



# UCL



# dpunews

issue 50 December 2007

- 2 Focus On  
Fighting Peri-Urban Poverty  
*by Michael Mattingly*
- 4 Head On  
MSc Fieldtrip Reports
- 5 International Networks
- 6 Staff Retirements
- 8 N-Aerus Conference  
Staff News

- 9 Publications
- 10 PhD Programme
- 12 Hands On  
DPU Training & Advisory Service
- 14 Connections  
News from ex-students and friends
- 16 Obituary  
Dialogues in Development

# focus on

## fighting peri-urban poverty

by Michael Mattingly

Recently, a 9-year DPU programme of study of peri-urban production, livelihoods and poverty was brought to a conclusion.

Because there has not been anything like it before, professionals concerned with rural or urban development should know about the findings. Although the field studies were carried out in just a few areas - Hubli-Dharwad and East Kolkata in India and Kumasi in Ghana - their common findings probably have applicability to the circumstances of poor people in many parts of the world.

Defined as the meeting of rural and urban activities, a peri-urban interface has long been thought to generate changes - physical, social and economic - that are predominantly negative for those caught up in it. These studies add substantial evidence that this can be so. Yet they also bring evidence of a potential for changes more positive than has been supposed, even possibilities for a rural-urban transition that alleviates poverty rather than entrenching it. This knowledge ought to figure in future policy decisions. The following four areas may be considered particularly significant.

### Managing land use

When land is taken for city uses, farmers may not be fairly compensated. In reality, even when the fields they cultivate are not theirs, they add value to it - yet little, if any, of this value accrues to them. If their compensation reflected the true value they add,

in addition to laws requiring compensation, for this to be achieved. Would it help to inform them of the urban market values of their rights and of speculators' activities? Is it possible to operate a market that would by-pass the speculators and sell their rights directly to urban users?

Speculation - and sometimes the failure to maintain soil fertility in the face of urbanisation - can remove peri-urban land from natural resource based production long before it is actually reused for urban purposes. Can it not continue to be farmed or grazed until the last moment, providing food, jobs, and incomes? Moreover, this would prolong its contribution to the food security of the city. Effective land use control could reduce the amount of idle land, giving peri-urban people more time to make the rural to urban transition. This would reduce the shock suffered by the poor by giving them longer to acquire new skills and augment their financial assets. Urban planners could delay changes to areas where the impact on poor people threatens to be worst. They could consider the circumstances of the peri-urban poor when preparing for major urban uses beyond the city's built up area, such as by-pass roads, new airports, waste disposal sites and industrial estates. At the same time, rural officials could advise farmers on effective soil fertility maintenance in peri-



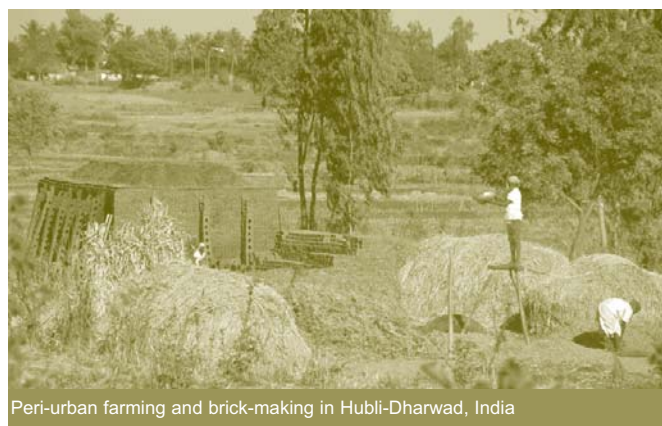
Michael Mattingly

any land use planning. Being poor does not prevent them from commenting wisely on proposals made from above; they have a unique perception of the realities of the peri-urban context.

### Managing local urban and rural economies

Although a few benefit straightaway, the transition from the rural to the urban economy is difficult for many, perhaps for most. The impact of a city eventually cuts short traditional natural resource based livelihoods. Nevertheless, agriculture seems to remain a significant activity in peri-urban environments. Whereas the land available for it may shrink, it becomes more intensive; it moves towards higher-value products such as vegetables, milk, eggs and fish with a ready urban market. But some subsistence crop production also continues for a while. This makes support for good natural resource management particularly important. Yet presently government agricultural extension services seem to ignore peri-urban farmers and livestock growers.

Diversifying their productive activities is a strategy that helps poor people manage the shocks caused by increasing urbanisation. It can maintain flows of income and sometimes increase them. The research found that trials of new livelihoods can help people find new natural resource based activities that suit peri-urban conditions, such as the growing of higher value crops, or else to experiment with activities that are not natural resource based, including the selling of produce or petty commodities. Indeed, new livelihoods can build new skills, some of which have value in the city economy. In this way, fewer peri-urban people will be propelled into an urban economy further impoverished by the changes their world has undergone, and more will be able to make positive contributions to the wealth of their new societies. The research showed that switching to new livelihoods can be encouraged with advice or training on the selection of alternatives, on growing techniques and other skills, on marketing, and on obtaining finance. Some new livelihoods suit a particular case better than others. For example, people near to Kumasi, Ghana found that growing mushrooms could yield an income within months, much sooner than raising rabbits or snails. This satisfied better their needs for quick cash returns, as they were forced to move into a cash economy (to repay



Peri-urban farming and brick-making in Hubli-Dharwad, India

even the poorest might possess significant financial assets with which to take up new productive activities. There must be ways,

shown that it is important to identify those peri-urban poor people with livelihoods tied to land and to achieve their participation in



loans, for example) by the steady erosion of their rural, largely non-cash livelihoods.

### Managing urban wastes

Some farmers use wastes from nearby cities and towns to improve the fertility of the soil or of fishponds. The practice has ancient roots. Yet this link does not seem to be made by waste management policy-makers. We found that on the one hand, when disposal options are being considered, peri-urban reuse is simply not thought of; and on the other, waste management policies may introduce new obstacles to existing peri-urban waste-use patterns, for example by mixing hospital wastes with organic material or redirecting flows of sewage that have hitherto gone to enrich fish ponds.

Failing to recognise peri-urban farmers or the disposal services they provide, rarely if ever do local urban governments engage with them to learn their problems and opportunities, or plan for satisfying their legitimate needs for wastes. Opportunities to re-use urban wastes are thus shrinking. The result is a reduction in the food available for city consumption, reduction in the incomes of those soon to be thrust into the urban economy, and even in some cases, unnecessary increase in the cost of waste management.

### Governance at local levels

Social changes (particularly the loss of traditions and the influence of incoming migrants) seem to weaken the ability of peri-urban communities, just when they need it most, to interact with government and NGOs. Yet this research found that community members themselves can plan changes in their livelihoods in order to deal with the transition. Participating in planning seemed to strengthen community as well as individual resolve to act. Not only did this sometimes renew collective traditions (as when some villagers near to Hubli-Dharwad reinstated a derelict irrigation pond that government used to maintain), it also spurred peri-urban communities to approach government agencies of both the Kumasi and Hubli-Dharwad urban-regions that had shown little interest in their problems and opportunities. Interventions by NGOs and the use of community facilitators were key factors in initiating this participatory planning, in stimulating more interaction between people and government, and in encouraging shifts to new productive activities.

Relationships among organisations can also be strained by peri-urban circumstances. (Julio Dávila, Adriana Allen and Pascale Hofmann recently studied this problem. See Governance of Water and Sanitation Services for the Peri-urban Poor. A Framework for Understanding and Action in Metropolitan Regions, UCL Development Planning Unit, London.) Government agencies and even NGOs tend to fragment along urban or rural lines, creating a system unsatisfactory for dealing with the transitional and mixed nature - rural to urban, rural and urban - of a peri-urban interface. No doubt this is one reason why peri-urban farmers are so easily overlooked. The advantage of a more flexible approach are shown in the case of the East Kolkata Wetlands, where interventions were able to encourage peri-urban poor people, NGOs and government agencies from inside and outside the city as well as from the State to engage with one another in physical development planning. The division of thinking, administration and action into "rural" and "urban" has been accepted for too long. The prevailing complacency with it might be shattered if the mounting evidence of its unsuitability is disseminated and put to work. Few development agencies yet realise what occurs at a peri-urban interface and what can be done about it. They need to make their staff more aware of the effects of a city on nearby production, livelihoods, poverty, and governance.

### The importance of this new knowledge

No specific estimates are available of the current or future size of peri-urban populations. The physical dimensions of a peri-urban interface are debatable. Nevertheless, geometric principles tell us that as urban places increase in physical size, the amount of nearby rural land increases disproportionately. In addition to the growth of their original populations, these nearby places usually receive a very large share of the poor rural-to-urban migrants. Therefore, at a global scale, the number of peri-urban poor people who currently stand to benefit from better policies can be given an order of magnitude of tens of millions, at the least. The original peri-urban populations are also rural-to-urban migrants, but ones who do

not move their homes. Probably what has been learned about them also says a good deal about the vast numbers of migrants in general. So this knowledge of peri-urban production, livelihoods and poverty may help reduce poverty in the following ways:

1. preparing potential migrants to deal with the changes they face by increasing their involvement in planning their futures. This could result in better use of their meagre resources smoothly to enter an urban economy.



Julio Davila

Peri-urban Kumasi, Ghana

2. giving technical support (e.g. skill and management training, access to financing) that prepare migrants for the pursuit of modes of production suitable for an urban economy that is not natural resource based, such as petty commodity retailing.
3. preparing these migrants to be more productive and to lose fewer assets in the peri-urban circumstances in which they are likely to live on arrival at the city. They can be introduced to new activities that will be specifically suited to their peri-urban circumstances, such as high value crop cultivation.

*The DPU completed in June 2006 a synthesis of the findings of peri-urban interface research that was financed by the Natural Resources Systems Programme, a programme of the Department for International Development of the U K Government. The findings highlighted above are from the reports of this synthesis, which can be found at [www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/pui/research/previous/synthesis/index.html](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu/pui/research/previous/synthesis/index.html) in downloadable documents. The synthesis drew from more than a dozen individual peri-urban research projects, the reports of which can be accessed at [www.nrsp.org.uk](http://www.nrsp.org.uk). The DPU advised the Natural Resources Systems Programme on its management of peri-urban research during the final seven years of the fund's life.*

# head on

## MSc field trip reports from 2007

### Mumbai Field Trip

**Karen Magnuson, ESD**

Recently, in May 2007, the ESD and UDP program undertook fieldwork in Mumbai, India. The goal of our work was to put into practice the skills and tools we had learned throughout



Karen Magnuson

Railway slum dwellers in Mumbai fetching water

the year. Pascale Hofmann, Eleni Kroyu and Chris Jasko (an associate of DPU) led a group of ESD and UDP students to Mumbai with the objective of assessing the impact of resettlement on the livelihoods of three different populations of slum-dwellers and to develop a set of strategic interventions. Each case had unique characteristics, and the larger group was broken down into three smaller teams: the first team carried out research on the resettlement of pavement-dwellers from Byculla, in central Mumbai to Milan Nagar, on the outskirts of Mumbai; the second group researched the resettlement of railway slum-dwellers to Mankhurd (adjacent to Milan Nagar); and the third group worked on the resettlement of slum-dwellers living along major roadways to Oshiwara and Mankhurd.

Our work would have been impossible without the guidance and aid of the local NGO SPARC, which has been working with pavement dwellers and slum-dwellers in Mumbai since 1984. Sheela Patel, the director of SPARC, along with her colleagues Celine d'Cruz, and Sundar Burra began working with a group of women pavement-dwellers in 1984, to support the community, which was especially vulnerable to demolitions (as are all slums in

the city), the women formed Mahila Milan whose main work centers on community savings schemes. The third actor, the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF), which makes up "The Alliance" was founded by Jockin, to oppose demolitions in his local slum. All three of these organizations allowed us to use their expertise and knowledge to grasp the extent of the work which has been done. With their help we were able to visit the people at their homes, who were so welcoming and open with us, while we listened to their stories of struggle and achievement, and asked questions which enabled us to understand the transformations in their lives and the issues which remain today. We were also fortunate to have lectures and discussions with many governmental and private organizations; including MCGM (Mumbai Corporation of Greater Mumbai) and MHADA (Maharashtra Housing & Area Development Authority), municipal bodies which deal with services and maintenance of the resettlement sites, ICICI bank, and many others.

All of our intense work culminated in presentations, which were attended by many of the actors with whom we had spoken during our time in Mumbai. As consultants to SPARC, we suggested further work and possible solutions to the remaining problems which had been identified during our interviews and research. It is our sincere hope that our suggestions were of some use and may produce positive results if implemented in the areas we visited. Our work built upon fieldwork carried out on the same cases in Mumbai by DPU students in 2006, and will hopefully be built positively upon by the class which will follow in 2008.

### Istanbul Field Trip

**Natalia Duarte, BUDD**

There is a place called Sulukule which is really an amazing place, fit to be included in Italo Calvino's 1970s magical realist novel, *Invisible Cities*. In this place the city dissolves in an uninterrupted time-space frame that leads you to think that you are in either an imaginary world or an ancient epoch; but this place really exists and is located in one of

the oldest cities in the world, Istanbul, a city related to water, a city that carries the history of the modern world, a city in which you can find that there is a place called Sulukule. 'Placing Sulukule' was the culmination of the MSc in Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) fieldtrip to Istanbul in 2007. This fieldwork was carried out by a group of nine students and four staff members from the Development Planning Unit (UCL), and aimed to explore design solutions for the development of Sulukule neighbourhood. The latter is currently under threat of demolition due to the regeneration project proposed by Fatih Municipality, itself situated within Istanbul's wider urban transformation agenda, which is supposed to include conservation of heritage sites alongside protection against natural disasters etc., but comes under strong pressure for new development.

Sulukule is partially located inside the boundaries of the UNESCO world heritage site. It has been the home of a Romani population for more than 1000 years, since they settled along the ancient Theodosian Walls. Currently, Sulukule people are well known throughout Turkey and worldwide for their cultural skills related to dance and music. In the past, the community operated a series of entertainment houses which served as the main source for income generation. In 1992 the entertainment houses were shut down, a major factor for the decline of economic conditions in the community. In 2005, Fatih Municipality started to consider the area's



Sara Feys

BUDD fieldwork in Sulukule

redevelopment potential. But what they understand by this is to demolish the existing settlement and renovate the area for a new function. As in many redevelopment schemes, the needs of the current population - and more specifically their ability to access a new house within the new project - receive scant consideration.

'Placing Sulukule' is thus an attempt to draw up an alternative approach for urban development that helps to conserve Sulukule and its people and to integrate them in the context of contemporary Istanbul, allowing its residents to stay in this location and participate in the city's urban transformation while ensuring improvements in both their living conditions and their opportunity for income-generation and recognising Sulukule as both a space to support livelihoods and as a pool of cultural and social wealth.

In this study, the students developed their skills in working in a context of urban development where different agents are pushing for their own interests, and to stimulate discussion as a means of finding alternative scenarios in a multi-stakeholder planning process. By establishing Guiding Principles and Pilot Action Projects, we sought strategies whereby stakeholders may find common ground and participate in developing a future for the area based on social inclusion.

## international networks

In March 2007 **Cassidy Johnson** attended the Future Buildings Forum Think Tank Workshop on Future Sustainable Buildings and Communities in Espoo, Finland. This workshop, concerning energy efficiency in buildings and was organised by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, the biggest contract research organisation in Northern Europe. Its aim was to identify R&D needs and new business opportunities for sustainable buildings and communities, producing a vision and a roadmap towards the vision (draft of strategy) - with a timeframe extending till 2030 - concerning the energy system and its most important components. The emphasis was on processes and co-operation models which can step beyond traditional "limits and borders", as well as on integral technology solutions. The roadmap is expected to define future International Energy Agency (IEA) implementing agreements, and research areas. Many of the 34 delegates were part of the IEA Energy Conservation in Buildings and Community Systems (ECBCS) Programme.

Cassidy delivered a presentation on "Zero Energy Solar Buildings and Cities," based on her research for Natural Resources Canada on the urban planning and development perspectives for the use of photovoltaic (PV - solar electricity) in housing projects. The term "solar communities" is a broad definition that can encapsulate many different initiatives, activities and technologies. Generally, it implies housing developments that employ solar energy coupled with other forms of renewable energy, energy efficiency, new urban planning methods, private housing markets, supportive government policies, architectural innovation, sustainable transport options and environmental health. Solar communities are springing up in several countries, including in Europe, Japan, Australia and the United States. Cassidy's research seeks to 1) understand the urban development process of two solar communities, one in the Netherlands and one in California, focussing specifically on the stakeholders involved, their roles and activities, and 2) using this data, to put forth ideas for proposing the development of solar communities in Canada. Her findings are that the house builder is key to diffusing solar technologies at the community scale, and therefore what is needed are effective approaches to help builders in this endeavour. In Canada, there are a growing number of innovative home-builders who are gaining expertise in solar and other renewable energy technologies; the introduction of Ontario's Standard Offer Program will further accelerate this process. As well, new sustainable housing developments, such as the Rockcliffe Lands Redevelopment in Ottawa, offer excellent opportunities for exploring use of solar at the community scale. Cassidy writes: The feedback from my presentation was positive. Since most come from a very technical background, participants were pleased to have the viewpoint of community planning, and also to understand whom the participants are in the building process, and how they interact in partnerships. The workshops were split into groups to conduct visioning exercises on based on four aspects: Innovative Technologies; Products and Systems Solutions; Innovative Business Models and customer Needs; Implementation (barriers, incentives, policies). I ended up leading the group on Implementation, and we came up with the vision of 'Culture of Energy Awareness', based on the idea that implementation of energy efficient communities

will follow if demand exists. Demand will be created by consumer knowledge of energy that they consume and the effects this has on the environment. We came up with an 18 point action plan for implementation, which included aspects such as education of children about energy efficiency in buildings and including this technology in schools, education of builders and contractors about new systems, public knowledge about how much energy buildings consume (or produce) in real time, financial credits for sustainable technologies, and more. Future research ideas include expanding the research to look at how PV can be implemented in existing communities. There is a very good possibility to make existing houses more energy efficient and to install renewable systems. But how can this be done? Who is involved, and how can we bring this technology to contracting companies, for example those installing new roofs on houses? Who will market these technologies, what are the incentives? There is also scope for modelling analysis to determine the built urban form of a community that is most energy efficient, and reduces resource consumption, i.e. types of housing stock, whether it should be single family, high rise, etc.

**Babar Mumtaz** attended a meeting in Pakistan organised by the World Bank on Rural Housing for earthquake affected areas. This was a major event, with about a hundred and fifty participants, many of them from international aid and bilateral agencies, international and local NGOs and government officials. The main purpose was for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) to seek consensus for its programme and policy - which it had developed in conjunction and consultation with most of the major stakeholders (over 80 in the case of the Habitat-led training programme). The Conference also marked the start of the transition phase from relief to reconstruction (the former led by Gen Farooq, the Federal Relief Coordinator). Babar remarks: "House construction, planning and layout have been developed and are responsive to good practice - mainly following the US codes. (Why don't we build buildings with curved corners? There must be alternatives to steel reinforcement or the traditional timber beams: some form of man-made plastic rope/netting would be more durable, stronger and, most importantly lighter and more easily transported?)".



# staff retirements

## **Babar Mumtaz**

An appreciation by Patrick Wakely



Babar Mumtaz retired in September 2006 after 32 years as a member of the full-time academic staff of the DPU, culminating as its Director in 2003-05.

Babar's career at the DPU reflected his broad range of interests and his creative imagination and abilities. He studied Architecture at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana and at the Architectural Association in London, and Economics at the University of East Anglia. Following a period working as an architect for the British Foreign Office and as a planner in Pakistan, he joined the DPU Extension Service in 1974, conducting courses in Urban Housing in Iraq, Thailand, Pakistan and Kenya; he was the first Director of the Unit's Training and Advisory Service (TAS) for which he undertook more than 30 assignments in some 20 countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East; he ran the Diploma programme in Urban Development Planning Practice during its most successful years in the 1980s when it was centred on the annual Nairobi Project for which the course (15-20 students) moved to Kenya for a month to work with the University of Nairobi and Nairobi City Planning Department on alternatives for the city's development. In the 1990s he recast, and for ten years directed, the MSc programme in Building and Urban Design for Development with which he developed an innovative and exciting approach to participatory local planning and

environmental management that has attracted considerable international attention. He successfully combined these activities

within the DPU with longer-term (twelve-month) secondments that brought a wealth of experience to his teaching and that of his colleagues (Lahore Urban Development and Transport Study, Pakistan 1978-79; secondment to Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Washington to set up a Centre for International Development Planning and Building, 1985-86; ADB advisor to the Indonesian Ministry of Settlements and Regional Infrastructure on establishing a community-based housing finance system 2002-03).

Throughout his career at the DPU Babar made a major contribution to the understanding of community engagement in housing and urban development. This, particularly through his work with the Sri Lanka Million Houses Programme and Indian Slum Improvement Programme in the 1980s, which developed new approaches to community organisation, management training and local governance in slum upgrading and the wider issues of urban low-income housing policies and programmes. This continued in many subsequent shorter-term engagements, particularly those in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia as well as his engagement by UNDP

in the LIFE (Local Initiative Facility for the Urban in Environment) Programme in Central and Eastern Asia.

However, perhaps his most significant and innovatory work has been in the field of demand-based strategies for housing finance. Challenging the deep-rooted conventions of supply-driven, long-term mortgages that are invariably out of reach to low-income urban communities, Babar's demonstration of the financial viability and managerial efficiency of short-term incremental loans for the development and extension of housing presents a real and implementable alternative. This work started with the 'Mumtaz Model' for the analysis of investment in land and infrastructure for low-income housing. In 1993, jointly with the Asian Coalition of Housing Finance Institutions, he organised a major international conference at the DPU on the 'Emerging Role for International Donors in Housing Finance'. This brought together participants from the World Bank, the Asian, African and Inter-American Development Banks and national housing finance institutions in Asia and Africa to discuss the 'Mumtaz approach' to low-income housing without subsidies. Babar went on to test the approach in his secondment to the Asian Development Bank in Indonesia in 2002-03. Babar's retirement from a long and varied career in the DPU in no way signifies the ending of his influence on the field of urban development and housing, which continues to make itself felt, particularly in Asia and the Arab States.



Michael Safer (centre) and Babar Mumtaz (right) with Patrick Wakely

## Michael Safier

### An appreciation by Caren Levy

After 35 years at the DPU, Michael Safier retired at the end of September 2006. Michael is a loved and respected colleague who has played a crucial role in the intellectual life of the DPU. His breadth of knowledge on the affairs of human beings and how they live is astonishing. He brought this special insight into two broad fields in his work in the DPU: urban development planning and cosmopolitan development. For Michael these fields are more than an interest, but a life's passion, and true to form, he sees them as very much connected.

In the field of urban development, Michael communicated his fascination for planning to a generation of DPU students. All will be familiar with his commitment to the development of action planning in countries of the South, building on the work of Professor Otto Koenigsberger, and within this, his quest for an articulation of the 'room-for-manoeuvre' for planned intervention in urban affairs. From his early experience at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (1967-70), he combined his academic work with a concern for professional practice. For example, during this time he was on secondment to the Ministry of Planning to assist in the preparation of

urban and regional programmes in the 3rd Five-Year Development Plan. This intersection of academia and planning practice is a theme that runs through all of Michael's working life, epitomised in the term, 'reflective practice', which he often uses, and with which he is always engaged.

Based on a range of research and applied work in different parts of the world, Michael committed himself to the intellectual advancement and promotion of 'urban development planning' in which the action planning approach and methodology was the centrepiece. His research has included some major studies in Lusaka, Zambia (1973-75); in East and Central Africa (1977-80, with Jaya Appalaraju); in China (1982-83, with Richard Kirkby); in

Zimbabwe (1985-86).

One of Michael's great gifts is to be able to contextualise his work in the greater scheme of ideas. Two contributions in particular have both influenced and become a great source of debate amongst colleagues and students alike. The first is the notion of 'planning traditions', in which he placed and refined his work on urban development planning, and the second his conception of the 'organisational landscape' of urban development planning (building on his think piece for UN Habitat, 1989). Both provide the kind of overview of urban development planning which advances thinking in our field.

Michael's move into "cosmopolitan development" in the early 1990s was a logical extension of all his concerns in urban development. He argued that with increasing globalisation, global mobility and



Michael Safier in his study at the old DPU building

cultural revival, there is a "...gathering into cities of larger and more varied mixtures of national, ethnic, linguistic, racial, religious and communal groups...the consequences for urban life are complex and can be easily disruptive, as people with contrasting affiliations compete for more adequate opportunities and representation, and make conflicting demands for political and cultural recognition within the same shared city space.' (Safier, 1996:15) For him, there is "an inescapable contemporary choice between conflict and co-existence" in most cities and societies today. (Safier, 1996; 2003) Focusing on the development of what he terms 'cosmopolitan planning', Michael has spent the last 15 years developing a framework and form of planning that will

promote peaceful co-existence between cultural groups in urban areas. This work inevitably led him to engage with conflict and post-conflict planning in some of the most troubled parts of the world at the end of the 20th century, Bosnia and Jerusalem, and with the notion of 'urbicide'.

On the 5th December, 2006, Michael treated a select audience of his peers and friends to his vision of 'Cosmopolitanism, Cosmopolitan Development and Development Planning', in the first lecture of the Urban Legacies Lecture Series at the DPU. The lecture demonstrated Michael's unique intellectual contribution. I know, from students, colleagues, his peers as well as through the professional work we have done together, for example in UNESCO, that his cosmopolitan planning framework is much valued for its ability to link theory with methodology and

practice in planning.

For students, Michael has always had the capacity to contextualise ideas, historically and politically in a way that is exciting and often startling. His eloquent lectures and considered observations often contain that "ah ha" factor. He does this for his colleagues as well, delivering that challenging question in unequivocal but gentle fashion, opening up debate rather than closing it down. We are all familiar with those thought provoking remarks in that tiny, almost illegible handwriting on a piece of work presented to Michael for comment.

Michael's departure feels like the end of an era – not just because he is leaving the DPU. He is also the last of the 'older' generation of our colleagues to retire. As with the others, Michael remains very much in 'our orbit', not only as a DPU Associate but also as an occasional lecturer, and as someone who can always be relied upon for considered discussion and debate.

All this speaks to Michael's generosity of spirit. This is reflected in the unwavering ethical perspective mirrored so clearly in the substance of his work, as well as in how he conducts himself. His humanity and compassion comes through in all his dealings. As I said at the end of his tribute lecture last year, I am grateful to have this public occasion to say: thank you, Michael.

# n-aerus conference

In September this year the DPU, in collaboration with IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) hosted the 8th Conference of the Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-Aerus).

This year's event focused on

**"Grassroots-led Urban Development: Achievements; Potentials; Limitations"**

and researchers working on urban issues in the South were invited to submit papers on any topic of relevance to the conference theme. The conference was attended by over 100 participants from academic institutions, non-governmental bodies and grassroots organisations from all around the world.

The conference started with a panel discussion on the definitions and ideological underpinnings of grassroots-led organisations and the kinds of relationships they form and with whom, starting with presentations by Diana Mitlin (IIED), Alain Durand-Lasserve (National Centre of Scientific Research, France) and Yves Cabannes (DPU).

Presentation and discussion of the selected conference papers (a total of 26) then followed, organised in 4 parallel working group sessions with the following themes:

- A. Social Movements: nature, limitations and potentials
- B. Civil society and urban governance
- C. Struggle for land and housing
- D. Tools and methods in grassroots-led practice

Topics ranged from a concern with community organisations operating at neighbourhood level to social movements aimed at improving access to housing, land and infrastructure. It was important to define what grassroots organisations actually are, what kind of citizenship they promote, and the kind of roles the private sector and state play in supporting them. Different types of relationships that can be formed within the communities themselves and with external bodies were explored. Depending on the influence and scale of these grassroots organisations, they can form various relationships with the govern-

ment at municipal, city and state levels. The conference examined cases in both democratic and non-democratic systems, and what tools are needed to make processes more democratic. The specific context in which such initiatives arise is very important, not just in socio-economic terms, but also with regard to the political culture.

The closing panel discussion started with presentations by Celine D'Cruz (Shack/Slum Dwellers International - <http://www.sdinet.org/>) and Rocio Lombera (Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento - COPEVI, Mexico) about particular examples in Asia, Africa and Latin America where grassroots organisations play a role in bringing about large-scale urban development. This was followed by discussions on the potentials but also limitations of grassroots organisations in taking on such a role.

Papers presented at the conference are available on the N-Aerus website at [www.naerus.net/web/sat/workshops/2007/london\\_2007\\_papers.htm](http://www.naerus.net/web/sat/workshops/2007/london_2007_papers.htm)

## staff news



Last summer, UCL appointed **Yves Cabannes** to the new Chair of Development Planning. He has taken over as DPU Director of Research. He

teaches on the Masters programme, including the MScs in Urban Development Planning and BUDD, plays a major role in PhD supervision and leads significant new Research Projects, including those on Urbanization and municipal development in Mozambique and Innovative Policies for Social Inclusion at municipal level. Yves is an urban planner specializing in urban and municipal governance, with long experience coordinating Research and Research & Development programmes in Asian, Latin American, African and Arab cities on issues such as participatory planning and budgeting, innovative practices for municipal

poverty reduction, revitalization of urban centers, community-based microfinance, low-income housing, urban agriculture and appropriate technologies for local development. Yves is also an activist and advocate on development, social justice and pro-poor issues. He is currently the convener for the UN Advisory Group on Forced Evictions and a visiting post-graduate scholar in a number of universities in Europe and Latin America. Previous appointments include Regional Coordinator for the UN Habitat/UNDP Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean; senior advisor to the International Centre for Urban Management, CIGU, Ecuador, and the Municipality of Porto Alegre, Brazil; and lecturer in Urban Planning at Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

**Cassidy Johnson** joined the DPU fulltime in January 2007 as the new Course Director for the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development. She has a background in urban development, design and management



of low-cost housing projects in developing countries and reconstruction after disasters. She recently completed her PhD on strategic planning for post-disaster temporary

housing programmes, based on field research in Turkey. Before her post at the DPU Cassidy worked as a course lecturer in Architecture and Urban Studies at McGill University, Université de Montréal and Concordia University (Canada) and was a visiting researcher at Istanbul Technical University (Turkey). She is a founding member of i-Rec, a network dedicated to providing information to specialists in reconstruction, as well as joint co-ordinator of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) Task Group 63 on Disasters and the Built Environment.



# publications

The recent publication ***Making Planning Work: a guide to approaches and skills*** (ITDG Publishing) by Cliff Hague, **Patrick Wakely**, and recent graduates of the DPU's Urban Development Planning programme **Julie Crespin** and **Chris Jasko**, draws upon case studies from some 20 countries, to show why new urban development planning and management skills are needed so urgently, and what can be done to grow such skills and enhance capacities. Aimed at political leaders, professional planners, engineers, architects, lawyers etc., the book shows how professionals and NGOs are creating and delivering innovative responses, often in situations of extremely scarce resources. Its tone is optimistic, but not utopian. The global challenge of urbanization is daunting, but imagination and skills can make an impact. The Guide is associated with an interactive website - [www.communityplanning.net](http://www.communityplanning.net) - that enables readers to contribute and discuss their own experiences and ideas.

**Yves Cabannes** has co-authored with Leticia Osorio the Executive Summary Report of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (AGFE) to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT (in Spanish) under the title ***Encontrar soluciones a los desalojos forzosos en todo el mundo: Una prioridad para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (MDGs) e implementar la Agenda Habitat*** (2007) (<http://es.habitants.org/filemanager/download/401>)

**Robert Biel** has recently published the Second Edition of his major work ***The New Imperialism - Crisis and Contradictions in North-South Relations***. The Second Edition, published in Arabic and Spanish, includes an important new chapter (unpublished in English), employing a novel methodology derived from systems theory to analyse the reasons for the decay of the mode of production and its current self-destructive momentum towards militarisation. The title of the Spanish edition is Biel R., *El nuevo imperialismo - Crisis y contradicciones en las relaciones*

*norte-sur*, México, Siglo XXI, 2007

Part of this explanatory model (minus the international politics, but focusing on the environmental relationships) is further explored in Biel R., "The interplay between social and environmental degradation in the development of the international political economy", *Journal of World-Systems Research*, Vol. 12, no. 1, 2006 on <http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/vol12/number1/pdf/jwsr-v12n1-biel.pdf>



The New Imperialism - Arabic and Spanish versions

***Território, Ambiente e Políticas Públicas Espaciais*** (2006) is a collective publication coordinated by Professor Marília Steinberger, with chapters contributed by **Adriana Allen** and **Edesio Fernandes** from the DPU and a number of scholars from de universities of Brasília, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and from professionals from the Brazilian Ministries of the Environment,



National Integration and Cities. This publication is the outcome of a six-year academic link between the Núcleo de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais, University of Brasilia and the Development Planning Unit, University College London, with support from the British Council, UK Department for International Development and the Brazilian Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq).

The book suggests that environmental, territorial, regional and urban and rural policies, which are often formulated as separated policies, need to be understood, conceived and applied as a specific set of spatial public policies. Through its various chapters, the authors examine the possibilities for an integrated and complementary application of different policy instruments, such as ecological-economic zoning, extractive reserves, hydrographical basin committees and the director plan promoted by the Cities Statute.

## The DPU has moved

In June 2007, after 30 years at the old building in Endsleigh Gardens, the DPU relocated to new premises close by at 34 Tavistock Square (pictured right). The move, co-ordinated by Manager Linda Bruch with help from the admin staff and UCL's Estates and Facilities Division, proceeded smoothly and classes started in October.

As well as housing offices for the academic and administrative staff, the building features 3 teaching / seminar rooms with new audio-visual installations. These rooms are also used to host receptions and special events such as the Dialogues in Development lecture series (see back page).



# phd programme

news from the dpu research degree programme

## Reza Masoudi Nejad: Photo exhibition

An exhibition of the photographic work of PhD candidate **Reza Masoudi** was held at the DPU in November 2006 to January 2007, to coincide with his Upgrading seminar. The exhibition concerned the Ashura ritual in the city of Dezfoul in Iran, and significantly contributed to the DPU both at an academic and at an aesthetic level. Academically, research agendas are rightly increasingly highlighting the importance of innovative methodologies, and more specifically of the creation of datasets. Reza thus assembled two complementary datasets: his recordings and interview-transcriptions; and (the subject of this exhibition) his photographic record. Reza's work addresses a ritual of complex significance, in which elements of profound anthropological importance - such as purification - intermingle with visual demonstrations of social networking and social status (themselves subject to rapid development and transformation reflecting that of Iranian society itself). The verbal record alone could not do justice to this. For this reason, Reza's exhibition supplied a welcome and significant contribution, in emphasising the power of innovative methodologies. From the aesthetic angle, Reza's work is no mere passive record of events. His work graphically expresses the problematic inherent in any research: the researcher inevitably impinges on the reality being observed, and it is better to acknowledge this than pretend it doesn't exist. He therefore operates at the cutting edge of

photographic technique, exploring methods - for example operating the zoom in the midst of a long exposure - which illuminate the dynamic of the ritual scenes in a way which a 'flat' image could not. In the process, he created images of great beauty which made a striking impression on every visitor to the DPU during this period. Reza's blog supplies a constantly-evolving glimpse of his work:

<http://rezamasoudi.blogspot.com/>

## Robert Biel

### PhD Completion

PhD candidate **Christoph Woiwode** recently successfully passed his Examination at the DPU. His thesis concerns Urban Risk Communication in Ahmedabad (India) between Slum Dwellers and the Municipal Corporation. There is an increased recognition that modern technologies, shifts in social and economic organisation and the growth of urban areas put 'risks' on the global agenda. But, as Christoph shows, such macro-level risk may be very different from the local reality. Consequently, it is crucial to take account of the diversity of risk conditions and contexts.

In the Indian context, megacities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai face large scale threats that undermine their economic, environmental and socio-cultural viability, and a range of large cities in India are following suit: Ahmedabad, the seventh largest agglomeration, is one such. These cities normally have no provisions for risk mitigation and prevention.

The discourse on risk management in India has hitherto been dominated by the natural disaster risk debate as promoted by the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (in the 1990s) and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Whilst these endeavours certainly developed new networks and insights, they are limited in at least two respects.

Firstly, they focus primarily on so-called natural disaster risks, and less on everyday and slowly accumulating risks. Secondly, they concentrate mainly on top-down scientific and technological solutions and strategies. Even though the involvement of 'the public' is recommended, no further thought is given to communication, either ignoring this aspect completely or seeing it as a task for non-governmental organisations. In contrast, in the socio-cultural risk discourse the leading concepts are society, culture and human beings with a focus on the holistic perspective of interdependent issues. This viewpoint has the great advantage that other related issues, environmental hazards, health hazards, socially and culturally rooted hazards, are treated more equally. The cases of slum dwellers presented in this study crucially exhibit this dimension when looking at micro-level analysis, consequently supporting the need for such a conceptual shift in (disaster) risk management.

Based on a socio-cultural understanding of risk, the study develops a new conceptual framework to investigate the communication of urban risks. It places four twin concepts - power & control, fairness & justice, trust & credibility, knowledge & rationality - in the centre of the urban governance principles of efficiency, equity, security and participatory democracy. To date, the understanding of urban risks and the vulnerability of inhabitants is an under-represented subject in urban planning, and 'Urban Risk Governance' to mitigate urban risks for the poor has not been included properly. Yet the incorporation of the poor urban communities' viewpoint in urban development planning can contribute to a more equal communication between diverse agents involved in the planning processes.

Two contrasting case studies reveal different perceptions of the key issue in risk. In one (Meladinagar) it is the dynamic process of change in the form of globalisation, resulting in the disillusionment of many residents. In the other, Nitinagar, it is the perpetual insecurity of employment, deprivation and chronic poverty. Slum dwellers apply an integrated understanding of their risk circumstances at the predominantly micro-level of the locations in which they live and work. Their perspective is to a high degree holistic, contextualised and based on experiences of everyday life in which disasters are recurring and often unavoidable sporadic events like drinking water shortages and health risks. For them,



Social relations: Ashura ritual in Dezfoul, Iran

risks materialise cumulatively in small-scale disasters. Necessarily, and in stark contrast to the policies of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), risks are so much part of people's life that they have internalised strategies of coping and adaptation.

The current governance structure of the AMC is not equipped to tackle risks faced by slum dwellers. Principally, within the AMC risks are dealt with on a sectoral, top-down, technical basis with a focus largely on macro-level (city-wide) disaster risks rather than daily risks faced by slum dwellers. This results in a kind of technical-oriented, and somewhat vague 'meta-perception' about risks in the city; or where, at the department level, there is awareness about specific risks faced by citizens (such as health issues in slums), these two levels are not analysed or systematically linked together.

The findings show that communication has not been used strategically to negotiate urban risks among stakeholders in Ahmedabad. Apart from some NGO activities, clear lines of communication between the parties, acknowledging normative and ethical concerns of communication, have not been developed. Consequently, the key findings suggest that a meaningful communication process can only take place, if the interaction of stakeholders is understood as a human relationship which goes beyond techno-bureaucratic co-ordination and the currently prevailing ('Western') understanding of communication.

## Major recent publications by current DPU MPhil/PhD students

### Gabriela GRAJALES

"Microestructuración del sector servicios de la Ciudad de México" (pp. 457-502). in Gustavo Garza (coord.) *La organización del sector servicios en México*, El Colegio de México, México.

### Hieu NGUYEN NGOC

'Urban development control, a perspective of the Skyline Tower case', in *The Builder*, Vietnam Federation of Construction, No 3 and 4, 2007. (in Vietnamese)

"Restructuring driving force of change", conference paper, N-AERUS (Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South) conference on 'International Aids Ideologies and Policies in Urban Sector', Darmstadt, Germany, 09-2006.

**Reza Masoudi NEJAD** (Available from <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucftrma/papers.htm>)

"The Modern Transformation and Generation of the Image of Social Life in Iranian Historic City: field study, and qualitative methods in urban studies" at 3rd International PhD Seminar, Urbanism and Urbanisation; Universit IUAV di Venezia, Italy.

"Iranian Cities from Local to Macro System: a study on transformation of Iranian cities during Modernisation" at

Sixth Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies; SOAS, University of London, London.

### Ernesto LOPEZ-MORALES

Impacto del Crecimiento del Gran Santiago en el Deterioro Funcional de sus Espacios Pericentrales. *Construyendo la Ciudad del Siglo XXI. Retos y Perspectivas Urbanas en España y Chile*. H. Capel and R. Hidalgo. Santiago, University of Barcelona-Catholic University of Chile: 323-336.

<http://www.ub.es/geocrit/sn/sn-194-47.htm>

Review: "BIEL, Robert. *The New Imperialism: Crisis and Contradictions in North/South Relations*. London: Zed, 2000." *Biblio 3W, Revista Bibliográfica de Geografía y Ciencias Sociales* 11(686). <http://www.ub.es/geocrit/b3w-686.htm>

### Fernando ARAGÓN

Manual de Operación del Fondo de Desastres Naturales. LEAD-MÉXICO-El Colegio de México. (en prensa). Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (2006) *La Gestión del Medio Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales en México*, en: *La Gestión Ambiental en México, 2000-2006*. México, D.F.

### Sonia ROITMAN

"Who segregates whom? The analysis of a gated community in Mendoza, Argentina", in *Housing Studies*, vol.20, No 2, p. 303-321.

## PhD Speakers' Corner

### The Geography of Services in Mexico

Gabriela Grajales

While completing my fieldwork in Mexico, I had the opportunity to participate in the seminar "LA ORGANIZACIÓN ESPACIAL DEL SECTOR SERVICIOS EN MÉXICO" (The spatial organization of the service sector in Mexico) organized by El Colegio de México ([www.colmex.mx](http://www.colmex.mx)) and the Federal Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL). The aim of the seminar was to clarify the pivotal importance within Mexico's future economic development of the phenomenon known as *servicialisation* – by analogy with *industrialisation* – which refers to an economic transformation associated with the rise of the service sector (Grazia 2000).

De-industrialisation, as a structural shift, is the name given to a steady decline of manufacturing employment. In the context of developed countries, it is considered a natural evolution and therefore it normally has a positive or neutral connotation. But its significance in developing countries still needs to be assessed. In Mexico, in terms of employment, manufacturing has ceded territory to services. In 1960 both activities employed a similar number of workers, since a gap has widened in favour of services. By 1993, there were 1.85 service workers per one manufacturing employee, in contrast to 1.09 in 1960. The tertiary sector, or service sector, from being considered insignificant or residual activities as it was by classical economists, has therefore come to occupy the centre of the economic arena in recent decades.

The seminar followed a deductive approach, presenting in the first place

papers on the main features of the sector at the national level, as well as on the labor market. It then analysed services' behavior in specific regions and specific services, such as banks. Finally, the seminar considered the intra-metropolitan analysis of services in Mexico City, Puebla and Toluca. Remarkably, half the papers presented were masters theses, mainly from the MSc in Urban Studies run by El Colegio de México, and PhD theses from other centers. The papers have been edited into a book, published by El Colegio de México, SEDESOL and CONACYT.

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

### Reference List

Garza, G. (2000). "Servicialización de la Economía Metropolitana, 1960-1998." *La Ciudad de México en el Fin del Segundo Milenio*, G. Garza, ed., El Colegio de México, Gobierno del Distrito Federal, México, 178-184.



# hands on

## DPU staff consultancy work, training and professional courses

### The DPU at the World Urban Forum

The Third Session of the World Urban Forum, organised by UN-HABITAT, was held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006. As always in an event such as this, it was exciting to share ideas and experiences with our international 'community of practice'. The DPU was represented at WUF 3 in a number of events.

#### "Urban development strategies are not relevant to PRSPs"

On 19th June, **Caren Levy** chaired this debate organised by Com-Habitat. Speakers included Siku Nkombe (Head, CCODE, Malawi); Joseph Muturi and Jack Makau (Pamoja Trust, Kenya); Carl Wright (Sec Gen, Commonwealth Local Government Forum); and Eduardo Lopez Moreno (Chief, Global Urban Observatory, UN-Habitat).

#### "Planning and Managing Sustainable Cities: From Research to Practice"

On the 19th June, **Patrick Wakely** moderated this Researchers Roundtable, with Paula Jiron (DPU Alumna) in the chair. The event was organised in cooperation with the Global Research Network on Human Settlements (HS-Net), University of Toronto Urban International (UTUI), the European Commission Directorate-General for Research (EC DG-Research), the international Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP); Urbanization and Global Environmental Change Project; the International Development Research centre (IDRC); Centre for Demographic, Urban and Environmental Studies (CEDUA) and El Colegio de Mexico.

#### "Building Capacity for Better Cities: What have We Learned?"

On 20th June, **Pat Wakely** and **Caren Levy** were panel members for this joint DPU, Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Rotterdam; Housing Development and Management (HDM), University of Lund; and UN-Habitat (Training and Capacity Building Branch) networking session. During the session, UN-Habitat expressed interest in using Caren's 'web' as an evaluation tool for training (UN-Habitat TIE programme in which the DPU is currently involved through Eleni Kyrou, Julian Walker

and Caren Levy).

#### "Participatory Budgeting: building Participatory Democracy"

On the 21st June, **Yves Cabannes** chaired this session, which highlighted a range of interesting international city-level experience with participatory budgeting.

#### "Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills", ITDG Publishing

On the evening of 21st June, the DPU and its partners launched this book, with the main address given by Anna Tibaijuka. The DPU partners in this initiative were the DFID, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), UK Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC), Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) and UN-Habitat. The DPU was represented by **Caren Levy**, **Pat Wakely** and **Chris Jasko** (co-author and DPU Alumnus, MSc Urban Development Planning 2004-05). The event was made all the more pleasurable because of the number of DPU Alumni there.

After the book launch, Caren Levy and Chris Jasko (DPU Alum 2004-05) co-ordinated a dinner for 18 DPU staff and Alumni attending WUF 3. It was a wonderful evening of reminiscences as well as catching up with the new and exciting work in which people are involved. It was also an opportunity to introduce Yves Cabannes, the DPU's new Chair of Development Planning, to members of the DPU 'family'. Those present were: Shannon Bradley (Outreach Programme Advisor, Georgia Basin Action Plan, Environment Canada), Beatriz Echeverri (activist and consultant), Ilias Dire (Local Government International Bureau), Axumite Gebre-Egziabher (Director, New York Office, UN-Habitat), Angelique Hablis (UN-Habitat, Capacity Building), Chris Jasko (consultant), Paola Jiron (Director, Housing Studies, University of Chile; currently doing her PhD at LSE), Jose Luiz Lezama and Sergio Puente (National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM), Asa Jonson (UN-Habitat, Capacity Building), Wandia Seaforth (UN-Habitat, Best Practices), Shadia Touqan (Technical Office Director, Old city Jerusalem Revitalization Plan, Welfare Association), Sophia Sprenger and Louise Kielgast (DPU MSc Urban Development Planning, 2005-

06), Nguyen Ngoc Hieu (DPU PhD researcher), and from the DPU staff Caren Levy, Pat Wakely and Yves Cabannes.

### Chinese Urbanisation Study Project

In collaboration with professionals from Halcrow UK, and Tsinghua University, China, Le-yin Zhang has since August 2006 been working on an ADB-funded project, entitled "Sustainable Urbanisation in Metropolitan Regions" in China.

The project has been supported by various ministries of the Chinese government, most notably the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). It consists of several elements:

- Formulation of three urbanisation scenarios for China up to 2020
- Formulation of three linked urbanisation scenarios for Chengdu and Wuhan metropolitan regions
- Identification of the implications for employment, service provision, infrastructure (especially transport), environment, municipal finance, etc.
- Recommendation of policy instruments for the purpose of promoting sustainable development of Chinese metropolitan regions
- Recommendation of policy options to ADB for its future activities in China

Le-yin writes: This project evidently forms part of the Chinese government's endeavour to implement its 11th five-year plan, an outline of which was issued in early 2006. The plan features several interesting and novel ideas. It proposes, for example, to divide the entire national territory into four types of areas: areas for optimising development, areas for priority development, areas for restricted development and areas where development is prohibited. Moreover, such classification will assume legal status. Chengdu and Wuhan, respectively belonging to the Western and Central Region, are type II areas (i.e. areas for priority development).

Another feature to note is that the 11th plan emphasises the quality of urbanisation, rather than its speed as in the past. In particular, the plan stresses the importance of metropolitan regions, especially those in the western and central regions. The idea is that the development of the latter will not only stimulate economic development in the surrounding areas, but also relieve development pressure from densely populated coastal areas in East China.

## Economic Diversification in Bonn

Between 16th and 17th May, **Le-yin Zhang** participated as a resource person in the pre-session expert meeting on economic diversification, organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - <http://unfccc.int>) in Bonn. She made two presentations, respectively entitled "Economic Diversification and Sustainable Development: Linkages and barriers" and "Fostering Economic Diversification".

The purpose of the meeting was to consider, in the context of implementing response measures in accordance with Article 4.8 of UNFCCC, the following questions:

- How economic diversification might be integrated into and support sustainable development strategies
- What technical assistance may be needed to develop structural and institutional capacity for facilitating efforts to achieve economic diversification
- How foreign and domestic private sector investments in these areas may be encouraged

In fact, these questions arose from the workshop on economic diversification in 2003, for which I wrote the background paper and acted as a resource person. It was therefore interesting for me to observe that points raised in that workshop were being reiterated at the Bonn meeting. It appeared that the key argument of the paper (i.e. that the pursuit of economic diversification must be integrated into the sustainable development agenda) had won wide support. But there had been limited progress in implementation.

The issue is partly political. While UNFCCC decisions call upon the OECD countries (known as 'Annex II parties') to support the economic diversification of developing countries (known as 'non-Annex I' countries), especially those "whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products", the suspicion that the principal beneficiaries of such support would be rich oil-exporting countries has led to delayed actions on the part of the OECD states, who would have to provide the funding.

The danger is therefore that the argument about the need to integrate economic diversification into a sustainable development agenda may have become an

excuse for inaction. At the Bonn meeting, the suggestion was raised that the issue should be taken out of the UNFCCC process and put into the hands of more appropriate agencies such as the World Bank and UNCTAD, who would be better equipped to deal with the issue. But some of the participating developing countries argued that doing so would marginalise the issue.

## Capacity Building in Bali

In February 2007, **Eleni Kyrou** participated in the Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs in Leadership, Management, Communication Skills and Project Planning, held in Indonesia by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). She acted as trainer/facilitator in a 2-member team running a capacity-building workshop organised by UNFPA Field Office-Indonesia and implemented by the Greek NGO "Centre for Mediterranean Women's Studies" (KEGME). Her special responsibility was Project Planning and Management, using gender analysis throughout. The audience was largely made up of UNFPA Field Office personnel, Indonesian gender/women's NGO staff members, parliamentarians, Ministry officials and media workers.

Eleni writes: Since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000, UNFPA has been in the forefront of its implementation, notably producing a Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Population and Development Programs in conflict and post conflict situations. The Strategy, which focused on the protection of women at the same time as their participation in peace processes, has 4 elements: Reproductive Health (incl. HIV/AIDS), Gender based violence (GBV) and trafficking, the role of peace-keeping forces, and the role of women's groups and grass roots organization in peace building and reconstruction.

UNFPA has recognized that women's groups important role in the peace process could be further developed by strengthening their skills and capacities. Consequently, it has been supporting a number of capacity building training workshops for women's NGOs and grassroots organizations globally. In Indonesia, the UNFPA field office worked closely with the Women, Peace and Security Initiative and developed a GBV case study in the Aceh region as an entry point to implement 1325. The case study was a very useful evaluation and monitoring tool, as well as a good example of how lessons can be

learned and influence practice. Based on the gaps identified by the study, a multi-sector approach to GBV training was organized with participation of different partners from several conflict and post conflict regions, from government and NGOs, including legal justice groups, health sector, media, etc. It was clear that the NGOs in the country are taking the major responsibility for addressing GBV.

The pilot case highlighted NGOs' and women's groups' need to hone their skills and capacity if they are to continue to develop their work of protecting and empowering women, and supporting women's participation in rebuilding and peace process. In this vein, the UNFPA field office in Indonesia is actively promoting capacity building as a crosscutting and critical mechanism towards the effective implementation of UNSC 1325. In total, thirty-two female and male participants from 12 different regions of Indonesia attended the workshop, comprising a diverse range of backgrounds including: a policewoman from Papua, an Ulama from Lombok who works on women's empowerment, staff members from the Ministry for Women's Empowerment, a politician from West Kalimantan who is helping women farmers to find ways of earning a living, and NGO activists working to combat sex trafficking. As its title suggests, the five-day workshop's scope was predominantly practice-oriented and interactive. The first two days were focused on leadership and teamwork, human rights, project management tools and proposal writing methodologies and techniques. The second part addressed communication skills, including advocacy on GBV and sex trafficking, aiming to strengthen the ability of participants in putting across messages through public speaking and giving effective interviews to the media; it also tackled gender budgeting and fundraising, negotiation and/or advocacy practices related to it and media representation/utilisation. Overall, the experience was refreshing, particularly the contact with mid-career professionals, and all aspects of the workshop (content, organization, delivery) received excellent evaluation feedback from all participants. My particular training components were informed by the DPU Gender methodology developed over several years, thereby promoting both the Unit and the particular methodology. DPU's visibility was further facilitated thanks to the happy coincidence of the UNFPA's Regional Director having been herself a DPU Short Gender Course alumna in the 1990s.

# connections

## Letters corner

**Shannon Bradley** (DAP 2001-02) writes:

"Following my year at the DPU, I returned to London to work for Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) International, a non-profit organization funded by the Rockefeller Foundation to provide leadership training for decision makers attempting to implement principles of sustainable development. As a Program Associate, I worked on developing and delivering curriculum on understanding the global food economy and possibilities for sustainable agriculture. In September 2004, I returned to Vancouver, Canada to work for the City of Vancouver as a Planner in Food Policy. Food Policy is a relatively new and pioneering

area for municipal planners in North America. Currently, I work with a Food Policy Council (an elected body of citizens) to chart a number of programs and develop policy for the city. For example, I am in the process of developing policy that will ensure options for community gardens in high density neighborhoods. Food policy also includes campaigns for the loss of agricultural land, nutrition programs for inner city schools, and composting programs, to name a few."

[shanbrad1@yahoo.com](mailto:shanbrad1@yahoo.com)

**Takeshi Matoba** (ESD 2004-5) now works with the Japanese embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, responsible for projects implemented by Japan and ASEAN, including the issues of development and environment. He writes: "I think this successful outcome is attributed absolutely to the study at DPU and your teaching."

**John Alege** (DAP 2005-6) writes, in a letter of thanks for the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship which he received: "My one year study at the DPU, as a result of the scholarship awarded has noticeably increased my knowledge and further changed my perception on societal development needs and the subsequent strategies and actions that need to be undertaken to address such ever emerging needs at all levels. The components of the MSc in Development Administration and Planning are very instrumental in my current assignments. The participatory assessment of development needs, choice of strategy, monitoring progress and the evaluation of development interventions all require a critical analysis. The DPU should continue to pursue its main purpose of

strengthening development stakeholders to deal with the range of issues that are ever emerging in order to transform society and make it a better place to live in."

**Barkaat Ali** (DAP 2002-3) took a year out from his organization (COMSATS) to work with French NGO Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development ([www.acted.org](http://www.acted.org)), as Reporting and Liaison Officer, with particular responsibility for projects in earthquake-struck areas. He writes: "Lots of development tools and concepts that we learnt at DPU are being put to use here and I am glad I was part of DPU. People usually believe

what we learn in colleges and universities is far removed from what actually happens in the practical life. But in my case I guess if not

100%, I am using 50-60% of what I learnt at DPU besides the confidence that I got through interaction with people from all over the world."

**Julie Crespin** (UDP 2004-5) writes from Uganda, where she is working with Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and with the local Slum Dwellers Federation:

"When I arrived last Spring, SDI and their partners asked me to set up this independent support NGO for Uganda. I couldn't have wished for a more exciting job, I think I would have gone anywhere in the world to do something like this!! On a daily basis this is quite intensive and challenging work and I'm learning a lot, especially about working with urban poor communities, and how to set up and run an NGO (on which I barely had any previous practice). But this is thrilling experience. A lot has happened during the past five months. The community savings schemes have re-organised themselves. We are negotiating with the government to secure land for construction, which we are planning to start this spring if everything works well. I've been quite on my own in Uganda and get to learn by dealing with issues as they present themselves. It is true that things on the ground are quite different from what we read in books. But I would have never been able to learn how to understand the situations I'm facing without the knowledge and skills I gained during my masters at the DPU."

**Frida Khan** (DAP 2005-6) is currently working for the National Technical and Vocational Education Commission (NAVTEC), a project of the Prime Minister's Secretariat, to revise the technical and vocational education policy and review skill

standards and curricula design. She writes: "I loved the course, and I now realise how relevant it was for me in Pakistan, and how ignorant I was (and still am in so many other ways) about how the world works. Suddenly I am surrounded by neo-liberals and NGOs, stakeholders and small-scale providers, and women, men, girls and boys! After the course, I feel its like being able to differentiate indigo from violet in the rainbow." [fridakhan@gmail.com](mailto:fridakhan@gmail.com)

**Hassaan Ghazali** (UED 2004-5) is currently working in Pakistan for the Government of Punjab's Planning and Development Board. He writes: "This is a new initiative on urban sector policy and management which has been set up to integrate the urban fabric of our cities and I believe it is an excellent opportunity to advocate for change from within, rather than without. So many times I've questioned, what was the government thinking when such and such problem arose? Now, I have the opportunity to do that thinking where it is needed."

**Imtiaz Bhatti** (DAP 2003-4) writes: "I've joined Pakistan's premier human development organization, which is funded by the UNDP and Govt of Pakistan. This is a very challenging and interesting assignment with eight social development programmes in my district. They are: Universal Primary Education, Adult Literacy, School Health, Primary Health Care - Extension, Oral Rehydration Solution, Capacity Development, Volunteerism for Community Development, and Community Technology Learning Centre. Each of them has its own district programme manager working under my supervision, with a total field staff of about 2,000 people."

**Insook Kang** (UDP 2002-3) is currently working as a deputy director in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Seoul, Korea. Her main responsibility is to devise planning policy, and to implement planning, with respect to the development of new cities designated "Corporate cities for tourism and leisure".

**Jordi Sanchez Cuenca** (UDP 2004-5) has been working on a reconstruction project in eight of the villages affected by the December 2004 Tsunami in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India. The project aims at generating a long-term impact by integrating the construction of about 100 houses, 5 community centres and a series of infrastructure/environment micro-projects with human rights campaigns, capacity building and income generating programmes. The beneficiaries are defined as the most vulnerable among the affected people, those unable to mobilise the resources needed to create or reconstruct a secure habitat



(mainly fisherfolk who live in extremely poor conditions, receive little or no support from their government, and have very meagre and irregular incomes). During the course of the project, Jordi writes, "we have spent most of the time planning, meeting, redoing plans, meeting again, analysing each meeting, in short, trying to match our objectives with those of the community. Meetings and exercises are requiring a great deal of reflection from both ours and the people's side. Only though such combined reflective efforts we can expect to understand and address the underlying factors that prevent the people from taking the lead in the development of their habitat."

**Israel Kataga** (MPhil/PhD 2002-3) writes to inform the DPU community that he is currently working at the Institute of Development Planning in Dodoma, Tanzania, and that he has completed his PhD at the University of Dar es Salaam. He adds: "I'll always cherish DPU".

**Beng Hong Socheat Khemro** (MPhil/PhD 1993-2000) writes: "Since my return to Cambodia in 2000, I have been working for both the Royal Government of Cambodia and as a freelance consultant to International Organisations such as DFID, World Bank, ADB, UN-ESCAP, UN-HABITAT, GTZ, and World Vision. In this work, I do appreciate very much the knowledge and quality of education received during my study with the DPU. I have contributed as a team with the Cambodian government leaders and with my colleagues, especially the Cambodian people many of whom are urban poor, in initiating and implementing many programmes and projects in urban planning and management. These include issues such as urban conservation, urban planning, slum upgrading and voluntary relocation, proving urban security of tenure, and land reform. A recent achievement as a result of my hard work with the DPU on urban planning, is the prestigious World Leadership Forum Awards (December 2005)", awarded to Phnom Penh in a competition for which more than 400 cities were nominated. The mottos for Phnom Penh's successful entry were: "the city belongs to all", and "from Squatter Eviction to Peaceful Negotiation and Compromise".

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

**Elizabeth Ontaneda** (UDP 2004-5): After living and learning in Argentina for ten months, I moved to New York City in early June for a job at the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) where I work with low-income housing coops (Housing Development Fund Corporations, or HDFCs). UHAB played a pioneering role in

creating the largest group of HDFCs in the U.S. with a total of 1,300 buildings and 27,000 families in New York City. UHAB emerged in the late 1970s when thousands of buildings became unprofitable and were abandoned by their owners until they were foreclosed upon by the City of New York for non-payment of property tax and/or water and sewage charges. The city couldn't continue to play building manager but couldn't find buyers and residents had few affordable housing alternatives. UHAB sought to solve both problems by working with building residents or squatters who would make the needed repairs in

**"My year at DPU was my best year at college ever, with people who care, classes that matter, and lecturers that know."**

their buildings in exchange for being allowed to buy the buildings for a low fee as HDFC shareholders. From this experience, UHAB helped institutionalize a process of tenant self-management, training, building renovation, and conversion to affordable low-income housing cooperatives that still exists today called the Tenant Interim Lease (TIL) program. I can comfortably say that I have learned more than I could have imagined from my job. It's been a wonderful mix of experiences that have made me both more street smart and more sensitive. [elizabeth.ontaneda@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ontaneda@gmail.com)

**Rickie Morain** (ESD 2003-4): After working for a while with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on Sustainable Development Issues in Small Island Developing States, Rickie has moved back home to Grenada to work at the Agency for Reconstruction and Development, established after the passage of two devastating hurricanes over Grenada in 2004 and 2005. His primary responsibilities include the development of project proposals (ensuring that sustainable development issues are well reflected in reconstruction and redevelopment planning) and liaison with Regional and International Donor Agencies for funding and technical assistance.

**John Ronan** (ESD 1999-00) is currently employed as Sustainable Communities Officer at Medway Council, Kent, England. He writes: "I occasionally look at the DPU web pages and am very tempted to sign up for another year. More often I find myself extolling the virtues of the DPU and the MSc ESD."

**Sikapale Chinzewe** (DAP 2001-2) has recently taken up a post as National Director in Malawi for the international NGO Habitat for Humanity, which works with the purpose of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness.

[schinzewe@hfhmalawi.net](mailto:schinzewe@hfhmalawi.net) or [sikapale2006@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sikapale2006@yahoo.co.uk)

**Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts** (DAP 2004-5) is

delighted to have received a Commonwealth Scholarship to read for a PhD at the University of Sheffield. Prior to this, she worked as Development Officer at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), based at the Canadian Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica. She was responsible for the management of several projects encompassing issues ranging from micro-credit and private sector development to environmental sustainability to gender equality to civil society and governance to telecommunications.

**Umbreen Baig** (DAP 2003-4), having worked for a while with the DFID/British Council-funded Gender Equality Project in Pakistan, has now taken up a new post as Coordinator of the Program for the Advancement of Gender Equality (PAGE) sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

[umbreen@cidapsu.org.pk](mailto:umbreen@cidapsu.org.pk)

**Maarten van Asbeck** (1991) has, together with a group of professionals, launched AfricaNews, a new bimonthly free internet magazine on Africa, AfricaNews (<http://www.africanews.com/>). Maarten adds: "My year at DPU was my best year at college ever, with people who care, classes that matter, and lecturers that know."

[m.van.asbeck@planet.nl](mailto:m.van.asbeck@planet.nl)

**Victoria Forster-Jones** (DAP 2003-4) is working as Project Development Officer in the Dodoma region in Tanzania for an environment and social development organization (directed by Sheilah Meikle), the Sunseed Tanzania Trust ([www.sunseedtanzania.org](http://www.sunseedtanzania.org)). The main project is the Domestic Energy Project which aims to improve women and children's health as well as help tackle deforestation and desertification, by introducing the low-cost appropriate technologies of heat retention cookers (hay baskets/boxes) and fuel-efficient mud stoves which help people use less wood for cooking and suffer less damage to their health from exposure to smoke. Victoria writes: "My role is enjoyable, demanding, challenging and character building."

## Births

Many congratulations to Anne Boisvert (IHS 2001-2) and her partner Olivier on the birth of Etienne, and to Céline Veríssimo on the birth of Ricardo (pictured).



## Laszlo Huszar

1932-2007

### A tribute by Patrick Wakely



Laszlo Huszar was a distinguished urban and regional planner and a close associate of the DPU. Born in Hungary, with which he main-

tained a close identity and connections throughout his life, he studied regional economics and planning at LSE. In 1960 he joined the Research Department of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana where he played a significant role in planning the Volta Lake resettlement towns and, with his colleague David Grove, wrote 'The Towns of Ghana', a seminal work based on central place theory. In 1965 he joined the staff of the Department of Development and Tropical Studies at the Architectural Association (which became the DPU in 1971) and transferred to the

newly formed AA School of Planning the following year. In 1969 he joined the academic staff of the Institute of Planning Studies in Nottingham University where he met Michael Brammah with whom, in 1971, he established Huszar Brammah and Associates, Urban and Regional Planning Consultants (HBA).

Since then, Laszlo and Michael led HBA in a wide range of urban and regional studies and planning commissions, many of which have provided models of innovative and intellectually challenging practice. Laszlo's work on the Klang Valley Study (Malaysia 1972-1973), two years directing the South Thailand Regional Planning Study (1973-1975) and a year on the Sabah Regional Planning Study (1979-1980) all provided opportunities for the practical application of central place theory and reinforced a commitment to working closely with local professionals and government to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes. In Indonesia he directed the Bandung Urban Development Project (1977-1979), which was ADB's first venture into informal settlement upgrading. He later returned to Thailand to direct the Eastern Seaboard Regional Planning Study (1981-82); and in Brunei he directed the National Master

Plan (1985-1987). In one of his last major roles before retiring from consulting practice, Laszlo spent three years as Special Adviser to Indonesia's Assistant Minister for Planning, a role in which he played a key part in formulating regional planning and urban development policies which are still being applied throughout the country.

Laszlo had a sharp intellect and enquiring mind. He was highly cultured and widely read, a rigorous professional and a critical academic, intolerant of carelessness and inaccuracy, though always encouraging of good ideas, even if only half developed. He had a passionate belief in regional planning as the basis for equitable economic and social development and in the need for well educated professionals. He valued his connection with DPU, because he saw it as a unique institution which stood for the highest educational ideals in those fields which were central to his own career. In recognition of this, and to provide a fitting memorial to a founding partner, HBA has donated an Essay Prize to be awarded annually to a DPU student who might in some way aspire to the high ideals represented in the life and work of Laszlo Huszar.

Print: Jenner City Print

## dialogues in development

The DPU is running a major series of lectures on cutting-edge issues in development, under the title Dialogues in Development.

Among recent topics, Yves Cabannes (DPU) spoke on forced evictions and how to combat them; José Fogaça, Mayor of Porto Alegre in Brazil described their city's innovative system of participatory budgeting, and its recent re-inforcement with the concept of "Solidarity Governance"; Chen Feng, President of the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, spoke about emerging challenges in Chinese urban policy; Paul Maquet (sociologist and planner from the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniera in Lima, Peru) and his colleague Rocío Valdeavellano, both activists in Peru's National Campaign for the Right to Housing, analysed responses from the social movements to the housing crisis; Arif Hasan, a leading international figure in housing and urban development and Principal Consultant to the Orangi Pilot Project (an innovative people-managed project to improve the infrastructure in squatter areas of Karachi, Pakistan - <http://www.oppinstitutions.org/>) spoke on "The Neo-Liberal Urban Development Paradigm and Civil Society Responses"; a Dialogue was held with Secretariat members of the Social Inclusion Commission of United Cities and Local Governments (the body which represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage - <http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/index.asp>); Tom Carter, UNDP Urban Management Adviser at the Ministry of Housing Lands & Public Utilities in Southern Sudan and part of the DPU Team for the South Sudan Urban Appraisal Study, spoke on the challenge of post-conflict Sudanese urban management; Sundar Burra of the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC, an NGO in Mumbai focussing upon urban poverty, housing and infrastructure - <http://www.sparcindia.org/>) discussed issues of linking the aspirations of the urban poor with State policy and formal institutions, under the heading "Challenging the notion of the 'World Class City' in Mumbai, India".

This ongoing series will continue through the current academic year.

DPUNEWS is published 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  
Editing & Typesetting: Martin Headon

Development Planning Unit  
University College London  
34 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9EZ  
United Kingdom

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