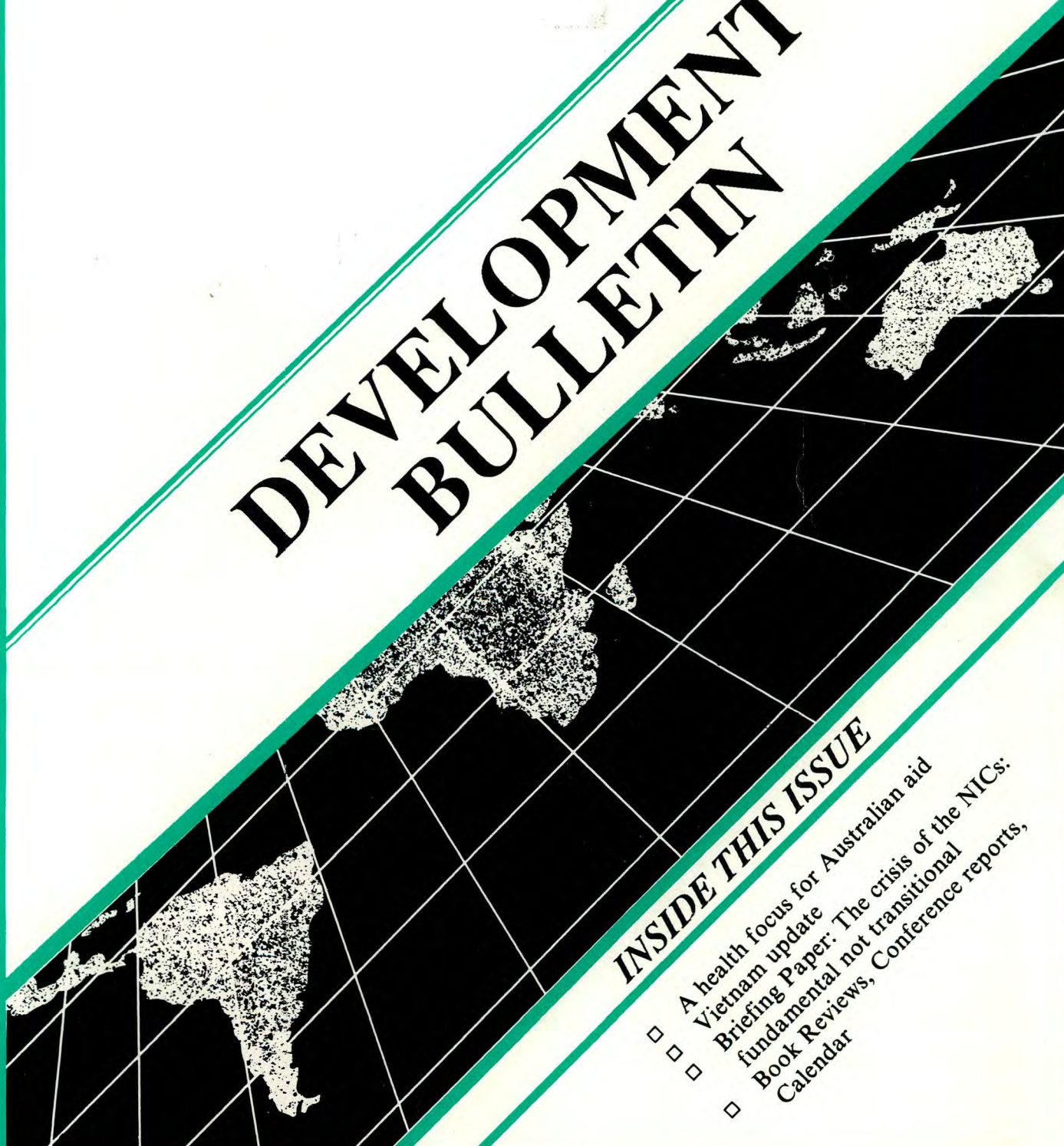


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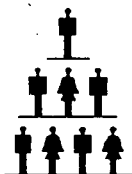
DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN



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- A health focus for Australian aid
- Vietnam update
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- Book Reviews, Conference reports, Calendar

The Network



The Australian Development Studies Network seeks to provide a forum for discussion and debate of development issues, and to keep people in the field up-to-date with developments and events, publications, etc. The Network does this through its publications program and by conducting or co-sponsoring seminars, symposia and conferences. The Network produces three publications:

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Deadlines



Closing dates for submissions to *Development Bulletin* are mid-November, -February, -May and -August for the January, April, July and October issues respectively.



Editor's Notes

Dear Friends,

In many developing countries recent implementation of structural readjustment policies has led to considerable reductions in budgetary allocations for social services, most particularly health and education. Withdrawal of services and the introduction of the principle of user pays has seriously reduced access of the poor to these services. Those most affected are women and children. The questions discussed in this issue of the *Development Bulletin* are the extent to which Australian development assistance should focus on health and which types of health care should be supported.

Several well known experts in the health sector have contributed to this debate.

This issue also considers current events in Vietnam. Recent development conferences have been covered, the latest books on development reviewed and new development literature listed.

In preparation for the UNCED conference in Brazil in June, 1992 the next issue of the *Bulletin* will focus on environmental issues and the dilemma of integrating ecological concerns with sustainable economic development. If you have any comments or would like to share information on this topic please contact us. The deadline for the next issue is March 14.

Jo Victoria is now working with the Australian Heritage Commission and Lisa Law has joined the Network team.

We hope 1992 will be a successful and satisfying year for you.

Pamela Thomas and Lisa Law

Reminder:

We would like to thank you for supporting the Network and remind you to keep your subscription renewals coming in. There are a limited number of complementary subscriptions for students, and upon renewal you are eligible to nominate a student who you think would benefit from reading the *Bulletin*. Please feel free to include comments on the *Bulletin's* content, as well as any information or articles you think would be of interest to the *Bulletin's* readership.



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Discussion Series

A health focus for Australian aid

In this discussion series contributors raise two major issues - the quantity of Australian assistance to the health sector and the quality of this assistance. It is argued that Australian Government assistance to the health sector needs to be redirected.

Over the last ten years the proportion of Australian assistance devoted to the health sector in developing countries has never risen above 2.5 per cent of the total aid budget. In 1990/91 the total allocation to health amounted to approximately \$30 million. The very limited assistance given to this sector is surprising as from an humanitarian perspective this is an area where Australia could make a considerable impact, most particularly on the well-being of women and children. From a more pragmatic point of view it is an area that offers Australia good trade opportunities.

Australia has a considerable body of health and health-related expertise that is particularly appropriate to Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Australian organisations, universities and research institutions can provide appropriate on or off-shore training in a wide range of medical, nutritional, public health, health research and preventive medicine fields. Australia develops, produces and markets a wide variety of vaccines and drugs as well as high quality equipment and innovative health-related products. These range from surgical equipment to fully solar-powered health centres to lightweight kits for rural health workers.

Australian medical and public health institutions, training schools, research centres and commercial companies have already established strong linkages with Southeast Asian and Pacific governments, medical colleges, training institutes and hospitals.

Contributors to this discussion are: Professor Frank Schofield, Emeritus Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Queensland; Professor Peter Heywood and Dr Geoffrey Marks, Nutrition Program, University of Queensland; Dr Richard Taylor, Associate Professor in Public Health, Department of Public Health, University of Sydney; Ms Margaret Conley, Director, Public Health Association; Dr John Ballard, Department of Politics, Australian National University; and Dr John Hirshman, Third World Health Group.

Multi-sectoral activities in the maintenance and improvement of health status in developing countries

Dr Richard Taylor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney

Introduction

The health status of populations depends on a host of factors, most of which are not within the province of health departments and may not be considered 'health' at all. However, those interested in maintaining and improving public health must be concerned with all influences which impact upon health status. In many instances people in designated health organisations may find themselves acting in the role of advocate for changes in sectors of the economy and society which are not considered to be health-related. Aid agencies may find that projects outside the field narrowly designated as 'health' may have a greater impact on health status than projects related to delivery of health services.

This article concerns the role of 'non-health' sectors and the 'health' sector in the maintenance and improvement of health status in populations. The implicit definition of health status used in this article is based on the minimisation of morbidity and premature mortality.

Major determinants of health status in developing countries

Economic factors

The level of economic development is an important correlate of health status, particularly in countries with GNP per capita between US\$300 and US\$3000 (mid 1980s). In an extensive World Bank review Cochrane [1980] summarised the consensus that in cross national studies income is positively related to life expectancy, and there is an upper limit on life expectancy above which increases in income will have no effect. GNP is usually used because it is available, but there are several other indices of economic activity which could be used - such as average weekly earnings.

There are exceptions to the general pattern with some countries displaying a reasonable health status on low incomes such as the Peoples Republic of China, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica. Conversely, there are other countries showing a relatively poor health status on comparatively high incomes such as several resource-rich states.

The distribution of income and wealth is also an important factor. The proportion of the population in the upper and lower 20 per cent of the income distribution profile are indicative of the spread of incomes in a country. These data are usually not available for developing countries.

Socio-economic status of individuals and families are important determinants of health status. The most

important characteristics of socio-economic status are the trinity of: income and wealth; occupation and employment; and education and training.

Policies and program which lead to economic development and equitable income distribution are crucial to health improvement.

Social and cultural factors

In terms of life expectancy and infant mortality in relation to GDP per capita, Caldwell [1986] identified investment in education and health services as important explanations for differences in countries where health status was relatively good and those where it was poor. See Table 1.

Relatively high life expectancy associated with comparatively low GDP per capita is found in China, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Costa Rica and also in the state of Kerala in South India. High literacy rates and policies favouring social equity are implicated as an explanation for the dissociation of the usual nexus between health and economy [Caldwell 1986; UN 1984].

Education

Primary school completion rates are particularly important from the health point of view. Almost all international studies show a relationship between education and health status, with those areas with higher educational levels having lower infant and adult mortality.

The major conclusion of an extensive study of child mortality in 15 developing countries using sample surveys performed during 1970-1981 [UN 1985] was that mother's education (measured by years of schooling) was the most prominent factor related to child mortality. Ten years of schooling was associated with a mortality reduction of at least 34 per cent. Education of fathers had a lesser impact.

In a study designed to dissect the way in which education reduces mortality, Cleland and Van Ginneken [1988] conclude that economic advantages (income, water and latrine facilities, housing quality, etc.) account for about half of the education-mortality relationship. It was found that: the influence of preventive and curative health service use is complex and variable; little is known of the influence of beliefs and domestic practices, although they are probably important; and reproductive health patterns and more equitable treatment of sons and daughters probably play a minor role. Development assistance in the area of education, including education of women, is critical in improving health status.

Child rearing practices

Factors relating to child-bearing and rearing which affect illness and mortality in children include birth order, child-spacing and number of other children; breast feeding; use of health services by parents including immunization; birth weight which is related to maternal nutrition and antenatal care; and feeding practices including intra-familial distribution and food taboos.

Table 1: Exceptional mortality levels relative to income levels for a selection of Third World Countries 1982

Country	Income Per Capita GNP (\$)	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	Ranking of infant mortality relative to Income +	Expectation of life at birth (years)	Ranking of life expectancy relative to Income +	Percentage of relevant age group at primary school * (1981)		Number of persons in 1980 per physician
						Males	Females	
Superior health achievers								
Sri Lanka	320	32	+62	69	+61	100	106	7170
China	310	67	+46	67	+61	106	130	1810
Jamaica	1330	10	+37	73	+32	100	99	2830
Poor health achievers								
Oman	6090	123	-70	52	-57	57	90	1900
Saudi Arabia	16000	108	-61	56	-50	51	77	1670
Iran	6465	102	-52	60	-37	71	111	6090
Notes: * The index may exceed 100 if children from other age groups attend school. + Ranking difference between infant mortality rank or life expectancy rank and income rank.								
Sources: World Bank, 1984 and Krishnan, 1985 as reported by Caldwell [1986]. Routes to low mortality in poor countries. Population and Development Review, 12(2):171-229, 1986.								

Child-rearing practices are deeply ingrained in culture. Health education and promotion amongst a receptive population of parents who have had the benefit of primary education is likely to produce positive results, but access to maternal and child health services, including family planning services, is also required.

Urbanisation

Most data from developing countries show that urban populations have lower mortality than rural populations. A greater proportion of those in higher socio-economic groups live in urban areas. In addition, urban 'fringe' dwellers may in many cases be better off than the rural poor because of access to at least some cash and rudimentary environmental and health services.

Policies and programs related to urbanisation and rural development require planning for environmental and health services to areas where people actually live rather than to where some people think they ought to live.

Political organisation

Political organisation affects health status through the provision of basic needs (e.g. food, housing, water and sanitation) and the provision of health services.

Some forms of political organisation suggest that basic needs are best provided for by economic development. This kind of development improves the living standards for everyone but preserves or exacerbates the differences between socio-economic groups. However, some would argue that these are inevitable or even necessary. Such systems may result in no improvement in, or worsening of, the quality of life for many.

The other forms of organisation emphasise redistribution of income and wealth, and although acknowledging the importance of economic development these systems attempt to minimise differences. However, stagnation in economic and social development may occur.

There can be no overall conclusions. Some developing countries have managed reasonably well with socialism/communism, whilst others have managed reasonably well with a market economy. Obviously much international diplomacy is devoted to pressuring countries to adopt particular political systems or variations of different systems. While there is justified concern by many developed countries about infringement of 'human rights' - usually meaning individual political rights - there is often insufficient concern about 'human rights' of the economic and social kind. It is the infringement of these which may lead to illness and premature death on a very large scale.

Thus if international pressure for individual political rights is justified, then it must be difficult to not advocate for economic and social rights as well.

Religion

Religion and traditional spiritual beliefs may affect child preference, the status and education of women and fertility behaviour. The only countries where the life expectancy of women is lower than men are Islamic. In developing countries Catholics usually have higher fertility than protestants, and may have higher infant and reproductive mortality. Some cultures and religions encompass a world view that is antithetical towards the possibility and desirability of changing the social or natural environment in ways that improve health status.

Probably the most important facet of development which may affect the adverse health influences of religion is secular education. However, in some countries religious leaders have been included in health training and have provided valuable support for health, medical and family planning programs. This is often facilitated by the traditional interest of religions in caring for the sick.

Environmental hygiene and housing

Water supply and environmental sanitation

The usual method for measurement of water supply is the proportion of the population with access to safe water. In some cases water supply varies by household and in other cases it is the same for small or large areas. In some instances people may use a variety of different water supplies. The quantity of water is almost as important as the quality. Adequate and safe water supply is regarded as one of the cornerstones of public health and important aspect of the sanitary revolution. The fiscal arrangements for such capital investments and recurrent costs are crucial.

As with water supply, sanitation may vary by household, small area or large area. Sanitation is probably less important than a safe water supply, but must be tackled at some stage.

Garbage disposal is of particular importance in urban slum areas, and can be characterised by the availability of a municipal service, its extent and quality.

Housing

Shelter is an important determinant of disease because of various factors including smoke pollution, overcrowding and proximity to animals. There may be qualitative aspects of housing which may be relevant, such as absence of chimneys, and the degree to which the dwelling affords protection from the elements. There are also quantitative aspects such as living space per person and person per sleeping chamber which are the main measures of crowding.

Acute respiratory infection, which is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in developing countries, is a well-known correlate of poor and over-crowded housing and indoor smoke pollution. Proximity to animals provides the opportunity for transmission of infectious

diseases from animals, particularly agents which cause diarrhoeal disease in children and adults.

Housing quality is affected by the general level of income and wealth and distribution thereof. It is also affected by compliance with building regulations. The control of animals near human habitation is important, as is the technology for control of indoor air pollution from cooking or heating.

Thus aid programs which are related to improvement in housing can be expected to have a favourable impact on health status. Of course this should be evaluated by before-and-after studies.

Food and nutrition

The major measures of food and nutrition on a group basis are apparent consumption of food and frequency of malnutrition. Apparent food consumption is calculated from food produced and imported, minus food exported and wastage in an area, divided by the population. It is expressed in calories and protein intake per person per day. This information does not tell us about the distribution of the food.

Malnutrition is usually measured by proportion of children under 5 years of age below 80 per cent, or 60 per cent of weight for age. Proportion of children with mid-arm circumference below a certain level is also used. If height is also available, prevalence of stunting and acute weight loss can also be gauged.

Nutritional status is an important determinant of mortality, particularly in children, although the cause of death is often given as an infectious disease such as diarrhoea or acute respiratory infection.

Food and nutrition are determined by a whole host of factors. These include the geography of an area, agricultural policies and rural technology, food transport, storage and distribution, diet-related knowledge and attitudes. Excessive reliance on external sources of food should be avoided because of the disastrous results when price rises occur.

Major endemic diseases

In some areas major endemic diseases are an important cause of mortality. The prevalence and incidence of these diseases are a result of the distribution of non-human vectors, intermediate hosts and reservoirs of diseases. These are related to climatic and topological factors, and to the activities of humans. Malaria and schistosomiasis are the most important of the endemic diseases which contribute to human health status.

Mortality, particularly infant and child mortality, is usually greater in high risk malaria areas. However, information on cause of death may not indicate the magnitude of the problem because the precipitating event which leads directly to death in the child

weakened by malaria may be diarrhoeal disease or acute respiratory infection.

There are large areas of Africa which are sparsely populated because of the effect of trypanosomiasis (transmitted by the tsetse fly) on humans and domestic cattle.

Large expensive vertical programs are only justified if the endemic disease is a major health problem, and the programs are effective and can be sustained or terminated once the disease is reduced to a minor health problem. In many instances technically effective campaigns against endemic disease cannot be implemented because of financial, logistical, administrative or political impediments.

Climate and geography

Climate and geography may be determinants of health status because of their relationship to major endemic diseases, or because of a relationship to the food supply through the quality and quantity of arable land (see above). Inadequate amounts of water in dry climates which predispose to trachoma, and factors such as indoor fires in cold climates which predispose to respiratory infection are also important.

Disasters

The major disasters are war, famine, drought, flood/cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, frost and insect plagues. Each disaster has its own peculiarity, although man-made disaster - war - tends to be the most lethal. War results in direct mortality, but the indirect mortality due to breakdown in essential services and destruction of food crops is usually greater.

Disasters tend to have worse effects in the least developed countries where capacity to implement precautions and cope with emergencies is less than in developed countries. A succession of disasters of various types may have a greater effect than the sum of the effects of each one.

Much can be done to prepare for disasters by planning and early warning systems. Emergency relief is also important.

Health services

The role of health services

Health services serve two major functions: to care for the sick and to improve health status.

The first, and arguably the most important function of health services, is humanitarian. Within this paradigm care is given in proportion to perceived need for it and ability of individuals and the community to pay. An elderly person dying from terminal cancer has as much right to care as a young person with pneumonia. This function of health services is mostly independent of outcome in terms of individual or population health

status. The degree of care is not necessarily related to ability to cure or ameliorate the condition. Service evaluation must rely on process measures of quality care compared to a defined standard. Care of the sick is embedded in most major religions and philosophies and cannot be ignored.

The second function of health services is to improve health and prevent illness and disability in individuals and populations through treatment and preventive services. Medical services from primary to tertiary level are concerned principally with individuals and treatment of established or perceived illness or injury. In some cases widespread treatment may save lives and reduce morbidity to such an extent that effects are seen at a community level; for example, treatment of severe respiratory infection with antibiotics, oral rehydration for diarrhoea, and management of hypertension with medications. Medical and surgical services may also prevent long-term disability, particularly in the prompt treatment of trauma.

There are also activities carried out by medical services which have little immediate individual benefit but are very important in controlling disease in populations. Examples are immunization against various infectious diseases, particularly in children, or mass drug administration (e.g. against filariasis). Active screening and subsequent treatment of cases of mild or sub-clinical disease (e.g. tuberculosis or leprosy) has obvious public health advantages, and also benefit the individual. This may not be appreciated because they may feel subjectively well.

Primary preventive activities undertaken through the medical care system, particularly at the level of primary care, include immunization, case management of illness and injury, mass drug administration, monitoring the health of mothers and children, management of risk factors for cardiovascular disease, and individual advice and health education. In some instances group health education and public health functions related to small scale water supply and sewage disposal, mosquito control, and other hygienic measures can be undertaken at a primary health care level.

Thus the functions of health services include care, which has little to do with improvement in health and is humanitarian in nature or an item of personal consumption expenditure; services which are valuable for individuals but have no public health impact; treatment which has both an important individual and public health impact; and preventive activities which contribute to the control of illness on a population level but which carry no immediate or perceived benefit for the individual.

Most health departments have sections which deal with public health. These sections are mostly concerned with the organisation and implementation of policies and

program for the prevention and control of disease at a population level. Health inspectors are the main field workers of these departments, although health educators, nutritionists and maternal and child health care organisers are being increasingly recognised as important. Public health departments also work through the medical care system, particularly at the primary health care level. Malaria control and other vertical control program (such as against tuberculosis and leprosy) also usually come within the ambit of the public health section. Health and nutrition education also come under the discretion of public health. The point of intersection of public health and the medical care system is principally at the level of primary health care.

The relative investment in care, cure or prevention is an outcome of a complex interaction of historical and economic factors on one hand, and current attitudes of health professionals and patients on the other. It has been argued that in populations with high morbidity and mortality, investment in preventive and treatment services which will control disease at a population level is a more prudent use of scarce resources than following trends in developed countries.

The existence of public health regulations and their implementation is relevant, as is the organisation of basic health services to enable equity of access irrespective of socio-economic status.

The availability of preventive and primary health care is undoubtedly of particular importance for infants and young children. Access to these services may even counteract some adverse social and physical environmental conditions. For example, immunization, oral rehydration salts (ORS) and supplementary feeding for the very malnourished.

The most important characteristics of health services are availability, accessibility and acceptability.

Health departments and multi-sectoral activities

Improvement of the health status of the population is a process which requires a multi-sectoral approach. It involves the activities of many government departments, of which the health department is only one, and not necessarily the most important. Education, water supply and sanitation, economic development and reasonable distribution of income, agriculture and food supply, road and work safety, housing, welfare services, and so on, are in the provinces of several government departments.

Major improvements in health status result mainly from activities which prevent disease occurring, rather than activities directed to treatment of established illness. Herein lies a major contradiction for health departments; their main function is often seen as the care of the sick, that is, the treatment of established illness, however, the major activities which lead to health improvement are preventive in nature. Furthermore, many of the



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activities which have a major impact on health are outside the designated role of the health department.

Health departments through preventive and primary care involve themselves in public health activities aimed at control of disease on a population level, as outlined above. But it can be seen from the relative spending on hospitals, compared with preventive and primary care, that the major function of health departments is care of the sick rather than improvement in public health.

It is not surprising to find in developing countries an emphasis by the health sector on hospital and treatment services, given their evolution from colonial models, and the demand for care by the ill rather than the well. Furthermore, once expectations have been created of a certain level of medical care, it is very difficult to reduce expenditures in clinical areas. The most that can be hoped for is limitation in the growth of expenditure on hospital and treatment services in relation to preventive and primary care, resulting in differential growth rates (or differential cutbacks).

The public health section of health departments may have a rather restricted range of activity in relation to the determinants of health status. For programs which are in the province of other government departments their main mode of action is advocacy for health issues through the production and dissemination of relevant data on the relationship of health to socio-economic and environmental factors, and active participation in inter-ministerial committees.

Aid programs should recognise the legitimacy of public health advocacy functions of health departments and assist them with resources to perform investigations concerning the influences on health status of economic, social, environment and other factors outside their direct domain.

Activities of the health sector related to health improvement

There are two major areas in which health services can be evaluated with respect to their likely impact on the health status of communities. First, measurement of the resources devoted to preventive activities; and second, the extent to which the distribution of health and medical services is related to population distribution (at least) and mortality and morbidity (at best).

The size of the public health sector can be measured by its personnel and budget, but the primary health care sector and the proportion of its resources devoted to preventive activities is more difficult to estimate. In several developing countries resources devoted to public health, even at a central level, can not be estimated from data available. In all cases where information is available it is obvious that only a small portion of resources are devoted to public health (often less than 5 per cent) in comparison with hospital and treatment

services. There are some exceptions in countries which have major vertical program to combat endemic diseases such as malaria.

The public health section in health departments in developing countries consists mostly of health inspectors concerned with environmental health and doctors or nurses concerned with maternal and child health. Whilst this is important in all developing countries there is also a need for public health professionals, health educators and nutritionists to assist with the control of diseases associated with modernisation.

Conclusions

The determinants of health status in populations of developing countries are complex and are related to numerous areas of economic and social endeavour. Most government departments make decisions which impact upon the health of their citizens. Activities in the health sector are only a part, and most likely a small part, of all program which are related to improvement and maintenance of population health status.

Those working in the health area have a role in advocacy for policies in other sectors which impact upon health status. This must be matched by objective scientific studies of the effect of environmental, economic and social factors on population health. Rhetoric alone is insufficient.

Bilateral aid organisations are inherently multi-sectoral and are also politically directed through departments of foreign affairs. They thus have the ability to combine the technical and political direction required for multi-sectoral development which is both environmentally and socially responsible. Whether this potential can be realised is both a question and the challenge.

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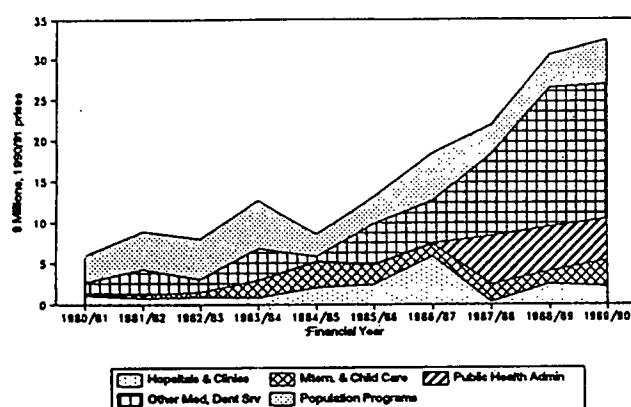
AIDAB health review: summary of preliminary findings

John Draper, AIDAB

History of AIDAB's health program

In the late 1970s the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) developed its first major health policy statement focusing on primary health care (PHC). In the 1980s an advisory group was formed and project identification missions were undertaken in Thailand and Burma. However there were few tangible results due to staff mobility and changing program priorities. In 1986 AIDAB undertook a major review of health needs, Australian expertise, and the profile of AIDAB's assistance in the health sector. The WATCH (Women and their Children's Health) theme was developed and sector studies carried out in several countries. In 1988 a \$24 million, four year program of health initiatives was approved.

Total Australian ODA to health and population
1980/81 to 1989/90 (\$ million)
Constant 1990/91 prices



Assistance in health and population has not traditionally been a large component of the Australian aid program. Average contributions to the two sectors in recent years have accounted for between one and two per cent of the program. The average for Development Assistance Committee donors is about six per cent [AIDAB Social and Economic Infrastructure Review, 1991]. However, funding has increased steadily over the past several years, albeit from a low base. Over the period 1985-90 spending increased 20 per cent in real terms. Maternal Child Health (MCH) activities, in particular, have expanded. Much of the impetus for growth was provided by the 'Health Initiatives' Program. This is due to end in 1992-93. Indications are that expenditure on health has reached a plateau and principle expenditure on bilateral activities may decline relative to other sectors.

Current rationale and objectives

The government recognises that health is both an important objective in itself and a significant factor in

achieving broader social and economic objectives in developing countries. The government also recognises that the most cost effective means of improving health is to enhance the capacities of local communities to assume greater responsibility for maintaining their health. As a consequence the government supports a primary health care approach focussing on community participation, disease prevention and the inter-relationship of health with social and economic conditions. This approach is in line with the government's support for the World Health Organisation goal of 'Health for All by the Year 2000'.

Since 1988 AIDAB has focused in its programs on the theme of WATCH which integrates child survival programs with the important role women play in maintaining family health. Increased attention is being given to population/family planning activities reflecting the importance of population growth to environmental degradation and the contribution family planning makes to maternal and child health. Increased attention is also being given to HIV/AIDS and to environmental health.

In providing health assistance, the government seeks to promote, where appropriate, Australian expertise, institutions, technology and goods. The long term sustainability of inputs is emphasised.

Current activities

In 1990-91, AIDAB allocated about \$30 million to over 70 health and population activities (and an additional \$10 million if health-related assistance through food aid is included). This amount represents approximately 2.5 per cent of the total development cooperation budget of \$1.2 billion. The majority of activities were implemented in the Southeast Asian and Pacific regions.

A total of almost \$4.0 million was allocated for core support for international health programs administered through WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and other multilateral organisations. In addition \$3.2 million was allocated to WHO for special programs in such areas as immunization and vaccine development, diarrhoeal disease research, safe motherhood and AIDS.

A total of \$19.8 million was allocated through bilateral programs, a quarter of which was for PHC activities. Other projects included hepatitis B immunization trials in Indonesia and Thailand, population and health in Bangladesh and MCH strengthening in Vanuatu. Health components have been integrated into water supply projects in eastern Indonesia and the Philippines.

Over \$3.5 million was allocated through NGOs. Just over \$2.0 million was allocated for HIV/AIDS and an additional \$14.5 million to water/sanitation activities.

Future directions

An advisory group on health has recently been formed with representatives from the professional health

community as well as from both AIDAB and the Department of Health, Housing and Community Services.

A national plan of action is currently being developed as part of Australia's response to the UN World Declaration on Children. Options for additional health and family planning initiatives are being considered by AIDAB as part of the plan. These include increased contributions to UNICEF, immunization and vaccine development, PHC and water and sanitation projects, among others.

Subsectors of increasing importance include HIV/AIDS, family planning, environmental health and malaria. Indochina will likely be the focus of significant new activity in the health sector. Activities in the area of women's health and family planning in China are also under consideration. Increased attention will be given to identifying and monitoring the impacts on health of other development projects such as transport, mining and energy.

The Advisory Group on International Health

The inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group on International Health (AGH) took place in November of 1991 to discuss strategies to enhance Australia's contribution to international health in developing countries. The AGH was established by the Minister for Health, Mr Brian Howe and the Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, Dr Neal Blewett for an initial period of two years. The AGH consists of five health experts and five officials who will advise the Ministers on health issues in overseas development cooperation. The broad objectives of the AGH are to help ensure that Australian aid for the health sector in developing countries is used most effectively, and that Australia gives the best possible advice in international health forums, including WHO. The AGH will also look at identifying funding priorities in AIDAB's international health programs and progress on the implementation of the plan of action for the World Declaration on Children.

Nutrition and Australian development assistance

Peter Heywood and Geoffrey Marks, Nutrition Program, University of Queensland

Unlike a number of other countries which contribute development assistance to the Asian, Pacific and African regions, Australia does not have an identifiable program in nutrition. This is despite the abundant evidence that nutrition problems are important components of general health and that the cost-benefit of controlling nutrition problems is favourable. Mild, moderate and severe forms of protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) are widespread and deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine and iron are particularly important issues in all of the South Pacific countries and, increasingly, among the middle

class of Southeast Asia. Yet despite the importance of these nutrition problems they do not figure prominently in Australian development assistance to the region.

At least some of the answers are to be found in AIDAB itself which takes an approach which may be characterised by the following:

1. Health has generally been accorded a low profile in the activities of AIDAB. In recent years there has been some attempt to increase the proportion of development assistance devoted to health issues. Several attempts to develop a health strategy specific to the problems of the South Pacific and Southeast Asia have been stillborn. In the absence of a general health policy the approach has been to fund specific projects which are not part of a coherent approach to Australian health assistance in the country concerned, or to divert the funds notionally allocated to health to multilateral organisations. Thus, Australia either responds on an *ad hoc* basis or accepts the agendas of the multilaterals rather than developing a coherent strategy based on its own analysis of the situation. Such a strategy would have implications for our funding of multilateral organisations as well.

2. In general, health issues are seen in terms of causes of death and case management. Analyses based on this approach typically identify a range of 'risk factors' for both morbidity and mortality. Nutrition is frequently one of the risk factors identified. However, having identified them most programs then proceed to develop interventions which concentrate on case management, and effectively ignore the role of risk factors. Thus they avoid the necessity to intervene beyond the narrow confines of the actual cause of death or of the health sector. Consequently, nutrition and other risk factors are accorded a low priority because they do not contribute to case management.

3. At the same time the view that poor nutrition is really an 'outcome' rather than a risk factor or an independent variable in the health equation is very much alive and well. Despite abundant and increasing evidence to the contrary, this view implies that poor nutrition only stems from disease. This is consistent with the 'case management' approach and, again, nutrition receives a low priority if it receives one at all.

4. Most development assistance projects have a relatively short time horizon and there is an increasing demand for quick results. The disease approach is consistent with this constraint. Thus, within a relatively short period of time case management regimes can be devised, tested and implemented. Aid organisations are happy because there is an identifiable outcome within a short time frame. Nevertheless, risk factors may not have changed at all and the long term effects of the intervention are largely dependent on sustaining the new and higher level of inputs to treat the cases which continue to arise. In contrast, changing risk factors

usually requires a longer commitment but has the potential for more lasting results.

5. More recently, micronutrients have achieved a much higher priority than had previously been the case. This is partly because the effects are much more specific and easily identifiable than for PEM. Specific interventions are now available and they are, in general, high profile, short-term in a sustainable way. The problems are in some cases inter-sectoral (eg iodised salt) and demand operations research and improved management if they are to be addressed adequately. Again, Australia has not put in the effort to develop its own analysis of the situation on which it can base strategies. It has basically followed the agendas set by multilateral organisations.

6. Food policy programs are developed without considering nutrition issues. Striking examples are:

(a) Lack of attention to nutrition within agricultural research: Australia has devoted considerable resources to increasing food production through agricultural research, particularly through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). However, this organisation does not view nutrition *per se* as falling within its terms of reference. Consequently it is reluctant to see nutrition problems as adequate justification for research projects.

(b) Food aid: A significant proportion of Australia's development assistance is devoted to food aid. However, this is seen as an end in itself. Here, where improved nutrition is clearly one of the desired outcomes it is not usually assessed as part of the original justification or in the evaluation process.

(c) Trade and aid: A significant proportion of Australian trade (sometimes aid related) with the South Pacific is in foodstuffs. In this region chronic degenerative diseases in which diet is an important causal factor are increasingly important causes of morbidity and mortality. There is an urgent need to evaluate this trade in terms of its effects on the nutrition and health of the populations concerned.

What is needed?

Given the importance of nutrition problems in the countries to which Australia provides development assistance, it is vital to develop coherent strategies based on clear analysis of the importance of nutrition within the health sector and the nature of the links to other sectors, particularly agriculture. It is not enough to uncritically accept the agendas of the multilaterals which have their own vested interests. After all, the 'case management' approach is the centre-piece of many WHO programs which are essentially vertical in nature and pay only lip service to alleviation of risk factors.

Any fresh look at nutrition in Australia's development assistance programs should take into account at least the following issues.

PEM in children

PEM is widely accepted as a important risk factor in the most important infectious diseases of childhood (particularly diarrhoea, pneumonia and measles). That is, children with higher nutritional status have lower morbidity and/or mortality rates.

Improvement in nutritional status is a valid health aim in itself as it will have beneficial effects on a range of infectious diseases. This point is usually lost when health programs are based on 'cause of death' as nutrition is seen as a risk factor only for the 'cause' being considered at the time.

The causes of PEM are various and their importance will vary from place to place. Thus, the most appropriate intervention in any situation will also vary. In some situations the most appropriate intervention may be in the health sector, in others agriculture. Even when the most appropriate interventions are in agriculture the health sector has an important role through involvement in nutrition surveillance.

Micronutrients

A vital task now for control of micronutrient deficiencies is identification of appropriate and sustainable strategies for individual countries and locations and management of the intervention programs. During the last decade the emphasis was on moving micronutrient deficiencies up the national and international agendas. This has largely been achieved. A range of technologies are now available, particularly for iodine and vitamin A. The emphasis now must change to management of programs and will require greater attention to the situation in individual countries. This will require Australia to develop coherent strategies based on analysis of each situation.

Chronic degenerative diseases

In Australia and elsewhere the effects of lifestyle, an important component of which is diet, on disease patterns are increasingly being recognised. This has led to the formulation and adoption of dietary goals and guide-lines in many countries and recognition of the need to make the 'healthy choices the easy choices'.

There is increasing recognition of the need for an intersectoral food and nutrition policy in which achievement of the dietary goals is seen as an important aim and involves a range of other sectors, particularly agriculture, manufacturing and retailing. There is a need to adopt a similar approach within Australia's development assistance programs.

Agriculture

The issues here go beyond merely increasing production. In some cases, whilst food may be the constraint, increases in production may not be sufficient. Issues of equity, distribution and food security are often involved

as well and require explicit consideration of nutrition issues. In other cases food production may not be the constraint and greater attention to distribution and pricing policies may have a more significant impact. Again, there is a need to include nutrition as one of the important endpoints.

In general, understanding the food and nutrition system, and the relationships between nutrition, agriculture and health, is an important component of assessing the effects of various policies and programs.

Food aid

As in agriculture, nutrition is used as an explicit or implicit justification for many activities. However it is rarely evaluated either at the time of justification or during evaluation. More explicit inclusion of nutrition considerations will assist in determining whether alternate actions and policies are needed to support and complement the food aid programs.

To some extent nutrition is also suffering from the low priority accorded the health sector within the Australian aid effort. But the issue goes deeper than this as the current approach to assessing problems and developing program assistance undervalues the more 'basic' issue of nutrition and its importance as a basic factor underlying good health. That is, there is an urgent need for more explicit recognition of, and a higher priority for, nutrition within health.

Further, Australia's considerable aid efforts related to agriculture and food are ignoring an important component of their context and justification when nutrition is seen as an independent issue to be addressed solely within health. Assessment and understanding of the food and nutrition system provides a basis for setting priorities and evaluating appropriateness of activities. Nutrition is a logical endpoint of many activities and nutrition measures provide a ready means of assessing program effects.

Thus, there is a need for more explicit consideration of nutrition issues, particularly within health, agriculture and trade. This will require Australia to put effort into analysis and understanding of nutrition issues in general, and in individual countries in particular. This would allow the development of a coherent program in nutrition and the identification of appropriate strategies and programs. It has not been done yet, but it is not too late to start.

HIV and development in Asia and the Pacific: the Australian response

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While the immense impact of the psychological, social and economic consequences of HIV has been recognised

as a major development issue in Africa, it is as yet barely taken into account in planning for Asia and the Pacific. Yet the rapidity with which HIV infection is estimated to have spread recently in India and Thailand leads to the prediction that these countries will soon displace Africa as the global epicentre of the pandemic. As in many African countries, those in our region face the loss of a whole generation of people, particularly among mobile groups, including politicians and senior public servants, and the decimation of their productive workforce. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 'without effective responses at the community, national and international level, the efforts of the last 25 years to strengthen the human and capital resources required for national development may have been to little avail'.

This brief note traces the development of an international response to the challenge presented by the problems of developing political awareness and mobilising community-based organisations, based on the substantial Australian reservoir of expertise in designing and implementing effective HIV policies and programs.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) was slow to respond to the evidence that an international response to the HIV pandemic was required. Only in mid-1986 was the Global Program on AIDS (GPA) established and its initial efforts were directed toward Africa. The Asian and Pacific regions were seen as having very little contact with HIV and only Australia and New Zealand had substantial numbers of reported cases of AIDS at the time. Suggestions were put forward to the effect that Asians were in some way resistant to infection by HIV. In July 1987 the new GPA and the Australian government jointly sponsored in Sydney a four-day meeting of health ministers and senior officials from East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific islands to instil concern about the potential impact of the pandemic. Australia's domestic response, which was beginning to be recognised internationally as a model of effective partnership between governments, the medical profession and community groups was presented. The delegates were particularly impressed with the community education and support programs which they visited on the final day of the meeting.

GPA then drew on Australian expertise in helping Pacific island countries design short-term and medium-term plans for dealing with HIV. The GPA approach stressed blood supply testing and epidemiological surveillance, rather than the development of community response, and resulted in the posting of consultants on epidemiology and education financed by WHO, the European Community and other donors. The Australian government provided \$1.4 million for GPA's activities in the region over the four years 1987/88-1990/91 and Australian experts have taken an active role in GPA's expert consultations, which have been critically

important for the development of GPA's Global Strategy on AIDS.

Apart from support for GPA activities the only significant continuing international HIV project was WHO's training in the clinical management of HIV infection at its regional centre at the University of New South Wales. There was no Australian program for the region until the adoption in August 1989 of the government's National HIV/AIDS Strategy. This committed the Commonwealth government to a comprehensive range of domestic HIV programs and to three years funding at an increasing level. It also specified continued assistance through AIDAB for the development of national HIV planning within the region and for short-term study grants for professional caregivers.

At the same time, within AIDAB an AIDS Initiative was funded at \$1 million for each of the four years from 1989-90, with \$0.6m allocated to Southeast Asia, \$0.4m to the South Pacific and \$0.1m to the Indian Ocean island states. Given the striking success of community-based organisations in the provision of HIV education and care within Australia, AIDAB determined that its AIDS Initiative would operate primarily through NGOs. The Southeast Asian Regional AIDS Initiative has developed this logic further, experimenting with various approaches to using Australian expertise to develop and strengthen HIV-related community initiatives in the region.

In August 1990, GPA and the Australian government sponsored the first regional conference on HIV. Prior to the conference a dozen representatives of Southeast Asian community-based organisations, particularly sex worker and gay organisations, participated in a study tour of Australian AIDS councils and their community education and support programs, organised by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and funded by the AIDS Initiative. The success of the study tour clearly confirmed the relevance of Australia's community-centred model for programs in the region. Since then AIDAB has funded an AFAO international programs coordinator who has developed further programs and prepared a survey of HIV-related community groups in Southeast Asia. Established NGOs have been funded for a variety of HIV rural and urban community projects, the Public Health Association has worked with its Indonesian counterpart on HIV education, and representatives of the Scarlet Alliance, the Australian sex worker federation, have helped Empower, their Thai equivalent.

Outside Southeast Asia there has been less innovation, though there have been a few Australian NGO projects in southern Africa, most notably the Salvation Army's widely admired community care and education program at Chikankata in rural Zambia. AIDAB's Pacific desk chose to pass its AIDS Initiative funding to the South

Pacific Commission, which has developed a capacity for information-sharing and training at the regional level but which has been slow in promoting community-based activities and has not drawn on Australian HIV expertise.

Most recently AFAO and the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) have been jointly funded by AIDAB and the Department of Health, Housing and Community Services for a position to develop HIV expertise and programs among ACFOA's member NGOs.

The new AFAO/ACFOA Co-ordinator of the HIV/AIDS and Development Program is to explore mechanisms to assist Australian aid NGOs in collaborating and co-ordinating their HIV activities. Here the work of the United Kingdom's NGO AIDS Consortium for the Third World, which has functioned since 1986 as an information exchange, catalyst for collaboration and advocate for increased funding of HIV programs, provides a model for what could develop in Australia. Late in January a round table of government agencies and NGOs concerned with planning Australian HIV activities in the region is being held to exchange experience, and identify problems and successful program models. It will be followed by a training workshop on HIV program development in April and by further specialised workshops.

Finally mention should be made of the International Council of AIDS Support Organisations (ICASO), organised among NGOs at the Montreal international AIDS conference in 1989. ICASO is holding its first regional meeting of HIV community-based organisations in Singapore during February and may establish a network genuinely representative of the Southeast Asian region, though not yet of the Pacific. Dennis Altman, an active member of both AFAO and the main HIV advisory body, the Australian National Council on AIDS, has taken a leading role both in mobilising AFAO's international program and in promoting ICASO's potential. In addition the AIDS Society for Asia and the Pacific is organising in November in New Delhi the second international regional conference.

The Asia-Pacific region is still well behind Africa in its experience of the impact of HIV infection, and therefore well behind in awareness of its potential economic and social consequences. Thailand, with the longest experience of substantial numbers of young infected people, is the first country to begin developing serious national plans for coping with HIV. It has a few well-mobilised community groups for education and care programs and it is the first Australian aid recipient country to request assistance on HIV as part of its bilateral program (though others, such as Myanmar, which do not receive Australian aid, might well be prepared to accept such assistance).

Apart from GPA - which continues to be dominated by the medical approach prevalent in WHO's offices, but which has encouraged ICASO and other community-based initiatives - the UNDP is the other main international agency supporting national HIV programs in the region. In line with UNDP's policy framework on HIV, its national offices in the region have begun to prompt government awareness, beyond ministries of health, of the need for multi-sectoral programs and for developing gender-sensitive initiatives towards behaviour change at community level. In Africa, starting with Uganda, the World Bank and GPA have teamed up with UNDP and with bilateral donors to encourage broad political commitment to such programs. Collaboration at this level has yet to happen in Asia and the Pacific.

The greatest problem remains that of convincing heads of state and political leaders of the reality HIV presents for their economic and social future. The second problem is persuading them of the logic community initiatives, rather than centrally directed surveillance and education programs. Much of Australia's success in containing the epidemic arose from the conviction of Neal Blewett as Minister of Health that community-based programs to effect behaviour change were the primary means of containment.

Australia has a very considerable reservoir of expertise in the design and management of community-based HIV programs which have been articulated and refined over a period of nine years. It has also developed a wide range of skills in policy development, accumulated and focused in the consultative process that produced the National Strategy, and since then deployed in comprehensive law reform and policy development programs. Underpinning this has been the development of political and consultative institutions which have succeeded in building political consensus for programs which might otherwise have been seen as threatening cherished values. International agencies have already drawn extensively on this expertise, as well as on Australia's bio-medical talents, but the increasing international demand is not well linked with the Australian supply. Establishing this international linkage and equipping Australia's HIV expertise with appropriate awareness and sensitivity to cultural and development issues are the primary tasks at present.

Encouraging communities to develop cost-effective primary health care

Frank Schofield, Emeritus Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Queensland

Principles and practice in public health development

Motivation to meet health needs is not found within governments or hierarchical bureaucracies, but within

the social groups that make up communities. Nevertheless, many governments and aid agencies still follow authoritarian 'top down' methods to promote the development of services. It is now recognised that improvements in health are more likely when communities:

- (1) Identify their own problems and are motivated to do something about them;
- (2) Are given encouragement and assistance to acquire the knowledge needed to address health problems; and
- (3) Are assisted to strengthen the capacity of local organisations.

This means strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) from the 'bottom-up' by appropriate combinations of the relevant practical sciences with well organised, local social action.

In developing countries more than 90 per cent of people's contacts with a health system are with PHC. Of these, women of childbearing age and their children make up 70 to 80 per cent of the clients. Therefore effective maternal care and practical demonstrations of the benefits of health care to children are the two most effective strategies for motivating people to manage well-organised, community-based PHC. Communities organised by traditional kinship ties, or those within defined geographical boundaries, are the most likely to organise effective PHC at affordable costs. However, success is dependent upon representative and accountable social and administrative leadership.

Political constraints to accountability are evident despite acceptance of the 1978 'bottom-up' model of community participation for PHC of the Declaration of Alma Ata. Given 'top-down' power over PHC's resources, bureaucrats and politicians are tempted to divert budgetary resources from foreign aid into large city hospitals, expensive private practices and prestigious tertiary institutes to which only the urban elite have social and economic access. The urban poor particularly are socially and culturally powerless to achieve true community participation. They lack the socio-cultural linkages for, and traditional expectations of, social cooperation which have evolved inside rural communities over long periods of time.

The major constraint to community participation in PHC is political apprehension among authoritarian regimes. Communities empowered by 'self-help' to safeguard their own health may try that method in other sectors also. If communities demonstrate they can organise effectively, without orders from administrators, they are seen to be rejecting the colonial models of social organisation inherited or copied from European models.

Restoration of community power to make decisions concerning tax expenditure and compulsory health

insurance premiums is a logical corollary of community participation. It certainly reduces the leakages and deviations of resources which afflict so many PHC systems. It would also transfer PHC's administrative costs and supervisory responsibilities from professional people and civil servants - who are often technical and administrative amateurs in PHC - to health workers employed directly by their communities, thus making them accountable to their clients.

Policies of bilateral donors usually favour governing elites rather than aiding national populations to achieve better, self-reliant and cost effective health. These agencies subsidise big buildings and the donor countries' high technology. Such technologies are not sustainable without future diversions of national budgetary resources towards tertiary institutions and away from PHC.

International agencies with constitutions and elected officials serve the short-term internal interests of voting governments rather than following their own health development policy (i.e. the Declaration of Alma Ata). Other agencies have inappropriate economic value systems, use econometric indicators for health development and regard health care as one form of resource consumption. In contrast, public health workers believe that PHC in developing countries is an investment in human potential which strengthens self-reliance and independence in the long-term. These people are seldom placed in positions which influence political or economic policies.

'Top-down' approaches

It was less than 100 years ago that western governments initiated 'top-down' health strategies. It could be argued that some of the most dramatic improvements in public health in Europe, Australia and New Zealand have resulted from 'top-down' public health measures. Many included legislation and allowed for its enforcement. The most beneficial to public health were regulations for healthy domestic and work environments including environmental sanitation. Strict laws related to the food industry, housing standards, transport, and much more recently the banning of smoking in government buildings and on internal flights. Standards were also set for education and practice in different health professions and more recently socio-administrative models were established for distributing health-related resources to reach the groups needing them most.

Ironically, the hierarchical, paternalistic, dependency-producing PHC systems of European navies, armies and penal institutions which the colonisers introduced were quite atypical. Colonial governments did not impose these systems upon their own people until 1917. Even their tertiary, non-PHC hospitals and asylums were started by the mediaeval church, later helped by local governments, so these were more community-managed than modern tertiary hospitals.

Practical examples

Thailand: The absence of colonial precedent combined with societal concern and a public health philosophy inherited from the Rockefeller Foundation enabled Thailand's government to plan and encourage rapid changes in the health of its large rural population [Nondesuta, 1988]. Successful 'self-help' strategies included the empowerment of mothers to improve child nutrition and develop their own capability in income generation. Important elements include accelerated self-regulation of fertility, and the procurement, financing and dispensing of essential drugs through village cooperatives. The present concern, however, is to increase professional and financial accountability of PHC to the village communities.

Philippines: Even in developed countries, bureaucracies and politicians have seldom willingly relinquished 'top-down' power over the health sector. In the Philippines, however, PHC is being directly transferred to rural *municipalities* each of which comprises six or more *barangays* (the smallest administrative unit) [Government of Philippines, 1991]. UNICEF and AIDAB are assisting in implementing this brave experiment. Due to pre-existing cultural and socio-administrative diversity many models of community participation are likely to emerge.

Australian bilateral aid for health development is often limited in scope but is effectively oriented to public health when compared with that of other donors. The exception is Papua New Guinea where Australia follows old-fashioned 'top-down' policies. Consequently, PHC which once reached 80 per cent of the rural population is now declining in both coverage and effectiveness, though not in cost. Papua New Guinea missed a good opportunity when the administration of social services was devolved to the provinces to encourage community participation and self-help for PHC. Some communities had already shown this to be a feasible strategy despite the lack of cultural traditions of public health.

UNICEF: UNICEF's constitution and operational methods enable it to invest resources for health at varying levels according to appropriateness for assisting its 'clients' - the world's children. In this way it avoids pouring funds into the top of the health system that rarely trickle down to intended beneficiaries at the bottom.

Methods

Communities must clearly identify planning objectives to improve health. This means identifying feasible, measurable targets for health status. Future dates must be set for the achievement of each target and a local information system established to monitor and evaluate progress. Locally available resources must then be identified and their provision agreed upon. There must be agreement at each level of responsibility, from

community volunteers to provincial technical supervisors. This will result in community-managed, accountable PHC services.

The next step is to draw up enforceable PHC service contracts between community leaders and provincial health managers. Contracts should express each community's commitments to specific health objectives and define operational standards necessary to meet basic minimum needs for preventive and promotive health strategies. These needs might include safe water, childhood immunization and growth monitoring, pre- and post-natal care, help with self-control of fertility, and any effective therapies defined by national policy as a human right and obligation in health.

Inter-sectoral strategies for strengthening community motivation, power and capability are necessary to preserve local environments, control population growth and adapt local economies to avoid deterioration, extravagance and waste. Successful PHC shows rural people and their local leaders that they have the power to effectively harness scientific knowledge, technology and social skills to develop behavioural strategies which preserve each generation's well-being.

To be effective in development, education must be used as the tool for participation in decision making and not perceived as a remedy for ignorance [Verhagen, 1979].

In conclusion, in Asia and the Pacific, where most of Australia's aid for rural development is allocated, PHC based on community participation has become vital. Health is a start. Active and educated participation in planning and management of local ecological affairs by men and women of rural communities provides their best hope for the future. Self-help in developing their own communities' PHC will give them the example, experience and self-confidence they need.

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Australian aid toward health - what makes sense?

John Hirshman, Third World Health Group

The basic problem underlying ill health in the developing world is poverty. Whatever alleviates

poverty - economic development, trade, infrastructure, educational or agricultural improvements - helps health. Poverty alleviation however is a tall order and there is little sign, despite the rhetoric, that debt burdens are being reduced or fair trade commenced.

AIDAB has paid considerable attention to health issues but is hampered by limited technical resources, regular staff changes and the Bureau's preference for large scale projects. The current lack of professional expertise could be easily overcome. In the past a voluntary health subcommittee of health professionals provided technical expertise when this was needed. A similar, but smaller, committee could be re-established to review health projects and proposals and to provide professional advice.

AIDAB's Women and their Children's Health (WATCH) strategy is an important development but needs greater support. Non-government organisations are encouraged to submit proposals within this strategy, particularly for environmental and nutritional concerns. Capable Australian NGOs working in partnership with recipient country NGOs are particularly effective in implementing health projects. Funds provided to international bodies such as UNICEF are usually efficiently used.

Within both AIDAB and the NGO community there is an often somewhat naive devotion to primary health care. While it is a good concept, it is no panacea for most health problems and few in AIDAB or NGOs realise how difficult effective implementation is and how hard it is for external aid to make any impact. Primary health care projects rarely work well unless the recipient community is fully supportive, unless staff on the ground are motivated and well trained, and unless there is government help for all echelons of health personnel. Where government services are weak and transport infrastructure poor, the health task at the periphery is particularly difficult. The World Health Organization goal embodied in the slogan 'health for all by the year 2000 - primary health care is the key' is an acknowledged failure. Enthusiasm for Primary Health Care (PHC) must be tempered by realism and common sense. Small can be beautiful in health assistance and all aid agencies should look at small scale projects, see whether they fulfil a need and whether administrative restrictions are surmountable. A small blood transfusion facility somewhere? Support for traditional healers and midwives including re-training? Working with them, not against them? Yes it makes sense.

Equipment is important in health aid but - and this is an important 'but' - it has to be really appropriate, really answering a need, capable of being maintained by local resources and used properly. Equipment has to be simple and in some countries not dependent on electricity. Whenever possible it should fit in with what the recipient country is already familiar with and can maintain. Local procurement should be examined.

Sending pharmaceuticals requires particular care and those sent are often not appropriate. When requests are properly evaluated and appropriate materials provided however, it can be a real success.

What is needed in health aid is a background of experience in the developing world, practicality and common sense and as few bureaucratic preconceptions as possible.

Public health practice - are the national and international debates informing each other?

Margaret Conley, Executive Director, Public Health Association of Australia

Many NGOs have long understood the importance of working on health projects identified by particular communities. If a community can identify a project activity they want to undertake, then that is the appropriate entry point for health promotion in that community. Once people work on the problem and have some satisfaction with the result, the potential for identifying other issues of concern is high.

While health development workers are familiar with this way of operating and are alert for unintended negative consequences which can result from development projects, this is less widely understood nationally. We talk of community development, but it is not clear that the community is always encouraged to set their own objectives based on their own knowledge. Objectives for improving health of all have been established for us - and those motivated to be healthy are compliant. Those motivated primarily by the survival imperative however, remain untouched.

In Alice Springs at the recent *Health of Indigenous Peoples* conference, indigenous people emphasised the importance of setting their own health objectives and of being allowed to implement their own projects and programs. They are interested in their own health and their own research agenda, not one set for them. While none of this may be a surprise, the difficult part is knowing how to help without getting in the way.

Processes are in place for learning the basic syntax of a 'new' language for health care and community involvement. In the areas of public health promotion and public health research, the indigenous people of Australia are showing the broad public health community a new *modus operandi*. Just as many health developers have learned so much from communities in which they have worked internationally, so too will the broad public health community learn from Aboriginal people in Australia - we need a little time, some patience

and goodwill - and all three were hallmarks of the Alice Springs conference.

Health at an International level

In Australia, health is a priority, but we need to understand that there are many ways to move towards healthier communities. In the international sphere, health is seldom a priority. However, there are two hopeful developments. The first has been the establishment of an Advisory Group on International Health. The second is a small workshop to be hosted by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHA) on international health in late February to address the following questions:

-What is the international context of health initiatives?

-What is the current level of activity involving Australia, and in particular in this region? What policy imperatives drive that activity?

-What are the regional health priorities at this time, and how should these be translated into policy action?

-What infrastructure, resources and other mechanisms, including training, will be required to support, monitor and over time, modify the policy response and direction?

Background and briefs have been requested from the Department of Health Housing and Community Services, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau, Trade, Treasury, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid and from PHA's Special Interest Groups on International Health and Political Economy of Health.

It is hoped this small group will consider the way ahead for health, how Australian experiences and expertise can be appropriately utilised and make some recommendations on a process. That process could be the beginning of the development of a constituency for international health in Australia.

Finally, the language, the *modus operandi*, of international health development should be able to inform the Australian experience, so we can move ahead to a healthier future, learning from and with indigenous peoples.

Editor's note: For a full report on the Alice Springs conference, see page 27.



Aid Comments Column

Our last issue of the *Development Bulletin* included several articles and a briefing paper on the 1991-1992 Australian aid budget. Responses to the articles and briefing paper titled "*The Mean Country: whither Australia's aid program?*" are found below. These include responses from parliamentarians.

Responses to the 'mean country'

Introduction

The National Centre for Development Studies at the Australian National University circulated to members of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Australia the briefing paper "*The Mean Country: whither Australia's aid program?*". The briefing paper outlined recent trends in the level of Australia's official aid allocation and suggested it was not in Australia's political or economic interests to maintain the current low level of assistance. It called on the government to increase aid.

Analysis of responses

The National Centre for Development Studies received 34 responses to the briefing paper: sixteen from Liberal members, 10 from Labor, two from Democrats, two from the National Party and four from government departments or institutes.

The majority of responses (19) noted that the paper had been received but made no comment on its content. Fourteen responses were positive and respondents found the paper timely, informative and useful and appreciated being kept informed. There were two requests for further information and for the 'self-interest' argument to be further developed.

One response argued that the paper did not get close to the real issues and provided no appropriate suggestions for improving the situation.

It is notable that there were more Liberal responses than Labor and that a much higher proportion of positive Liberal responses.

Responses are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Responses

	Positive	Negative	Noted	Total
Labour	3	-	7	10
Liberal	8	1	7	16
Democrat	2	-	-	2
National	-	-	2	2
<u>Departments</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	14	1	19	34

Review of comments

Dr David Kemp MP (Liberal) affirmed the need for well documented arguments on the effects of Australian overseas aid. He pointed out recent widespread concern that aid is too often wasted money, and does not effectively contribute to expanded markets for Australian exports. He suggests that the 'self-interest' argument be further developed. His final comment was that the recent book by Derek Tribe (*Doing Well by Doing Good*) was a valuable contribution to this debate.

Philip Ruddock MP (Liberal) as well as others acknowledged the force of the arguments to increase aid, but suggested that Australia's economic position makes it difficult to achieve a sensible balance at this time. He did, however, maintain that the Opposition is committed to realising the goal of aid at 0.7 per cent of GDP.

Senator Chris Schacht (Labour) argued that the 1991 budget represented a 'real increase from last year', and that it contains features which provide real assistance to the Asian countries. For example:

- A 10 per cent funding boost for NGOs, taking their direct funding to \$17 million, and joint NGO-AIDAB cooperation monies to \$60 million.
- Increased funding of \$18.9 million for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and \$7.4 million for other international research activities.
- \$700,000 for HIV/AIDS education and information activities in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

The Hon J J Carlton (Liberal) responded by saying that the paper was somewhat disappointing, as it 'relies heavily on aid ratios and ... Australia's parsimony', without 'getting close to the real issues'. He states that some of the questions that need to be answered are:

- How to structure aid program to avoid the kinds of adverse incentive effects identified by economists like Peter Bauer?

- How to handle the Papua New Guinea problem, and what effect is Australian aid having there?

- If for political reasons the target should be Australia, what should the approach be to specific countries? They range from growing market economies through oligarchies to command economies, with the special cases of the Pacific islands as an additional problem in themselves.

While Carlton believes that properly targeted aid is a moral responsibility, he feels the paper did not help argue the case.

Richard Woolcott (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) responded with concern that Australia is being characterised as 'the mean country'. While the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade would like to see the amount of overseas aid increased (indeed, they highlight the important role played by the aid program in the achievement of aspects of Australia's foreign, economic and trade objectives), they are confined to the budget process. The budget deliberations in 1990 saw Cabinet reaffirm its decision to maintain the aid program at the same real level of expenditure. In order to obtain any increase in funding, Woolcott suggested that 'new development priorities must be clearly identified, have a broad base of support and be demonstrated to contribute substantially to the objectives of Australia's aid program'. His final comments addressed the necessity to strike a balance between bilateral and multilateral programs, as there are some areas of humanitarian need which are not covered by the bilateral program, and the increasing need to establish environmental issues as a priority.

Australian Democrats alternative budget proposals August 1991

The Australian Democrats have outlined an alternative budget proposal whereby the expenditure on international aid is increased by A\$360 million. This increase would bring the total overseas aid budget to 0.42 per cent of GDP.

This additional expenditure would include real increases in aid to go towards the South Pacific and Southeast Asia regions. It would also provide increased funding to the UNHCR in recognition of the growing demands of refugees around the world.

The alternative budget also suggested a review of all aid programs, emphasis on locally initiated and controlled programs, and increased emphasis on international projects which take into account global environmental concerns.

Aid and Australia's long-term development strategy

Adam McCarty, Australian National University

Discussion of Australia's declining aid allocations normally concentrates on straightforward comparisons with other developed economies. However, why Australia should give proportionately the same or more than those nations above us in the aid league tables is a question rarely explicitly addressed. And much of the answer to this question, I would argue, lies in the consideration of Australia's peculiar geographic location. The old cliché of Australia being a 'European country located in Asia' is still fundamentally true. In cultural terms it is certainly true and will remain so for decades, but in economic terms Australia continues to become increasingly integrated into the region and strives to become more so.

This commercial drive to exploit our comparative geographic advantage and to participate fully in the rapid growth of the region seems to be the crux of Australia's long-term development strategy. Given this, the importance of aid in smoothing and speeding this process would seem obvious. Yet Australia's proportionate aid contribution devoted to this task still lags behind numerous minor European and Scandinavian countries which have no such urgent strategic interests in the region.

Why is this so? Politicians have short time horizons and Australia's long-term development strategy has never been clearly elucidated. It has never advanced beyond rhetoric and hence has influenced policy decisions only marginally and in an *ad hoc* manner. What to do? Aid should be more explicitly focussed on assisting with Australia's economic integration into the region. There should also be much more of it.

A sensible future direction for Australian aid

Cathy Reade, Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research

The last *Development Bulletin* provided a series of articles to raise discussion about Australia's development assistance including: our self interest in foreign aid, the decline in Australia's overseas aid, and trends in Australian aid. Associated with all these issues is a small and relatively unknown area of Australia's development assistance efforts - International Agricultural Research (IAR).

The Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research and others who have had the opportunity of seeing the benefits to developing countries from IAR, argue that it is one of the most effective ways that a country like Australia, with a relatively small overseas

development assistance (ODA) budget and with world renowned expertise in agricultural research, can assist developing countries to grow - to feed themselves, employ themselves and expand their economies.

An understanding of the effectiveness and importance of international agricultural research as a development assistance activity is finally mounting in Australia. In a recent article, the Minister for Overseas Development, Dr Neal Blewett, named international agricultural research as 'a personal top priority' and its funding in the 1990/91 budget was one of the few areas of ODA to increase. At the World Development Forum, Senator Michael Teague, the chair of the Opposition Task Force on International Relations and Tim Fischer, the leader of the National Party, indicated support for IAR. Russell Rollason of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid recently wrote that 'committing aid funds in agricultural research is a wise and valuable investment'.

International agricultural research

In the 1960s experts predicted that many developing countries would run out of food within two decades. Large scale starvation was averted by the introduction of high-yielding crop varieties developed by IAR - the so-called 'Green Revolution'. The green revolution in wheat and rice has saved millions of lives and continues to do so. Expanding population pressures in developing countries, resource depletion and increasing environmental problems (some a result of the green revolution), mean that farmers in developing countries, and indeed around the world, must 'do more with less'.

The challenge for IAR is therefore not simply to increase food production at any cost but to assure that, while food production increases, the resource base is not degraded - that farming practices are sustainable. This is the direction of international agricultural research: high yields that are stable and dependable, that take into account environmentally friendly pest and disease control, with the improved use of water and fertilizers, and management of crops, animals and natural resources. Of course, such improvements require other developments like sound macroeconomic policies, appropriate systems of land tenure, adequate credit facilities and improved transport systems. However, knowledge of improved farming technologies is a basic need. This is the present challenge for IAR centres.

The social, environmental and economic returns from agricultural research are unusually high and the development of improved farming systems benefits those, like the rural poor, women, the unemployed and the landless, who most need help.

Who carries out IAR?

Australia's funding of IAR from the foreign aid budget covers work undertaken or sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

and a system of research centres coordinated by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

ACIAR promotes research into improving agricultural and forestry management in developing countries by mobilising Australian agricultural research expertise to help developing countries help themselves. ACIAR funds joint research projects in partnership with counterparts in developing countries, focussing on high-priority problems in fields which Australia has particular scientific and technical competence and interest.

The CGIAR network is a unique, informal association of 41 public and private sector donors supporting 16 international agricultural research centres, mainly in developing countries, with over 1700 scientists of 60 nationalities working at 200 locations around the globe. It is the largest non-military research group in the world.

Benefits of IAR to developing countries

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economic growth of less developed countries. The change that IAR brings from traditional peasant farming to more productive systems of commercial small-holder agriculture results in many benefits for the poor and hungry people in developing countries, who mostly live in rural areas. In short, these benefits include:

- Practical knowledge and agricultural products of direct value to farmers;

- More sustainable farming technologies which produce more food for consumption and sale domestically, and for export; and

- More jobs on farms and in farm-related industries, increased incomes and expanding national wealth.

Benefits of IAR to Australia

Numerous economic studies have concluded that the annual internal rates of return from investment in agricultural research vary between 30 per cent and 70 per cent. Plenty of evidence developed over the past two decades identifies the enormous benefits that Australia derives from the research undertaken by ACIAR and the CGIAR.

Far from threatening our export markets as many Australian farmers fear, agricultural research and development actually strengthens our trading relationship with other countries. Evidence shows that agricultural growth in developing countries through IAR actually leads to an increase in their demand for food. Food consumption, which grows faster than increased food supply, and changes in consumption patterns can lead to a permanent increase in food imports. However, it is not only Australian exporters from the farm sector that benefit. Developing countries in Asia and the Pacific are likely to be growing export markets for

Australian output generally, including the manufacturing and mining industries.

IAR provides valuable knowledge and research breakthroughs for farmers in developing countries and Australia alike. For example, new wheat varieties developed in Mexico at a CGIAR centre are estimated to have earned Australian farmers more than \$2 billion since being introduced in 1974. A joint ACIAR/Thailand project has developed new faster ways of diagnosing foot and mouth disease - an outbreak of which would cost Australian livestock industries billions of dollars.

New and sustainable forms of farming, forestry and land management are being developed by both ACIAR and CGIAR. Results from this research will be of direct benefit to Australia with its environmental problems including soil degradation and erosion, salinity, acidification, pesticide misuse, and land and forest mismanagement. For example, joint international studies are discovering improved, low-cost fertilizer and soil management practices for acidic, infertile and degraded soils in the Asian, African and Australian tropics.

The direction for future Australian aid

Yet, despite all the benefits that are known to accrue to developing countries and to Australia from IAR, Australia spends less than 2 per cent of its foreign aid budget on ACIAR and the CGIAR network. Most policy makers have failed in the past to understand that agricultural research represents the best help that we can offer less developed countries while, at the same time, generating important and valuable benefits to Australia.

For humanitarian and enlightened self-interest reasons, the \$3.1 million increase in the last Budget was welcomed as a beginning to repairing the short-sighted and misguided cuts to agricultural research in previous years. While the increase is considered to be a small, first step in the right direction, the Crawford Fund is calling for an increase from \$25 million to \$75 million in the amount of the aid budget spent on the activities of ACIAR and CGIAR by 1994. This increase would indicate a new welcome direction for Australian aid into an area with extraordinary returns for both developing countries and for Australia.

The Crawford Fund is a small non-profit non-government organisation which aims to make more widely known throughout Australia the benefits that accrue both internationally and to Australia from international agricultural research and development and to encourage greater support for and participation in it. [For more information on the Fund and their recently published book *Doing Well by Doing Good* which provides the background and evidence for the arguments in the above article, contact Cathy Reade, Coordinator, Public Awareness Campaign, Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research, GPO Box 309, Canberra, 2601, phone and fax 06 2486016].

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

Inquiry into Australia's relationship with the World Bank and the IMF

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator the Hon Gareth Evans QC, has referred the following matter to the Trade Sub-Committee for inquiry and report:

Australia's relationship with the Bank and IMF and opportunities for Australia's participation in Bank and Fund projects, highlighting those aspects which would be in Australia's long term economic and trade interests.

Advice regarding the preparation of submissions

1. Submissions should be addressed to the Committee and signed by the author(s) either on his (or their) own, or on behalf of the organisation.
2. There is no set form for the submission. It may contain facts, opinions and argument. It may also be accompanied by appendices and other supporting data.
3. If lengthy, it should be prefaced by a brief summary.
4. Submissions should be relevant to the terms of reference of the inquiry.
5. The submission should be typed on A4 size paper.
6. Once received by the Committee submissions become property of the Committee. A submission cannot be withdrawn or altered without the knowledge and approval of the Committee, nor may it or any portion of it be published or disclosed until the Committee or either House of the Parliament authorises its publication.
7. There may be parts of the submission which the author considers should not be published. In this case the author may request that parts of the submission be kept confidential. Those parts should be clearly identified in the submission. The Committee will consider the request, however, it does reserve the right to publish such evidence. This right is rarely exercised.
8. Authors of submissions may be asked to give oral evidence before the Committee at a public hearing. Witnesses are normally called when the Committee considers that the inquiry will benefit from questioning the witnesses. Such questioning allows the witnesses to amplify the points made in the submission, or to provide additional information.

Submissions and further information available from:

The Secretary, Trade Sub-Committee
Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and
Trade, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (06) 277-4624 Fax: (06) 277-2221



Update on Vietnam

Vietnam - the poverty of rumours

Russel Rollason, Executive Director, Australian Council for Overseas Aid

With the signing of an agreement between Hanoi and London on 29 October 1991, the inevitable return of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong is underway. It is expected that the overwhelming majority of the 64,000 asylum seekers in the barbed-wire enclosed camps in Hong Kong will be repatriated to Vietnam. But resistance is growing in the camps to 'forced repatriation' back to the poverty of Vietnam that led those who have not been granted 'refugee status' to flee in the first place.

Of the Vietnamese in Hong Kong, only 5,000 so far have been 'screened in' as refugees eligible for resettlement. Meanwhile, despite the bleak prison-like conditions in Hong Kong, more than 20,000 Vietnamese landed there last year. Not all are 'boat people' who have sailed from Vietnam, some are 'bus people' who have been bussed - at a price - from Vietnam across China to ports near Hong Kong. It is then a short boat ride to Hong Kong.

There is, however, growing evidence to suggest that forcible repatriation may not be necessary. The thaw in US-Vietnamese relations appears to have encouraged more people to apply to return to Vietnam and recently the agreed monthly quota for returnees has been easily filled.

Under the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Indo-chinese refugees approved in June 1989, the international community, with assistance from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), agreed to interview all people in the refugee camps in Hong Kong, Thailand and elsewhere to determine if they had a genuine claim for refugee status. Those who pass the test will be resettled. Those who do not are invited to return voluntarily with assistance to re-integrate. The alternative is an indefinite stay in a harsh closed camp with no hope of resettlement. Those who return to Vietnam receive an initial US\$50 and US\$1 a day for 12 months.

In late May, a team of six representatives from non-government organizations (USA 4, Canada 1, and Australia 1) visited Vietnam to assess the situation of people who have returned voluntarily to Vietnam under CPA. The idea for the visit came from Vietnamese American Dr Le Xuan Khoa who argued that NGOs had

been left out in the implementation of the CPA and consequently were becoming 'increasingly suspicious of host governments for ill will and more critical of UNHCR for not fulfilling its refugee protection mandate.' With assistance from UNHCR and the Vietnamese authorities, the NGO team interviewed repatriates in Hanoi, Haiphong, Hong Gai and Ho Chi Minh City. The following case studies are typical of the findings.

Flee poverty - return to poverty

In the port city of Haiphong, a 19 year old woman, the second eldest of four sisters and with both parents dead, left by boat in early 1989 for Hong Kong. Her sisters had borrowed money to pay for the passage and had to borrow while she was away in order to survive. In August 1990, she returned voluntarily and received US\$360 in two instalments to help her get re-established. She is learning hairdressing but her small hairdressers shop earns just enough for her and her two sisters to survive.

In the north fishing village of Hong Gai, a 30 year old man left with his wife and two young children on 21 March 1989 in a group of 113, on the basis of a rumour that all those in Hong Kong would be resettled in the west. On arrival in Hong Kong his boat was confiscated and burnt. On 12 October he voluntarily returned having been rejected ('screened out' to use the jargon) for resettlement as a genuine refugee. On return he used his resettlement assistance in addition to a loan from friends to buy a boat. He has returned to fishing but currently can only make his living by buying and selling fish as he does not have enough money to buy nets. Since returning he has written to his younger sister and brother in Hong Kong urging them to come home and assuring them it is safe to return.

From the heart of the Chinese quarter in Saigon, a 37 year old divorcee paid around \$300 in gold for a place on a boat for her six year old son and herself. After six days at sea, they arrived in Malaysia only to accept voluntary repatriation six months later in November 1990. Her resettlement assistance has enabled her to buy a sewing machine in the hope of earning an income.

Whilst Dr Khoa was satisfied that the repatriates had been 'fairly treated and in accordance with the CPA', he felt sad about their future because they were returning to poverty. 'Sometimes they are returning to a worse situation because they have sold everything to go', he said. 'I'd like to see additional assistance from NGOs and the European Community to help the repatriates re-integrate successfully.' The international community should do two things according to Dr Khoa. 'In the short term, we need to make sure the CPA is implemented in a humane and proper manner', he explained. In the long term, 'the issue is to create conditions where people don't have to leave', says Dr Khoa. 'To do that we need to

improve the social economic and political situation in Vietnam. It's time for the international community and the UDA to address these long term issues, to lift the economic embargo and to improve the human rights situation in Vietnam'.

Resettlement assistance

Resettlement assistance of US\$1 a day for 12 months seems good money, but as US NGO worker Skip Dangers explained, 'thirty dollars a month is not an incentive to leave. Rumours are the incentive. The people need the money to repay their debts'.

A special program of assistance from the European Community provides training opportunities from repatriates as well as small loans to the repatriates and to the local communities to help establish jobs and income generation opportunities. NGOs also provide assistance and the Australian agency Austcare, is providing assistance in repatriate communities in Hong Gai and Haiphong.

Special effort is being made to assist the whole community and not just single out the repatriate for assistance lest this becomes an incentive for people to leave. Dangers emphasised the importance of this development assistance saying, 'People believe what they see. If there is an improvement locally, a new health clinic or a school renovated, that's an incentive to put off their departure'.

From all our interviews with repatriates as well as with aid workers, journalists, diplomats and UNHCR officials, there were no reports of harassment or discrimination against repatriates. The safety and dignity with which people return is symbolic of the great opening up occurring in Vietnam. Considerable progress has been made towards becoming an open and free society.

The major towns and cities are bustling with activity and the move towards a market economy has inspired the entrepreneurship of the Vietnamese people. Shops are full of stock - from TVs and videos to motorbikes, household utensils and clothes - and small shops are open everywhere. In Hanoi there is a building boom, with renovations in progress and new houses being built in the city and country. But Vietnam needs large scale assistance to address the underlying problems of poor infrastructure. The railways are old, water and sewage systems are failing, the roads are in poor shape, wharfs need renewing and communications need upgrading.

Address root causes

Early last month, in testimony before the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr Le Xuan Khoa of the US Indo-china Resource Action Centre said, 'we are resolutely opposed to forced repatriation, not only because it is dangerous and inhumane, but also because there is no need to use force in the present

situation. The fact is that new arrivals have dripped to an all-time low and the number of volunteers is increasing considerably'.

He concluded by saying, 'I strongly believe that the US should take leadership in dealing with the root causes that prompt people to flee their country. Once conditions in Vietnam improve - politically, socially and economically - the refugee flow will quickly come to a halt and many asylum-seekers will return voluntarily, in the real sense of the word'.

But two decades after the Vietnam war the US appears not to have forgotten nor forgiven this nation for bringing the world's most powerful military machine to its knees.

The US maintains a trade and economic embargo against Vietnam. At a recent meeting of the International Monetary Fund, the US vetoed a French move, which Australia had actively supported, to advance a commercial bank loan to pay Vietnam's tiny debt of approximately US\$160m to the IMF. It's not that Vietnam cannot pay, the problem is that Vietnam's assets in the US are frozen by the US government. If the debt is repaid, the only barrier preventing Vietnam from receiving much needed assistance from the IMF and World Bank would be political opposition from the US. The Article of Agreement of the World Bank states that decisions to loan funds should be based on economic considerations alone and not politics. Removing the technical barrier is an important step towards restoring World Bank and IMF assistance to Vietnam, suspended since 1985.

The US embargo is effectively undermining Vietnam's attempts to modernize its economy. The US has also frustrated attempts by Vietnam Airlines to upgrade its fleet by entering into agreements with other Asian airlines to lease US-made Boeing aircraft. US NGOs providing aid to Vietnam still technically come under the US Trading With the Enemy Act although this has been applied less rigorously in recent years. But US policy restricts NGO and much international assistance to humanitarian purposes only, ruling out the much needed assistance for development. Even funds provided by the US to assist the repatriation of refugees to Vietnam cannot be spent in Vietnam.

Australian decision unwelcome

The recent decision by the Australian government to restore bilateral aid to Vietnam is most welcome, but the government has yet to find the money to honour the commitment to restore aid. In February 1992, Senator Evans and Dr Blewett will make a joint submission to Cabinet for extra aid funds for Vietnam and Cambodia. The election of Mr Keating as Prime Minister and the likelihood of an economic statement in February complicate the decision making process. Whatever the outcome of the new look to restore aid, doubling

Australian aid to Vietnam to \$20 million would be an appropriate response.

Australia's decision to open an AUSTRADE office in Hanoi and the recent visit to Vietnam by Dr Blewett are equally welcome steps. Japan has followed suit, announcing the resumption of aid to Vietnam and Cambodia at a likely level of 10 billion yen (\$US77m) per year to each country.

The ending of the international isolation of Vietnam will not only assist in the mammoth task of turning around Vietnam's economy, thereby adding to stability in Southeast Asia, but will also help stem the outflow of 'economic refugees'. Hopefully this will encourage more of the boat people in Hong Kong and elsewhere to accept reality and return home - voluntarily.

Russel Rollason recently visited Vietnam as a member of a six member international team of NGOs to assess the situation of people who have voluntarily returned to Vietnam from refugee camps in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"Vietnam - An update" Australian National University Seminar, 25 October 1991

Review by Adam McCarty, Australian National University

The first 'Vietnam Update' seminar conducted by the Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU, focussed on the changing economic and political situation in Vietnam. Speakers included Vietnamese scholars Dr Do Duc Dinh of the Institute for World Economy, Hanoi; Professor Do Thai Dong of the Institute of Social Sciences of Vietnam; and Professor Nguyen Van Hung of Hanoi University.

A previous panel discussion focussed on the scientific, commercial and technological cooperation between Australia and Vietnam. Panel members noted that the significant economic reforms of the past few years had stimulated commercial interest in Vietnam, and that Australia was highly regarded as a commercial partner and enjoyed a window of opportunity while the American embargo remained in place. However it was also noted that most interest at present was focussed on resource extraction due to problems such as poor infrastructure, an inadequate legal system, endless red-tape and continuing uncertainty about political developments.

The Friday conference was opened by the **Hon Tom Uren**. In the first paper, 'Recent development in the Vietnamese economy', **Dr Do Duc Dinh**, reviewed recent changes regarding inflation (too high), interest rates (too low) and recent economic reforms (too few). He made the following main points:

(1) Thirty per cent of State enterprises are currently profitable and experiencing growth. The balance are subsidised to protect jobs (1.9 million are unemployed).

(2) The agricultural production boom of 1989 did not continue into 1990 due to natural disasters, problems with investment and lack of fertilisers. Total agricultural production increased by 1.2 per cent but production of cereals and vegetables declined. With the abolition of State subsidised rice, families can no longer stock large quantities of this staple. The result has been a decline in demand and increase in supply.

(3) During 1990 the value of industrial production rose by 4.5 per cent. Production of electricity rose by 13 per cent to nine million kwh, cement production increased from 2.0 million tons in 1989 to 2.6 million in 1990. Oil production has now reached 2.7 million tons and is expected to increase rapidly in direct relationship to increases in foreign capital investment.

(4) Private sector growth continued with the number of private traders increasing from 568,000 persons in 1986 to 811,000 in 1990, and the number of small industrial households growing from 4,000 in 1988 to 82,000 in 1989.

Dr Do went on to say that the reduction of the State monopoly over trade and the elimination of State control over the national market have facilitated economic growth. However, with a an annual population growth rate of nearly 2.3 per cent, increasing unemployment and underemployment and high inflation, there is an urgent need for labour intensive industries and foreign investment.

Dr Do outlined the main issues arising from the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, held in June 1991. The main objectives for socio-economic development to the year 2000 were stated as: (1) to raise annual per capita income from \$US200 to \$US400; (2) to achieve a GDP growth rate of 9 per cent per annum; and (3) to reduce inflation to less than 10 per cent per annum.

Professor Carlyle Thayer (Australian National University) in a paper titled 'Political developments in Vietnam: from the 6th to the 7th National Party Congress', reviewed political developments since the 'renovation' process was declared at the 1986 Sixth Vietnam Congress. Professor Thayer also gave an overview of the changes resulting from the all important Seventh Congress held last June in Hanoi. Prior to 1976, the Vietnamese political process was controlled by a very small elite who were rarely held to account by the Party. Now, the Party leadership is held accountable on a regular basis. A second major change since 1976 has been the composition of the Central Committee. In the past it was comprised overwhelmingly of senior Party officials who served in the Central Party and State bureaucracy. It now comprises an increasing number of

provincial Party officials. The third development has been the institutionalisation of leadership change. Incompetent or corrupt officials have been dropped. Seven Politburo members were retired in 1991 and one member expelled in 1990. This is unprecedented.

Professor Thayer explained that political democratisation in Vietnam had a dramatic impact on the press and mass media. Vietnam's press has become increasingly active in investigating and reporting cases of corruption and misuse of office by Party and State officials. One of the most important factors in the liberalisation of the press was economic. Under *doi moi*, the State phased out its financial subsidies to the press. To survive, newspapers and magazines explored popular topics, including sex and violence, and accepted advertising for the first time. The number of publications available for sale rose rapidly, many evading regulations and registration.

Liberalisation however was short lived. In July 1989, the Minister of Information took steps to ensure that existing press rules were observed. Many publications were shut down. In August 1990, the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism and the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee, Department of Ideology and Culture convened a national conference on 'publication work'. A number of publishing houses were 'sternly criticised' and the Party's new hard line was codified in a VCP directive on strengthening the Party leadership over press and publication work.

Similar control has recently been exerted over the previously flourishing video cassette industry. In July 1989 it was decreed that only government-registered and approved cultural, cinematographic and hotel services could show videos commercially. All privately owned video recorders had to be registered with the local cultural affairs branch. New measures restricting circulation of videos were imposed.

Civil society, he concluded, had not yet emerged in Vietnam due in large part to the weak and under-developed system of law and justice. 'Civil society has reached a nascent stage and must await the erosion of "mono-organisational socialism" [read: "old-style socialism"]...' and a continuing period of 'creeping pluralism' before developing further.

Professor Nguyen Van Hung discussed changes in the university system in his paper 'Vietnam's university system in the context of current reform'. Compulsory units on Marxist-Leninist thought have been dropped as have the biases favouring Party members entry to university. All tertiary educational institutions face severe economic constraints. Although budgets have increased there is no funding for equipment, scientific documents, or for writing the new curricula and developing the new teaching materials that are now

needed. There is a shortage of people with appropriate knowledge to teach the new courses in social sciences.

A panel discussion on human resources development in Vietnam highlighted confusion about Australian assistance to Vietnam; Australia's comparative advantage; and what Vietnam's requirements are. Much of the panel focused on language and university training, but as one participant noted, Australia has particular abilities in vocational training areas and these should be marketed.

The onus was placed on Vietnamese researchers to produce detailed reports about the nature and composition of the Vietnamese labour force; to identify priority requirements; and to assist foreigners in developing their human resources strategies regarding Vietnam.

Recent literature on Vietnam

National Library of Australia Current Awareness Bulletin: IE 499 Vietnam

Current Awareness Bulletin IE 499 is a select list of books from and about Vietnam received in the National Library of Australia. For each item author, title, publisher, date of publication and the National Library's call number is given. Bulletins are divided into the following sections: the arts; bibliography and reference; business, commerce and economics; history and related disciplines; language and literature; law; politics and government; and religion. Current Awareness Bulletins such as IE 499 Vietnam are issued irregularly and are available free on request.

For further information about the Library's collections on Vietnam and services provided, please contact:

The Chief Librarian
South and Southeast Asia Sub-Section
National Library of Australia
Canberra, ACT, 2600
Phone: (06) 262 1614

Is Australia a mean country?

Find more comment on Australian aid in the *Community Aid Abroad Review*, Summer 1991/1992 edition, pp 4-6. For a copy of the *Review*, contact 156 George Street, Fitzroy Victoria, Australia 3065. Phone: (03) 419 7111 Fax: (03) 419 5318.



Conference Reports

"Global solutions for global problems"

United Nations Association of Australia National Conference, Canberra, September 13-15, 1991

The dominant theme for "Global Solutions for Global Problems" was the role of the United Nations in the New World Order. Political and economic changes in Europe, the Gulf War, environmental degradation, massive world debt and economic restructuring in developing countries indicate the need for global cooperation.

Major areas of discussion were peacekeeping, conflict resolution, the status of women, human rights and environment.

Senator Robert Hill (Shadow Foreign Minister) provided an overview of changing global relationships and uncertainties regarding Soviet and American roles in the UN. With the resurgence of regional unrest, most of which is nationalistic and within state borders, the UN must decide whether or not its traditional role of non-interference is appropriate.

Dr Connie Peck (Psychology, La Trobe University) spoke of strengthening the office of the Secretary General. One of the important functions of this office is dispute settlement. She recommended more cost-effective and expanded powers for this office.

Professor Philip Alston (International Law, ANU) spoke on human rights. He said the cold war prevented UN progress in this area after 1948, and it was not until the late 1960s-early 1970s that Third World countries involved the UN in human rights issues. To date rights of minorities have been excluded from UN agenda, due to the ambivalence of countries such as the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, where progress in this area was not encouraged. Alston pointed out that dramatic increases in ethnic strife (eg Yugoslavia), and increased claims for self-determination demonstrated the need for UN action. However, he stressed that progress had been made and that human rights are now on the agenda everywhere and states can no longer insulate themselves. The NGOs play a particularly important role at the local level.

Hon Barry Jones MP gave the Evett Memorial Lecture. Evett's global philosophies were remembered, and a broad introduction to the major issues was given. He made particular note of the problem of rising expectations in the developing countries.

The world needs sustainable development which is economically viable and socially equitable, and this topical issue was covered in various degrees by the speakers of the environmental workshops.

Dr Peter Ellyard (Interim Chair UNEP Australia) suggested two ways to tackle the objective of an ecologically sustainable world by 2020 - the 'problem-centred' approach, and the 'mission-directed' approach. The problem-centred approach deals with creating a future where present 'bads' are diminished, whereas the mission-directed approach deals with creating a policy agenda and following it. Dr Ellyard argued that the mission-directed approach is the best for sustainable growth, and used the analogy of health care to further his point. In health care one must not only look to cure the disease but find ways to prevent it (for example, good drinking water).

Professor David Throsby (School of Economics, Macquarie University) outlined the government's establishment of nine working groups to discuss ecologically sustainable development (ESD). These groups focused on mining, electricity, transport, manufacturing, agriculture, recreation and forestry. Groups included representatives from business, unions, academics and conservationists, and their purpose is to develop a working definition for ESD, in accordance with what it means for their field. **Draft reports are available and will be presented at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.**

Dr Judy Lambert (adviser to the Minister for the Environment) discussed the need for constitutional or institutional change within government to further the goal of ESD. Lack of environmental statements in the constitution raises the issue of commonwealth/state distribution of powers. Presently, there is an 'intergovernmental agreement' being negotiated. This will be completed in 1992 and is an attempt to improve the process, agree on principles and establish a reasonable distribution of powers. It involves: a national approach to environmental impact assessment; better nomination and management of natural heritage lands; a national strategy for a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases; and biodiversity.

Dr Meg Switzer (Center for Resource and Environmental Studies, ANU) posed the question 'does sustainable development have a gender bias?'. Men and women have different access to resource use and therefore management, but women are often constrained in decision making. Important areas include care giving, education, and resource management. Switzer suggested five 'engendered' policy principles for sustainable development: protection of social equity; safeguarding national and personal security; a full valuing of resources (including unpaid work); precautionary resource management; and finally, environmental

education which includes gender concerns. Switzer concluded that gender analysis tools should be applied to all projects and programs.

Participants included a wide variety of professionals from the UN, academia, government and Parliament. The conference was an extension of a seminar held in May 1991 (jointly organized by the Federal UNAA and the ANU Centre for International and Public Law) where these issues were discussed in a broader context. The published proceedings *Whose New World Order: What role for the United Nations?* edited by Bustelo and Alston is now available.

"AIDAB's Mekong River Bridge"

NCDS Seminar, Australian National University, 8 October 1991

Mr Alex Agafonoff presented a project update for the proposed 900 meter bridge connecting Laos and Thailand over the Mekong River. This project has been particularly controversial due to problems in the negotiation process, in particular the nature of the offer and the way it was made; the complexities of tripartite developments; and the conditions that were attached to the offer.

For a standard aid project, there are several stages in the process of negotiation which result in offers of assistance. For this project, however, there was relatively little discussion regarding feasibility. The need for aid was identified while Prime Minister Hawke was visiting Thailand and assistance was offered on the spot. Upon his return to Australia, a request was made to AIDAB for advice on the project. AIDAB responded that the \$31 million for construction cost alone was not available in the existing aid budget, and that government would either have to allocate additional funds or the bridge would have to be integrated into the existing bilateral programs. Despite this response the bridge offer was consolidated.

The second problem outlined by Agafonoff was the difficulty of tripartite developments. Negotiation between three countries is always complex, but the situation becomes even more complex when two of the three nations have poor relations. Laos resentment of Thailand is historical, and while a new bridge may expand the Laos export market, it ties the country more closely to a large and overwhelming neighbour.

The final problems discussed were associated with the conditions attached to the offer. Indeed, these created the challenge. Policy parameters in the first round revolved around simple feasibility and appropriate use for Australian development assistance. Such deliberations involved the advice initially given by AIDAB. Subsequent conditions, however, involved more complex issues such as completion dates, the share

of costs, subcontracting, sources of supply and transport of materials. Once these were agreed upon a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up, the first between Laos and Thailand.

In conclusion, the seminar confirmed the difficulties encountered within the AIDAB framework, but gave few insights into the real consequences of building a bridge that is not particularly feasible, or necessary.

"Are the NICs appropriate models of development?"

Society for International Development, Canberra, October 29, 1991

Dr Walden Bello (Executive Director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy) discussed the practicability and desirability of the newly industrialising country (NIC) model. Regarding practicability, he argued that NICs were a product of historical conditions. Existing links with Japan, American protection during the cold war and a dynamic American market for NIC goods all contributed to the development of these countries. In a world economy which is becoming increasingly protectionist, export oriented industrialisation becomes less relevant.

Bello doubted the desirability of the NIC model. He argued that it resulted in the destruction and devastation of agriculture and ecology, and increased authoritarianism. Agriculture suffered due to price policies which kept prices and wages low. This combined with the introduction of high yield varieties caused massive indebtedness and subordination to manufacturing. In addition, rapid growth was accompanied by immense ecological destruction. Cheap labour combined with lack of environmental controls encouraged investment by multinational corporations. Tight political controls were part of economic strategies and the impact of an authoritarian regime on labour and society was great. Bello argued that at best democracy threatens to be unstable.

Regarding fragile and dependent processes of industrialisation, Bello argued that the main problems lie with technology transfer from Japan, and the NICs ability to develop self-sustaining economies. Generally, the Japanese do not want to share their technology and these countries lack the funding to undertake independent research and development. NICs are therefore unable to produce high-tech goods and are priced out of the cheap labour market (the wage for a textile worker in Taiwan is \$3.25/hr compared with \$0.25/hr in Indonesia). Regional integration in the Asian economy does occur, but mostly to further Japanese interests. Bello argues that this hierarchical functional integration has exacerbated the situation.

Dr Hal Hill (Australian National University) stressed the importance of the NIC paradigm in the 20th century. NICs have grown quickly, particularly with respect to industrial growth, and Hill argued that standards of living have indeed increased with a correlation between exports and GDP.

Hill disputed the criticisms of the NIC model. First, he highlighted improved social conditions and better distribution of income in NICs than in other developing countries. Furthermore, the reason these countries cannot compete in the cheap labour market is because real wages have risen. With respect to authoritarian regimes, Hill agrees that the political climate is not good, but that it is not substantially different from most developing countries. Lastly, Hill argued that there was no correlation between environmental degradation and export oriented policies. The real problem with environmental degradation lies in the western world. Hill concluded that although the NICs began to look outward when it was most favourable, efficient economies can profit from exporting at any time.

"GATT: helping or hurting the world?"

ACFOA, Sydney NSW, 27 September 1991

This public seminar organised by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid's (ACFOA) North South Committee considered the concerns of NGOs and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Greg Barrett (University of Canberra) explained that GATT should provide 'special and differential treatment' for developing countries because open access to international trade would exacerbate the dependent nature of their economies. Most developing countries require preferential access to industrial country markets if they are to successfully compete.

Peter Eliason (Deputy Director, National Farmers' Federation) stressed the importance of agriculture to the Australian economy and the gains from freer trade. He recognised the importance of developing countries as growing agricultural markets and discussed National Farmers' Federation (NFF) attempts to link with developing country farmer organisations. Developing countries will benefit from freer trade through increased farm exports, 'this should provide a market for domestic manufacturing'. Eliason also noted that food importing developing countries could be compensated by the World Bank and IMF for high food prices.

Tony Webb (Coalition of Trade Union and Consumer Groups) made a distinction between free trade and fair trade. Free trade does not produce development and could exacerbate oligopoly and excessive commercialisation in the domestic economy to the detriment of the small unprotected farmers. Free trade could reduce investment in agriculture as agricultural

prices were squeezed by multinational food companies. He stressed the importance of food security, preserving rural communities, food quality standards and local decision making.

Janet Hunt (ACFOA) explained that the Alternative Economic Summit held in London recently challenged the growth model of the Group of Seven. GATT was seen as a mechanism for restructuring economies through trade. GATT works in the interests of a few large countries and the Third World is not organised to resist. GATT does not address sustainable development needs. The GATT Uruguay Round of negotiations on cutting trade protection is more about opening up developing countries to industrial country exports than about assistance to developing countries. This is particularly true in the new areas of services, patents and investments.

"The health of indigenous peoples"

Public Health Association of Australia 23rd Annual Conference, Alice Springs, 29 September to 2 October 1991

Review by Jo Victoria, Australian Heritage Commission

The aim of the conference was to 'discuss innovative approaches to health problems of indigenous people and explore barriers to their implementation'. A major focus of the conference was Australian Aboriginal health. The themes of the plenary sessions were: an overview to indigenous health, primary health care and community control, health service delivery, Australian Aboriginal women's health, health infrastructure, and the environment and alcohol abuse.

The conference was officially opened by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, **Mr Robert Tickner**, who spoke on the relationship between social justice and health - a theme that recurred throughout the conference. Referring to the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission and its findings on Aboriginal communities, Mr Tickner confirmed the Government's commitment to reconciliation with Aboriginal people.

In the Public Health Association (PHA) presidential address **Jane Hall** identified two major responses to indigenous health problems - compensation and analysis. Hall stressed the need to go beyond these responses as the tendency has been to move from analysis to paralysis.

Overview of Indigenous health

This session identified the economic and political marginalisation of indigenous peoples as the major factor influencing their health. The major speakers were **Ruby Hammond** (Department of Labour, South Australia), **Charlene Belleau** (Assembly of First

Nations, Canada) and **Shane Houston** (Tharawal Aboriginal Health Service).

Discussing the health of indigenous peoples in Canada, **Charlene Belleau** discussed the devastation caused by alcoholism and outlined local initiatives that have been effective in achieving sobriety among Canadian Indian communities. The experience in Canada has shown that by focussing on social and political development rather than economic development and helping communities become more sober, other aspects of community development fall into place. Change came from the want and the need to change rather than waiting for government funds which were not only unreliable but often inadequate and inappropriate. For indigenous Canadian people 'the need to understand their history of oppression and to focus on community support for sobriety are the fundamental priorities affecting health issues'.

Primary health care and community control

The major area of concern raised at this session was that "primary health care is slipping off the international agenda". Money is scarce and donors are supporting independent projects without considering the wider health issues. **Susan Rifkin** (Professor of International Health, Institute for Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, University of Heidelberg) stated that one of the reasons that primary health care is failing is because 'instead of putting money into process-oriented activities, funds are going to academics and to research'. Other reasons are the politics and the rhetoric of primary health care (PHC). 'Community control rhetoric dominates the PHC agenda...it is a difficult concept to put into practice'.

Interventionist approaches continue to dominate health care and practice, while the process is caught up in political rhetoric. Rifkin suggests it is vital to measure community participation of health care programs. This includes 'needs assessments, leadership, organisation, resource mobilisation and management within the community'. It is imperative that methodologies come from the people in the programs not the professionals. She concluded by saying that PHC is not dead but it needs new paradigms and new processes.

Australian Aboriginal health care approaches were contrasted with similar programs in Canada. Central to Aboriginal health problems is the history of oppression and desecration. 'Until Aboriginal health is in the hands of Aboriginal people, Aboriginal health will continue to be abysmal'. It was maintained that 'community control means the right to determine the issues, how people will participate where a program will operate, who will run it, and the right to make mistakes. The non-Aboriginal health system is in no position to criticise Aboriginal mistakes, they have an abysmal history'. Many non-Aboriginal professionals are too entrenched in the

dominant health system to support community participation.

Health service delivery

John O'Neil (Associate Professor, University of Manitoba, Canada) started the session with an analysis of Inuit Indians in Canada, where O'Neil said the main health problem is the sense of responsibility the health bureaucracy has to the federal government. He questioned the responsibility of health professionals and academics and asked if they were part of the problem or the solution.

Shane Houston (Tharawal Aboriginal Health Service) confirmed that in the Australian experience the control of health resources is in the hands of bureaucrats and not the community. Those Aboriginal health organisations receiving funds are not adequately resourced. Staff have no award wages, no superannuation and no other resources or infrastructure support. Houston insisted that for health reforms to occur there must be nationally endorsed access to culturally appropriate and adequately resourced services.

Aboriginal women's health

The session was dominated by the need to recognise the special issues related to Aboriginal women's health care. **Lana Abbott** of Congress Alukura spoke of the development of the women's birthing centre at Congress Alukura and the grandmother's law. The principles behind Congress Alukura are: (1) Aboriginal people are a distinct and viable cultural group with their own cultural beliefs, practices, law and social needs; (2) Every woman has the right to participate fully in her pregnancy and childbirth and to determine the environment and nature of care unless medical complications indicate otherwise; (3) Every Aboriginal woman has the right in pregnancy and childbirth to maintain and use her own heritage, customs, language and institutions, or to choose other options as she wishes. Congress Alukura aims to preserve and recognise Aboriginal women's law and culture relating to birthing. Birthing facilities that presently exist in Alice Springs for Aboriginal women are inappropriate and traumatic for them. There was a consensus at the session to call for more women, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to move into the health professions.

Infrastructure and environment

Speakers from Aboriginal organisations spoke of Aboriginal initiatives in environmental health care. **Paul Pholemes**, referring to the Nganampa UPK Report, outlined ways for Aboriginal people living in the Pitjatjantjara lands to achieve maximum health gains and identified specific problems Aboriginal people face in achieving these gains. For instance, almost all health infrastructure needs in communities visited were cheap,

poorly designed, did not cater for Aboriginal lifestyles and had minimal access to maintenance.

Bruce Walker (Centre for Appropriate Technology, Alice Springs) stressed that wherever people live, and in whatever conditions, they develop skills for surviving in that environment. These people are the experts on the dynamics of their communities. It is essential to recognise that people have existing skills and that it is not only insulting but wrong to assume otherwise.

Alcohol abuse

Eric Shirt (President, Nechi Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) outlined the devastating effects of alcohol on the Cree Indian communities. Cree community sobriety is the direct result of the development of treatment centres run by sober, trained, native Indians. **Marcia Langton** (Anthropology Department, Macquarie University) speaking of the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody said that the Commission identified alcohol as the underlying cause of internment. She said that there 'must be a coordinated strategy to overcome alcohol problems', and that this 'must be an immediate and comprehensive response by government'. She spoke of Aboriginal initiatives to combat alcohol problems, such as the Yuendumu women's night patrol, Aboriginal policing initiatives and the Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Planning Unit initiatives.

Conference outcome

The conference confirmed:

- (1) Land rights is a health issue. 'Only with self-determination and control of their land and community controlled services can Aboriginal people restore themselves to the health they once enjoyed.'
- (2) 'It is only through programs devised, controlled and run by Aboriginal people themselves that alcohol abuse can effectively be resolved.'
- (3) 'Inadequate physical infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continues to be one of the major underlying causes of poor health'. Resources should be provided for access to 'adequate and appropriate shelter, sanitation, water supplies, transportation, communications and power'.
- (4) 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience an unacceptably high burden of illness and premature death.' Culturally appropriate birthing services and community controlled primary health care are essential.
- (5) 'Dispossession, loss of culture, colonisation, and the overwhelming burden of the continual death of so many young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and men' is part of the ongoing grief process. Culturally appropriate mental health services must be developed to meet these needs.

(6) 'PHC is best delivered by community controlled health services which are adequate, accessible, appropriate and affordable to the community'. The conference called on all governments to pursue policies aimed at 'adequate resourcing of community based and community-controlled PHC services'.

(7) Aboriginal health workers are the key to changing the health status of the Aboriginal community' and 'a range of education programs must be provided for community controlled and based health worker training...'

The conference also commented on the federal government's decision to reduce the medical benefit scheduled rebate for GP services by \$3.50 and existing public health policy on health care financing. 'The conference called upon the Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services to reverse the decision to introduce a co-payment for medical services under medicare'.

For further information or for conference papers and details contact Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc, GPO Box 1604, Alice Springs, NT, 0870.

"Democracy and development"

ACFOA Conference, Canberra, September 1991

Review by Joan Hayes, Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA)

ACFOA's annual council meeting and conference considered 'Democracy and development: The role of NGOs in building a civil society'.

The keynote speakers were: **Senator Robert Hill** (Opposition Spokesman on Foreign Affairs), **Aleli Marcelino** (National Secretariat of Social Action, Justice and Peace), **Hakim Nusantara** (Executive Director of the Legal Aid Institute of Indonesia), and **Professor Phillip Alston** (Director of the Centre for International Law, Australian National University).

Senator Hill outlined the centre-piece of Liberal Party policy on overseas aid as being the promotion of democracy through facilitation of economic growth and trade liberalization. Along the lines of the current World Bank policies the Liberal Party has taken the view that 'social spending must be accommodated within the requirements of responsible fiscal policy'. Hill questioned the value of the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure of the level of national poverty. Hill forewarned that there would be substantial cuts to the already limited development education program.

Hakim Nusantara challenged the NGOs to reverse the present trend in development aid which strengthens the power of the State at the expense of the people. If democracy is a priority then there needs to be a move

away from the advancement of bureaucratic structures to the strengthening of the people - the civil society. It is the duty and responsibility of NGOs to reverse this trend. NGOs must fight to uphold the sovereignty of the people.

In the Philippines, **Aleli Marcelino** pointed out that democracy is the privilege of the elite. Monopolies, patronage politics, graft and corruption are flourishing, furthering ecological destruction, gender inequality and the inequitable distribution of wealth and power. NGOs are playing an important role in the democratisation of the Philippines through acting as advocates and enablers, model builders and pioneers, and helping make alternative development projects happen. NGOs need to identify and internalise democratic principles and values.

Phillip Alston maintained that human rights and development are indivisible. There have been substantial changes within the UN with regard to the recognition of human rights as central to development over the past decade. The right to development itself has now been seen as a human right. However, human rights issues remain sensitive within UN organisations, which essentially still serve their client governments. Third World reaction to UNDP's efforts to incorporate a human freedom index into their HDI in 1991 reflected a reaction to western concepts of freedom implied by the measure they used. Alston also raised the important question - is there a maximum right to resources and health care and when and what is enough?

He proposed more legal training and an urgent need to train development workers in human rights. He noted that Canada's aid bureau (CIDA) has a comprehensive training program for all officials, especially at the project level.

Fifth Annual World Development Forum, "Multilaterals in the 1990s: more dollars than sense?"

AIDAB Conference, Australian National University, 6-7 November 1991

This conference explored the role of multilateral aid in the New World Order, with particular reference to Australia. Increased Australian funds for organisations such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have been accompanied by increased cynicism about the role of multilateral assistance. Some argue that such aid is able to achieve much broader objectives than bilateral aid, while others argue that multilateral agencies are too big and bureaucratic to be effective and often do more harm than good. The conference addressed these issues.

Dr Neal Blewett (Minister for Trade and Overseas Development) opened the conference by raising four areas of concern: (1) Multilateral aid versus bilateral aid; (2) The effectiveness of multilateral dollars; (3)

Agencies that parallel Australia's goals; and (4) How much should be spent. Blewett argued that multilateral and bilateral aid are complementary. By the sheer scale of their programs, multilaterals can have larger goals yet remain neutral. They can work on sensitive global issues (i.e. population programs) as well as address the important issue of the environment. Not only are they able to meet large scale activities (i.e. communication), but have the ability to deal with world disasters expediently. Blewett also stressed that multilaterals reflect international norms and values, and the importance of ensuring that Australia's norms and values are met. Often attention is slanted to Africa and Latin America and not Asia, which poses a problem for national objectives. Following AIDAB's current review of multilateral agencies AIDAB will help to promote better choices for such assistance. Lastly, Blewett addressed the issue of how much money should be spent. Australia currently supports four of 41 multilateral agencies, and the amount spent depends entirely on how active a role Australia wants to play. The increasing number of such agencies combined with increased development cooperation in the global economy is forcing Australia to deal with this issue.

In the panel discussion entitled *Multilaterals: Value for Money?*, **Senator Chris Schacht** championed the cause of bilateral aid. Not only is bilateral aid more accountable (AIDAB is directly accountable to the Australian Government), but in the case of Australia this type of aid can be specifically targeted to the Asian/Pacific region, is faster, and pro-active (not reactive). Summarizing why bilateral aid is good for Australia, Senator Schacht included the following: the decisions and credit are made by Australia; it is compatible with foreign policy goals; commercial opportunities are not jeopardised; and the potential for integrity is greater on a one to one basis.

Senator Robert Hill concluded the panel discussion by stating that the general preference in Australia is for bilateral aid, but this is due to regional location and not a belief that multilateral aid is ineffective. Hill believes that Australia should play an active role in global development, and in cases such as the Mekong River bridge where only a modicum of thinking was given to goals and objectives, the money would have been better spent at a multilateral level. Hill also argued that bilateral programs are a way to promote unique expertise in Australia (e.g. tropical and dry-land agriculture).

The session *Big banks, smart ideas: can poor countries cope?* was chaired by **Ron Dean** (Deputy Commissioner, Insurance and Superannuation Commission) who opened discussion by stressing the need for structural adjustment and policy changes in both developed and developing countries. His statement that bilateral funding does not lead to policy changes reflected his support for multilateral aid.

Tony Cole (Secretary, Department of Treasury) argued that increased policy-based lending for structural adjustment can hurt developing countries because economic rationalist policies take a long time to realise their objectives. Such policies can have a recessionary tendency and make poor countries poorer. Furthermore, such lending is often wasted by incorporation into general government spending.

Helen Hughes (Executive Director, National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University) stated the case in favour of multilateral aid. Multilaterals are able to look at important environmental issues (growth with environmental care), and provide an intellectual contribution to the development of grassroots ideas. Multilaterals can contribute ideas as well as foreign exchange, undertake large projects, and give developing countries money at the margin where it is needed most.

Sheila Smith (Senior Economist, UNDP) discussed problems in the adjustment process and said that the shift from project to program lending has led to an increased amount of multilateral aid being spent on structural adjustment lending. Smith stated that there are problems with this process.

First, policy decisions are often driven from Washington and not from within, resulting in correct but irrelevant policies. Second, structural adjustment lending was thought to be a short process, but in reality is not. It needs to be accompanied by sector lending in education, health, environment, etc..

Third, structural adjustment lending has recently been considered to be ideologically anti-public sector. Decisions are made to reduce public sector deficits in the short-term without regard for sustainability of debt in the middle-term. For example, reducing the size of the civil service is a common adjustment. Reduction in staff is voluntary (with financial or other enticements), but these are often the same people who are integral to the public sector. Another example would be the withdrawal of the public service from the distribution of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. However, as Dr Smith pointed out, it is better to have inefficiently delivered fertilizer than none delivered at all, particularly when it is integral to economic development. Therefore, the short-term must be compatible with the medium and long-term.

Fourth is the issue of investment. In Africa levels of investment have been decreasing despite structural adjustment. The process of creating a prosperous private sector is difficult, and new forms of financial and legal arrangements are necessary.

Fifth is the issue of what is and what is not included in policy dialogue. For example, the dialogue is void of discussion on military expenditure and in developing countries this is usually high. Structural adjustment lending is often accompanied by social cuts, but

governments are unwilling to cut military spending. Smith concluded that different forms of multilateral assistance are important to structural adjustment, such as technical assistance from UNDP.

In the fourth panel discussion, *Where angels fear to tread? The role of NGOs in meeting global needs*, **Russell Rollason** (Executive Director, Australian Council for Overseas Aid) looked at the relationship between NGOs and multilaterals. The implications of increased aid dollars to multilaterals are: that aid will be directed to large infrastructural developments; and an increased tendency to give loans instead of grants will arise. Rollason argued that increases to multilaterals would make sense if there were a new sense of direction and priorities in the New World Order (i.e. justice, equity, sustainability), but to date this is not the case.

Don Henry (former Director, World Wide Fund for Nature) stressed the urgent need for international environmental laws relating to species extinction, global industrial pollution, climate change and environmental degradation. Henry believes multilaterals play a vital role. Conservation and development NGOs should liaise with such agencies. He concluded by stating that much more money will be going to multilaterals in the future due to the nature of the present global problems, but that there should not be commensurate cuts to grassroots organisations.

Ms ("Dinky") Juliano-Soliman (Congress for People's Agrarian Reform, Philippines) concluded the discussion by stating that structural adjustment is a growth centred approach which does not necessarily lead to a better quality of life in developing countries. This approach encourages exports, decreases public service jobs, increases the costs of fertilizer (which in turn increases prices), and consequently opens a country up to the degradation of resources and the environment in general. Multilaterals offer advice and loans. Often the advice is for structural adjustment which is export oriented, environmentally unsensitive and not based on equity. She then stressed the need for a people centred approach, examples of which have been well documented by NGOs. Some of the recommendations of NGOs have been to move beyond adjustment; increase participation in World Bank activities; change incentives so that the staff are rewarded for the quality of their loans; pay more attention to women and children; create a review mechanisms for approved projects; make environmentally sustainable development information available to NGOs; and lastly, to change the measurement standards used in cost benefit analysis.

Douglas Stafford (Deputy High Commissioner, United Nations High Commission for Refugees) spoke on the voluntary repatriation process. Refugee camps are not only expensive to maintain, but the populations languish there, lose their skills, become dependent and are prone to depression. Investments need to be made in the

country of origin so that voluntary repatriates can rebuild lives for themselves. There needs to be development coordination in the provision of water, health and education services, and therefore a mix of agencies with different funding expertise is required. The UNHCR cannot solve these problems on their own. For example, the 350,000 Cambodians in camps need land so they can return to their agricultural pursuits.

The final session on parliamentary perspectives was chaired by the **Hon Bob McMullan** who argued that aid is not at the top of many parliamentary agendas. He suggested a program whereby parliamentarians would visit development projects to gain insight into ODA investment. He felt that there are many problems with multilateral aid agencies, and that Australia's voice in these agencies is too small.

Senator Baden Teague argued that many parliamentarians hands are tied because there has not been an accurate assessment of multilateral organisations/agencies. Problems with accountability as well as scandals like that which involved FAO lower public confidence and make calls to increase funding futile. Teague suggested the need for new national and international parliamentary scrutiny of development assistance.

Senator Pat Giles spoke on women moving from the margin to the mainstream in the developed as well as developing world. She commended the acceptance of birth control as an integral factor in health, education and development in general.

In conclusion, the **Dr Neal Blewett** suggested three main themes for good development assistance - balance, cooperation and accountability. Blewett feels that there should be a balance of bilateral and multilateral aid that takes into account Australia's best interests. This involves long term choices. Second, there should be increased cooperation involving policy dialogue, co-financing and integration of NGOs. Third, on the issue of accountability, reports on the multilaterals should be commissioned so that Australia can make better choices.

Papers presented at the conference are available from AIDAB, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia.

"Mechanisms of socio-economic change in rural areas"

Australian National University, 25-27 November 1991

The conference reviewed current theory on mechanisms of socio-economic change in rural areas and their applicability. Implications for future policy options were considered. Four topics were considered: the household and village economy; the economics of institutional change; the economics of new technology adaptation and adoption; and the economics of human resource infrastructure development.

The household and village economy

The speakers explored economic aspects of production and consumption in the farm-household context, ways in which surveys of farm households and villages are best carried out, and the wider linkages of households at village and regional levels. Conference delegates felt that the micro studies presented lacked linkages to the aggregate social economy, and were therefore not directly relevant to policy.

The economics of institutional change

Within this topic, the development of economic ideas about institutional operation and their application to tree crop plantations and small-holdings (especially in Southeast Asia), land rights arrangements (Eastern Indonesia), and community organisation (the Ibans in Sarawak) were discussed. There was also an interesting appraisal of World Bank activities in rural development, with a review of experience using different approaches and institutional structures over the past 20 years. Discussions highlighted the need for government intervention to improve production and marketing. However, it was recognised that such intervention was extremely hard to plan and implement.

The economics of new technology adaptation and adoption

Speakers looked at the difficulties of adapting new technologies to specific needs in particular situations (through field surveys and farming systems research sites), and then at the mechanisms of the adoption process where ordinary farmers might, or might not, be interested in taking up the new ideas. An African study indicated the importance of examining the dynamic aspects of adoption, where the crucial conditions affecting farmers might vary significantly from year to year. It also demonstrated the need to look at the sustainability of new technology adoption over time. It was pointed out that poor farmers or those with a slender resource base will seldom risk trying new technologies.

Overall planning and the economics of human resource and infrastructure development

The economics of human resource development must be considered from the viewpoint both of particular individuals wishing to gain access to education or health services for themselves or their children and the wider state policies for developing whole regions. This problem was illustrated using current education and health policies in Thailand.

A panel discussed the need for academics to establish closer connections with practical development policies and to examine the role of the state. It was suggested that the economic coverage of issues could be usefully broadened by greater interaction with social scientists and that there would be special value in more empirical studies. The conference dwelt too much on agricultural

issues, while downstream value-added development needed to be addressed. It was agreed that gender aspects in development were not appropriately addressed at the conference.

For more information on the proceedings contact Tanya Joce, Development Studies Conference, Department of Economics, RSPacS, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia (phone: 06 249 2681, fax: 06 257 1893).

"International research symposium on cultural change in Asia"

Bangkok, July 1991

Review by Derek Overton, School of Humanities, University of Tasmania

This symposium was directed and chaired by Dr Godwin Chu (Institute of Culture and Communication, East West Centre, Hawaii) who established and coordinated a cross-national study of cultural change in China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the US in 1986. For the past five years the Centre has undertaken a series of empirical studies of cultural change including longitudinal social surveys of values and beliefs for before-and-after comparative analysis of cultural change.

Papers presented at the conference were as follows: 'The middle path for the future of Thailand: technology in harmony with culture and environment' by Dr Sippondha Ketudat; 'In remembrance of things past: Thai society 35 years ago' by Professor William Klausner; 'Cultural change in northern Thai villages' by Dr Sidhinat Prabudhanitisarn; 'Anticipating change in Thai attitudes towards development and expectations for the future' by Dr Chamnong Vibulsri; 'Value conflicts in Thai society' by Dr Suvanna Krienkraipetch; 'Government development programs and cultural change in Indonesian villages' by Professor Loekman Soetrisno; 'Study of cultural change in the Philippines' by Professor Maria Teresa Velasco; 'The history and potential of ethnographic futures research in promoting true development' by Dr Robert Textor; 'Application of ethnographic futures research to studies of cultural change in Thailand' by Dr M L Bhansoon Ladavalya; 'Emerging new Chinese culture: some tentative findings' by Dr Godwin Chu; 'Cultural value survey in Taiwan' by Dr Georgette Wang; 'Perceptions of traditional values in Korea' by Dr Won-Yong Kim; 'Continuity and change in Japanese culture' by Dr Hiroshi Akuto; and 'Communication and cultural change in the United States: a case of urbanism and cohort effects' by Dr Zhongdang Pan.

For more information contact Dr Godwin Chu, Institute of Culture and Communication, East-West Centre, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96848, USA.

"Global assembly of women and the environment"

Miami USA, 4-8 November 1991

Review by Helen Hill, Victoria University of Technology. Reprinted in part from Australian Society, December 1991.

The World's Women Congress for a Healthy Planet was a mass participation conference held in Miami immediately following a much smaller set of discussions by UN officials and others on particular case studies of women and the environment, called the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment. Both were held to increase the input of women's views into the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held next June in Brazil.

Over 1,500 women attended the Congress, which was organised by former US Congresswoman Bella Abzug under the auspices of the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), an international NGO made up of 55 leading women activists and experts. The format was that of a courtroom where 'testimonies' on issues of environment and development were given before a panel of five eminent female judges (including Elizabeth Evatt of Australia) followed by workshops on the issues arising from the presentations.

Speakers included Wangari Mathai, founder of the Green Belt movement in Kenya; Leonor Briones, academic and founder of the Freedom from Debt Coalition in the Philippines; the Indian scientist Vananda Shiva; Peggy Antrobus of the Women and Development Centre at the University of the West Indies; Meena Raman of the Consumers Association of Penang; Magda Renner of the National Confederation of Women in Brazil; Marilyn Waring of New Zealand; and Claudine Schneider former US Republican Party Congresswoman.

The Congress was notable for the way in which it addressed a wide range of issues, not simply those which could be regarded as 'women's issues'. There had been a feeling that in previous women's conferences women had stuck to areas of particular concern to women (eg reproductive health, nutrition, housing, etc) and that there was need for more female input into the tougher decisions which determined how much money was available to spend on these (ie trade, structural adjustment and military spending). WEDO had successfully lobbied the Earth Summit preparatory committee for a recognition that women's views on all issues should be incorporated into its declarations, not just those with an obvious gender component.

Some witnesses spoke on the causes of environmental degradation and of the need for new international laws to prevent it. In the area of private ownership of biological resources, for example, Vananda Shiva alleged that the US trade negotiator Carla Hills was engaged in trying to

persuade Third World countries to give up their intellectual property rights over their own genetic resources - which would have devastating results on biodiversity as well as Third World debt - and that UNCED did not appear to be doing anything about this.

Many feared that UNCED would not focus sufficiently on economic issues. Others felt they would do so in the wrong way. Meena Raman of Malaysia pointed out that GATT was most insensitive on environmental issues. But the worst blame was attached to the World Bank and IMF, whose structural adjustment policies are neither gender-neutral nor environmentally aware.

Marylin Waring denounced much of what is now called 'ecological economics', which she described as 'commodification of everything that can have a market value'. For example, measuring the beauty of a lake solely in terms of the number of people who visit it. Currently all national accounts assume that economic activity which passes through the market is good (and unfortunately UNCED has institutionalised this). She advocated separating every line of national income accounts into constructive and destructive.

The issue on which there was most disagreement was that of population. There was general rejection of the idea that women's fertility is a cause of environmental degradation and that the solution to this is massive spending on population control, although some of the members of the US environmental organisations seemed to be involved in such activity. They were strongly criticised by women from countries which had had coercive family planning programs such as India and Brazil who were very wary of any family planning program. However, all reached agreement on the principle of a women's right to control her fertility including the right to safe and legal abortion.

Two final documents came out of the conference, the 'Judges Judgement' and 'Women's Agenda 21' a declaration covering recommendations on biotechnology and biodiversity, land rights and food security, debt and trade, a code of environmental conduct for business and industry, population, women's rights, health and military spending. The need to cut military spending in all countries was the recommendation for which there was most enthusiasm, as women see their security lowered rather than enhanced by military spending. Yet concern was expressed that this issue might not be adequately covered at the UNCED conference, as many governments have defined it as merely an issue of 'disarmament' which is dealt with in other UN forums.

UNCED will be the biggest conference the UN has staged. It is also the one at which the participation and ideas on non-government organisation or 'independent sectors' have been keenly sought. Coming at the end of the Cold War, there is fear that the unfettered free market may be seen as having triumphed over socialism

- for long seen as the only alternative. Many participants felt that the women's and environmental movements have, through UNCED, an unprecedented possibility to put their ideas to the international community.

Editor's note: In the last issue a conference 'International congress on economic advancement of developing countries' was publicised for November of 1992. We have since learned the conference has been postponed to the latter part of 1993 or February 1994. For more information contact Ms Irene Wee, International Congress on Economic Advancement of Developing Countries, 112 East Coast Road #03-14, Katong People's Complex, Singapore 1542, phone: 44008790, fax: 3440472.

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Global Biodiversity Strategy (GBS)

The GBS - the product of a major international dialogue and research process that began in 1989 - is nearing completion. The GBS is a key component of the international Biodiversity Strategy Program organized by the World Resources Institute (WRI), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Program objectives are to develop factual information about biodiversity; to build a broad-based movement to seek improved policies and expanded action to conserve biodiversity; and to provide technical advice on conservation.

Scientists, community leaders and representatives of governments, NGOs, development assistance agencies and industry, have met in workshops and consultations to develop the GBS. More than 500 individuals from around the world have commented on the draft with written submissions or through participation in the various consultations.

The GBS and other materials have been provided to the Secretariat of the UN Conference on Environment and Development for use in developing Agenda 21. These materials were made available by UNEP in collaboration with the authors of the IUCN/UNEP/WWF document *Caring for the Earth*.

The document will be released on February 11, 1992 at the Fourth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas in Caracas, Venezuela.

(Reprinted from *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Update*. For more information: Forests and Biodiversity Program, WRI, 1709 NY Ave NW, Wash, DC, 20006)



Calendar

UNCED '92 - "The Earth Summit"

Brazil 1-12 June 1992

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - or "The Earth Summit" - will culminate in a conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. UNCED will explore the relationships between economic development and the environment at global, regional and national levels, with participants ranging from Heads of State, to international organizations, non-governmental groups and private-sector interests. Representation will be from both the developed and developing world.

In order to achieve environmentally sound, sustainable development in all countries, the conference will address protection of the atmosphere; protection of land resources; conservation of biological diversity; protection of freshwater resources; protection of oceans, seas and coastal areas, and the rational development of their living resources; environmentally sound management of biotechnology and hazardous wastes; prevention of illegal traffic in toxic products and wastes; improvement in the quality of life and human health; and improvement in living and working conditions of the poor by eradicating poverty and stopping environmental degradation. These issues will be addressed in the context of broader development issues such as poverty in developing countries, unsustainable consumption and demographic pressure.

The outcome of UNCED is expected to include an Earth Charter containing principles for environmentally sustainable development; an inventory of current global environmental problems for developing countries and a blueprint for action; and the means to carry out this agenda through the provision of financial resources and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Conventions on climate change, biological diversity and forestry may be negotiated prior to the conference and signed or agreed to in Brazil.

For more information contact:
Secretariat United Nations Conference on
Environment and Development
Case Postal 80, Conches
Switzerland
Phone: 41-22-789-1676 Fax: 41-22-789-3536

"Choice and change: ethics, politics and economics of public health", Public Health Association of Australia

Canberra, 28-30 September 1992

This conference of the Public Health Association (PHA) is a forum where members of the PHA and the Australian public health community can exchange ideas and information. Major themes to be addressed include: changes in Australia's public health system, particularly following the national health strategy review; the evaluation of the national better health program; and the implications of the new federalism. The conference will feature invited speakers from political, economic and ethnic arenas, and panels, papers and posters. Workshops on the ethics and politics of resource allocation for health will also be held.

Invited speakers include Dr Hazel Henderson from the Worldwatch Institute and Professor Ronald Bayer from the Columbia University of New York. During the conference the policy forum of the Standing Committee on Public Affairs will be presented, the PHAs annual general meeting will take place, and the ACTs Branch's Sidney Sax oration will be held.

For more information contact:
Jenny Maher, Conference Organiser
Broadfield Conference Services
PO Box 746
Turramurra NSW 2074
Phone: (02) 449-1525 Fax: (02) 488-7496

"Asia-Pacific cooperation: development options for the nineties"

Massey University, 27-29 May 1992

This conference has been organised by Massey University's Development Studies group. Topics for consideration include: disasters, refugees, immigration; mutual trade and investment opportunities; aid and cooperation; and sustainable development.

For more information contact:
Director, Development Studies
Massey University
Palmerston North, New Zealand

First national Aboriginal HIV/AIDS conference

Alice Springs, 2-4 March 1992

This conference will be held at the Araluen Centre in Alice Springs, and its aims are to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal communities; to make aware, inform and educate communities about HIV/AIDS; and to work together to overcome the problems, isolation and fears of indigenous people living with HIV/AIDS. An important outcome will be the development of strategies and networks to support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, their carers and education and support for their families.

The major themes of the conference will include: education and prevention; living with HIV/AIDS; treatment, care and support; prisons and corrective services; and health care workers and service providers. Other topics will include: testing, screening and confidentiality; counselling and mental health; the media; sexual assault; training; legal and ethical issues; the church and aids; and discrimination.

For more information contact:
Conference Secretariat
First national Aboriginal HIV/AIDS conference
GPO Box 660
Woden, ACT 2606
Phone: (06) 289 8175 Fax: (06) 289 6838

China's first international symposium on health education

Shanghai, 21-24 October 1992

For more information contact:
Mr Gan Xingfa
Shanxi Road 122
Shanghai Health Education Institute
Shanghai, 200040, PRC China

"1892-1992: imagining the future", Fourth International Philippine Studies Conference

Canberra, 1-3 July 1992

The year 1992 marks the centennial of the foundation of the revolutionary nationalist movements in the Philippines. In 1892 Jose Rizal founded the nationalist association, La Liga Filipina and Andres Bonifacio formed the Katipunan secret society. One hundred years later, it is appropriate to reflect on the past development, present conditions and future possibilities of the nation-state. This conference theme is broad and is designed to draw a wide range of papers from many disciplines to reflect the current state of theory and knowledge in contemporary Philippine studies. Registration fees are A\$100 (A\$40 for students).

For more information contact:
Ms Lulu Turner
Department of Political and Social Change
Research School of Pacific Studies
The Australian National University
GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Phone: (06) 249 4790 Fax: (06) 257 1893

"Conflicts and continuities in the Pacific", Pacific History Association

Christchurch, 2-5 December 1992

This conference will be held at the University of Canterbury and hosted by the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies. Much that has been happening in the Pacific region and countries requires careful evaluation by policy makers and research institutions. With this in mind the conference theme has been chosen to

encourage researchers and policy makers with specialised interests to participate and/or present papers based on their current work.

For more information contact:
The Conference Secretary
Pacific History Conference
Centre for Continuing Education
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand

"Peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region - post cold war: problems and prospects"

Christchurch, 31 January to 4 February 1992

The Asian Peace Research Association is holding this regional conference at the University of Canterbury. The conference will be held in conjunction with PRIO (International Peace Research Institute of Oslo), the Pugwash Conference on Science and International Affairs and the United Nations University.

The conference will focus on the following areas from which key themes will emerge and be addressed in plenary and group discussion: internal conflicts in the Southwest Pacific region; the prospects for peace in the Indian Ocean region; the regional arms trade; arms control and disarmament in the Asia-Pacific region generally and the North Pacific in particular; confidence-building, conflict resolution and crisis response measures in the Asia-Pacific Region; sources of regional conflict and instability including economic, ecological, political and military; national defence and security policies; alternative security policies; non-offensive defence and civilian-based defence; nuclear free zones and prospects for de-nuclearization; the prospects for 'stable peace' in the region; agents for change such as social movements, regional and international organisations; and peace research.

For more information contact:
Dr Kevin P Clements, Secretary General APRA
Ivo Sarges, Conference Organiser
Department of Sociology
University of Canterbury
Christchurch, New Zealand
Phone: (643) 642 982 Fax: (643) 642 999

International seminar on livestock services for smallholders

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 15-21 November 1992

This conference is co-sponsored by the Directorate General of Livestock Services (Indonesia), the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Overseas Development Administration (UK). It will critically evaluate the delivery of animal health and production services to the small-scale farmer in the developing world. Smallholder farmers are one of the largest and most fragile groups of rural inhabitants in the world often living in a precarious balance between increasing

resource and service needs, and the establishment of a more viable livelihood.

The seminar will examine current methods of delivery of livestock services to smallholders in villages by: collection, analysis and interpretation of data; defining and solving animal health and production problems; provision of cost effective health and production services; and evaluation of village based service programs. Attempts will be made to find practical solutions to the problems of delivery of animal health and production services to smallholder farmers to improve their way of life within an environmentally sustainable system. These services will be examined from many angles including epidemiological approaches, integrated farming systems, privatisation, monitoring and evaluation of health and production services, bottom-up planning, cultural acceptance, marketing, extension services, and economic analyses.

For more information contact:
Secretariat, Livestock Services
INI ANSREDEF, GPO Box 94
BOUT, Bogor, Java, Indonesia

"Women in migration"

University of Melbourne, 7-8 February 1992

This conference, run by the Bureau of Immigration Research, will address issues such as 'the characteristics of women migrating to Australia, social justice issues related to their initial location decisions, representations of immigrant women in the media and in health, and labour market and legal circumstances of immigrant women living in Australia.'

For more information contact:
Women in Migration Conference
Complete Conference Services
First Floor, 1B Hamilton St
Mont Albert, VIC, 3127
Fax: 61 3 899 6920

Australasian Economic Modelling Conference

Port Douglas, September 2-5, 1992

This third annual conference organised by the Economic Modelling Bureau of Australia (a non-profit research association) will consider general equilibrium and macroeconomic modelling. Special symposia have been arranged on business cycle modelling and forecasting. Also, a training course will be held from August 30 to September 2 to introduce and explain state-of-the-art techniques in business cycle modelling and forecasting. The course will be taught by David Hendry, Adrian Pagan and Peter Phillips.

For more information contact:
Colin Hargreaves
Economic Modelling Bureau of Australia Inc
GPO Box 1363
Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia
Phone: (06) 254 5878 Fax: (06) 249 5570



Courses

Certificate in development communication (UNICEF/UNESCO joint venture)

A Certificate in Development Communication (CDC) course (12-14 weeks) would provide extension personnel (health, agriculture, etc) with a range of multimedia communication skills and an understanding of the theory and practice of communication in the development process.

The CDC would be available to selected persons who had previously undertaken joint UNICEF/UNESCO radio communication courses, or other similar activities. Initially the course will focus on primary health care.

Course content will include:

- the theory of communication
- development communication
- audience needs, pre-testing, etc
- implementing multimedia campaigns
- practical training in:
 - * radio and video production
 - * print (layout, design, posters)
 - * interpersonal skills
 - * traditional media

The CDC will be jointly designed by UNICEF (regional office, Bangkok) and UNESCO (RCA, Kuala Lumpur) at a regional institution and be a recognised tertiary education qualification.

At the conclusion of the CDC training course, participants will have the necessary skills to be communication focal points within their Ministries, Departments or Institutes. They would have all-round media skills and an appreciation of what communication can and cannot do in the development process.

For more information contact:
Martin Hadlow, UNESCO Office, Malaysia
GPO Box 12544
50782 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Farming and rural development

Farm Management Department, Lincoln University, Canterbury

Lincoln University is New Zealand's premier agricultural university, and one of the world's oldest agricultural teaching institutions. It provides a solid base of program in primary production and natural resources, commerce and management, science and engineering, and social sciences.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Farming Systems and Rural Development, first offered in 1991, was designed primarily for project personnel from developing countries. It aims to teach project management skills in a pragmatic manner. Core units of the course are called Project Planning and Management I and II which cover project preparation, planning implementation and on-going management.

The teaching approach relies heavily on case studies with a major case study visit being undertaken to a rural development project in a developing country - Fiji was the venue in 1991.

The major supporting units are Farming Systems and Extension and Rural Development. These are designed to complement the Project Planning and Management units and the major case study involves exercises in project management and farming systems.

Entry to the diploma normally requires a first degree but people with limited formal academic training may be granted entry. The program operates over the period mid-February to mid-November and hence enables agriculturalists to gain a good quality professional qualification in a relatively short period of time.

A normal course of study is either eight units or six units and a dissertation. In addition to the above units, there is quite a range of other subjects available which enable the student to pursue other areas of interest including agronomic topics, animal production, economics, natural resource engineering (including appropriate technology), environmental studies, forestry and soil science.

Students who wish to complete a dissertation may do so by choosing a topic relevant to their area of professional interest.

The staff who teach the course all have experience of working in developing countries, and are either currently involved with managing development projects for aid agencies or actively involved as consultants.

For more information contact:
Professor Bywater
Farm Management Department
GPO Box 84, Lincoln University
Canterbury, New Zealand
Phone: 0064 3 3252944 Fax: 0064 3 3252811

Academic programs in education for health development

University of New South Wales, WHO Regional Training Centre

Opportunities are available for postgraduate study. The School conducts postgraduate academic programs at masters and doctoral levels, and development activities focussed on educational development, management development and health promotion. Degree courses available are: Master of Health Personnel Education (by coursework or research); Master of Clinical Education;

Graduate Diploma in Clinical Education; Master of Public Health (by coursework or research); and Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to the above degree programs, special programs and short courses can be arranged to meet specific needs.

The School is unique in its strong orientation towards international health development. Through its affiliation with WHO and other internationals, the School participates in field activities in developing countries.

For more information contact:
Director of Academic Programs
School of Medical Education
University of New South Wales
GPO Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033
Phone: (02) 697 2500 Fax: (02) 663 4946

(Reprinted from Australian Third World Health Group New South Wales newsletter, October/November 1991 issue)

Centre for Development Studies

University of Wales, Swansea

The Centre promotes the study of development policy and planning in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. Courses are offered for development workers, administrators, planners and academics working in these countries. Current research includes social and institutional development, regional and area studies, structural adjustment, agricultural and rural development, environment and land management, and enterprise development and commodity studies.

The Centre's teaching program includes the following:

- *Research supervision leading to PhD/MPhil
- *MSc by coursework (12 months)
- *Post-graduate diplomas (9 months)
- *Short study program (10 weeks)
- *BSc (Econ) in Development Studies
- *Diploma in Development Studies

Examples of the degrees/diplomas offered include: Social Development Planning and Management; Development Policy and Planning; Regional Development Planning; Food Policy and Commodity Trade; and Health Planning and Development. An information booklet on the diplomas, degrees and courses offered can be obtained from the address given below.

For more information contact:
Admissions Secretary
Centre for Development Studies
University College of Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, UK

Training in communication

Cornell University, Ithaca

The Department of Communication at Cornell University offers a variety of opportunities for professionals to study in applied areas of communication such as media writing and video production, and in others such as communication planning, research, and evaluation and organisational communication. The options range from 4 week short courses to an 18-24 month professional graduate degree program.

Communication planning and strategy: 4 weeks

Designed especially for ministry officials, project directors, and those in leadership positions in rural development, family planning, health and nutrition, and in media, adult education, and extension.

Tailored programs for individual needs: 3-12 months

Provides opportunity for persons to work with Cornell faculty members in designing a schedule of communication courses to fit professional needs. The courses may be for: updating skills; obtaining training for new responsibilities; or broadening one's background. Communication courses can be supplemented with other courses related to sectors such as agriculture, nutrition, population, extension, computer applications and a variety of other fields.

Graduate degree programs: 18-24 months

Both professional masters (MPS) and research masters (MS) are offered. A masters program can be individually designed to meet professional interests. Both degrees require a special project or thesis and approximately 24-30 semester hours of course work. Opportunities exist for focusing on communication planning, organisational communication, research and evaluation, development communication, and other specialisations.

Individual courses: 3-6 weeks in summer

A large variety of individual courses including media writing, oral communication, video production, development communication, introduction to mass media, and others are available during summer.

For more information contact:
Coordinator of Special Programs
Department of Communication
Kennedy Hall, Cornell University
Ithaca, New York, 14853, USA
Phone: (607) 255 6500 Fax: (607) 255 7905

Centre for clinical epidemiology and biostatistics

University of Newcastle

The Centre consists of a multidisciplinary team of academics with research and teaching expertise in clinical epidemiology, medical statistics, occupational

and environmental health, pharmacoepidemiology, health economics, health social science, public health and health promotion. Masters and postgraduate diploma courses are available in these areas, with programs consisting of coursework and research. The emphasis in all courses is on the acquisition of knowledge and skills to enable graduates to undertake high quality research in both clinical and population settings.

For more information contact:
Ms Janina Kik, Program Coordinator
Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Royal Newcastle Hospital
Newcastle, NSW, 2300
Phone: (049) 266143 Fax: (049) 264307



Organisation Profiles

The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC)

The FDC was established on 12 March 1990, and its establishment and mandate were approved by an Act of Federal Parliament on 31 May 1990. Its basic aim is to undertake, promote and support activities to improve and increase the quantity of aid to, and cooperation with, developing countries. Its mandate calls for it to do so through policy-oriented research; increasing public awareness; mobilising broader Australian and overseas interest and participation; and, supporting non-governmental efforts to promote development, especially at the grassroots level.

The FDC is an entirely independent, non-profit and non-partisan organisation whose sole commitment is to strengthen international cooperation and development. It works closely with national and international official, private and voluntary organisations in related fields and with its overseas counterparts (such as the Overseas Development Institute in the UK, the Overseas Development Council in the US, and the North-South Institute in Canada) which have already offered their support. Prior to the establishment of this Foundation, there was no such organization in Australia.

Because of Australia's unique position as an island continent surrounded by a densely populated world, Board Members of the FDC believe it to be a matter of national importance and self-interest for Australia to play a more dynamic and enlightened role in overseas development cooperation in the coming decade. The opportunities as well as the problems presented by the region are unparalleled and as yet largely unrealized. The FDC therefore feels these are powerful reasons for

Australia to be pace-setters in development cooperation, and hence the establishment of the FDC.

The FDC also publishes a newsletter on an *ad hoc* basis entitled *Banking With The Poor*. The first issue contained eight FDC case studies.

For more information contact:
John Conroy, Executive Director
The Foundation for Development Cooperation
34 Archer Street, Toowong, QLD, 4066
Phone: (07) 371 5388 Fax: (07) 371 3873

International Center for Economic Growth (ICEG)

This Center encourages dialogue between scholars and policy makers on issues related to economic policy, economic growth, and human development in developing and post-socialist countries. Working in cooperation with an international network of correspondent institutes in more than ninety-four countries, the Center sponsors research, publications, and conferences and serves as a clearing-house for information sharing.

Through its program of research, publications, conferences, seminars, and special policy projects advising new governments, ICEG encourages 'local ownership' of good economic policies. This is done by strengthening the capacities of local institutions to participate in local policy debates, and by facilitating communication and cooperation among institutions in different countries so that they may share information and research and generally learn from the experiences of one another. The final purpose is to promote politically sustainable growth policies.

For more information contact:
International Center for Economic Growth (ICEG)
243 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA, 94108, USA
Phone: (415) 981-5353 Fax: (415) 986-4878

The North-South Institute

This Canadian Institute is a non-profit, independent research institute founded in 1976. It provides policy-relevant research on relations between industrialized and developing countries, in particular, it monitors Canada's foreign policy role and relations with the Third World. The results of this research are made available to policy makers, interested groups and the general public to help generate greater understanding and informed discussion of development questions.

The Institute produces publications and briefing papers, ranging in topic from trade and international finance to aid and global relations. Samples of recent briefing paper topics include: self-reliance in the developing countries through cooperative trade; the ability of the Asian Development Bank to cater to both giants and microstates; and a unique effort by Canada in the

development of the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation.

For more information contact:
The North-South Institute
200-55 Murray Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5M3, Canada
Phone: (613) 236 3535 Fax: (613) 237 7435

The Australian Third World Health Group (ATWHG)

The ATWHG is concerned with broad health issues in the developing world and also has an interest in Aboriginal health. It is composed of health professionals with experience in developing countries and also welcomes as members all who recognise the importance of health in development for equity, social and economic advancement and peace. It interprets health as not just medicine and the work of health professionals, but as including food and nutrition policy, population issues, women's status and the emotional and psychological well-being of people. It emphasises sanitation, rural and infrastructure development and an overall preventive orientation.

The aims of ATWHG are: to influence and advise donors, including AIDAB, on effective and appropriate health related aid; to provide information, resources and training to students and people going to work in developing countries; to provide development education to the Australian community; to provide information to people and organisations in developing countries about Australian resources, personnel and training facilities; to provide direct assistance for appropriate programs in developing countries and seek funding for these; and to collaborate with agencies and other organisations who are involved with development programs in the developing world.

The ATWHG works closely with UNICEF and AUSTCARE, and is affiliated with Community Aid Abroad, Freedom From Hunger Campaign, Health Action International and The Australian Consumers Association. The ATWHG is also an associate member of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid. Present activities include the establishment of a Rural Health Centre in Eritrea and the Eritrean Blindness Prevention Program. The ATWHG is also negotiating with the Vanuatu Health Department to establish a program of identification and treatment of meningitis.

A newsletter is published bi-monthly and sent to members. A directory of courses of study relevant to health in the developing world is also available.

For more information contact:
John Hirshman, President
212 Old South Head Road
Vauduse, NSW 2030, Australia
Phone: (02) 337 5839

The Nusatenggara Association and work on Semau

Semau is a small island in the Savu Sea about 3km from the mainland of West Timor in the Indonesian province of Nusa Tenggara Timur. It has a population of about 8000 living in 9 villages. There is a well-defined government administrative structure and well-established traditional institutions. Subsistence agriculture is the main economic activity.

The standard of living is very low, with an imputed income per head of about \$90-100 per year. The dry climate is a major difficulty, and freely roving cattle pose a big constraint on agricultural development. Transport is difficult, with no roads or landing quays, and health and education services are poor.

Efforts are being made to assist the small farmers of Semau, through a basic approach of 'external intervention' through small projects which entail ideas, expertise, and some money being provided by an outside agency to supplement local efforts. The external agency is the Yayasan Pengembangan Masyarakat Pulau Semau (Agency for the Development of the Semau Island Community) which has been working on the island since 1983 using this self-help principle.

The Yayasan has a group of seven specialist workers and has been involved in many successful small improvement projects on Semau Island which are continuing to have positive impacts. Further village projects are planned:

1. Stone wall construction around hamlets
Cost: \$14000 for first hamlet (7km wall)
\$3500 for subsequent hamlets
2. Distribution of breeding cattle to small farmers
Cost: \$264 per animal
3. Digging of wells closer to dwellings
Cost: \$400 per well
4. Establishment of shops in isolated hamlets
Cost: \$1250 for one shop

In the future it is hoped a larger, more costly project involving construction of a piped water supply system may be implemented.

It is now planned that the Nusatenggara Association, which is an Australian body concerned with raising funds to assist development activities in Eastern Indonesia, will help the Yayasan and village people of Semau by providing some development funds. This cooperation between the Yayasan and the Association has already been approved by the Indonesian government authorities, and a committee of responsible local people has been set up to monitor the flow of funds.

Persons wishing additional information on the work of the Yayasan should contact: The Nusatenggara Association, GPO Box 814, Dickson, ACT, 2602, Australia (Phone: 06 241 3906).

Editor's Note: A conversation about conservation? Our faces are red. While conversation is important in the development process and in encouraging conservation, we made a mistake in our last Bulletin. The World Conservation Society was listed as the World Conversation Society. Our apologies.



Book Reviews

The political economy of primary health care in Southeast Asia

Paul Cohen and John Purcal (eds), 198pp, ISBN 0 7315 0720 7, Australian Development Studies Network, ASEAN Training Centre for Primary Health Care Development, Canberra, 1989, A\$28.

The reviews of the authors gathered in this collection offer valuable information and thoughtful comments on the present situation and development prospects of Primary Health Care (PHC) in the region.

The various reports bring out clearly the differences of approach between the market-oriented ASEAN countries and the socialist countries of Southeast Asia. In the ASEAN countries there seems to be a danger of continued domination by technocratic elites which, coupled with fears in some cases of communist infiltration, weakens the case for communal participation in the decision-making process. This is a serious matter relevant to other sectors as well. The misery in developing countries necessitates a new approach to development. It is high time for the elites and their foreign allies to let the people at the grassroots decide for themselves, thus enhancing the use of the vast pool of local know-how and skills which are often being looked down upon as backward and unusable for development purposes. China's success in PHC illustrates the point. The two excellent articles on China show the importance of genuine popular participation in the planning and operation of PHC, in particular in rural areas. Other nations, not only those of Southeast Asia, have much to learn from China's experience. Much of what the Chinese are doing can be applied to other areas after adjustment to local conditions.

The country reports are well documented and presented. The linkage between the pre-independence and present periods is elucidating because it helps to explain the differences of approach. It is regrettable that scant attention has been given to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, presumably due to lack of data and access to the countries. This makes the coverage of the region

incomplete. Vietnam's experience with PHC is, however, well worth studying. The political commitment is there. Inefficient management and wasteful allocations of very scarce resources do not invalidate the soundness *per se* of the approach adopted.

A country-by-country review of PHC delivery would be merely a repetition of what has been very knowingly recounted by the authors. Therefore, an attempt will instead be made to draw some general conclusions from the findings concerning the non-socialist countries covered by the study.

The political commitment of the governments to promote PHC is undoubtedly of crucial importance to health care, as well as to other sectors of the countries' economic and social life. In this regard there seems to be a gap between declarations of intent and concrete action. In all fairness, the increasing pressure from all sides on stagnant or even shrinking resources is probably the main reason for the short-fall. This calls for extreme care in setting priorities to ensure rational resource allocations.

Some points in the country section that relate to the Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 merit special mention, since commitment to the Declaration's statement of basic rights to health care is universal.

The importance of women in PHC delivery is rightly stressed in some articles. In the home, women take charge of such essential preventive measures as nutrition and hygiene. Malnutrition is the most serious threat to health in the Third World, affecting more than half a billion people. Lack of hygiene, mainly due to impure water, is another killer on a massive scale.

Much is being said these days about integrated economic development. The incorporation of health care into integrated development program seems to be favoured by the Southeast Asian countries as a means of improving productivity. This is a satisfactory development from which the whole population is likely to benefit.

High-technology, drug-oriented medical services rendered by Western-trained personnel seem to be the dominant feature of health care in the countries reviewed. Such health care is very expensive and only the affluent few can benefit, at least when private medical services are involved. This is hardly in line with the Alma Ata Declaration. The barefoot doctor in China seems to have been a much talked-of person at Alma Ata and rightly so, because the provision of services by staff of this kind is undoubtedly an important means of bringing down health delivery costs. What is involved here is what one author calls the democratization and demystification of health care. Democratic governments are duty-bound to make health care available to all. By the same token in order to dismantle the 'ivory towerism' of the medical profession

it is necessary to involve the beneficiaries in the decision-making process. This offers the best opportunity to draw from the pool of local know-how and assets available. Grassroot participation will enhance the use of traditional healers and drugs which should not be rejected out of hand. The potential of traditional medicine as a contributor to PHC delivery should not be viewed *a priori* as humbug or witchcraft but should be assessed realistically and positively.

Much more could be said about this thought-provoking publication which deserves to be read by those who are interested in health care not only as the unquestionable right of all citizens to improved personal well-being but also as a means of reducing income inequality and raising productivity. It may be appropriate, therefore, to conclude with a few words about what is undoubtedly one of the major obstacles to development, the excessive population increase.

One does not need to be a development expert, whatever that is, to understand that with increasing population and constrained food availability, malnutrition is looming large over the horizon. Family planning should therefore be treated as an integral part of PHC delivery because malnutrition is the number one threat to health in the developing world. It would have been interesting to learn more about, for instance, the successful family planning program in Thailand and the not so successful endeavour in Vietnam.

Review by Judith L Ladinsky, Medical School, University of Wisconsin (Reprinted from Journal of Southeast Asian Studies 22, 2 (1991)).

To purchase this book contact:
Bibliotech, GPO Box 4
Canberra ACT, 2601

Nusa Tenggara Timur: the challenges of development

Colin Barlow, A Bellis and K Andrews, Political and Social Change Monograph 12, Department of Political and Social Change, ANU, Canberra, 1991.

This book arose out of papers at two meetings held in Canberra and Kupang in 1989 to discuss the problems of development in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT). It draws on a wide range of scholars in a variety of fields both from Indonesia and Australia. All papers, except one, focus on aspects of development in NTT.

The book comprises twenty chapters divided into three sections: background papers; regional development issues; development program, planning approaches, and implementation. There are three appendices which provide statistical tables and summarize the recommendations made by the authors. There is a single bibliography for the twenty chapters. Included is an item not often seen in such a compilation of papers, but is certainly appreciated - a good index.

It is quite common, when conference papers are brought together to be published in one volume, for the papers to have little relevance to each other except that they all fall under some broad banner. However, that is not the case with the papers in this volume. The papers, except one (Chapter 8), all address the common theme of development in NTT. Indeed this unity of purpose has caused some overlap between articles. For example, it is not uncommon to read similar descriptions of the severe climate and economic problems of NTT in several successive chapters. On the other hand while the chapters all focus on the theme of development in NTT, this does not prevent some interesting conflict of opinion. The chapter by Colin Piggin in particular has some harsh words for AIDAB's procedure for reviewing projects.

In some respects the book reflects the nature of its inception, that is as an exercise in identifying and addressing problems of development in NTT. Each chapter is relatively short and focuses on identifying some aspect of the region's economic development. The format of many chapters is the same: a brief description of conditions, with particular emphasis on the theme of the chapter, followed by a discussion of the problems and a conclusion with a number of recommendations. Many of the chapters are not unlike the reports produced by government or multilateral agencies.

NTT is one of the poorest provinces in Indonesia. Its three million people survive in a dry climate with a fragile agricultural system. There is little industry in the area and much of that which exists is small scale with few opportunities for further development. The lack of infrastructure is a particularly important problem for NTT. For example, only about 15 per cent of households have access to piped drinking water. The lack of infrastructure is compounded by the remoteness of NTT from Java, the centre of economic activity in Indonesia. Further, traditional social patterns tend to dominate most aspects of life in NTT, and play a crucial role in the success of any development policies. The major recommendation of the volume is for the improvement of agricultural productivity 'through new crops and livestock technologies' (p 264). Suggestions include the development of a fisheries industry and the area's tourism potential. Unfortunately, there is little attention paid to discussing the feasibility of some of these recommendations, particularly their financial implications. Perhaps this is left for a later volume?

Colin Barlow seems to have been particularly instrumental in the production of this book. Not only is he the author of three chapters, but the book itself seems to be an extension of Barlow's earlier work on NTT, which was published in 1990 by AIDAB.

The papers, while representing a range of styles, are all without exception written by people with a deep understanding of NTT and the issues of development in

the region. The volume reflects this experience and conveys a feeling that the writers have a long lasting commitment to seeing development take place in NTT. However, except for Forge's paper on markets in Central Timor, the book fails to discuss the individual, and rather takes the broad brush approach of discussing development at the Kabupaten (administrative region) level.

This volume represents an important work on Indonesia at the regional level. It provides a detailed study of the problems in NTT and makes numerous recommendations on how to improve the situation in the region. While the book may appeal only to a select audience, it is well worth reading for anyone interested in Indonesia and particularly those concerned with eastern Indonesia.

Review by Peter Van Diermen, Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University.

Doing well by doing good: agricultural research: feeding and greening the world

Derek E. Tribe, Pluto Press in association with The Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research, Leichhardt, 1991, 136pp, A\$19.95.

The Australian aid to GNP ratio has recently declined. Attempts to reverse this trend often employ the 'aid for mutual benefit' argument, asserting that aid boosts the Australian economy by increasing living standards in neighbouring developing countries and thereby creating export markets for Australian products. In this book, Derek Tribe, Executive Director of The Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research, extends the argument to agriculture where a case is made for increases in Australia's contributions to agricultural research in developing countries.

Agricultural research has played an important role in increasing world food production per capita over the last 25 years. The increase however has not been evenly distributed over time or space, and many are still hungry - not because food supplies are unavailable, but because incomes are insufficient to pay for them. Agricultural research, by increasing productivity, incomes and jobs in the rural sector (in which the majority of people are employed in developing countries), promotes economic growth and increases overall demand. Demand for food and other agricultural products tends to rise even more quickly than supply. This trend, combined with a shift in tastes from staple grains and root crops to meat, milk, vegetables and fruits, stimulates developing country imports of agricultural products from developed countries.

Tribe points out that Asian countries are the fastest growing markets for agricultural exporters like Australia, and that given this country's reliance on primary products for its balance of payments, current

policies to cut funding for agricultural research are downright foolish. In fact, he goes so far as to say:

'... apart from population control, which for many reasons deserves first and over-riding priority, it is not possible to point to any other activity that better satisfies the declared aims of Australia's aid program than does agricultural research and development. The three aims are: humanitarian; developmental; and national self-interest. There is now a wealth of evidence to show that agricultural research can give high economic, social and environmental returns in relation to all three' (p. 124).

The book is highly selective in its use of particular authors and commentators to support a predetermined and obviously partial point of view. As a result, it presents a simplistic picture of agricultural research and its role in development. Where it does acknowledge factors that complicate the scenario outlined above, it fails to examine them as serious qualifiers to its main argument. For example, it takes at face value the 'aid for mutual benefit through increased trade' argument, which has its theoretical basis in the doctrine of comparative advantage. Tribe acknowledges that the rationalization of economies necessary to realize the benefits of comparative advantage is constrained by political actions that are economically irrational, such as the EC's protection of the agricultural sector. He also points out that the continued growth of the Asian economies as markets for Australian exports is only possible if Asian countries also increase their exports of labour-intensive manufactures in order to fund imports. Such an increase is reliant on the liberalization of world trade. Tribe fails to deal with the full implications of this condition. Protectionist policies may be disappearing, but their progress to the exit is stultifyingly slow. Meanwhile, developing countries are expected to pursue negotiation in a economically irrational world market where they begin from a position of considerable political disadvantage.

The book's main deficiency is its inadequate coverage of agricultural 'sustainability'. The author pays only token attention to environmental degradation resulting from industrialized agricultural systems reliant on substantial inputs of pesticides, chemical fertilisers, fossil-fuelled machinery and irrigation. He refers only briefly to the substantial literature on agricultural ecology. The pursuit of economic growth driven by agricultural development is taken for granted as a desirable goal, without ecological limits.

Solutions to agricultural problems in developing countries are acknowledged to be specific to particular locations and environmental conditions. Yet the book's main objective - to increase AIDAB's funding to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) - supports a highly centralized, top-down approach to agricultural

research. Laboratory or field station rather than farmer-based research favours specific, 'techno-fix' solutions to agricultural problems, such as the development of a new pesticide to deal with an insect that has developed resistance to an old one. These solutions are usually in the form of commodities which must be purchased by the farmer. Systems-level environmental problems, however, require systems-level solutions. If the system were redesigned so as to include habitat for predators such as spiders, which would keep insect pests in check, farmers' costs would decrease, disposable incomes would rise and environmental health would improve. But these kinds of solutions can only be developed in the context of the particular system in which they are used.

Most international agricultural research has demonstrated benefits to medium and large-scale commercial enterprises rather than landless rural workers. The only way the poorest of the poor can reap the benefits are by 'trickle-down' effects such as (usually unstable) wage employment.

In light of these factors, increased funding to 'more of the same' agricultural research - that is, to ACIAR and CGIAR - needs to be questioned.

The concept of cooperation and mutual benefit between Australia and Asia-Pacific countries should not be disregarded. The Australian agricultural sector experiences many of the same problems and economic expectations as this sector does in developing countries. However, a more fundamental change in the nature of this research than this book advocates is necessary.

To its credit, the book uses little scientific or economic jargon and is easy to read. It is repetitious in parts, however, and the boxes used to source the work of other authors are too numerous, creating a serious interruption to the flow of the text.

In spite of its biases, it represents an admirable effort to increase public awareness of aid and development issues, with a view to enhancing community involvement in AIDAB's policy-making processes. *Doing Well by Doing Good* would be usefully read by anyone wishing to familiarize themselves with the 'aid for mutual benefit' argument as it applies to agricultural research and development. For those readers already aware of the issues, there is probably little new in it.

Review by Rae Fry, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Australian National University

Retailing in Papua New Guinea

David Burrowes and Rex Kinder, Dellasta Press, 1989, 181pp, A\$19.95.

This is an excellent book. While it is written for Papua New Guineans who might want to start a small business,

most of the advice it contains is equally valuable to anyone wanting to run a small retailing business. It is simply written, well illustrated, well set out and contains the right information with just the right amount of detail. *Retailing in Papua New Guinea* would make a very good basic text for courses in administration or business studies. It would also provide an invaluable text for practical training through the non-formal education system. The University of Papua New Guinea and the University of the South Pacific should seriously consider mounting short courses using this book as the basic text.

The book comprises sixteen short chapters including: making a business plan, shop design and assets, staffing, insurance, running and managing the business, what to charge customers, selling, stock-taking, keeping a bank account, analysing business performance, using a computer for the business, small business and the law, government assistance and involvement in business and ethics in business. It uses very clear examples and case studies which very effectively illustrate what are usually difficult points. For example, in the chapter on insurance, the different types of insurance are explained using, as a case study, a business owned by Lekan Ropi. The reasons why Lekan took out insurance and the exact premiums for her fire insurance, worker's compensation, public liability, marine and motor vehicle insurance are illustrated with what Lekan had to do to make a claim.

Retailing in Papua New Guinea provides an example of how to write and present a practical text.

Available from Dellasta Pty Ltd, GPO Box 777, Mount Waverley, VIC 3149.

Cambodia watching down under: a critical view of western scholarship and journalism on Cambodia since 1975

Geoffrey C Gunn and Jefferson Lee, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 1991, 328pp, A\$30.

This book provides a thorough investigation of the role that the mass media and a limited number of individual journalists and academics played in informing Australians of events in Cambodia between 1945 and 1990 and setting the agenda for Australian political policy on Cambodia. It also provides new and valuable perspectives of events in Cambodia over the last twenty years and of Australian/Cambodian relationships.

Gunn and Lee, in their analysis of the situation, have followed the Herman and Chomsky model which maintains that elite domination of the media and the special relationship between media ownership and the state leads to marginalisation of dissent and blocking out contending ideas, discordant influences and aberrant individuals. While the original model was developed in

relationship to the US media it is shown to be equally applicable to Australia.

Cambodia Watching Down Under is well researched and makes good use of quotes and cartoons. The work is liberally and carefully footnoted. The footnotes alone will provide a scholar of Cambodia with a wealth of material. The case study in chapter five should be compulsory reading for scholars of Indo-china, political science and the mass media. The book is an important addition to the literature on Cambodia.

Available from *Cambodia Watching Down Under*, GPO Box 703, Leichhardt, NSW 2040 or Gleebooks, Glebe Point Road, Sydney, phone (02) 660 2333, fax (02) 660 3797.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

Want information on the South Pacific?

South Pacific Economic and Social Database

To provide a professional source of economic and social data to support research, commercial decision making and policy formulation, the National Centre for Development Studies has developed a regional database. Funding for start-up has been provided by the World Bank and AIDAB, but the database will now be available commercial basis.

The database presently incorporates: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Western Samoa and Cook Islands. In 1992 Tuvalu, Niue and other developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank will be included.

Database information is divided into 18 sections covering demographic and other social statistics, national accounts, public finance, balance of payments and industry statistics. A common format assists cross country comparisons (data is available in hard copy or computer format - Lotus 123 and Excel). Timeliness of the data is enhanced by regular visits of staff to individual countries for consultation with persons and institutions responsible for individual country data series.

For more information contact the Statistical Adviser:
South Pacific Economic and Social Database
National Centre for Development Studies
GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT, 2601



New Books

Various Publishers

Implementing primary health care: experiences since Alma-Ata

Pieter Streefland and Jarl Chabot (eds), KIT Publications, Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, 1990, Dfl 39.50 (Dutch guilders).

In 1978 the WHO-UNICEF Alma Ata conference formulated a primary health care (PHC) strategy to achieve 'health for all by the year 2000'. This book explores both the context within which PHC must function and the basic issues involved. The political context, the interface between basic health services and community based health care, personnel development and training, and financing systems and resource use are covered. These affect: the relationships among varied health services; the most effective means of achieving 'health for all'; and the international context of national programs. Such issues heavily impact on PHC principles - equity, participation, appropriate technology, prevention, and an intersectoral approach. The interaction and interrelationships among all these factors are clear in the detailed case studies from Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and Columbia.

For more information contact:
Royal Tropical Institute
Rural Development Program
Primary Health Care Section
Maaritskade 63
1092 AD Amsterdam
Phone: (020) 568 8711

Food and nutrition in Fiji, volumes 1 and 2

A A J Jansen, Susan Parkinson and Annette F S Robertson (eds), Fiji School of Medicine and Institute of Pacific Studies (University of the South Pacific), Suva, 1991, Vol 1 US\$10, Vol 2 US\$15.

These books are a definitive historical study of scientific, including health-related, aspects of the rich and varied food resources of Fiji. The health hazards and problems presented by plant, fish and other animal diets are reviewed, with full discussion, and using exhaustive references and illustrative tables and figures.

For more information contact:
Fiji School of Medicine
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

The warrior heritage: a psychological perspective of Cambodian trauma

Seanglim Bit, El Cerrito CA, US\$19.95.

This book examines the changed face and future of Cambodia in light of the psychological, social and economic upheavals it has undergone, as well as its need for constructive change in all three areas. Dr Bit quests to discover: (1) why some Cambodians, despite deprivation and training in subjugation, were able to emerge from the experience not only unscathed but actually triumphant, able to draw on unbelievable resources of inner strength that externalized as productivity, positive outlook, entrepreneurialism and an ability to change with the times; and (2) what an essentially warrior-based culture such as Cambodia requires in order to transform its dangerous destroyer mentality into a creator mentality, and how this transformation is needed to not only rebuild the war-torn country but also to move it into a viable, late-twentieth century force based on entrepreneurialism and cooperation rather than repression, hate and fear.

For more information contact:
Seanglim Bit
5210 Gordon Ave, El Cerrito, CA
USA, 94530

The making of the new environmental consciousness: a comparative study of environmental movements in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands

Andrew Jamison, Ron Eyerman, Jacqueline Cramer and Jeppe Laessoe, Edinburgh University Press, 1991, 232pp, ISBN 0 7486 0180 5, £27.50.

This is a systematic comparative analysis of environmentalism in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands over the last thirty years, showing how each country has developed its own 'shade' of green. Linking theory and empirical research it gives a valuable cultural and historical background which will be useful to students and activists alike. The authors pinpoint four stages which the countries share, and describe the political and cultural forces which have pushed environmentalism in different directions. They argue that Denmark's successful environmentalism has links with the nineteenth century cooperative movement; that a long tradition of pragmatism in Holland has resulted in a broad and pluralistic collection of environmental groups; and that, because environmental issues have been embraced by the established political culture, Sweden now boasts the second largest parliamentary green party in Europe.

For more information contact:
Alison Munro
Edinburgh University Press
22 George Square, Edinburgh
EH8 9LF Scotland

Energy systems and the environment: approaches to impact assessment in Asian developing countries

Peter Hills and K V Ramani (eds), Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur, US\$20.

This volume attempts to draw attention to related problems and issues with an emphasis on the procedural and institutional aspects of integrating environmental considerations more effectively into the energy planning process. The twelve case study chapters have been divided into seven sections, each of which relates to a specific energy source, namely, hydroelectric power, thermal electricity, nuclear energy, geothermal power, oil and gas, coal, and forest and biomass resources.

For more information contact:
The Director, Asian and Pacific Development Centre
Pesiaran Duta, GPO Box 12224
50770 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Australian Government Publishing Service

A chance for the future: training in skills for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community management and development

Published for the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1989, 114pp, Cat No 89 1270 4, ISBN 0 644 10496 1, A\$12.95.

Education and training are vital if the systems of self-management which have been introduced in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities are going to work in a way that is satisfactory to the people in those communities. This report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs discusses needs in education and training for community administration management and development and points to the inadequacy of existing programs to meet these needs.

Vietnam's intervention in Cambodia in international law

Gary Klintworth, published for AGPS Press, 1989, 193pp, Cat No 89 1173 7, ISBN 0 644 10441 4, A\$24.95.

International lawyer, Gary Klintworth, examines the Vietnamese invasion and occupation in Cambodia in light of principles of international law. His particular emphasis is to investigate those aspects of international law that relate to self-defence and the concept of humanitarian intervention. In the final chapters, he assesses the prospects for Cambodia after the Vietnamese withdrawal and what, he says, should be seen as the Vietnamese achievement in Cambodia.

For more information contact:
Australian Government Publishing Service
GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT, 2601

Cambridge University Press

Achieving industrialisation in East Asia

Helen Hughes (ed), National Centre for Development Studies, Canberra, 1988, 280pp, ISBN 0 521 35129 4, A\$59.50.

This book examines the economic success of the newly-industrialising, and nearly-industrialising economies of East Asia. Whether growth and development are judged in purely economic terms or by a combination of economic and welfare criteria, this group of East Asian countries has established a clear lead over other developing areas of the world.

The authors seek to identify the economic policies which have been critical to the success of such a disparate group of countries. They demonstrate the means by which governments have provided the environment for growth and how private enterprise contributed investment despite risk and uncertainty. Through exposure to international competition these enterprises became efficient and profitable. The distinguished group of authors cover a range of topics in a comparative perspective, and identify issues of economic, political and social concern throughout the developing world.

Survival in the rainforest

John Erbacher and Sue Erbacher, 1991, 64pp, hardback, ISBN 0 521 40290 5, A\$16.95.

This book shows the integral relationship of the Kuku-Yalangi people to the natural rainforest environment. The Kuku-Yalangi people have spent generations learning the secrets of the rainforest. The book relates the trials and errors of these people who lived in harmony with the rainforest which became the source of food and medicines. It records a culture and lifestyle within a natural environment threatened by extinction.

Religion and custom in a Muslim society

Ladislav Holy, 1991, 264pp, hardback, ISBN 0 521 39485 6, A\$99.00.

Among the Berti of Northern Darfur (Sudan), as among many Muslim societies, the formal religious practices are predominantly the concern of men, while local, unorthodox customary rituals are performed mainly by women. It is usual to dismiss such local, popular practices as pre-Islamic survivals, but Holy shows that the customary rituals constitute an integral part of the religious system of the Berti.

Dingo makes us human: life and land in an Aboriginal Australian culture.

Deborah Bird Rose, 1992, 252pp, hardback, ISBN 0 521 39269 1, A\$45.00

This highly original ethnography of the people of the Victoria River Valley in the Northern Territory of

Australia fulfils what the author sees as anthropology's basic purpose: to emphasise our shared humanity. Rose's approach is largely dialogic, and encompasses religion, philosophy, politics, ecology and kinship, explaining the ideas contained within the people's stories and their way of life.

New silk roads: East Asia and world textile markets

Kym Anderson (ed), 1992, 376pp, hardback, ISBN 0 521 39278 0, A\$59.50.

The changing patterns of production and trade in fibres, textiles and clothing provide a classic case study of the dynamics of our interdependent world economy. This book, based on selected papers given at a recent conference which discussed East Asia's role in world fibre, textile and clothing markets, traces the development of these changing markets, no longer dominated by Europe but rather by the newly industrialised economies of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and increasingly, China and Thailand. It also addresses the way in which advanced industrialised countries have responded to East Asia's growth and discusses the possible implications of European unification in 1992 on these markets.

Overseas Development Institute

Europe: 1992 and the developing world

Michael Davenport with Sheila Page, ODI Publications, London, 1991, £9.95.

This study is an analysis of the implications of the Single European Market for developing countries. Many manufactured imports from outside the European Community will be displaced by EC production which will become more competitive. On the other hand, the increment in Community income will raise imports of those goods which the EC does not produce, and the elimination of bilateral trading arrangements between member states and particular less developed countries will have some significant effects. As well as looking at the impact of 1992 on the Third World as a whole, the study examines the interests of a number of developing countries in some detail.

For more information contact:
ODI Publications
Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park
London, NW1 4N2

James Currey Publishers

Structural adjustment and the African farmer

Alex Duncan and John Howell (eds), Heinemann Inc, 1991, 288pp, paperback, ISBN 0 85255 127 4, £11.95.

Traces the impact of structural adjustment policies upon the incomes and welfare of Africa's peasant farmers who

currently operate at very low levels of productivity of both land and labour and are confronted with low household income and inadequate food security. Analyses of the links between national economic policies and the various markets in which the smallholders operate, and the services and infrastructures which influence their productive capacities have been conducted in five countries.

Structural adjustment and agriculture: theory and practice in Africa and Latin America

Simon Commander (ed), Heinemann Inc, 1989, 288pp, paperback, ISBN 0 85255 114 2, £11.95.

The ways in which aid is given to developing countries is changing. Program lending, where finance is conditional on developing countries adopting policy reforms, is growing. This study focuses on the way conditional lending reflects the priorities of the major multilateral lenders notably the IMF and World Bank - and how this affects agriculture particularly in Africa and Latin America.

For more information contact:
James Currey Publishers
54B Thornhill Square
Islington, London, N1 1BE

International Center for Economic Growth

International money and debt: challenges for the world economy

Rudiger Dornbusch and Steve Marcus (eds), 1991, 250pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 098 6, US\$29.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 084 6, US\$12.95.

The world economy in the 1990s will have to deal with the burden of debt in the developing countries and with an international monetary system characterised since 1973 by extremely volatile exchange rates. The challenges will be to reverse capital flight from the debtor countries so that long-term debt solutions can be developed and to introduce a measure of stability to the international financial market. This book sets forth the problems of international money and debt during the 1980s and the relative successes - and failures - of the solutions brought to bear on them. Four chapters describe the debt crisis in sub-Saharan Africa and among the seventeen highly indebted countries. They explore the industrialised countries' response to the crisis and outline the possible future course of international debt management. The authors analyse decision making at the onset of the crisis, and the former finance minister of Mexico provides a day-to-day, insider's account of policy-making attempts at the start of the crisis. The last chapters discuss the role of central banks in the international monetary system and explore the possibilities for international coordination of economic policies.

Managing adjustment in developing countries: economic and political perspectives

Marc Lindenberg and Noel Ramirez, 1990, 328pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 053 6, US\$34.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 054 4, US\$14.95.

Decision makers in developing countries must deal with a complex set of economic and political circumstances. This book presents conceptual frameworks and cases to help policy makers and managers define their policy options. The authors analyse short and medium-term economic policies and discuss managing 'winners' and 'losers.' They then offer fourteen case studies of economic change or crisis, posing questions about how to manage and respond to change effectively. The book is designed for classroom use in business and economics schools by prospective managers and policy makers.

The cases include: Bolivia: Controlling Hyperinflation / Chile: An Economy in Transition / The Indonesian Oil Crisis, 1986 / Singapore: Switching to an Export Orientation / The Banana Industry in Costa Rica in 1985.

Markets in developing countries: parallel, fragmented and black

Michael Roemer and Christine Jones (eds), 1991, 250pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 081 X, US\$29.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 082 X, US\$12.95.

Parallel markets often arise in response to government regulation, whereas fragmented markets reflect natural divisions. This volume examines the economies of developing countries, looking at trade, rural black markets, government employment policies, taxation, credit markets, and the growth of small private enterprise.

The new political economy and development policy making

Gerald M Meier (ed), 1991, 300pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 095 1, US\$34.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 079 X, US\$14.95.

Neoclassical political economy - or the new political economy - offers what has been accepted by some as an explanation for the adoption of seemingly detrimental economic policies in developing countries. This book brings together economists, political scientists and policy makers to consider the new political economy and how it relates to decision making in LDCs. The contributors examine various policy areas such as trade, stabilization, agriculture and land reform, privatisation, and poverty alleviation, to address the question of why the advice of economists often goes unheeded by politicians in developing countries and how proposals for policy reform can be formulated to overcome political resistance to reform.

Models of development: a comparative study of economic growth in South Korea and Taiwan

Lawrence J Lau (ed), 1990, 217pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 102 8, US\$24.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 005 6, US\$12.95.

Any international comparison of economic performance during the past decades must note the remarkable success of Taiwan and South Korea. Their real income and consumption per capita have grown and at the same time that they have maintained low rates of inflation. Most of their non-economic social welfare indicators, such as life expectancy and literacy, have improved as well. The economic circumstances in Taiwan and South Korea were similar to those in other developing nations - and they had fewer natural resources than many. Thus their policies for achieving economic success can provide valuable information for a better understanding of the development process.

Trade reform: lessons from eight countries

Geoffrey Shepherd and Carlos Feraldo Langoni (eds), 1991, 200pp, cloth ISBN 1 55815 097 8, US\$29.95, paperback ISBN 1 55815 086 2, US\$12.95.

Countless empirical studies have demonstrated that free trade is superior to restricted trade and that trade liberalization is highly desirable. The problem of the transition from a restrictive to a liberalized trade regime, however, has never been studied extensively; little is known about the essential attributes of a successful policy path to trade liberalization. Looking at the experiences of eight countries, the authors examine the characteristics of successful and unsuccessful liberalization attempts; how trade liberalization can best be implemented; and the potential adjustment cost of a liberalization policy, including the possible impact of trade liberalization on employment.

For more information contact:
International Center for Economic Growth
243 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA, 94108
Phone: (415) 981-5353 Fax: (415) 986-4878

**Australian National University:
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A Biographical Register 1788-1939, 2 Vols, H J Gibbney, 1987, ADBP, A\$22.50.

Chinese Literature: A Draft Bibliography in Western European Languages, R Lynn, 1979, A\$6.95.

Indonesian Serials 1942-50 in Yogyakarta Libraries with a list of Government Publications in the Perustakaan Negara, Yogyakarta, A Reid, 1974, A\$8.95.

The Southwest Pacific: An Annotated Guide to Bibliographies, Indexes and Collections in Australian Libraries, A Thompson, 1986, A\$10.

Tropical forestry package, discounted price A\$65

Changing Tropical Forests: Historical Perspectives on Today's Challenges in Asia, Australasia and Oceania, J Dargavel, 1988, CRES, A\$24.95.

Innocents Abroad in the Forests of Nepal - An Account of Australian Aid to Nepalese Forestry, D M Griffin, 1988, ANUTECH Pty Ltd, A\$28.

The Forests of the Fatima Basin and Mt Kerigomna, Papua New Guinea, with a review of Montane and Subalpine Rainforests in Papuasias, P Grubb, 1985, Bio and Geo, A\$20.

Managing the Tropical Forests, D R Shepherd, 1985, NCDS, A\$12.

Health research package, discounted price A\$60

Malaria, The Intelligent Traveller's Guide, G Butcher, 1990, ANUTECH Pty Ltd, A\$9.95.

Selected Readings in Cultural, Social and Behavioural Determinants of Health, J C Caldwell, 1990, HTC, A\$14.95.

The Spread of Measles in Fiji and the Pacific: Spatial Components in the Transmission of Epidemic Waves through Island Communities, A D Cliff, 1985, A\$10.

The Political Economy of Primary Health Care in Southeast Asia, P Cohen, 1989, ADSN, A\$28.

Medicine Magic and Evil Spirits - A Study of a Text on Thai Traditional Paediatrics, J Mulholland, 1987, A\$15.

For more information contact:
Bibliotech, Australian National University
GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Phone: (06) 249 2479 Fax: (06) 257 5088

National Library of Australia Current Awareness Bulletin: IE 493 Cambodia

Current Awareness Bulletin IE 493 is a select list of books from and about Cambodia received by the National Library of Australia. For each item author, title, publisher, date of publication and the National Library's call number are given. The Bulletin is divided into the following sections: the arts; bibliography and reference; history and related disciplines; language and literature; politics and government; and sociology. The Library also has books in Khmer language and literature listed in previous Bulletins. Current Awareness Bulletins are issued irregularly and are available free on request.

For further information about the Library's collection on Cambodia and services provided, please contact:

The Chief Librarian, National Library of Australia
South and Southeast Asia Sub-Section
Canberra, ACT, 2600, Phone: (06) 262 1614



Monographs

International Center for Economic Growth, Sector Studies

Linkages in developing economies: a Philippine study

Gustav Ranis, Frances Stewart, and Edna Angeles-Reyes, 1990, 83pp, ISBN 1 55815 049 8, US\$9.95.

Linkages between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in the Philippines are examined. Micro and macro approaches of how these linkages influence overall development are conducted, and both high geographic concentration of development and high industrial concentration are related to weak rural linkages. Concentration is due to: import substitution; lack of infrastructure in some; and to inequality, which creates inappropriate demands for products that can only be imported or are capital intensive.

Agricultural growth and assistance to Africa: lessons of a quarter century

Uma Lele, 1990, 106pp, ISBN 1 55815 063 3, US\$9.95.

Based on a multi-year study conducted primarily by the World Bank, this study analyses agricultural development in Africa and the effect of external aid on its progress. Lele examines: the pre-independence conditions; development progress and history; and the political stability of Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania in East Africa and Cameroon, Nigeria, and Senegal in West Africa. Among the issues addressed are whether aid can be targeted more effectively and more efficiently, and what information donors and recipients must have to formulate the best assistance strategies and programs.

Private sector development and enterprise reforms in growing Asian economies

Selji Naya, 1990, 119pp, ISBN 1 55815 083 8, US\$9.95.

As Asian developing countries continue to exhibit strong economic performance, other developing countries are looking to them as models. Naya describes many of the successful new policies put in place by the newly industrializing economies to liberalize trade, promote exports and develop enterprise potential as they move toward market-oriented development strategies. As examples, he discusses India's steady growth in gross domestic product in the 1980s; China's reform programs in agriculture, industry and foreign trade over the past decade and entrepreneurship in Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan and elsewhere. Also examined are the effects of new technologies and a more



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interdependent world economy on traditional government roles, the new importance of the private sector, and reforms of state-owned enterprises in market and non-market economies in Asia.

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International Center for Economic Growth
243 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA, 94108, USA
Phone: (415) 981-5353 Fax: (415) 986-4878

National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University

Pacific Policy Paper No 7, *Remittances and their impact: a study of Tonga and Western Samoa*

Dennis A Ahlburg, A\$25.

The economies of Tonga and Western Samoa are heavily dependent on worker remittances. This study estimates the magnitude and sources of these remittances and their economic impacts, specifically their impacts on productive capacity, labour supply, income distribution and their distortionary effects on the economy. Forecasts of future migration and remittances are presented and public policy options to influence and manage flows are discussed.

Pacific Policy Paper No 8, *Agricultural export marketing in the South Pacific: the future role of marketing authorities*

Euan Fleming (ed), A\$25.

In the South Pacific, as in other developing countries, the privatization of agricultural marketing authorities has become an issue of major concern for policy makers. The chapters in this book were prepared as papers for an in-depth seminar on the extent to which the private sector could and should be involved in agricultural commodity marketing, and the appropriate role of government in maximizing agriculture's contributions to economic development. It is hoped that this book will assist policy makers in the South Pacific islands and elsewhere to compare the performance of marketing authorities with that of the private sector. The areas of concern covered include stabilization, protection for small producers, quality regulation, marketing margins, economies of scale and trade facilitation.

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For more information contact:
Bibliotech
GPO Box 4, Australian National University
Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia

Centre for Applied Social Research, Deakin University

Training for monitoring and evaluation of poverty projects in Yunnan Province, PR China

Joe Remenyl, 1991, 48pp.

A training course was conducted in August-September of 1991. It included coursework, field work, project reviews and report writing. This monograph - a training module - outlines the situation in Yunnan Province as well as describing the methodology used for projects which aim to combat poverty.

For more information contact:
Director, Centre for Applied Social Research
Faculty of Social Sciences
Deakin University, Geelong, 3217



Working Papers

Human Resources Development Network, ILO-ARTEP

Industrial restructuring: the case of Hong Kong's manufacturing sector

T B Lin and K Y Tsui, 1991.

This working paper forms part of the sub-program 'Employment and manpower implications of industrial restructuring'. It analyses the relationship between government policies and industrial restructuring in Hong Kong's manufacturing sector in the last four decades. It reveals that the Hong Kong experience provides valuable lessons for many less developed countries seeking a more market-oriented and export-driven industrialisation strategy.

Directory of human resource development planning institutes: India

Asian HRD Planning Network, ILO-ARTEP Institute for Labour Studies, New Delhi, 1991.

This directory contains information on 69 institutes in India that are actively engaged in research, training and documentation activities in the area of human resource development planning. The directory provides information on the facilities available with each member institute as well as their major activities and the target groups covered by their program.

For more information contact:
The Editor
HRD Newsletter
Asian Network of HRD Planning Institutes
ILO-ARTEP, GPO Box 643, New Delhi, 110001

AIDAB Publications

An investigation of reports of coercion in the Indonesian vasectomy program

Terence Hull, Appraisals, Evaluation and Sectoral Studies Branch Paper 1, Aug 1991, ISSN 1031-1475.

Over the twenty-three year history of the Indonesian National Family Planning Program (INFP) there have been regular, isolated reports of coercive practices to force people to accept contraceptive methods they neither want nor understand. These reports have generally been dismissed as minor excesses by local government and military officials and are explained as being unfortunate side-effects of administrative systems.

Recently the reports of coercion have engendered more serious concerns among doctors and observers in Jakarta because they refer to permanent contraceptive methods (vasectomy, tubectomy) or more long-term reversible methods (implants, injectables) and are alleged to have been associated with serious cases of infection, malpractice and in one case, death. The INFP rejects the implication that these cases are directly the result of government policy, but agrees that there are problems with follow-up, quality control and provision of a full range of contraceptive choices to couples in rural areas.

This paper examines recent charges of coercion related to vasectomy and analyses reports and the nature and causes of actions found to have occurred.

Environmental assessment for international development cooperation: incorporating environmental screening guidelines

Appraisals, Evaluation and Sectoral Studies Branch, Activity Guideline 1, 1991.

This document simplifies procedures and develops a clear assessment strategy to improve the environmental sensitivity of Australia's aid program. It reflects increased policy and knowledge on the environment. Guidelines to assist in the design and appraisal of specific proposals are also being prepared on a sectoral basis to supplement this publication. The procedure is flexible but ensures attention is given to environmental issues at each stage of project development.

For more information contact:
AIDAB Development Education and Public Information
GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT, 2601
Phone: (06) 276 4970

Swansea Development Studies Centre

The meaning of social development

David Marsden, Papers in International Development No 1, November 1990.

This article is based on a lecture given to the post-graduate program in Social Development Planning and Management (originally given at the Annual Conference

of the Development Studies Association in Birmingham, 1988). It briefly outlines ways in which social development has evolved and highlights issues perceived as critical for the future development of this area.

Researching courts: a study of urban magistrates' courts in Kenya and Zambia

Ian Clegg and Phil Harding, Papers in International Development No 2, November 1990.

The paper contains field research carried out in magistrates' courts in Kenya and Zambia during 1987. The research was a key component of a wider comparative study of sentencing in these countries which was funded by ENCOR - the research committee of the Overseas Development Administration. A major part of the research involved the detailed recording of social and judicial processes in the court-room, using participant observation and interviews with magistrates and other key court-room personnel. The paper explores decision-making in relation to remanding and sentencing in the courts, and documents a process of indigenous adaptation of the inherited colonial criminal justice system which appears to be occurring in Zambia.

For more information contact:
Centre for Development Studies
University College of Swansea, Singleton Park
Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, UK

National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University

Islands/Australia working papers

91/9 *Papua New Guinea: economic recovery from the Bougainville crisis and prospects for the 1990s*, Andrew Elek, 30pp.

91/8 *Reaching small borrowers in developing countries: problems, innovations and unresolved issues*, Nimal A. Fernando, 28pp.

91/7 *An economy-wide model of Papua New Guinea: theory, data and implementation*, David Vincent, Ethan Weisman, David Pearce and Derek Quirke, 100 pp.

China papers

91/9 *China and its export competitors*, Philippa Dee, 33pp.

Papers are A\$7 postage included, available from:
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Department of International Relations, Australian National University

WP1 1991, *International trade, ecologically sustainable development and the GATT*, Stuart Harris

This paper examines the links between international trade and the environment, and in particular the links

with ecologically sustainable development. It notes that it is possible for a country to achieve ecological sustainability at the expense of other countries and that some have claimed that liberal trade limits conservation efforts. On the other hand, protectionism can similarly have adverse effects on conservation. Restrictions on trade distort the international economic system, but so does environmental degradation. Trade is merely an instrument and so is the GATT. The paper argues, however, that contrary to some views, the GATT can be, and in practice has been, flexible in its approach to the use of trade measures for environmental purposes. After looking at the trade impacts of the various forms of international and national measures taken for environmental purposes, it concludes that GATT needs to take more positive steps to integrate environmental matters into its decision making.

Papers are A\$5 postage included, available from:
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Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU
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Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific, University of Sydney occasional papers

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For more information contact:
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Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University discussion papers

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No 8. J Taylor (1991) *Geographic location and Aboriginal economic status: a census-based analysis of outstations in the Northern Territory*.

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Papers cost A\$6 plus postage and are available from:
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Newsletters and Journals

Health Transition Review

This publication is produced twice a year, and contains articles on the cultural, social and behavioural determinants of health. Each issue is divided into original articles, a forum for discussion, conference reports and book reviews. Previous issues have contained the following titles: elements for a theory of the health transition; the need for new barriers and bridges in the prevention of sexually-transmitted disease in the Tari Basin, Papua New Guinea; malnutrition and gender relations in Western Kenya; the cultural inflation of morbidity during the decline of mortality; and women's economic roles and child survival in India.

For more information contact:
Health Transition Centre, National Centre for
Epidemiology and Population Health
The Australian National University
GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia
Fax: (06) 249 0740

African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) Newsletter

This AFSAAP newsletter is produced twice annually, and contains articles on contemporary Africa-related research, reference materials, book reviews and associated upcoming events. The June 1991 issue included a review of the UNESCO *General History of Africa*, accounts of visits to the continent, and news updates such as the new plant protection law for Tanzania. Membership is open to anyone interested in the development of African studies in the Australia and Pacific region, and current rates are A\$20 A\$5 for students. Cheques should be made payable to AFSAAP.

For more information contact:
The Treasurer, African Research Institute
La Trobe University
Bundoora, VIC, 3083

IAG Newsletter

The Institute of Australian Geographers Inc. (IAG) newsletter aims to capture the diversity and intensity of work done by professional geographers. It contains news items, conference announcements, information from various geography departments, current geographical research and job announcements. The June

1991 edition contains a detailed listing of conferences, symposiums and seminars to be held in various geography departments around the world (one scheduled for 1996), and developments in course structures at various Australian universities.

For more information contact:
Dr Morgan Sant, Secretariat, IAG Inc
School of Geography, University of New South Wales
GPO Box 1, Kensington, NSW, 2033.

ANZCIES Newsletter

The Australian and New Zealand Comparative and International Education Society (ANZCIES) Newsletter provides information on conferences, publications and recent developments in the comparative and international aspects of education (methodological, theoretical and practical). The September 1991 issue contains information on UNESCO educational projects in China and Vanuatu, as well as information on the ANZCIES annual conference.

For more information contact:
Ibtisam Abu-Duhou, Secretary/Treasurer
School of Education, The University of Melbourne
Parkville, VIC, 3052

Pacific AIDS Alert

The first edition of this quarterly publication produced by the WHO/SPC (World Health Organisation/South Pacific Commission) Information Exchange Centre for the Prevention of AIDS and STDs in the Pacific was in May of 1991. The growing number of AIDS and HIV cases in the Pacific region deserves attention. The publication contains short articles, suggests useful reference materials, and a monthly newsletter provides updated information. The primary focus of this newsletter is on AIDS education.

For more information contact:
Steven Vete, Health Information Officer
The South Pacific Commission
BP D5, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia
Phone: (687) 2620000 Fax: (687) 263818

Women, Water and Sanitation, Annual Abstract Journal

Many projects have involved women in the preparation, implementation and maintenance of new water supply and sanitation facilities. To ensure that studies on the functions and effects of women's involvement reach a wide audience, the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) has prepared this bibliographic journal to be published in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

The journal builds on a 1985 comparative study, *Participation of Women in Water Supply and Sanitation: Roles and Realities*, which reviewed over 800 documents, most of which were written by authors from developing countries.

The present journal was produced in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) PROWESS project (Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services). Each issue will contain a state-of-the-art summary and some 50 abstracts of selected books, reports and audio-visual materials.

Among the subjects covered are: women's involvement in project preparation, design and implementation; maintenance, training and monitoring; water use and hygiene; and benefits of water and sanitation projects. The price of this journal is US\$30 for three issues or US\$17.50 each.

For more information contact:
International Water and Sanitation Centre
PO Box 93190, 2509 AD
The Hague, Netherlands

(Reprinted from the United Nations *Development Forum*, September/October, 1991)

ISLA: A Journal of Micronesian Studies

The University of Guam announces the formulation of a multidisciplinary journal devoted to the publication of articles about the Micronesian region of the Pacific Ocean (published twice a year for US\$15 for individuals and US\$25 for libraries and institutions). Because of political and economic changes in recent years, Micronesia is emerging as a major new frontier for scholarly research. The purpose of this journal is to provide a valued resource for academics, administrators, consultants, practitioners and students whose interests can be served by a journal with an exclusively Micronesian focus. Its perspectives will include: archaeology, commerce and economics, education, health, history, political science, socio-cultural anthropology and sociology.

ISLA will publish original material that expands the understanding of Micronesia, and cordially invites authors to submit analytical essays, policy analyses, original research, annotated bibliographies, notes and comments, and other papers which advance scholarship about Micronesia.

For more information contact:
ISLA Editorial Office
Graduate School and Research, UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam, 96923

In Touch

This newsletter of the Public Health Association of Australia is available to members only. Membership fees vary according to income and entitle individuals to the newsletter, a membership directory, and the *Australian Journal of Public Health* (an academic journal). The August 1991 newsletter was a special policy issue to acquaint members with policy resolutions which have been submitted to this year's Annual General Meeting. Included were draft policy statements on:

cholesterol testing, drugs, ecologically sustainable development, food and health, health statistics, immunization, rural health and women's health in Australian overseas programs. The newsletter also contains information on upcoming conferences.

For more information contact:
The Editor, *In Touch*
PHA, GPO Box 2204, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Phone: (06) 285 2373 Fax: (06) 282 5438

Australian Geographical Studies

This journal is produced twice annually by the Institute of Australian Geographers, and for non-members costs A\$41 (including postage). The October 1991 issue contains articles on global climatic change, global economic restructuring, species endangerment in Australia, aged migration, Tasmanian late glacial and holocene vegetation history, tropical drift disseminules on southeast Australian beaches, and an inventory of Australian estuaries and enclosed marine waters.

For more information contact:
Department of Geography and Oceanography
University College, University of New South Wales
Australian Defence Force Academy
Campbell, ACT, 2600, Australia
Phone: (06) 268 8294 Fax: (06) 268 8313

Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies

This authoritative journal on the Indonesian economy is published three times a year in April, August and December. Each issue contains a survey of recent developments in the national economy, three or four articles by specialist writers, notes on special topics and a book review section. Each issue averages 130 pages and includes statistical tables. In response to demand, a special advance copy of the 'Survey of recent developments' (also contained in the *Bulletin*) is available one month ahead of the main Bulletin. This service should be of particular interest to policy advisers in government and business for whom the availability of up-to-date statistics and analysis with the minimum of delay is important. The annual subscription rate for air zones 1-3 is A\$30, and for air zones 4-5 is A\$33.

For more information contact:
Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies
Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU
GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Phone: (06) 249 2760 Fax: (06) 257 1893

PNG Social Development Newsletter

This newsletter was pioneered by UPNG Professor Stewart MacPherson, who felt the need for stronger networks linking people, projects and ideas within PNG, between PNG and the Pacific Region and beyond the region to the rest of the world. The September issue contained short articles on: the South Pacific Alliance for Family Health; AIDS prevention in the Pacific; Tokples literacy; a profile of the German Development Service; and video and book notices. The editor is

interested in receiving articles for publication on development projects in PNG.

For more information contact:
Deena Roskies, Editor
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of Papua New Guinea
Box 320, University, NCD

Pacific Basin Studies Review

This news bulletin is published periodically by the Asia-Pacific Basin Studies Unit at the Queensland University of Technology. The Centre provides education in and about the Pacific Basin, including studies of the Asia-Pacific Basin political economy and its impact upon littoral nations; the history of the region; demographic/migration patterns; ecological and geographical matters of interest; and specific educational factors emerging in the Pacific Basin. Their approach to these matters is generally focussed on the themes of capital, labor, education, ecology and socio-cultural changes in the Basin. The *Review* attempts to reflect these themes and theoretical approach by including articles from businessmen, academics, ecologists, educationalists and the general public.

Individual membership is A\$20 for individuals or A\$120 for groups. The most recent issue contained articles on tourism and Australian labour, as well as conference reports, news items, books, book reviews and films.

For more information contact:
Asian/Pacific Basin Studies Unit
Queensland University of Technology,
Carseldine Campus
Brisbane, Queensland, 4034
Phone: (07) 864 4542 Fax: (07) 864 4999

Polliewatch

More Polliewatchers are needed!

Last July, Community Aid Abroad launched its Polliewatch network. Polliewatchers agree to regularly lobby their Federal Member of Parliament about a current Community Aid Abroad campaign or issue of concern. Polliewatchers receive an Action Pack and short briefings from Community Aid Abroad.

So far about 50 Federal electorates are covered. The aim is to cover them all. Why not volunteer today? Just write to the Community Aid Abroad Public Policy Unit, 156 George Street, Fitzroy Victoria, Australia 3065.



Other Development Resource Materials

Pacific community development videos

The Marshall Islands: a matter of trust

This 18 minute video produced by Paul Greco tells the moving story of nuclear bomb testing, militarisation, economic dependence and westernisation of the tiny atoll nation of the Marshall Islands. In 1947 the Marshall Islands was entrusted to the US by the UN for development. From 1946 to 1958 the US exploded 66 nuclear bombs there, confiscated lands and imposed its lifestyle and values. This video documents the betrayal which has wrought devastation and tragedy for the Marshallese people. (A\$50/VHS PAL copy, US \$60/VHS NTSC copy, plus A\$3 postage/package in Australia or A\$8 overseas per video).

Sky of fire, seeds of hope

How do the Marshallese people build a new future for themselves? The story told in this second 15 minute video sees glimmers of hope and positive changes. There is a desire by some to achieve a balance between the old ways and the new. The beauty of the people and the islands are captivating but the road ahead offers no promises. (A\$60/VHS PAL copy, US \$75/VHS NTSC copy, plus A\$3 postage/package in Australia or A\$8 overseas per video).

For more information contact:
Pacific Community Development
58 Paxton Street, Spotswood, VIC, 3015
Phone: (03) 391 0127

UNDP videos

Safe water 2000

This 12 minute video takes a look at what has been accomplished and what remains to be done in providing adequate water facilities for people in developing countries. During the UN International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), 1.35 billion people in developing countries gained access to clean drinking water, and nearly 750 million to improved sanitation. Yet, over 2 billion human beings lack safe water and sanitation facilities.

The video gives an overview of some of the activities undertaken during the decade, including technologies, participatory training and the involvement of women. A bonus is a booklet containing the text as well as case materials drawn from Nepal, Mali, Egypt, Bangladesh,

Morocco, Bolivia and India. The video is available in English and French, at US\$20 (specify NTSC, PAL or SECAM format).

For more information contact:
UNDP, Division of Information
Room DC1-1927, One UN Plaza
New York, NY, 10017, USA

(Reprinted from the United Nations *Development Forum*, September/October 1991)

Reproductive health videos for women

The Family Planning Federation of Australia is currently producing a series of four 20 minute videos on reproductive health for women. The series is funded by the Australian International Assistance Bureau and done with Pacific people and a Pacific film crew. Videos will be available at the end of March.

The four videos are: "Taboo talk", a documentary about women's feelings on reproductive health; "AIDS and the South Pacific", a film providing practical AIDS information; "Down there", which includes animation and interviews describing how the reproductive system works; and "Better safe", a drama about a boy getting a STD and the community response. All videos are available in PNG Pidgin, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian and Hindi languages.

For more information contact:
Family Planning Associations in the South Pacific and/or
Family Planning Federation of Australia
Suite 3, first floor
Geils Court, Deakin ACT, Australia 2600
Phone: (06) 285 1244

Renowned Economist to visit Australia

Paul Ekins, author of the newly published *A New World Order: Grassroots movements for global change* (1992), will be visiting Canberra in March of this year to promote his book as well as the Living Economy Network (an international network of economists). Ekins will be giving a lecture at an upcoming Society for International Development meeting.

For more information contact us here at the Australian Development Studies Network.

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Style

Quotation marks should be single; double within single.
Spelling: English (OED with '-ise' endings).

Notes

- (a) Simple references without accompanying comments: to be inserted in brackets at appropriate place in text – comma after author and between date and page number, eg. (Yung, 1989, 113-118).
- (b) References with comments: to appear as endnotes, indicated consecutively through the article by numerals in brackets or superscript.

Reference list

If references are used, a reference list should appear at the end of the text. It should contain all the works referred to, listed alphabetically by author's surname (or name of sponsoring body where there is no identifiable author). Authors should make sure that there is a strict correspondence between the names and years in the text and those on the reference list. Book titles and names of journals should be italicised or underlined; titles of articles should be in single inverted commas. Style should follow: author's surname, forename and or initials, title of publication, publisher, place of publication and date of publication. Journal references should include volume, number (in brackets), date and page numbers. Examples:

Flynn, Peter, 'Brazil and inflation: a threat to democracy', *Third World Quarterly*, 11(3), July 1989, 50-70.
Hamilton, Clive C., *Capitalist Industrialization in Korea*, Westview Press, Boulder, 1986a.
Hill, Helen M., 'The Jackson Committee and women' in Eldridge, P., Forbes, D. and Porter, D. (eds), *Australian Overseas Aid: Future Directions*, Croom Helm, Sydney, 1986.

Publication/resource listings

An important task of the Network is to keep members up-to-date with the latest literature and other resources dealing with development-related topics. To make it as easy as possible for readers to obtain the publications listed, please include price information (including postage) and the source from which materials can be obtained.

