDTI colleagues, and look forward to a continued partnership between the DPU and their Tanzanian colleagues in the future.

Experimental Building Workshop at CAT

by Huraera Jabeen (BUDD student)

The BUDD students went for the experimental building workshop to the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Machynclith, Wales from 11th to 14th June. The course, conducted by Maurice Mitchell, aimed at providing them with the opportunity to design and build with the materials available on and around the site. The students were involved in a process of experimentation and group brainstorming to generate ideas exploring the inherent quality of the materials, which eventually were modified throughout the construction phase. The end products of the four different groups, made out of materials like straw, slate, bamboo and wooden log, varied in character. The roofing frame from bamboo evolved from exploring its capacity to work as a rigid structure by binding the parts together in a geometric pattern. Another group made an experimental effort to fasten straw with chicken wire and ultimately check its suitability to work as a roof frame. The process of creating an arch out of slate, using mud as binding material, went a long way despite limitations of time. The frame made from the logs by another group served as a support structure for the innovative swing woven by Marissa and others.

The students benefited from the culture of going through the hands-on construction experience while enjoying the vegetarian food and scenic beauty of the centre’s environment.

International networks

At the invitation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations, Le-yin Zhang attended the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum: Sustainable Development for Cities between 25th and 26th February in Hong Kong. Le-yin writes: The Forum was a sizeable gathering with more than 400 participants from all over the Asia-Pacific region. Its purpose is ‘to bring together leaders from municipal governments, academia, the scientific community, professional institutions, civil society and business to explore ways and means of implementing sustainable development initiatives at the municipal level.’ On the basis of a paper that I was asked to produce for the session on Economic Growth and Job Creation, I made a presentation entitled ‘Globalisation and the Quality of Growth: New challenges for Asia-Pacific Cities’. The key argument of my presentation is that implementing the principle of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region requires a better quality of economic growth. Moreover, this will have to be achieved in an environment that in various ways is less favourable than before. Therefore new sources of growth and forms of governance are needed to realise sustainable development. The paper has been included in a CD distributed to all participants and will be placed later on the Forum’s dedicated website. My presentation received very positive comments from the audience for the interest of the data and the quality of analysis presented. I am pleased to report that the name of the DPU was recognised by a number of people, who came to me enquiring after some of the current and past members of the staff. 


Adriana Allen and Edesio Fernandes went to Brasilia in May 2004 to participate in an international workshop on ‘Gestao Territorial e Ambiental na Amazonia’. The workshop was attended by about 70 participants from various departments of the University of Brasilia and a number of professionals from various divisions of the Ministries of Environment and Integrated Planning. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss the achievements and shortcomings of a series of innovative environmental planning tools that can complement the use of Ecological Economic Zoning (EEZ), such as water councils and micro-regional watershed instruments and extractive reserves. The
workshop looked at the need to understand the role played by urban settlements in the development of Amazonia and the need to overcome the anti-urban bias that characterised interventions in the past. The outcomes of the workshop will be available in the form of a publication, supported by DFID and administered by the British Council in Brazil.

The workshop was part of an academic link between the DPU and the Nucleus of Urban and Regional Studies (NEUR) of the National University of Brasilia, also supported by DFID. Since its inception, the purpose of the link has been to support a conceptual and methodological discussion of the role of urban space in the application of Ecological-Economic Zoning (EEZ), a tool adopted in Brazil in the mid-1980s to guide territorial and environmental planning, which so far has focused on pristine nature, ignoring the role that cities play in shaping decisions over larger regions. The DPU and NEUR teams will meet again in November in Rio Branco (Acre) to discuss with a group of practitioners current experiences in including an urban perspective in the application of EEZ, exploring the room to articulate this tool to the formulation of municipal plans.

In the Autumn and Spring terms, DPU students and staff were treated to a highly stimulating series of seminars by a number of visiting lecturers. In November, under the title "Changing Social Behaviour: Public Policy in Bogotá, 1995-2003", Ismael Ortiz, an Anthropologist based at the Urban Observatory in the Mayor’s Office in Bogotá, Colombia, shared his long experience in designing and monitoring education and awareness campaigns as some of the central tenets of the major physical, financial and cultural transformation that this city has experienced over the past 10 years.

In December, as part of the British Council-sponsored link between the DPU and the University of Brasilia, Prof. Mario Diniz de Araujo Neto and Prof. Marília Steinberger, from the University of Brasilia, and Prof. Olga Maria Shild Becker, from the University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, outlined the findings of their research on "Ecological-Economic Zoning: A review of experience in the Amazon Basin". Brazil was again the subject of discussions in the Spring with a seminar by DPU Associate and lecturer Dr. Edésio Fernandes, who spent a year in Brasilia as Director of Land Affairs in the newly created Ministry of Cities; following a brief background on the creation and aims of the Ministry, Edésio shared with his audience the considerable challenges and opportunities facing a not very well endowed but potentially important institution rooted in the hopes and expectations of a vast urban movement allying a range of very diverse interests.

The subject of urban challenges was continued by Ronaldo Ramírez, DPU Honorary Senior Research Fellow, who outlined part of a large research project on "People’s initiatives in the ‘barrios’ of Havana, Cuba"; this reviewed some of the factors of success and the considerable scope for creativity of community development projects that have arisen in the context of major financial and trade difficulties brought about by the end of the Cold War and the consequent collapse of Soviet support to the Caribbean island.

A number of former DPU students also shared their experience with us. Thanks to the good offices of Dr Zeremariam Fre, DPU lecturer and director of London-based NGO PENHA, Michael Walls and Yoshia Morishita, former students of the MSC in Development Administration and Planning, were able to put their skills to the test earlier this year for periods ranging between five weeks and six months in Somaliland and Eritrea, respectively. This was followed by the now traditional yearly panel discussion by a range of former DPU students on their experiences in the labour market: Dr. Srivivas Sampath, Julian Walker, Jane Hobson and Diana Giambagi talked with current students about their work experience, and provided useful tips for those ending their MSc courses this Summer.

This very fruitful round of seminars came to a thought-provoking end with a presentation by Jai Sen, independent development and movement researcher, campaignist, member of the World Social Forum India Organising Committee in 2002, and co-editor, with Anita Anand, Arturo Escobar and Peter Waterman of The World Social Forum: Challenging Empires, 2004 (published by The Viveka Foundation). Jai, an old friend of the DPU, discussed the origins and potential of the World Social Forum, the vast and highly diverse movement that has expanded very rapidly since its inception in Porto Alegre, Brazil, four years ago.

**Security and Development - The New Agenda**

On behalf of the DPU, Michael Safir attended the 2004 Conference of Development Studies Centres (CDSC) held in Birmingham. The meeting is the annual gathering of the group of institutions where academic and professional staff undertake teaching, training, research and consultancy related to various aspects of 'development'. In addition to discussing issues around the funding of development research in Britain, the Conference considered as a 'Subject Theme', "Security and Development". The contributions covered the 'new security agenda' and development; security, interventions and global governance in historical perspective; the current context of security and responses to new wars and 'terror'; and the experience of DFID involvement in pre- and post-war Iraq 2003-4. Surveying these debates, Michael writes: it is clear that a new intellectual agenda and academic field has emerged from old style ‘international relations’ and ‘military policy’ areas, beginning with the end of the Cold War, but accelerated since ‘9/11’. This field is referred to as ‘Human Security’, and it brings with it a term, ‘securitisation’, which in the fashionable conceptual vocabulary is beginning to stand alongside ‘globalisation’ and ‘democratisation’. The implication would seem to be a need for ‘development’ to embrace global perspectives (rather than the perspectives of LDCs themselves) on issues concerning ‘weak/failed’ states, civil wars and humanitarian interventions, etc., and for poverty to be considered in relation to its ‘security’ implications. For example, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has provided large scale (£2.5m) multi-year funding for a research programme in ‘New Security Challenges’.

The concern with emerging security and international intervention issues has escalated over the past three years, with very large resources now devoted to an array of programmes. The institutional focus in DFID has been the Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department, which has a separate budget from the Policy Division; but there is now the wider grouping of DFID, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), jointly undertaking activities through what is known as a ‘Global Conflict Prevention Pool’, which embraces a series of specific country ‘strategies’ (from Afghanistan and Bosnia to Sri Lanka) plus ‘support’ strategies on wider themes.

At a subsequent session of the CDSC executive Michael was invited to join a panel which will discuss the future continuation of CDSC, and its relationship to the Development Studies Association (DSA) over the next months.
hands on

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

BIRTH OF A NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

In July Patrick Wakely attended an historic two-day workshop in Johannesburg that launched the Coalition of the Urban Poor. The workshop, which was attended by representatives of some 150 organisations of urban shack-dwellers was addressed by the new South African Minister for Housing, Dr Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu, who spent nearly three hours debating and negotiating with slum community leaders, most of whom were women.

The Coalition of the Urban Poor is an initiative that has emerged from the South African Homeless Peoples Federation. The Federation was started in 1991 as a network of savings groups that now has over 1,500 member groups in 700 urban informal settlements engaging some 100,000 families. The Federation’s savings (managed by a wholly owned subsidiary called the uShani Fund) now has a capital investment of £4.8 million and has generated an estimated £35 million of benefits over the last 10 years. Though most groups are saving in order to build permanent dwellings, many use the locally generated funds to start or develop enterprises, construct community facilities or improve their environment. These activities inevitably have led to extensive interaction with government both at the local and national level, particularly around the issues of secure title to land and finance for housing, infrastructure and urban services - issues that have been a relatively low priority amongst the ANC’s (African National Congress) many concerns for nation building over the last decade. However, this seems to be changing. So now is the time for the urban poor, and the NGOs that support them, to step up the pressure.

The Coalition is a loose association of organised urban communities mainly from the five metropolitan areas of the country but no way confined to them. Its principal operational vehicle is the organisation of exchanges and visits between peer groups of slum community leaders in different towns and cities to discuss and learn from each other’s problems, experiences, approaches and solutions. Clearly the Homeless Peoples Federation, which is one of the biggest of the many grassroots organisations that are already affiliated to the Coalition, will have an important role to play in its development. However, it will have the support of the Community Organisation Urban Resource Centre (COURC), a national NGO that was set up two years ago to provide intellectual, operational and capacity building support to the homeless peoples movement in South Africa and has been the principal instigator of the Coalition of the Urban Poor.

Patrick Wakely’s role is that of advisor to Ibis, a Danish NGO (backed by Danish government aid) that has been providing support to the COURC and was instrumental in funding the regional workshops and other activities that led up to the national workshop in July at which the Coalition was launched. He is recommending that Ibis should continue to support the Coalition of the Urban Poor process, giving particular attention to the interface between urban low-income communities and local and central government.

Ibis is committed to strengthening the democratic processes of the post-apartheid government of South Africa as well as assisting the growth and development of civil society institutions and organisations. By extending and reinforcing the bridges between the two, Ibis will contribute to both, as well as to the avoidance of potential confrontation and conflict between them, out of which there will be no winners.

Visit: www.courc.co.za/coalition.htm and www.dialogue.org.za

Fact sheets on urban and rural change for DFID

In July, Michael Walls undertook a project for DFID’s Urban and Rural Change team to produce a series of fact sheets. The aim is designed to add to understanding within DFID of many of the complexities and irregularities pertaining to urban and rural contexts, and, most particularly, instances in which reality contradicts accepted interpretations of urban, peri-urban and rural experiences. The fact sheets covered a range of topics, including a survey of national definitions of ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ (the latter usually being the default position for ‘everything that’s not urban’); changing national sectoral contributions to GDP in selected countries; varied intra-urban and intra-rural experiences in service provision; and widespread diversification of livelihoods, reflecting a highly varied and uneven shift away from traditional forms of rural and peri-urban agriculture and the growth in reliance on diverse income sources.

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Trip to Somaliland and Ethiopia

In April, Michael Walls spent four weeks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and in Somaliland, working for Horn of Africa NGO PENHA. Michael’s week in Addis Ababa was spent largely on meeting partner organisations, while his three weeks in Somaliland involved travel through the central regions of the country, visiting an number of projects while preparing a mid-term evaluation of a micro-credit project targeting pastoralist women in the villages of Qoyta, Yiroowe and Kabodheere in Togdheer. Much of Somaliland has bee badly affected by drought in recent seasons, with Togdheer suffering three consecutive failed rains, while the 2004 Gu’ rains started well, but then petering out early. This has had a substantial affect on the ability of pastoralists to maintain herd sizes, and has consequently contributed to rapid urbanisation as many women in the villages of Qoyta, Yiroowe and Kabodheere move to Togdheer. The same process has also added to ongoing environmental degradation as others turn to charcoal creation as the primary alternative to livestock rearing. The project has been successful in helping many women in the three villages to establish or expand viable small businesses that rival the promise of future household income diversification and greater resilience to perennial drought.

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The DPU’s Gender Policy and Planning Programme in 2004

2004 will be remembered as the year that University College London (UCL) launched its MA in Gender Studies. Caren Levy has been on the Steering Committee to develop this joint interdisciplinary venture in UCL, which will be run for the first time in September 2004. The course offers a taught or a research pathway, with the aim of providing students with the advanced skills, methods, concepts and theories for the study of gender in an interdisciplinary context at graduate level. In addition to its newly developed core course, on which Caren Levy will teach some sessions, it will draw on modules offered by different departments in UCL. This will include the DPU’s module on Gender Policy and Planning. We hope that this is just the beginning of joint work on gender issues in UCL.

The DPU’s activities in training and advisory work reflect our ongoing choice for long term organizational development with partners who are committed to gender mainstreaming. In 2004 the DPU continued its work with the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). Even though Nadia Taher left the DPU last year, she has continued to help Caren Levy and Julian Walker provide the backstopping which SDC requires on a number of ongoing issues, including the monitoring of its gender policy and gender guidelines; the completion of a publication pulling together SDC’s gender mainstreaming experience; and different kinds of advisory work in-country. An example of the latter is Julian and Nadia’s work with SDC in Eastern Europe. In 2004, Julian visited Armenia (gender equality in planning workshops on projects for rural development and media sector), and Kosovo and Albania (strategy to mainstream gender into their operations).

This work follows on advisory work which the DPU did in Eastern Europe last year, including visits to Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Russia to assist SDC address gender equality issues amongst target populations in a range of sectors, from health sector reform to organic agriculture.

2004 also saw the development of two new gender training programmes for SDC, one on a general introduction to gender issues in development and a second on the application of the SDC Gender Guidelines. These two workshops were run in English by Caren Levy and Claudi Youhé, and in French by Claudi Youhé and Adam Moussa. Adam, who comes from Mali, is a former participant on a French speaking gender training in the DPU, and this year he is a new - and we hope regular - addition to the DPU’s Gender Policy and Planning team.

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Obituary

SERGEY HAKOJBANYAN 1958-2004

DPU News is sad to record the death of a current student, Sergey Hakobjanyan, who was in the second year of his M.Phil/Ph.D. course.

A citizen of Armenia, Sergey had a long and successful career dealing with practical humanitarian issues. He developed a particular technical speciality in water and sewage systems, although he was not narrowly confined to this area of work. His early career was in different parts of the USSR, including a posting in Volgograd, dealing with earthquake zone reconstruction. Subsequently, his selfless and efficient humanitarian work often led him to dangerous trouble-spots. He worked for the International Rescue Committee with displaced persons in Chechnya, and with Oxfam projects in Yugoslavia and elsewhere. In the early 2000s, just before beginning his studies at the DPU, Sergey worked in Iraq for the Observation Unit for Risk and Disaster Management, UN-Habitat, with responsibility for central and South Iraq. He leaves a wife and four children. DPU News has received the following tributes:

Nadia Taher (Director of the DPU M.Phil/Ph.D. programme during Sergey’s first academic year)

This is such terrible news about Sergey. Ever since I heard this news I have found it very hard to believe. I am so sad and I feel for Sergey’s family and friends who must be devastated by his sudden death. From the way Sergey spoke about his family, one could tell that he loved and cared for them very deeply. Sergey was a kind, caring and warm person. He was also a serious professional who had a wide and rich experience in many parts of the world. He was determined to write a PhD that would consolidate his experience and help him to explore new dimensions of his work. I am sure that Sergey will always be remembered for these qualities by everyone who knew him in the DPU.

This is especially true for those who were involved with him in the first year of his PhD programme, including me and his PhD colleagues of that year.

Robert Biel (Supervisor)

I regarded Sergey as someone of great integrity who was strongly resistant to any self-serving opportunism or toadying to dominant discourses. A recognised and respected professional with tremendous reputation and experience, he scarcely needed the Ph.D. to get a job. His motivation was something quite different: to articulate a coherent vision which he could pursue with a clear conscience. The construction of this involved him in immense intellectual struggles, which may indeed have contributed to his ill-health. As his supervisor, I was perhaps in a privileged position to understand how his thinking was crystallising at the point of his untimely death. Starting from a deep love for his own country, Sergey extended this to a commitment to work for practical improvements in the conditions of ordinary people everywhere, and specifically in the field of environmental planning and management. On this basis he understood the negative legacy of the old Soviet system with its lack of responsiveness, and extreme voluntaristic neglect of environmental constraints. At the same time, he firmly argued that the Soviet form of these abuses was only a sub-species of a ‘modernisation’ discourse which, in a larger sense, is primarily the fault of capitalism. He thus totally rejected neo-liberalism as a pretended solution to the ills of the former Eastern bloc. He therefore undertook a dialogue with the socialism in which he was educated, exploring various theoretical tools to highlight those aspects of the socialist vision which could be rescued from the shipwreck of Soviet dogmatism. In particular Sergey was interested in reasserting the value of high central investment and long-term planning, under two conditions: a deep ecological strategic vision as the guiding principle, and effective grassroots structures of decision-making. It is to be hoped that his legacy will inspire others to carry to fruition a project which his death leaves, for the moment, tragically incomplete.
connections

Letter's corner

Ana Regina Chiarelli Ferraz (International Housing Studies, 1996-7) has recently been invited to join a research group of the Public Policy Study Center of the University of Campinas, Brazil (UNICAMP). The group has been commissioned by CDHU, the São Paulo State Housing and Urban Development Company, to research housing policy in São Paulo State over the last decade. Ana Regina writes: Doubtless the reason I was invited to join the group was the knowledge I acquired in DPU.
anaregina@nepp.unicamp.br

Dawit Tesfaye (DAP 1998-9) is currently employed as a Fellow of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has been working on the African Governance Report, due to be launched at the Commission for Africa (ECA), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has been working on the sixth African Development Forum in October 2004.
http://www.uneca.org/adf/adfiv/programme-adf.htm

Erina Yamazaki (UDP 2002-3) has recently taken up a post as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The post is based in Jakarta, Indonesia and includes examining the progress and performance of around 50 ongoing development projects sponsored by the bank. One of her tasks is to classify the issues which donor agencies in Indonesia have in common, such as capacity building etc, and come up with solutions for improvement. Erina writes ‘I found the TOR very interesting and challenging and it will be a significant task for more effective and efficient aid for Indonesia. And I am happy and fortunate to get a chance to challenge it. I am also excited about this new experience as I was keen on working in a developing country, being involved in development work. I hope that I can carry out the TOR with the approach which I have learned in DPU.’
wigram618@yahoo.co.jp

Ingrid Olivo (UDP 2000-01) was awarded a scholarship last year to study Urban Environmental Governance in Dresden, Germany, and in the following academic year will be taking up a Fulbright-OAS scholarship, to begin a PhD in Planning in the USA. In the meantime she has been appointed to a post in Barcelona with the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, where she is responsible for setting up a Masters program in planning for developing countries and preparing a publication about land value capture; in between all this she has also found time to obtain her second scuba diving license.
wigram618@yahoo.co.jp

Chloe Pearse (UDP 2000-01) is now in her second year of the DFID Associate Professional Officer (APO) scheme, working at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Bangkok, Thailand. Her work includes looking at ways of strengthening people’s decision making opportunities in addressing rural accessibility problems. Chloe writes: ‘Much of the local governance and gender issues that we looked at in UDP have come into play, thank you.’
pearse@ilo.org

Saeed Abubakari (DAP 2001-2) is now working as a Public Policy Consultant. His recent projects have included work as a Senior Consultant to the World Bank programme to support Croatian ministries in the implementation of public policy reform linked to an IMF US$200 million Structural Adjustment Loan; Senior Consultant to a joint World Bank-DFID investment programme on employment and labour market reforms in Serbia; Team Leader for DFID for the review and evaluation of a £6 million Capacity Building Programme in the Ministry of Social Development, Jordan. He has contributed to a number of key policy documents, including the important DFID White Paper, Making Globalisation Work for the Poor, (2001), and recently published ‘Non-State Actors and the Delivery of Development Policy’, Global Social Policy, Volume 3(3) December 2003. laurie_joshua@hotmail.com

Phuntsho Wangdi (MSc 1986) writes from Bhutan: “I have been transferred as the head of Thimphu (Capital) City Corporation as its Chief Executive since 1999, equivalent to a Mayor or a Commissioner in other cities. The knowledge gained from DPU comes very good stead in my job as the head of the organisation responsible for providing services and ensuring planned growth- I

“do add the valuable and immeasurable contribution DPU has made to my career as a development practitioner. The program management and analytical skills from the DAP program are incredible in my role as a Programme officer.”

“Doubtless the reason I was invited to join the group was the knowledge I acquired in DPU.”

staff news

Michael Walls has been at the DPU for two years: first as a student on the Development Administration and Planning (DAP) MSc, then as a teaching assistant and associate of the Unit. In the latter capacity, he has undertaken projects for UN-HABITAT on two occasions; firstly a mid-term review of the Urban Management Programme, followed by a review of progress in human settlements towards the Millennium Development Goals. He is also working for DFID’s urban and rural change team. As a teaching assistant, Michael’s responsibilities have included teaching and support duties relating to the Plans, Programmes and Projects (D11) module as well as more general support for the DAP course, including organisation of the 2004 fieldtrip to Accra, Ghana. In 2004/05 Michael will assume greater responsibility for the delivery of D11, as well as commencing study towards an MPhil/PhD at the DPU. Prior to his arrival at DPU, Michael worked for thirteen years in management positions for a number of small and medium-sized communications technology companies in New Zealand and the UK.

Laurie Joshua (DAP 1997-8) is working as an independent Public Policy Consultant. His recent projects have included work as a Senior Consultant to the World Bank programme to support Croatian ministries in the implementation of

Phuntsho Wangdi (MSc 1986) writes from Bhutan: “I have been transferred as the head of Thimphu (Capital) City Corporation as its Chief Executive since 1999, equivalent to a Mayor or a Commissioner in other cities. The knowledge gained from DPU comes very good stead in my job as the head of the organisation responsible for providing services and ensuring planned growth- I
new perspective to my experience in development joining the ILO (International Labour Organization), Volunteers (UNV), I felt it was time to move. I am After 6 years 'urban developing' at United Nations (PhD, 1992) writes: Edmundo Werna Shannon@lead.org has been temporarily based in London. provides leadership training on decision making for Development (LEAD), a non-profit organization that Team of Leadership for Environment and Capacity Development Program Associate in the (DAP 2001-2) Shannon Bradley (DAP 2001-2) is currently working as Program Associate in the Capacity Development Team of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), a non-profit organization that provides leadership training on decision making for sustainable development. Over the past year she has been temporarily based in London. shannon@lead.org Edmundo Werna (PhD, 1992) writes: After 6 years 'urban developing' at United Nations Volunteers (UNV), I felt it was time to move. I am joining the ILO (International Labour Organization), with a focus on the Construction Industry. It is an important career move for me, and it will add a new perspective to my experience in development in general and human settlements in particular. Looking back at UNV, I am pleased to see that, from a situation of very little urban interventions until the late 1990s, this agency now has a conceptual framework and a sizeable portfolio of urban activities. Now it has proved that it can provide a distinctive value within international (urban) aid. edwerna@goloforte.com.br http://www.unv.org/infobase/volunteerism/Caring_cities.pdf; http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/sectors constr.htm Anna Kilkenny (SDP 2003-04) writes: "Following the completion of my MSc. in Social Development, I depart for Dhaka to begin work as Programme Development Officer with the Irish NGO, 'Concern'. Drawing on my experience with the Development Planning Unit in preparing and writing student consultants' reports, my role will involve building the capacity of local counterparts to carry out programme reports and evaluations. With almost 34 years of work in Bangladesh, Concern has developed programmes in the areas of livelihood security, education, health, and emergency response, and within these, work on capacity building, to 'increase [local] ability to cope with crises and to contribute long term to the elimination of poverty' (www.concern.net). During my two year post, I'll have the opportunity to travel to these programmes throughout Bangladesh, and having lived in China during my school years, I look forward to other travels throughout Asia also. It's difficult to anticipate what lies in the year ahead, but I intend to keep in close contact with the DPU and hope to provide an update once settled into life and work in Dhaka." Harumi Akiba (ESD 1997-98) writes: "I am still working at the Frontier Research System for Global change but I have been upgraded to a new position. I am now in the planning section dealing with research plans management and with the development of new relationship with other institutes. I am currently in charge of a secretariat office of Intergovernmental Panel of Global Change (IPCC) in our institute. One of our institute's missions is to contribute to the IPCC report and to support some of the research teams working on Global Warming prediction. I hope our research results will turn out to be an international asset!" harumi_frontier@yahoo.co.jp Birth & Marriages Salma Nims (ESD 1997 and PhD 2000) gave birth to a beautiful boy called Zayn. Congratulations to Salma and her husband Samer! In February Jeremy Ben-shalom (ESD 2002-03) got married to Hanita in Reno, Nevada. He writes: "It was a charming moment that the two of us had completely for ourselves. Our wedding party took place on the 25th of June in Jerusalem in a very charming garden. We are happier than ever." Laurence Salmon (ESD 2001-02) got married to Cyril in February. It was a lovely day and she further writes "I am very happy to announce that a new baby boy was born on May 18th, his name is Etienne." Yukako Kaneda (ESD 1999-2000) got married to Kazuhiro Kamiyama in February, congratulations to both of them. DPU 50th anniversary This coming academic year the DPU is celebrating its 50th anniversary. As an outcome of a conference on 'Tropical Architecture' in London 1953, Otto Königsberger designed a course at graduate level, which was first taught in 1954 to a total of 24 students. This historical momentum will be marked, among other things, by an international conference on an important development theme in the Summer of 2005, details to be announced in the next issue. The Conference will be co-ordinated by Caren Levy (c.levy@ucl.ac.uk). In the meantime, we welcome reminiscences from DPU alumni as well as suggestions from people outside the DPU on how to get them involved in the celebration activities. Please get in touch with Babar Mumtaz (b.mumtaz@ucl.ac.uk), Patrick Wakely (p.wakely@ucl.ac.uk) or Pascale Hofmann (p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk).
Hartmut Schmetzer
1941–2004

With great regret and sadness we announce the untimely death of our close friend and colleague Hartmut Schmetzer on 15 August. Hartmut was one of the small group of staff, that with Otto Koenigsberger, was responsible for the foundation of the DPU when it moved from the Architectural Association to UCL in 1971. He was largely responsible for developing the housing programmes in the Unit and had a major influence in widening its scope and the content of its teaching programmes in the early 1970s. In 1972 he and two colleagues (Mario Novella and Patrick Wakely, and joined later by Babar Mumtaz) established the DPU Training and Advisory Service (TAS), with a grant from the Nuffield Foundation to design a training programme on Urban Housing that over the next four years they delivered in a variety of forms in schools of architecture and planning in some 10 cities in Asia and Africa.

In 1977 he left the DPU on his appointment as Housing Advisor to the Tanzania Housing Bank in Dar-es-Salaam. Three years later he moved to Nairobi and expanded his field of work as Manager of the World Bank Kenya 3rd Urban Project. In 1981 he returned to teaching and research when he was appointed Associate Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture in the University of Zambia and spent the next six years building up the school into a formidable academic and professional department, making a significant contribution to building capacity in the African region.

In 1990 he joined the Urban Development Division of the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida) where, over the last 14 years, he has made an important contribution to urban development, housing and poverty reduction not only through the Swedish aid programme but also through his guidance and advice to international programmes such as the UN Urban Management Programme and the World Bank/UN-Habitat Cities Alliance.

Throughout his career Hartmut remained a close friend and Associate of the DPU and continued to contribute to many of its activities. He was a thorough, thoughtful and reliable professional who had the trust and respect of an extensive network of urban and development specialists and activists around the world. At the same time he was compassionate, considerate and a warm and sociable friend to all who knew him and worked with him. He had a deep sense of justice and fair play and a commitment to human development and education that made him a respected teacher in the widest sense.

Hartmut died of a heart attack on his way to a new stage in his career as Regional Urban Advisor to Sida for Southern Africa, stationed in Lusaka, returning to a country where he had lived and worked for many years and where he had written a book on its traditional architecture and building. His wife, Eva, was with him. Our deepest condolences go to her and their sons, Christian, Johan and Martin, in their distress. We have lost a close friend and respected colleague, but his spirit and inspiration remain and will be reflected upon in the DPU family and in the wider urban development community for years to come.

Cover photograph: Accra, Ghana – by Julio Davila

diary & announcement

THE VULNERABILITY OF CITIES

DPU, London 11 November 2004, 5.30pm

This seminar, hosted by the DPU, is part of a UCL Inter-Department Seminar Series on Natural Disasters, Development and the Environment. Dr. Mark Pelling, the author of ‘The Vulnerability of Cities’ (2003) and Natural Disaster and Development in a Globalizing World” (2003) will be the guest speaker. To find out more about the UCL Inter-Department Seminar Series please visit http://www.benfieldhrc.org/SiteRoot/resources/seminar_series.htm.

GLOBAL RESEARCH NETWORK ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), Anna Tibaijuka, has appointed Professor Patrick Wakely to the Advisory Board of the United Nations Global Research Network (HS-Net).

The purpose of the HS-Net is to increase global collaboration and exchange of information on human settlements conditions and trends, as well as on progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, agreed at Istanbul in 1996, and towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Targets on slums, drinking water and sanitation.