



dpu

The Development Planning Unit
University College London

2 Focus On
Dilemmas in Urban
Development Planning
Education

by Caren Levy

4 Research On
Governance of Water and
Sanitation Services for the
peri-urban poor

*by Adriana Allen, Julio Davila, and
Pascale Hofmann*

6 Staff News
Retirements

8 50 years of DPU
Responses to the DPU
History

9 PhD Completions

10 Hands on
DPU Training & Advisory
Service

13 Post-tsunami
Ongoing activities

14 Connections
News from ex-students &
friends

16 Special Announcement
DPU 50th Anniversary
Conference

dpu news

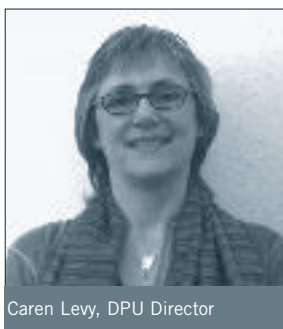
issue 49 june 2006



focus on

Dilemmas in Urban Development Planning Education: Positioning the DPU

by Caren Levy



Caren Levy, DPU Director

For fifty years the DPU has been engaged with urban and regional development in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. In this context, the dilemma of teaching an action-oriented 'professional' practice to address poverty and inequality in urban centres of the South in an academic environment in the North, is a central tension. This tension drives a constant re-examination of what the DPU is and what it does. The apparent incongruities range from the ideological, with respect to the 'politics' of international development and planning, to the practical, with respect to balancing academic demands with planning practice, and to balancing practice-based education in the changing context of higher education.

The 'politics' of international development

The issue of the politics of North-South relations goes right back to the DPU's very roots, and its origins in 'tropical architecture'. Otto Koenigsberger, the first Director of the DPU was known for challenging post-colonial planning in countries like India and Singapore. The early DPU saw its work as contributing to the post-independence 'project' in Africa and Asia, as well as to the policy and planning coming out of progressive social movements in Latin America in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. The DPU's contribution was, as it continues to be, critical and reflective. It involves the 'deconstruction' of 'western' thought and knowledge about the notion of development, of development policy-making and planning, and of the power relations embedded in them.

Out of this process, the DPU has, over the years, made proposals for the 'reconstruction' of the way development and underdevelopment is understood, and of the way policy and planning is conceived and implemented. For example, in planning terms, many governments inherited colonial regula-

tory planning frameworks. While in many cases they had little impact 'on the ground', these frameworks helped to promote an anti-poor ideology with derivative regulations and standards obstructive to the majority of poor citizens in fast urbanising cities of the South. Drawing in mid-career professionals largely from countries of the South, the DPU contributed, through its teaching, research and training, to the growth of a counter-argument and practice to this post-colonial urban planning.

In the contemporary global scene, the terms of the debate have changed, leading some to assert that global forces have shattered the old boundaries between 'developed' and 'developing', between 'first' and 'third' worlds. The politics of globalisation and development pose new challenges for the relationship between countries of the North and South, where these very labels are under scrutiny. Whatever the position, part of this global reality is that "85 percent of the growth in the world's population between 2000 and 2010 will be in urban areas, and nearly all this growth will be in Africa, Asia and Latin America." (Satterthwaite, 2005:3)

What can the DPU offer in the contemporary setting? The response is that it must offer excellence in three areas: a comparative view of urban development and urban policy-making and planning across the international spectrum; an honest and critical assessment of contemporary development and planning debates; and an open and convivial space conducive to mutual learning. This links directly to a second area of apparent incongruity.

Practice in academia

The tensions in teaching planning practice in an academic environment are played out in the content and pedagogical approach of

the DPU's postgraduate courses. In terms of content, the DPU continues to weave together three threads in its courses: theory, methodology and practice. The DPU navigates through the complex interaction of these threads guided by our vision, wherein urban development teaching should contribute to a just urban area where its citizens, women and men in all their diversity, are equally able to choose, plan and manage their own lives, collectively and individually.

The theoretical thread encompasses on the one hand, a critical understanding of global development processes, and their implications for urbanisation, urban development and the lives of women and men in all their diversity in cities and urban areas. On the other hand, within the context of this critical understanding, the theoretical dimension also examines approaches to social power and collective action of different kinds, including policy, planning and management, as exercised by different actors, from the state, the market and civil society. "The nature of urban areas, and the characteristics of policy-making, planning and managing are seen from the wider perspectives of economy, society, politics and environment as a whole, rather than as isolated subjects for analysis... (in addition) there is no simple way to fully integrate (the) complexities and contradictions" of these approaches (MSc Course Guide Urban Development Planning, 2005).

The second thread is a critical engagement with policy-making and planning methodology. There appears to be disquiet on the part of some planning academics that "when planning academics talk about method(s), they mean research methods." (Baum, H., 1997:22) Another legitimate concern is that teaching planning skills and techniques can result in getting "hung up on the details of the methods rather than the implications of the methods in planning practice." (Frank, N., 2002:321) The risk is that methods could be inappropriately applied because of a lack of reflection on their underlying assumptions.

DPU courses centrally address policy and planning methodology in its own right. However, as the triangular relationship between theory, methodology and practice implies, this takes place through an examination of the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of these methodolo-

gies. This is typified by the 'action planning' approach of Otto Koenigsberger and the DPU staff who worked with him. While development processes may have changed, the challenge which action planning sought to address, remains pertinent. The 'rational comprehensive planning' taught in so many planning departments was and is inappropriate in contexts fraught with conflict and uncertainty. Action planning and its constituent parts sought to integrate analysis and planning action, based on a political and institutional understanding of fast growing cities enmeshed in dynamic local, national and international relations. The current exploration of strategic action planning is one extension of this early 'DPU project' - with a number of contemporary theoretical and methodological debates thrown into the 'pot'. The most important of these inter-linked debates address the scope available for progressive local development in a context of globalising forces driven by powerful international and local players in the market and the state. Closely related to this is the struggle for collective participatory processes within debates about delibera-



Caren Levy chairing the Tsunami meeting at the Development Planning Unit

tive democracy and governance. At a more abstract level, underpinning both these issues is the 're-framing' of the relationship between collective agency and societal structures, and the 're-construction' and re-valuing of different kinds of knowledge.

The third thread in DPU courses is planning practice. Fainstein (2005: 124) emphasises the importance of not treating planning practice in isolation: "...exemplary remedies ... (are often) presented ... without describing and justifying their value premises and without a deep probing of the underlying strategies and conditions that could produce

their desired results." This involves a critical examination of planning practice in the context of theory and methodology, with an understanding of the following dimensions: the conditions under which a particular practice occurs and their implications for the selection and use of particular methodologies and methods; the ideology underlying planning action and the system of values it reflects (for example, community-led and/or state-led); and the impact of the practice on citizens, women and men, girls and boys living in urban areas.

Seen in this way, the teaching of planning poses a number of pedagogical challenges. How else can learning in planning practice be promoted, but through planning practice itself? In its pedagogical approach the DPU has sought to confront students with practice through different 'modes' of learning:

- * A critical analysis of cases of practice, with an awareness of both the interplay of the ideologies of different actors and the limitations of the replicability of particular practices. This is done in a range of different settings: examining cases of

practice in course work; participating in presentations from practitioners; visiting planning projects in London and the UK.

- * Role-playing the planning practitioner in simulated practice, based on reconstruction of 'real' planning experience, usually accompanied by practitioners and/or academics with knowledge of the field. This is primarily done through medium term exercises in teaching modules or in workshops with students from all courses, pooling their multi-

disciplinary knowledge in teamwork and inter-team negotiation.

- * Participating in a limited planning exercise in an urban area of a country of the South, accompanied by a range of local practitioners and academics with knowledge of the 'field'. This is achieved through the field trip attached to the MSc programmes, where students respond to a brief which has been designed bearing in mind the context, the views of local partners and the learning process. The field trip seeks to integrate all elements of the triangle - theory, methodology and practice - in the context of direct field

experience.

How does a unit like the DPU operationalise its approach to the content and pedagogy of planning education with any credibility? The answer has always been through maintaining strong links with planning practice and practitioners in countries of the South. Thus the DPU's repertoire embraces four dimensions of excellence:

- * Teaching which seeks to bridge the differences in 'learning cultures' and disciplinary backgrounds of students;
- * Regular contact with planning practice through consultancy and capacity building, whereby staff 'live' the 'reflective practitioner' role (Schon, 1983);
- * The advancement of scholarship through publication and debate with peers from all corners of the world;
- * Practice-based research, which challenges orthodox agendas and seeks to explore the conditions under which policy-making and planning can contribute effectively to a socially just development.

Practice-based education in research-driven academia

This brings us face to face with another key tension in teaching practice in the current academic context. Higher education and the future of universities in the North should not be separated from contemporary international development processes and debates (see for example, Fox, 1996; Hamdi, 1996; Rubienska, 2001). However, in the academic pursuit of excellence in an increasingly competitive global environment in higher education, 'excellence' tends to be equated to 'research excellence'. Hence, some would argue, the reason for the shift, within planning curricula, from planning methodology to research methodology, from urban planning to 'planning studies', from the 'reflective practitioner' to the 'reflective researcher'.

This not only has implications for the kind of graduate coming out of planning courses, but also for the staff profile and career progression of planning academics in the current university system. However, in discussing the tension between the demands of academia and a practice-based profession like planning, Baum (1997) argues that "(B)etween prevailing university norms and current planning education practices, there is more discretionary room than many academics would allow" (p 26). Rather than

continued on page 12

research on

Governance of water and sanitation services for the peri-urban poor

by *Adriana Allen, Julio Davila, and Pascale Hofmann.*

This three-year DFID-funded project, last reported in issue 47, ended in November this year. At a final workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, the London team met with the five project partners and representatives from External Support Agencies (ESA) to discuss the main project outputs and to learn more about key ESA initiatives.

This note summarises the research findings. A short book and a brochure have been launched at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, where the DPU Peri-urban Team conducted a session on water and sanitation issues in the PUI (see page 10 for more details). Electronic copies of both documents are for download at www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/pui.

Water and Sanitation in the Peri-urban Interface (PUI)

Our case studies revealed that water supply deficits are rarely met by formal infrastructural networks, but rather by more decentralised, informal, means. Peri-urban dwellers and small producers, particularly the poor, are left to their own devices, both their needs and strategies for meeting them remaining 'invisible' to the public sector. Yet our research documented frequent instances of neighbourly solidarity and collective efforts to improve access.

Who Are the Peri-urban 'Water-poor'?

Definitions and statistical information based on conventional urban-rural distinctions make it difficult to determine how many people living in the PUI are 'water poor', in the sense of lacking access to water and sanitation, nor are the water-poor wholly correlated with low-income households.

Health Risks and Livelihoods in the Peri-urban Interface

The water-poor face significant risks of exposure to vector-borne diseases, including ones typical of both rural and urban milieus. Originating through contact with faecal matter, the diseases spread either through the consumption of contaminated water or person-to-person.

Many peri-urban income-earning activities are

water intensive, such as agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and tanning. Lack of water therefore not only constrains personal consumption and hygiene but can pose a serious threat to livelihoods. Time spent collecting water is particularly stressful for women and children, whose education is imperilled. This is aggravated by the high proportion of nuclear families and women-headed households in the PUI.

Land, Housing and Water and Sanitation Services

Many peri-urban settlements, especially poorer ones, develop outside existing 'formal' regulations, so governments feel less compelled to provide them with services.



Pascale Hofmann

Box 1. The Zero Growth Pact and Expansion in Mexico City

In the rural district of Milpa Alta, in the Metropolitan Zone of Mexico Valley, urban expansion threatens crucial environmental city resources. In an attempt to control this process, the District Federal Government has implemented a Zero Growth Pact, an agreement between the authorities and peri-urban dwellers to stop new settlements: only the population recorded in the 1997 census is entitled to public water. Those included in the Pact are expected to police the area and denounce any new settlers. However, informal settlements continue to be established in the area and dwellers are forced to access water through different, and often illegal, means.

Policies to control metropolitan expansion can reinforce unequal access to services (Box 1). Nevertheless, despite poor services and government hostility or negligence, peri-urban settlements remain a viable option, not only for households, but for entrepreneurs and even government agencies themselves. Land can be acquired cheaply and informal service providers are readily available – but these are pricier than conventional systems, and may draw water from unprotected, polluted sources.

The goal of improving access to water and sanitation for the peri-urban poor should not necessarily require formal land or housing tenure, but might instead focus on collective land rights and responsibilities for paying for these basic services.

Water and Sanitation in the PUI: A Technical or Governance Crisis?

The peri-urban poor gain access to water supply and sanitation through diverse strategies. Some are formal, 'policy-driven' mechanisms receiving public institutional support. Others, which can be characterised as 'needs-driven', operate on the basis of solidarity and reciprocity, receiving little or no state support. The research shows that old actors such as the state take on new roles, while new actors such as NGOs and communities step in to fill the gaps, in a process that often empowers them.

Citizens or Consumers?

A fundamental question arises when considering this variety of practices: Are the peri-urban poor citizens or consumers? In other words, what is their juridical status within current policy frameworks regulating the provision of basic services?

The peri-urban poor are both citizens and consumers. National Constitutions in all five case-study countries define water as a human

right. But, in recent years, the introduction of water pricing has fundamentally altered the definition of this 'right'. The right to water and sanitation is not just an entitlement to subsidised services, but a means to ensure that the most disadvantaged groups in society are effectively empowered to have a say in the decision-making process (Box 2). For the peri-

urban poor to have a voice in the provision of water and sanitation, policy-driven and

Box 2. Building Responsible Citizenship in Caracas

Access to water has always been considered a right in Venezuela, and in poor areas has not been charged for. The 1999 Constitution and the new Organic Drinking Water and Sanitation Service Act established clear guidelines on the right to access, and for participation as a means to improve such access. This approach has been very successful, since it is based on a joint responsibility principle whereby state water company projects are supported by committed community participation and vice versa.

At the core of this is the idea that citizenship carries certain rights and duties, including payment for service. Thus, the state water company seeks to develop consumers responsible for payment of the social rate and, in some cases, collective payments since community water meters connected to the mains are being tested in new projects. The establishment of Technical Water Fora ensures the participation of peri-urban communities in the decision making process. These fora have helped raise awareness among the population on the costs associated with the production of water - treatment, transportation and distribution. This not only builds responsible water consumption but helps people to understand what is being charged and why.

market-based strategies must give way to needs-driven ones. These approaches involve a multitude of actors in partnership, resulting in greater innovation, inclusion and delivery approaches responsive to the realities of the peri-urban poor.

The Water and Sanitation Cycle

A wide and diverse range of actors are involved at different stages. The notion of a 'water and sanitation cycle' helps to represent these practices and relationships, and their potential contribution to improved access by the poor and to an environmentally sustainable management of the natural resource base. The different steps are outlined below.

Extraction, Treatment and Storage

Despite decades of large-scale public investments in the extraction and treatment of water through centralised systems, all case studies reveal that demand remains greater than supply, particularly in rapidly expanding



Wilbard Kombe

Box 4. Community-managed Water Schemes in Dar es Salaam

In an attempt to address the chronic problem of potable water supply for low-income communities, the government of Tanzania, with support from the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other funders, has embarked on a programme to reform water supply in metropolitan Dar es Salaam. This includes the DAWASA-led Community Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (CWSSP), with a goal of improving water supply in low-income settlements, including peri-urban ones. This programme aims to institutionalise and scale-up community managed water supply schemes developed in peri-urban areas by appointing NGOs to work with local communities to assist them in identifying water needs, designing and implementing projects and management training.

collaboration with local authorities illustrates this (Box 4). It minimises the time burden of collection, and has the potential to improve livelihoods. A transition from informal vendors to community-managed systems can reduce water charges considerably while increasing municipal revenues for further improvements to the system.

Use and Wastewater Management

Disposal of wastewater carries potential health risks. The study localities possess very limited or no underground sewer systems. Some households have septic tanks but for the poorest, open discharge is common. The affordability of extending sewer systems into

Box 5. The Role of Informal Wastewater Management in Greater Cairo

Peri-urban communities in both Cairo and Giza lack a public underground sewage system. Therefore, most employ domestic facilities to discharge wastewater. Septic tanks should be emptied regularly, but inadequate local government funding and lack of equipment lead to delays, subsequent overflows and community-wide pollution and health problems.

In response, residents commonly use informal, private vacuum vehicles. This solution appears effective, but often entails double the cost of the public service. The potential for cost-effective and mutually beneficial partnerships remains unexplored.

the peri-urban interface must therefore be weighed against alternative approaches such as low-cost, community-based wastewater collection and treatment systems (Box 5). The success of such systems depends on partnerships between local authorities and

communities, with NGOs taking on an intermediary role in most cases. But if dealt with properly, wastewater can provide a valuable resource. Sewage irrigation is particularly convenient for peri-urban agriculture: it often occurs close to the point of discharge, with sewage farms being traditionally located in the city fringes. But most such re-use activities are informal and therefore lack appropriate health and safety measures. It is crucial for community water and sanitation projects to integrate hygiene education and training.

Sanitation

Worldwide, levels of adequate sanitation lag far behind those of safe water provision. Levels of service in low-income peri-urban settlements are generally very low. Poor sanitation and hygiene are likely to have a significant impact on health and quality of life. Examples include open defecation, 'wrap and throw' methods, crude 'dry' toilets, bucket latrines and poorly-maintained communal latrines.

Planners face a number of choices: (1)

Whether sanitation facilities should serve individual households, groups of households or the community at large; (2) whether or not to use water to transport excreta; and (3) whether excreta and wastewater should be disposed of on or off the plot.

Conclusion

Faced with a variety of potential water supply and sanitation solutions, questions remain over who can initiate and support affordable and sustainable improvements for peri-urban localities. The biggest challenge arises from fragmented responsibilities, from the manner in which needs are perceived by public bodies, and from the limited capacity of

public, private and community agents to act alone.

The key lies in increased awareness of the unique peri-urban context and recognition of the benefits of needs-rooted practices and their articulation to the formal system under new governance regimes.

Responsibility for translating these factors into action lies in the hands of stakeholders from

across all sectors; only their combined efforts can meet the water and sanitation needs and rights of peri-urban dwellers.

p.hofmann@ucl.ac.uk

Box 3. Water Extraction in Chennai

Peri-urban Chennai is the scene of several water-consuming activities, whose demands are met through groundwater extraction. Because of the highly dispersed nature of water extraction and delivery through tanker lorries it is difficult to quantify the water supplied and consumed by different activities.

Recent studies show that drinking water is not prioritised over industrial uses. Some industries extract large volumes of potable water, wasting anywhere between 15 and 35 percent, while others, such as reverse osmosis plants, return water to aquifers with higher concentrations of metals and minerals. These activities not only reduce water availability for the poor but have a deleterious effect on its quality and long-term sustainability.

peri-urban areas (Box 3). This poses the question of whether decentralised systems of extraction and treatment managed by lower-tier authorities could be a more desirable option for present and future service delivery and environmental sustainability. Spatially-decentralised forms of extraction and treatment require lower levels of capital investment and are a genuinely viable option. They may also be a more desirable one, providing more control for poor communities, if only they have the means to regulate their use.

Distribution and Access

The peri-urban poor often spend disproportionately on informal and often unsafe forms of water supply. These resources could easily be diverted into more productive endeavours. A successful model of community supply in

staff retirements

Patrick Wakely

An Appreciation of his Contributions to Housing, Human Settlements and Urban Management in Development

By Michael Safier

A previous issue of DPU News included a celebration of Pat Wakely's contribution specifically in his function as Director of the DPU. Over an even longer period, dating back to his time in Kumasi, Ghana in the mid-1960s, and punctuated by his arrival at the DPU in 1971, Pat has been engaged in, and has made innovative and cumulative contributions to, the fields of housing, human settlements and urban management in development. In fact, Pat's contribution is even now continuing to grow and reach into new areas. Thus we find him just now involved at both ends of the African continent: with the Southern African coalition of the Urban Poor; and in the creation of a combined urban land, housing, planning and urban management system for the post-peace agreement recovery of the Southern Sudan (see elsewhere in this issue). Nevertheless, with his retirement as a full-time member of DPU staff in September 2005, this seems an appropriate moment to sum up and pay tribute to his work so far.

His particular, and prescient, concern has been to advance the practice and understanding of what is now referred to as the priority of 'capacity-building' across a wide range of institutions and agencies engaged in assisting with the provision of housing, and more generally human settlements throughout the developing world.. This concern has been above all directed towards re-orienting and equipping local and national governments and international agencies to better appreciate the situation and potential of, and more effectively respond to and collaborate, with the urban poor and their community organisations.

For forty years Pat has been an exemplary 'reflective practitioner', building a major body of work based on specific engagements in countries and cities throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, working for a variety of bi-lateral and multilateral agencies,

covering a wide range of situations and topic areas in the fields of housing policy and planning and urban management. This succession of engagements have been characterised by a focus on the practical requirements of implementation - "what to do on Monday morning" - and on the organisation and training required by housing and human settlements departments at local and national levels in order to achieve practical, 'sustainable' and 'responsive' implementation of programmes of housing, infrastructure provision and community mobilisation for and with the urban poor.



Patrick Wakely by the Nile at Malakal

This body of work has included the conception and execution of the original 'travelling circus' mobile training programmes for professionals and administrators working on housing design and development; the conception and implementation of the overall 'training of trainers' programme for the Government's 'Million Houses' scheme in Sri Lanka; advising on the institutional development requirements for urban poverty reduction in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and directing a comprehensive programme of urban management co-ordination between local government and civil society involved in urban informal settlements in Ghana. In recent years this preoccupation with how to improve the governmental response to and capacity to work with the urban poor has been extended into a series of research initiatives that have produced new evidence and recommendations on local community learning and government-community communication and partnership, based on in-depth work in India, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Brazil.

These contributions, along with many others over the years have been widely recognised and acknowledged over the past decade by

invitations from the UK government and the United Nations to advise and direct programmes to evaluate and synthesise experi-

ence in the field. This has led to a series of major empirical, policy and programme studies of global initiatives including the World Bank 'Cities Alliance' and the United Nations 'Urban Management' programmes, and the co-ordination and editing of the 'Global Report on Human Settlements: the Challenge of Slums' in 2002. These high-level involvements and contributions have not however removed Pat Wakely from the specific issues and concerns of poor, displaced and disadvantaged peoples in particular places which seem to inspire and energise his ongoing preoccupation with 'what to do' and 'how to' improve their conditions and aspirations through institutional and management reforms. This is a story that continues; a contribution still evolving; and an achievement clearly

evident, but borne lightly into future missions.

m.safier@ucl.ac.uk



staff news

Welcome to Martin Headon, who joined

DPU as Unit Secretary in January this year. He is a History and Journalism graduate, and previously worked in UCL Business and UCL BioMedica.

He is responsible for day-to-day administration in the department, as well as booking and maintaining audio-visual equipment and providing IT support to staff. Martin is also involved in the updating of the DPU websites and the production of printed publications.

Sheilah Meikle BA, MCD, PhD, MRTPI

An appreciation by Patrick Wakely

Sheilah Meikle retired from the DPU at the end of September, after fourteen years as a full-time member of the academic staff who distinguished herself by her energetic contribution to the Unit's teaching, training, advisory services and research programme. Above all she set up and established DPU's activities and reputation in social development practice.

When Sheilah joined the Unit in 1991 she brought with her the experience of a varied career that included central and local government, new-town planning in the UK and professional experience in Egypt, Tanzania, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Malaysia. She also brought the academic distinction of her PhD research at LSE.

She started at the DPU by taking on the directorship of the Diploma Course in Urban Management and Planning Practice at a stage when it was changing character and becoming a highly focussed practical training programme for professionals. She continued to run the Diploma course until it was finally closed down in 2001. In 1999 she launched a new MSc course in Social Development Practice which, with its two contrasting but complementary field projects - one in a deprived inner-London borough and the other in Arusha in Tanzania - has continued to grow and develop as one of the mainstays of the DPU Masters programme. Simultaneously



On Saturday 12th November four past DPU students, Ayman El-Hefnawi (UDP 97/98), Rania El-Abd (ESD 99/00), Rasha El Azmi (D and P 04/05) and Tamer Abo Gharara (ESD 99/04/05), together with Dr Hanna El Ghoury (who worked with Sheilah on the SEAM project and on other DPU projects with Julio Dávila) met with Sheilah for a mini-reunion at the Marriott hotel in Zamalek. They all send their best wishes to their friends at DPU.

Sheilah ran a three-month short course on Social Development Policy, Planning and Practice for a number of years (1997-2002) and supervised MPhil and PhD students.

But this is only half the story of Sheilah's energy, endeavour and contribution to the DPU. Since 1997 she has designed, secured funding for and led four major research projects on the social impacts of development: a study of involuntary resettlement in China and the Philippines; a comparative study of the impact of energy on the livelihoods of the urban poor in Indonesia, Ghana and China; an examination of the impact of economic growth on the livelihoods of poor families, from an environmental management perspective; and finally a study of the

impact of energy on the livelihoods of poor women in Tanzania.

In addition, in less than a decade and a half she has undertaken 24 important Training and Advisory Service (TAS) projects on behalf of the DPU, many of them entailing several missions to places as far-flung as Egypt, the Caribbean, China, Afghanistan, Argentina, Tanzania, Vietnam, Chad, Palestine and Zambia. These consultancies have been commissioned by the United Nations and other multi-lateral agencies, government organisations and international NGOs. Some have been undertaken in response to requests

made to the DPU as an institution, but in the majority of cases the funder specifically requested the Unit to supply the services of Sheilah Meikle as an individual. This fully reflects the international community's high esteem for her advice and professionalism.

The breadth of Sheilah's work has had a significant impact on the teaching, research and advisory activities of the Unit, which will not be forgotten. She remains a Senior DPU Associate with whom the Unit looks forward to working for many years to come. She can still be reached on her university email address s.meikle@ucl.ac.uk and also at sheilah.meikle@hotmail.co.uk.

p. wakely@ucl.ac.uk

PhD Speakers' Corner

My experience in the AWID Forum 2005
by Mayra Ruiz Castro

The AWID Forum 2005 in Bangkok was probably my first encounter with women's rights leaders and activists. I spent four days with 1800 women and (very few) men of all nationalities and ages. I realised that "women's issues" represent so many different circumstances, problems, interests, proposals and solutions which are, at times, contradictory to each other. I could myself identify with some of them, but others were too challenging for me, for instance, the unwillingness to involve men in "women's concerns"; the participation of "transgendered Feminists" (showing female images that the

Feminist movement has long attempted to change); or the idealisation of a feminist world (as if among women -and feminists- there were no discrimination or oppression).

Because of my research topic, I was particularly interested in hearing women's experiences in employment from different regions in the world. Unfortunately, this topic was not covered extensively (with the exception of the well known "women workers in factories" issue). I realised that there is still necessity to raise awareness with respect to women's economic rights and participation in employment in different contexts and economic sectors. In general, although some of my expectations were not fulfilled, my participation in the Forum expanded my perspective of women's experiences around the

world. I met inspiring women and heard inspiring stories, especially from local NGOs, grassroots and community groups. They have achieved extraordinary changes on women's lives with very limited resources. Their actions are definitely the most valuable lessons I take with me.

m.r.castro@ucl.ac.uk

I would like to thank WOMANKIND Worldwide for giving me the opportunity to participate in this Forum and its partners for all experiences shared and lessons given (www.womankind.org.uk).

The Association for Women's Rights in Development is an international membership organization connecting, informing and mobilizing people and organizations committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights (www.awid.org).

My research topic relates to gender equality in corporations of the service sector in Mexico.

50 years of dpu

RESPONSES TO THE 'NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE DPU'

There have been many responses to 'Fifty Years of Urban Development: Notes on the History of the Development Planning Unit', that accompanied the last issue of DPUNews. The following are a selection of excerpts:

Congratulations for the special issue, an outstanding compilation of events, ideas and developments. I recall my association with Dr Otto Koenigsberger and you all with the DPU over the last few decades. With over three billion people living in urban areas, the "job of the DPU" is even more necessary today than "to do itself out of a job". The process of urbanisation in most developing countries is not yet supported by judicious planning, efficient management and good governance.

Dr Arcot Ramachandran

Former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme

What an impressive record! I recall with pride my being admitted now and then to participate in your institution's activities. I also recall the admiration I felt for Otto and his creative contribution.

Bain D'Souza

Ex-Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing, Government of India

It is a walk along memory lane for all of us who have been active in this field for so long and an important legacy for a new generation coming in. The existence of the DPU has been of critical importance from the early days. It encouraged those of us interested in this area, but who had no real home at our own universities, to pursue this field of study. And it gave our pursuits credibility academically. If it had not been for Otto

Koenigsberger's pioneering work in Africa, I for one, might never have received permission to write my thesis on an analysis of slum and squatter areas in West Africa. Back in 1965, if I wanted to work on Africa, I could only pursue a thesis in the Anthropology Department which would mean dealing with slavery, witchcraft, cultural issues etc.! I was reluctantly allowed to work on urban issues as an anthropologist because a young faculty member was familiar with Otto's work.

And of course later, as professionals in the field, working with DPU trained professionals facilitated our progress in urban planning. The DPU example inspired me to initiate a program in Housing Finance for

Developing and Emerging Economies which I considered the next frontier, 20 years ago. Like you at the DPU I have always considered the neutrality of Universities of critical importance in knowledge creation, particularly for developing countries often pushed to accept inappropriate Western models of solving housing problems.

Professor Marja C. Hoek-Smit

Director, International Housing Finance Program

Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

I really appreciated reading the History of the DPU. Your accomplishments and services to the developing countries are truly outstanding. I feel honoured to have participated in some of the conferences and seminars over the years. Otto was one of the persons I consulted when we were starting PADCO and his counsel was very useful. Of course Colin [Rosser] and Nigel [Harris] were close friends and mentors.

Al Van Huyck

Founding President of Planning & Development Collaborative International Washington DC

After reading and pondering upon your splendid 'Notes on the History of the DPU' I am sending my congratulations. I can hardly believe that it's now close to 25 years since I took a DPU team to the first two years of the important Bandung Project [in Indonesia]. You and your colleagues certainly deserve congratulations over a quite remarkable achievement - and I understand more now what the contribution of the DPU has been over its half century.

Professor Colin Rosser

DPU Director 1977-82

I was delighted to receive your very valuable and interesting 'Fifty Years of the DPU' history text. This is a very worthwhile exercise and you deserve everyone's congratulations.

Professor Anthony King

Department of Art History, State University of New York

Reading your 'notes' kindled a variety of emotions. I admired the original thinking, sustained endeavour and ability of the DPU to attract such a wide range of academics and professionals to its banner. The original concepts and themes developed by Otto K. have stood the test of time and have been developed and expanded. Throughout most

of the period of your review a core group stands out: yourself [Patrick Wakely], Babar [Mumtaz], Colin Rosser, Nigel Harris, Michael Safier. et al. who in turn attracted luminaries like John Turner, Caroline Moser and Caren Levy.

Having said that, I am troubled. Despite decades of study, analysis, conventions, programmes and projects, supported by substantial aid funds; the numbers in absolute terms, of people living in urban areas below the poverty line has increased and is continuing to increase. It disturbs me also to note that little has been written about urban growth. Maybe this results from being part of a system, which though staffed by wonderful individuals, is itself, a failure.

David B. Cook

Former Senior Urban Adviser, World Bank and member of DPU academic staff

The achievements of the DPU are for everyone to see and, of course, what it all needed from people like Pat [Wakely], Nigel [Harris], Michael Safier and Babar [Mumtaz].

Professor Om Prakash Mathur

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

It is so encouraging to know that the DPU continues from strength to strength. How delighted Otto [Koenigsberger] would have been.

George Franklin

Former Senior Physical Planning Advisor to the British Government ODA (now DFID)

Your Notes on the History of the DPU is an excellent summary of its long and important life. It was so good to be connected with an educational establishment that kept one aware of changing approaches to common problems. The DPU was (and is) a great place to be associated with, owing to its willingness to 'get its hands dirty' in the field, while rigorously pursuing theory and innovation. I was very pleased when you asked me to organize the symposium in memory of Otto in 1999 as I had always been a great admirer of his work. His passing was the end of an era but it is pleasing to know that the good work goes on. [I hear] that Caren has taken over from Babar. As the first woman to head the DPU, I wish her great success in continuing the tradition.

Alan Turner

Former Director, Alan Turner Associates, International planning consultants

Congratulations. I think your production of the DPU history is fantastic. You have done a brilliant piece of work.

Edouard Le Maistre

Secretary to the Architectural Association, London

phd completions

Medha Chandra

Examination date: 16th September 2005

Title of Thesis: "Grassroots Environmental Claim Making and the State: the case of Kolkata, India"

Principal Supervisor: Adriana Allen, Subsidiary Supervisor: Nadia Taher

In this research, the gap between on the one hand environmental claim making as it really happens 'on the ground'; and on the other the formal institutional mechanisms for (supposedly inclusive and accessible) claim making, was hypothesised to cause the exclusion of grassroots actors' claims from formal channels. The Indian case was used for the research, focussing on the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (74th CAA) enacted in 1993 by the Indian state for devolving power to urban municipalities, which set out to introduce new channels to increase municipal access to a larger number and variety of voices. Fieldwork was conducted in Kolkata city for two cases, in which grassroots groups were in conflict with surrounding communities over access to and control over urban waterbodies.

Adopting the Third World Political Ecology approach, the research employed qualitative data analysis to establish the importance of the political and bureaucratic culture of the state, and the impact of this on shaping environmental discourses and formation of discourse coalitions and solidarity groupings. The claim-making process turned out to be embedded in various moments of social processes, different from the formal processes envisaged by the 74th CAA.

Kim Jun Yeup

Examination date: June 2005

Title of Thesis: "The Impact of Clustering of DFI on Urban Economic Development in China"

*Principal Supervisor: Le-Yin Zhang
Subsidiary Supervisor: Julio Davila*

With the dramatic increase in direct foreign investment (DFI) in China over the past two decades, understanding its impact on economic development has become crucial. This thesis focused on the clustering of DFI in relation to urban economic development with a case study of the Economic and Technological Development Zone (ETDZ) and High-tech Industrial Park (HTIP) in Qingdao, Shangdong Province.

The concept of 'cluster' has become an object of desire for many cities and regions, resting on the widely accepted assumption that increased specialisation and external economies may contribute to urban and regional development. Little has been studied, however, of the underlying role of DFI in fostering such clusters. The thesis attempts to fill this gap by examining the supplier-buyer

linkages between foreign-invested firms of the electrical and electronic sectors in the development zones, and whether such linkages increase productivity and promote local economic development. The research considered 21 detailed firm case studies where foreign invested firms interact with local ones, while also employing quantitative methods (regression, shift-share and location quotient (LQ) analyses) to quantify the macroeconomic impact on local economic development. This thesis concluded that the large domestic firms have played a pivotal role in forming the local industrial cluster, whereas foreign invested firms have played a supporting role. However, the foreign invested firms act as a bridge between large Chinese firms and their local suppliers by being both a main supplier (first-tier supplier) for large Chinese firms and a main buyer of raw materials and components for local suppliers (second-tier and third-tier suppliers). Through such a relationship, foreign invested firms act as innovators to enhance quality control management and facilitate technology transfer for local suppliers. Alongside local suppliers, they provide stable quality components for the main domestic firms who play the leading role in forming clusters.

Salma Nims

Examination date: 2nd November, 2004

Title of Thesis: "The Dynamics of Socio-environmental Conflict within the Changing Contexts of Common Pool resources: The Case of Water Management in the Jordan Valley"

*Principal Supervisor: Adriana Allen
Subsidiary Supervisor: Caren Levy*

The research analyses conflict over environmental resources as a manifestation of broader multi-dimensional social processes. It focuses on understanding change in the management of common pool resources as part of the historical transformations initiated by conflicts latent within seemingly harmonious historical periods and permanent systems. It traces the history of Jordan Valley water-management, from the beginnings of the 20th century, until the constructed 'scarcity problem' emerged as a by-product of Jordan's pursuit of integration within the neo-liberal global economic system. On this basis, the research offers a dialectic understanding of the various aspects of social processes and how alterations to them shape and are shaped by the changing contexts and dynamics of socio-environmental conflict. The research revealed how East Ghor Canal project in the 1950s evolved and took shape within the pre-existing context of hierarchical power and social relations. Over the following four decades, the institutions established through the project became

new fields for the exercise of power by the conventionally privileged, leaving small farmers excluded from the negotiations from which water policy strategies are developed. Consequently, those farmers revert to various forms of resistance and adaptation appropriate to their perceived position within the current power and social hierarchies.

Chiara Salabe

Examination date: 27th April, 2004

Title of Thesis: "Immigration and the Need for Flexibility: The Case of Italy"

*Principal Supervisor: Nigel Harris
Subsidiary Supervisor: Le-Yin Zhang*

This research argues that immigration in Italy has been driven by the process of flexibilisation in the labour market, by the importance of informal sector activities in the economy and by the traditional organisation of production, dominated by small and medium enterprises where conditions of flexibility are widespread. Italy is in this sense representative of the new characteristics of international migration. The industrial district, representative of a specific Italian kind of economic development, is taken as a point of reference for defining flexibility. The thesis notably discusses the evolution of the specialisation pattern in a context of global restructuring.

Ahmed Adel Amin Shetawy

Examination date: 15th September, 2004

Title of Thesis: "The Politics of Physical Planning Practice: The Case of the Industrial areas in Tenth Ramadan City, Egypt"

*Principal Supervisor: Julio Davila
Subsidiary Supervisor: Patrick Wakely*

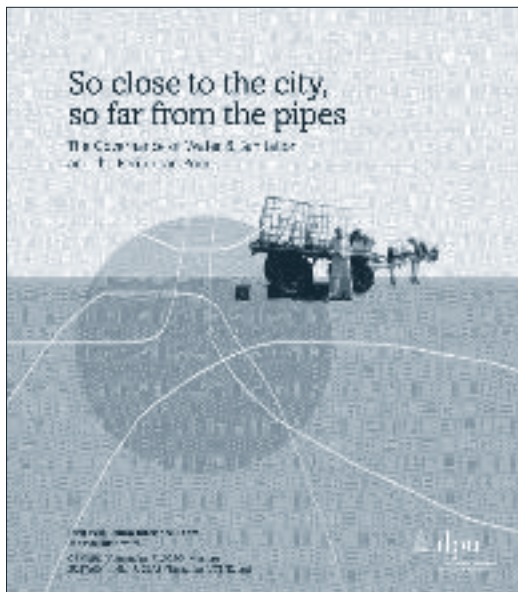
This research focuses on the interlocking dynamic relationship between physical planning practice, political economy change at the national and global levels, and the institutional areas in Tenth of Ramadan City in the period 1974-2002. The research aims to document, analyse and explain the changes that took place in the relationship between successive Egyptian governments and the private sector since 1974; and to examine how this change affected the institutional arrangements, power structures, as well as the decision-making process underpinning physical planning. It considers why this planning failed to achieve most of its pre-stated original goals and objectives. The thesis reveals how interaction between successive political leaderships and powerful agents, social structures, and international and national interest groups influenced the formulation of successive urban development policies. The findings of the research endorse the research hypothesis, which postulates that the failure of physical planning in achieving goals and objectives of successive urban development policies and local physical plans resulted from the continuous shift in the allocation of power and resources within the 'triangle of power' (i.e. the central and local government and the private sector).

hands on

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

So close to the city, so far from the pipes....DPU at the IV World Water Forum (Mexico, March 2006)

by **Adriana Allen**



The 4th World Water Forum, which was held from 16-22 March 2006 in Mexico City attracted almost 20,000 participants, including 1,100 journalists from 149 countries and some 320 national and international organizations who took part in 205 sessions. (1)

Together with Maria Luisa Torregrosa from Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Esteban Castro (University of Newcastle and long-time DPU collaborator) and Roman Gomez Cosío (DPU PhD student and member of the Forum Secretariat), I was invited to act as one of 'beacons' promoting the discussion on institutional development and political processes, one of five cross-cutting perspectives informing the discussion at the Forum.

This role involved participation in preparatory events, production of a background document and networking among organisations championing the role of institutional development in the promotion of sustainable water management strategies. In addition to the five cross-cutting

perspectives, the preparatory process included five framework themes, each promoted by a different 'beacon', including the World Bank, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other UN agencies.

The work of the beacons culminated in the proposition of a number of sessions to serve as the core of the Forum's debate. Our beacon proposed five sessions, including one on Governance of Water and Sanitation for the Peri-Urban Poor: Bridging the Gap between Policies and Practices. This was an excellent opportunity to raise the debate about the particular conditions affecting the provision of water and sanitation in peri-urban areas, to disseminate the outcomes of a three-year research project coordinated by the DPU and to launch a book and booklet with the main findings from the project. (2) The session was structured around three presentations by **Pascale Hofmann**

from DPU, Miguel Lacabana from Centro de Estudios del Desarrollo (CENDES, Venezuela) and Gustavo Heredia, Director of the Agua Tuya Programme in Cochabamba, Bolivia. John Butterworth from the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in The Netherlands acted as discussant. The session was well attended and we received excellent feedback from participants, leading to a number of opportunities for future work.

In addition, I had the opportunity to coordinate a series of workshops at the 4thWWF concerned with empowerment and democratisation in the water sector. The workshops were part of a project chaired by Julia Carabías, ex-Secretary of State for the Environment in Mexico and conceived and implemented by Roman Gomez Cosío. The workshops were open to the public and were based on nine local actions from all over the world, representing innovative experiences championing citizens' action and direct democracy. The local actions presented were not simply cases of community-led water provision at the local level but good examples of specific strategies deployed to

bring to the fore indigenous water knowledge systems, social mobilisation against the construction of large and high-impact infrastructural projects, gender-aware collective action, appropriate technologies, fair and cost-effective partnerships with local water providers and more accountable and transparent relations between citizens, local providers and municipal governments.

The workshops were very well attended and gave scope to an animated debate. Their conclusions, key questions highlighted and recommendations were in turn fed into a High Level Multi-stakeholder Panel on Empowerment and Democratisation that informed the Ministerial Conference at the end of the Forum. This Panel was chaired by Julia Carabías and included Barbara Frost, WaterAid Executive Director; Pedro Arrojo, President of New Water Culture; Ger Bergkamp, Head of the IUCN Water Programme and Margaret Catley Carson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, in addition to four local activists and myself. Perhaps one of the most interesting outcomes of the Panel was the participating organisations' commitment to examining the specific conditions required to strengthen and constrain an 'enabling environment' to expand and deepen citizens' action, a challenge that the DPU is committed to pursue.

Looking at the overall picture, the outcomes of the Forum were diverse. There was heated debate about the rather poor international performance in support of the water and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and a call for new financial mechanisms and commitments to strengthen this, as well as for measures to ensure that improved sanitation receives the attention and support it deserves. There was also, in contrast to previous fora, a more critical view on the privatisation of water utilities: interestingly, the Ministerial Declaration lacks any significant reference to private investment, while asserting the essential and primary role that governments have in promoting improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Perhaps the main disappointment was the failure of the Ministerial Declaration to guarantee water as a human right and to protect water from being involved in free trade agreements. This omission came despite intensive lobbying from various civil

society groups, UNESCO and forum organisers and the World Water Council (WWC). The Bolivian, Cuban, Venezuelan and Uruguayan delegations highlighted this issue in a separate statement after the main declaration was approved. In a similar vein, some 300 water activist organisations from more than 40 countries congregated at a parallel forum and signed a joint declaration, urging governmental support for the development of public-public



Adriana Allen presenting the outcomes of the workshops to the Multi-stakeholder panel

partnerships and emphasising the recognition and enforcement of the human right to water delivered by publicly-managed utilities.

It is still too early to judge the real impact of the 4WWF, but for optimists like me there were encouraging signs of an incipient but significant change in the terms of the debate among participants, with fundamental questions being raised about the political nature of the so called 'water (and sanitation) crisis'.

'Water and sanitation for all' is a technically, environmentally and financially attainable goal. The task ahead is to work for the political and institutional transformation required to achieve it.

a.allen@ucl.ac.uk

(1) To find out more about the content of the discussion and outcomes of the 4WWF visit: www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

(2) The research was conducted by Julio Dávila, Pascale Hofmann and myself, in collaboration with five partner institutions from India, Egypt, Tanzania, Mexico and Venezuela, with support from the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID). To download for free the book, booklet and other reports please visit: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/pui/publications/index.html>

Howrah Urban Regeneration Study July-August 2005

A 6-member team from West Bengal, led by the Minister of Urban Development and including the Mayor of Howrah, other officials from the West Bengal government and DfID India visited the UK as part of the preparation for the Howrah Urban Regeneration Study. The city of Howrah, which lies across the Hoogly River from Calcutta, used to be an important port and transport hub and home to steel and jute-based industry. Over the last few decades the industries have moved away or declined in importance and the port has been replaced by a new one further down stream.

The objective of the team was to learn from the experience of cities in the UK and their success in reversing similar declines in their economies, by means of urban redevelopment and regeneration. As well as DfID, the team visited and were briefed by English Heritage, the London Rivers Authority and the cities of Belfast, and Liverpool. They also visited Edinburgh.

The tour and meetings were organised by the DPU and the team were accompanied by **Babar Mumtaz** to provide a perspective and briefing on the visits and to make proposals for the Howrah Regeneration Study.

b.mumtaz@ucl.ac.uk

Rebuilding the Towns of Southern Sudan

Patrick Wakely is leading a DPU team whose purpose is to help build the capacity of municipal authorities and communities to reconstruct and develop the towns of Southern Sudan after 20 years of bitter and destructive civil war.

The programme, which is planned to continue over the next two years, is a contract with UNDP in conjunction with UN-Habitat and UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees).

The DPU team (PW and DPU Associates Tom Carter and Kate Clifford) have already undertaken three missions, holding discussions in eight of the 10 new state

capitals to assess the condition of their institutional and physical infrastructure and review their capacity to absorb the large numbers of returning refugees and migrants from rural areas. In their report Southern Sudan Urban Appraisal Study (published by UNDP/UNHCR)- the team identify three distinct categories of urban area: 1) former district centres that have been taken and re-taken by the opposing armies several times during the war, destroying the physical infrastructure and leaving them with few technical or professional resources; 2) larger towns that have remained in government control and have not suffered from bombardment, but have deteriorated as a result of lack of investment and maintenance; and 3) new towns that are emerging around market centres, with rapidly growing new populations and virtually no physical or institutional infrastructure.

The report goes on to recommend approaches to urban reconstruction and development in the context of a very progressive Local Government Framework, firmly based on the principles of decentralisation and subsidiarity, that has been adopted by the Government of Southern Sudan. Emphasis is given to building up local institutions and providing professional and technical training for-the-job and on-the-job. Everything is moving so fast in that there is no time to stop to 'tool-up' and prepare to start work. Work has already started; aid investment has begun to flow; so



Patrick Wakely with Bernard Boda (DPU Diploma Course 1970-71), University of Wau, Southern Sudan

has income from the sharing of oil revenue that underpinned the peace agreement; and people are returning to Southern Sudan, not to subsistence farming in rural areas, but to towns, with ambitions for new and productive

[continued overleaf]

hands on

continued

lifestyles and expectations for access to well-functioning urban services, infrastructure and welfare.

The next step in the DPU engagement in Southern Sudan is the preparation of an Urban Management Framework, the starting point of which will be a high-level conference/workshop in Juba in January 2006. This will kick off the process of capacity building and advisory inputs at the local level. In preparation for it, specialist studies are being undertaken in urban land registration and administration, municipal finance and revenue management, local government law, and urban infrastructure upgrading.

p.wakely@ucl.ac.uk

Iraq Housing Market Study November 2005

Babar Mumtaz was one of the keynote speakers at a Seminar on the Iraq Housing Market Study organised by UNHabitat in Amman, Jordan. Attended by the Minister of Housing and Construction and some 30 participants from the housing, construction and housing finance sectors of Iraq and about 20 participants from Jordan and other countries, the Seminar discussed the proposed survey and assessment of housing and housing conditions in Iraq that is expected to provide the basis for the development of a housing policy and future strategies for meeting the housing needs of Iraq.

The Iraqi participants presented their understanding of the current situation, and future needs as well as a review of the existing state of data and information in Iraq on housing. Jordanian and international participants brought the lessons of experience from other similar contexts to provide insights on the collection and analysis of data. Babar Mumtaz presented a paper on the Role of Housing Finance in meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of Slum Upgrading. In the paper, he highlighted the need to base strategies on an understanding of what households really do to finance their housing. Starting with a rapid survey of the formation and persistence of slums, he

showed why demand-based strategies were much more likely to be effective than supply-side proposals for enabling markets to work more effectively. This requires an approach to surveys and information-gathering that goes beyond amassing statistically accurate data, but focusses rather on using peoples' stories to build up an understanding of the lives and lifestyles of the poor and the strategies they adopt to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance options and alternatives for financing housing. This understanding can then be used to identify and remove the constraints, and thereby extend, expand and enfranchise the mechanisms and processes used by over two-thirds of all urban residents. This is the key to meeting housing finance needs and improving slums and the lives of those who live in them.

b.mumtaz@ucl.ac.uk

The Design of Urban Design May 2005

Babar Mumtaz was invited to give a presentation to the Divan - an association of architects and urban planners in Amman, Jordan. His paper looked at the emerging revival of interest in urban design as a vital tool in the make-over of cities around the world. He examined the rationale and the role of urban design and the forces that drive it, arguing that in developing countries, there was the need to develop a livelihoods approach to urban design. Such an approach took as its starting point the need to reduce the vulnerability of the poor by augmenting their assets and increasing the options and alternatives available to them. A livelihoods approach results in the development of urban design solutions that go far beyond the physical and visual exploitation of urban areas, to address the use of space as an essential resource in economic and social development.

He illustrated his talk with references to his field work with BUDD students in Cyprus, Malaysia, Cuba, Malta, Pakistan and Jamaica as well as Jordan, and his contributions to the development of the Al-Abdali development in down-town Amman for Mawared - the Jordanian environmental and urban development corporation.

b.mumtaz@ucl.ac.uk

focus on:

continued from page 3

seeing direct contact with planning practice as an 'add on' to be 'fitted in' to already demanding academic schedules, the DPU seeks more integrative ways to use this 'discretionary room'. One is to continue to champion the equal recognition of 'practice-based' and 'applied' research in the evaluation and funding of academia. Another is more effectively to 'capitalise' on continued practice-based work by linking it with research and scholarship. Yet another is to continue effectively to integrate practice-based work in postgraduate teaching. Whatever the avenue, all involve keeping connected to the 'field'. In a world where progressive collective action is increasingly urgent, in what better way can we ensure excellence in the education of practitioners who can make a contribution to the 'just city'?

References

Baum, H. (1997) "Teaching Practice" *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 17:21-29

Fainstein, S. S. (2005) "Planning Theory and the City" *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 25:121-130

Fox, K. (1996) "Education for Sale: What do planning students from developing countries need, and is education today delivering the goods" in N. Hamdi (ed) with A. El-Sherif *Education for Real: the Training of Professionals for Development Practice*, Intermediate technology Publications, pp 101-110

Frank, N. (2002) "Rethinking Planning Theory for a Master's-Level Curriculum" *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 21:320-330

Hamdi, N. (1996) "Inventing a new orthodoxy in education for development practitioners: an introduction" in N. Hamdi (ed), *op. cit.*

MSc Course Guide (2005) MSc Urban Development Planning 2005-2006, DPU, UCL

Rubienska, A. (2001) "Education and Training in Public Administration and Development: What does the Customer Really Want and Are We Prepared to Provide It?" *Public Administration and Development*, 21, pp 343-358

Satterthwaite, D (2005) "The scale of urban change worldwide 1980-2000 and its underpinnings", *Human Settlements Discussion Paper Series*, Theme: Urban change - 1, IIED: Human Settlements Programme

Schon, D (1983) *The Reflective Practitioner: how Professionals Think in Action*, Avebury.

post-tsunami

ongoing activities

'Rebuilding Community Infrastructure and Shelter'.

A UN-HABITAT post-tsunami Reconstruction Program assisting tsunami-affected communities in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Since April 2005, Katja Schäfer has been supporting UN-HABITAT Sri Lanka in assisting tsunami-affected communities along the Southern coastal belt in rebuilding damaged houses and infrastructure as well as communities and livelihoods. In her capacity as the City Rehabilitation Advisor to the Government of Japan funded Rebuilding Community Infrastructure and Shelter (RCIS) Project in Galle, she also has assisted the Tsunami Housing Reconstruction Unit (THRU) in coordinating permanent housing (re)construction in Galle District.

Due to the establishment of a 100m Coastal Protection Zone along areas affected by the tsunami (also widely referred to as the Buffer Zone) and the prevention of residential dwellings inside, two different post-tsunami housing programs are currently being implemented in Sri Lanka, the Home-Owner Driven and the Donor Driven Program. Whereas the Home-Owner Driven housing reconstruction focuses on the on-site repair and reconstruction of partially and fully damaged houses outside the Buffer Zone, the Donor Driven construction of new houses and settlements focuses on beneficiary communities who used to live within the Buffer Zone and have to be relocated outside.

The main emphasis of the RCIS Project in Galle is on in-situ reconstruction and rehabilitation beyond the 100m Buffer Zone, following a pro-poor approach focusing on assisting the poorest and most vulnerable families. Building on existing programs, such as the Sustainable Cities Program (SCP) and the Urban Governance Support Project (UGSP), the project is currently being implemented in 10 tsunami-affected communities within the City Limits of the Municipal Council Galle. The reconstruction process is used both as a means and an end, serving to strengthen and empower communities to take more control of their own lives, while at the same time providing adequate shelter for more than 650 beneficiary households and rehabilitating community infrastructure and services.

Community Development Councils (CDC) have been revived and strengthened or established. Office bearers are elected to represent the interests of the wider community at various levels. Monthly



Katja Schäfer

Inauguration of new bridge by Mrs. Anna Tibajjuka, ED UN-HABITAT. The bridge is now again connecting the two communities in Siyambalagahawatta, Galle.

Steering Committee Meetings have been introduced, where community representatives come to discuss problem issues with local authorities, private sector enterprises and other key stakeholders.

Tsunami-affected communities identified under the RCIS Project are supported in identifying their immediate needs, and the actions required to meet these needs. Community Action Planning, which develops the capacity of the communities to take appropriate action for their own development provides the framework. The communities are contracted to implement their plans with the support of the local authorities, NGOs and UN-HABITAT. In Galle, communities have been actively involved in the rebuilding of their homes and neighbourhoods, and the range of activities in which community members have been participating is wide. They not only design their own houses, establish cost plans, and do the physical work of reconstructing damaged homes, but also carry out enhancement projects in the community, such as bridges, roads, wells, drainage and community centres. CDC members have been trained by the UN-HABITAT team to supervise the reconstruction work and management of labour recruited by the community, as well as in quality control and progress monitoring. UN-HABITAT also provides continuing

technical assistance and advice.

Whereas conventional procurement of reconstruction works provides a single one-off benefit, i.e. the provision of shelter or the infrastructure itself, community partnering can double the benefits obtained from investment. Physical infrastructure is accompanied by skills development and income generating activities. Employment creation is not only confined to the actual implementation of the project itself, but can also include the establishment of ongoing

small scale enterprises in certain communities. Through 'on-the-job training', community groups are capable of undertaking tasks of which they have no previous experience. CDC office bearers and community leaders act as 'supervisors', skilled labour being hired as much as possible from within the community or adjacent areas. Community residents who are experienced skilled construction workers play a key role in managing the process, while also acting as trainers and demonstrators. In

some cases, small enterprises have sprung up to supply cement blocks, windows and door frames. Due to local production and minimal transport costs, the material is more cost effective than if purchased from an outside supplier.

Unskilled labour has mostly been provided by community members, relatives or friends, especially by the jobless and underemployed or those who have lost their employment due to the tsunami, women and disabled. At weekends and in the afternoons, even children participate in the reconstruction works. They supervise works or accept deliveries while parents are out of the house. Not only do acquired skills remain within the community, but, local people's capacity to organize themselves is improved and their negotiating skills enhanced. The experience of handling finance and accounting has also stimulated the formation of micro-saving schemes in several communities. Overall, the Rebuilding Community Infrastructure and Shelter Project in Galle has been successful. Only by engaging communities actively in reconstruction and the development of livelihoods is it possible to overcome the trauma of the tsunami that hit the communities along the coastal belt of Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004.

katja.schaefer@gmx.de

connections

Letters corner

Alex de Crombrughe (DAP 2003-4), having completed an internship with UNIDO this spring, has begun working for a small NGO in Brussels which, in partnership with an African organisation, the Municipal Development Programme, is launching a communication campaign on renewing the image of Africa in European Medias in order to have a more balanced Europe/Africa relations. Part of his responsibility was to organise a major seminar in November bringing together African and European personalities.

Naseer Arafat (BUDD 2000-1) is currently working as Director, of the Civilian Committee of Nablus Governorate, the West Bank. He was recently invited to visit London to conduct a public meeting at the House of Commons on the topic of The Cultural Heritage and Conservation of Nablus.

Atsushi Fujino (UDP 1998-9) has just completed an assignment for the Japan International Co-operation Agency in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, aimed at establishing an integrated spatial planning project for Makassar and its surrounding area, aimed at enhancing its role in the development of Eastern Indonesia. He writes to Michael Mattingly that his next assignment will be in Palestine.

atsushif@w7.dion.ne.jp

Bob and Edith Awuor (both DPU Masters students in 1994-95) write to Julio Dávila that Edith now works as Deputy Director of a Spitalfields-based urban regeneration company, and was recently sponsored by the London Development Agency, through the New Economics Foundation to take an MA in Property Valuation and Law. Bob, recently worked as research assistant at the Bartlett School of Planning, completing a project on the impact of CCTV and street lighting improvements in town centre regeneration in relation to crime/the fear of crime (Case study Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire), and is currently working for an NGO between London and Africa, while also pursuing a Globalisation and Development course at the School of Advanced Study (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London).

They have two teenage children.

"the methodology is still relevant and useful after all these years (will the lessons learnt from DPU ever be irrelevant???)"

bobawuor@yahoo.com

Claudia Campero-Arena (UDP 2003-4) is currently combining two part-time posts. In one, she works as a research assistant in a Colegio de Mexico project about Mexican migrants in New York. The other is for an NGO called Presencia Ciudadana, dealing with the coordination of water projects.

Erina Yamazaki (UDP 2002-3) has begun a new post for the Japan Bank of International Cooperation. Based in Tokyo, she will work as a project officer for project formation, mainly for Indonesia and Malaysia.

wigram618@yahoo.co.jp

Estelle N'guile (DAP 2000-1) is now working as General Secretary of Groupement Interprofessionnel de Centrafrique, a professional body representing the biggest international corporations in the Central African Republic and promoting their interests with respect to CAR government ministries, as well as representing the CAR private sector in negotiations with international bodies such as the European Union, UNDP, and the Bretton Woods institutions. Estelle is responsible for preparing dossiers relating to Economic Development Law and fiscal and financial issues. She also organises humanitarian missions when possible and edits a bi-monthly letter of information, and represents her organisation at international seminars.

Gondan P. Renosari (ESD 2001-2) is currently working in Indonesia for the United National Population Fund (UNFPA) on issues to do with gender and women's empowerment. She is planning to undertake a PhD on the topic of gender and environment in relation to the tsunami disaster. Her baby daughter has just turned one.

Angelique Habils (UDP 2001-2) has begun a new post in Nairobi, Kenya, in the Training and Capacity Building Branch of UN-Habitat. She is already involved some interesting projects including participatory budgetting in African cities; evaluation of training and organisational change; a "Planning in flux" team (dealing with urban development/spatial planning related to the UN-Habitat LA21

programme); and a programme on Local Economic Development in Egypt.

angelique.habils@unhabitat.org

King Pong Chiu (ESD 2003-4) is currently working on the international news desk of a Hong Kong newspaper, while pursuing a part-time Masters degree in philosophy.

Kirsten Grieshaber (SDP 2003-4) writes to Robert Biel:

"I completed a project as the Project Manager in charge of organising Earth Day celebrations and a fundraiser for Wildsight (a regional environmental

NGO in Canada) at the end of April. It was a great success all around, and last week I returned to Maine in the U.S. to begin work as the Shelter Team Leader for the statewide Abused Women's Advocacy Project (AWAP www.awap.org). I am very excited about the position and so far find the organisation to

"Fond memories of the DPU always overwhelm me when receiving and reading DPU News."

be a perfect balance between supporting employees' needs (training and otherwise) and granting responsibility and independence to gain very

valuable managerial experience. I supervise the staff who run our 17-bed shelter and will also be revamping the volunteer program (after which I will be recruiting and training AWAP volunteers). In other exciting news, I am also recently engaged! My Australian boyfriend of three years proposed to me on a clifftop just before we left British Columbia. Needless to say, I am ECSTATIC and we are in the process of deciding when we will have our wedding."

Pablo Lopez (UED 2002-3) has begun working for the National Government of Argentina, within the team that is preparing the Argentine National



A view of Thimphu courtesy of Phuntsho Wangdi (see right-hand page)

Spatial Plan. The aim is to create a national development framework in order for the regions of Argentina to organize their specific development plans. Pablo writes: "It's an interesting job as I can apply many things I learnt in London."

Xiangming Ma (UED 2002-03) is currently working for the Guangdong Urban City Development Research Centre in China

xmma@hotmail.com

Maha Abusamra (DAP 2002-3) is working as Job Creation Programme Manager for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Maha writes to Robert Biel: "I am really enjoying my work, and have the maximum benefit from my study at DPU. Also, I am deputy director for one of the local NGOs, (Jerusalem Centre for Educational Enrichments). I was recently in



Anna and Etienne in Mexico

Egypt, and met Nesrine [Salah El Halima, SDP 2002-3], and we had great time there."

Makol Bona Malwal (DAP 2000-1) is working for the United Nations in a posting in Goma, in the eastern part of Congo, close to the border with Rwanda. In a recent letter he writes: "This part of Africa and the world has amazing beauty, you cannot imagine and I cannot describe it in words." He is taking the opportunity to travel as widely as possible. Speaking of Rwanda, Makol writes: "People only remember the genocide that took place 1994 because it is well publicized and so it should be, but now 10 years after all that there is a new reality. Rwanda, known as the land of a thousand hills, has made significant progress in rebuilding its social infrastructure and economy, quite simply I am impressed with what this country has achieved so far in a relatively short period of 10 years."

Anna Kydd and Etienne von Bertrab (both ESD 2002-3) have recently started a new life together in Guadalajara, Mexico, where Etienne is working with social movements in promoting fairly traded goods produced in Chiapas (see photo above).

Mirjam Van Donk (UDP 2000-1) has just published a major study report on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Development Planning and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. A very significant 200-page document, this can be accessed on http://www.undp.org/hiv/docs/dev_plan_report_fnl.pdf
mvandonk@worldonline.co.za

Mpho Mogale (1994) has recently been appointed Chief Director, Governance, in the Department of Local Government, Gauteng Province, South Africa, with responsibility for the functionality and viability of municipalities in the province, having recently completed a Masters in Public and development management at Witwatersrand University. Mpho writes: "Fond memories of the DPU always overwhelm me when receiving and reading DPU News."

Mpoki Emmanuel (SDP 2003-4) is employed by the Office of the President of Tanzania, which deals directly with many development and planning issues. Mpoki specialises in the Information Technology Department. He is currently on leave to study for a PhD.

Sheng Bi (DAP 2003-4) is working for a consultancy agency in Beijing, China, which also runs projects. He is responsible for a project on "small grants for young volunteers", funded by a foundation in Hongkong, which sponsors committed young volunteers who would like to work for NGOs in the rural areas. He recently travelled to a remote area of Yunnan province and successfully found a placement for a volunteer to help a tiny NGO working to help children (mainly minority people) to continue their study in school.

bisheng1977@hotmail.com

Phuntsho Wangdi (Diploma 1985-6) has, following a six-year stint at the Thimphu City (Bhutan) Corporation, taken up a post as Managing Director of a newly formed organization, the National Housing Development Corporation (NHDC), which is responsible for promoting housing development including the management, maintenance and allotment of public housing. Phuntsho writes to Patrick Wakely:

"The housing theory of Ronaldo [Ramirez] and the methodology of you and Babar [Mumtaz] is still relevant and useful after all these years (will the lessons learnt from DPU ever be irrelevant??). The NHDC is also working on our autonomy/corporatization program in line with HDB (Singapore) or HUDCO (India). We would like to function on a corporate principle but with conscious social objectives. NHDC presently is experimenting housing project for very low-income groups on a pilot basis apart from its housing construction projects in the

districts. The pilot housing experiment involves research on issues of construction material, design and allotment procedures. We have involved the participation of applicants right through design to construction stages. I realize that in most countries, governments assume the role of an enabler in housing development. However in our case, we try to follow the middle-path (a very relevant Buddhist teaching) whereby the government plays both the enabler and provider of housing depending on private market responses. The need to intervene has been important in our context due to the following reasons; a) low population base where even a minimum scale of public intervention could bring in positive impact b) limited private capital (at least in the present context) to allow for organized housing development by private individuals/firms c) widespread privatedisinterest in providing housing for middle and low-income groups

d) acute scarcity of government land and the spiraling cost of private land. All these factors affect the viability of organized housing development through private market in a significant way.

piwangdi@hotmail.com

Samantha Brangeon (DAP 2002-3) is currently based in London, working for Christian Aid as part of the West Africa team. She also writes about a great recent trip to Thailand where she met Ruthai Nadia Suttikulpanich and Thitiwan Seangkaew (both also DAP 2002-3).

Samuel Ogejo (ESD 2000-1) has recently begun a new post as Projects Officer at The Environment Trust. He writes to Robert Biel: "The job is great with huge prospects for exploring almost anything in the SD continuum. One moment I could be consulting with our appointed architects on the design of green homes and explaining our affordable green homes to local residents, the next moment I could be consulting with local communities in Clapton (Hackney) on their first ever sustainable Neighbourhood Development Plan and negotiating for it to be taken up by the Council under the new Statement of Community Involvement requirement, or consulting with local communities in Tottenham Marshes to develop a capacity building programme to enable them to take full control of designing and running activities in the new Stonebridge Centre, or developing an extreme sports project for young people in Mile End Park ... and the list goes on. From the peek into what is involved, I can confidently say that what I learned on the MSc course is proving very useful in negotiating strategies across the board (discussing technical details with professionals and making presentation to communities and vice versa)".

Birth & Marriages

Manosh De (BUDD 2003-4) got married to Vasu in December 2005. He writes: "For those of us who met [at the graduation ceremony] you may be aware that I was going to get married. If not then it comes as a huge surprise!"

Fernanda Haddad (started PhD in 2001) gave birth to a baby girl named Eduarda on 17/07/05. Congratulations to Fernanda, Flávio and João Felipe.

Jeremy Ben-Shalom (ESD 2002-3) writes: "Hanita gave birth a little more than two weeks ago and made me the happiest father on earth. I am overwhelmed with joy and find Elisheva (our baby's name) the most charming thing..."

dpu 50th anniversary

CHALLENGING AGENDAS FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY, PLANNING & CITIES

**DPU-50 Celebration International Conference
22-24 November 2006**

The DPU announces an International Conference convened to challenge contemporary agendas in the different 'traditions' of development policy, planning and management in which it has been working over the last 50 years, and to reflect on future directions that these traditions might take to improve the lives of women and men in towns and cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

The conference celebrates 50 years of DPU's continuous involvement in education, training, research and capacity building in the field of urban and regional development policy and planning. As Patrick Wakely (DPU Director 1989-2003) stated in his Fifty Years of Urban Development (DPUNews No.48) "...the DPU has always been ahead of, or just outside, the prevailing wisdom. It has not always led the field but it has always questioned it". This questioning process has been a continuous dialectic between theory and practice, education, research and work in the field. It has led to the exploration of new approaches to urban and regional policy and planning, and the range of issues within this rubric (urban development, housing, urban regeneration and design, and urban economic development) for which the DPU is recognised internationally. It has also resulted in

the development of new areas of concern, many of them cross-cutting, such as environmental planning and management, social development, gender policy and planning, and cosmopolitan development, where the DPU has been at the forefront in academic endeavours and practical development.

The DPU will celebrate the occasion of its 50th anniversary by reviewing past experiences and controversies and, more importantly, questioning contemporary agendas and looking forward to alternative futures across our areas of experience, expertise and interest.

The Conference will be structured around four central themes:

- 'Development' in the wake of post-modernism: what, how and for whom?
- A future for urban development planning: approaches to social justice
- Environmental conflicts: radical practices and approaches to governance
- Diversity in an era of social polarisation: planning for culture, gender and conflict.

Details of the conference will be made available on the DPU website at www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu

diary – dpu seminars and lectures

Seminars and lectures at the DPU

Between May and June 2005, members of DPU's academic staff shared their recent experience of research and consultancy with students and staff. The short series was launched by Pat Wakely describing his advisory work on urban planning and management in Southern Sudan; the end of hostilities after 20 years of war will signal a massive change in many areas, not least rapid migration to small towns lacking the basic infrastructure to receive large numbers of people. This was followed by a discussion by Michael Safier of an advisory project to UNESCO he and Caren Levy were involved with on securing the rights to the city; Michael stressed the internal political and conceptual difficulties of integrating this notion into the operation of a large UN body.

Sheilah Meikle and Patrice North presented the results of a DFID-funded research project on energy use and its impact on the livelihoods of the urban poor in Arusha, Tanzania, where they highlighted the small range of options available to the poor and the gender and other social differences that characterise access to this most basic of resources. Michael Mattingly, Pascale Hofmann and Julio D Dávila struggled to summarise in one short presentation the results of DPU's seven-year involvement in research on the 'peri-urban interface', whizzing past a number of initiatives, from a first project on environmental planning and management in medium-sized cities to the more recent one on water and sanitation in five metropolitan areas (see a summary elsewhere in this issue). These seminars were complemented by the now traditional third-term sessions to help students explore job prospects, including brief presentations, a discussion and a visit to the UCL Union bar with five former DPU students: Diana Giambagi, Jane Hobson, Simon Griffiths, Naomi McDougall and Dhananjai, all successful professionals currently working with a range of employers in London.

The new academic year kicked off with a seminar by Dr Sergio Fajardo, the mayor of Colombia's second largest city, Medellín; Dr Fajardo, a mathematician and academic, enjoys high popularity ratings and is engaged in a major effort to re-direct resources towards the poorest and more disadvantaged people in the city. He spoke candidly about the challenges of leaving the anonymity of academic life for a life in the public eye.

Julio D Dávila

DPUNews is published twice yearly by the Development Planning Unit, UCL

The Development Planning Unit is an international centre specialising in academic teaching, practical training, research and consultancy in sustainable urban and regional development policy, planning and management.

Editors: Robert Biel & Pascale Hofmann

Development Planning Unit
University College London
9 Endsleigh Gardens
London WC1H 0ED
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7679 1111
Fax: +44 (0)20 7679 1112
Email: dpu@ucl.ac.uk
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/>