



Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the Newsletter covers a number of important national and international conferences and symposia on development issues; it reviews changes in Australia's overseas aid allocations, and reports on Africa, the debt crisis and structural adjustment. It also reports on new centres for development studies, new newsletters of interest and recent publications concerned with Third World development. Forthcoming conferences, workshops and symposia on development issues are also listed. If you have information you want to share, conferences or publications you wish to publicise among the 2,300 members on the Network mailing list, please contact me.

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#### CONFERENCES

##### Major Issues in Development Studies in Australia, Monash University, November

This two-day conference, organised by the newly established Development Studies Centre at Monash University, and funded by the Network, was attended by nearly 100 academics, public servants, teachers, researchers, development educators, aid consultants and representatives of non government aid organisations. The conference was the first in Australia to consider the current and future role of development studies in Australian educational institutions; the utility of development studies in research and policy formulation, and the utility of interdisciplinary teaching and research. The disciplines represented included education, geography, economics, political science, environmental science, sociology, anthropology, history, earth sciences, agriculture, engineering and chemistry. The conference provided a useful follow-up to the workshop organised by the Centre for Development Studies at Flinders University earlier in the year.

With hindsight the overall thinking of the conference was embodied in the quote from Geertz (1963:xviii) used by John Connell:

....an adequate understanding of new countries of the Third World demands that one pursue scientific quarry across any fenced-off academic fields into which it may wander.

It was agreed that a multi-disciplinary or, at best, an interdisciplinary approach to development research was of considerably greater utility to understanding development processes and to planning development policies than a single discipline approach as it provided a much more realistic appraisal

of the possibilities and constraints to social and economic development. It was recognised that the same development theories were utilised by different disciplines but to date there had been little attempt at integration.

The major issues raised were:

1. The need for structural changes within tertiary institutions to allow interdisciplinary studies and the establishment of opportunities for more interdisciplinary research.

2. The need for development studies to establish a higher profile and attract greater funding.

3. The need development related studies to place more emphasis on policy formulation.

4. The need for much greater emphasis to be placed on public information about social and economic development issues.

5. The need for better links to be established between academic institutions, development education organisations, secondary school and colleges and between the universities and consultants.

6. It was recommended that at a time of economic recession those working in development-related areas need to develop a more pragmatic approach to funding and that both academics and academic institutions need to be more professional about selling their very considerable skills. Currently those working in development studies complain of lack of research or teaching funds, but do little to attract those funds.

There was broad consensus that although development studies was not a discipline and should not be considered as one, the interdisciplinary approach it represented should be encouraged by tertiary institutions, supported by funding agencies and demanded by the Australian Government in providing the basis for its development assistance programme. There was ample evidence of the failure of a single discipline approach.

It was recommended that an Australian or Australian and New Zealand Development Studies Association, which could have its secretariat based at the Network, be established to provide a focal point for development studies.

The conference was divided into four major sections: Development research and the disciplines; interdisciplinary research and analysis; fieldwork and consultancies and; teaching about development.

## Development Research and the Disciplines

John Connell, Geography, University of Sydney, outlining the history of development studies in Australian Geography said that the major change in geography in the last twenty years has been the "pursuit of relevance and the extraordinary growth of Third World Studies". Although development studies began in economics, a growing concern for equity, distribution, social justice and the environmental cost of economic growth meant the rapid involvement of other disciplines and a vast new area of empirical studies and theorizing in economics, anthropology, politics, history and geography. The central core for geographers was a liberal and radical concern for ethical issues, more positive structures of development and the assumption that geographers could influence such structures, either by contributing to planning decisions or at least interpreting the world. Geographers emerged as concerned participants. Development geography in Australia, Dr Connell pointed out has been localised in the Pacific, most particularly Papua New Guinea, but more recently has spread into Southeast Asia.

Through an initial concern with economic issues, development geography was necessarily interdisciplinary incorporating, often in the worst manner, the insights of economists and anthropologists. However as much of it focused on small-scale problems it became a genuinely interdisciplinary approach rather than merely a "collection of strands from assorted disciplines" and this was obvious from a series of valuable medical, rural development and environmental studies. While in the past there have been constant criticisms of geography's small-scale analysis and the lack of theorizing, it has been recently recognised that there is a need to move away from grand theorizing and that smallscale, empirical studies are of considerable value in both understanding the realities of intervention and in proposing workable policies. Empirical work, Dr Connell said, will continue to be at the core of development geography, but in future, it will not be in such a theoretical vacuum. Dr Connell concluded by saying that although development studies remains in its infancy, the volume of the contribution made in Australia is phenomenal and that in a small way geography has contributed to development practice in Australasia and to a greater appreciation of the linkage with other disciplines.

David Goldsworthy, Economics and Politics, Monash, considering the role of political science in development studies stated that the academic social science disciplines are a contrived way of subdividing

knowledge and have survived for so long only because of bureaucratic investment and because for some people "they provide shelter from the cold winds of intellectual uncertainty". While the vision of a unified social science is on the horizon and the boundaries have to some extent been transcended, particularly in radical development geography, the Marxist sociology of development, and radical political economy, all of which address similar issues and employ more or less interchangeable methodologies, to a large extent the central importance of political science in development has been overlooked. Over the last ten years greater emphasis has been placed on the role of state and class in development and on the strong links between the economic domain and the political, leading to much greater integration of political and economic research. For example, Dr Goldsworthy said there is evidence of a correlation between strongly hierarchical state organisation and rapid development, if the latter is defined primarily in terms of capital accumulation, while in many poor countries which have failed to develop, weakness of the state seems to be part of the problem. However this leads to problems of human rights and to the question "how far is development worth the price of repression?" Human rights, Dr Goldsworthy pointed out, are economic, social, civil and political, communal and individual. They are also indivisible and must be studied in this way if research is to have ultimate value. In the final analysis, development requires political action - but what kind of political action? On the whole contemporary writings on the politics of development are strong on political analysis and diagnosis and weak on prescription. "We discuss in sophisticated terms what is wrong and what ought to be changed, and end with the call 'to mobilise the political will' and to 'organise resources'". Dr Goldsworthy said that he hoped that the next decade would see political scientists concentrating more on the political problems of peoples' development and that on the basis of finely detailed local studies they will be able to devote attention to the prescriptive dimension: How to get there from here?

There is a danger in political science and in development studies, Dr Goldsworthy concluded, that work about work in the field eclipses work about the field. The theory displaces the thing as the primary focus of inquiry. In development studies we must guard against this.

Chris Gregory, Anthropology, ANU, outlined the considerable changes in anthropology over the last 20 years. The

first generation of anthropologists, he said, were concerned with "rescue anthropology" - the collection of cultural relics of precolonial times. This tradition transformed our understanding of tribal societies and had important implications for theories of development and underdevelopment, and indirectly to theories of change, however it had a negative effect in that it tended to devalue work on the impact of capitalism on tribal and peasant societies. The current generation of anthropologists are interested in social, cultural and economic transformations and more concerned with "drunks in creekbeds than kinship systems".

Dr Gregory pointed out that the most important impact of recent anthropological studies has been to challenge basic assumptions of existing development theories. This challenge came about because anthropology as a discipline is defined by its methodology, which is based in participant observation. The method is no longer unique to anthropology and the in-depth microstudies of anthropologists and others have undermined many of the deep-seated ethnocentric assumptions of modernisation theory and of dependency theory. In conclusion Dr Gregory said "anthropology's principle contribution to development studies has been a critical one and its ability to take a holistic approach which starts with anthropological data but draws on history, geography, sociology, law, linguistics, political economy and philosophy."

Other speakers in this session included Sisira Jayasuriya, Bob Rice, Alan Rice, Ron Witton and Ted Trainer.

### Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis

In this session a number of case studies were presented which outlined the way in which serious errors arose in the implementation of development projects because the initial research and project design had not been multi or interdisciplinary. Stephanie Fahey, Peter Krinks and Ian Healey provided examples of the ways in which interdisciplinary research and policy formulation was being carried out.

Stephanie Fahey, Humanities, Footscray Institute of Technology, discussed the recent rise in importance of women's studies in development research and development planning. This area provides both a new theoretical approach and an interdisciplinary way of studying social and economic development. At international, national and community levels the study of women's roles in the social and political economy provided a crucial perspective to development which until very recently had been overlooked. In

part this was because researchers and planners had been male, as had the recipients of development assistance. The study of women in the development process cut across the usual theoretical and disciplinary approaches and allowed a genuinely interdisciplinary approach. To date however women's studies and women in development issues have not been taken very seriously either by mainstream academia or the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau. Very few women, Ms Fahey said were employed in university departments which dealt with development issues and these departments took no cognizance of women's studies or the specific role of women in the development process.

Peter Krinks, Earth Sciences, Macquarie University, speaking of the centrality of land tenure in most development activities said that although it was generally recognised that land tenure becomes a major policy issue in times of social and economic change and that improvements in agricultural productivity usually depends more on land tenure than on improved agricultural technologies, until recently there have been few explicit interdisciplinary studies in this area. Where it had been carried out it had been restricted to swidden agriculture. Dr Krinks pointed to the development policies in the Philippines and the way in which they were closely tied to land reform and land tenure problems as an example of the urgent need for greater interdisciplinary studies. Successful land reform he said, will require knowledge of political, economic and social systems and of local cultural and legal patterns. He pointed out that there are a number of localised social processes that will inhibit successful land transfer unless they are understood.

Ian Healey, Environmental Science, Monash University, provided concrete examples of successful interdisciplinary studies and research. The Master of Environmental Science at the Graduate School of Environmental Science at Monash draws graduates from a number of disciplines but all are obliged to complete studies in chemistry, ecology, economics, law, engineering and more important, courses in systems theory and multidisciplinary organisation. These latter courses provided basic, practical training in team work and provide aspects of group dynamics, critical path analysis and project formulation.

The three interdisciplinary research projects discussed were "Major Agricultural problems in the Samut Songkhram Province of Thailand", the "Social and Economic Impact of the Hiritano Highway in Papua

New Guinea" and "Agricultural Development in Tamburan, Sabah". All included Australian and indigenous researchers who came from a variety of disciplines. In conclusion Dr Ealey stated that the integrated team approach, while difficult, was always more effective than several isolated studies. He recommended that development studies courses include training on team work and project formulation.

Mark Wahlqvist, Prince Henry's Hospital, discussed the way in which medical research, if it was to improve health and living conditions in developing countries, must be interdisciplinary. The nutrition situation in the Pacific, he said, is causing not only medical problems but social and economic problems and medical knowledge alone was not going to solve the problem. Adequate intervention was going to have to take cognizance of traditional values, culture, economics, the political situation and the daily lives of the people.

#### Organising Interdisciplinary Work

Cherry Gertzel, Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University, outlined the benefits of establishing development studies centres as focal points for teaching and research, but said that in most tertiary institutions there were considerable difficulties in establishing and maintaining them. While it was not advisable to have a plethora of small, underfunded development studies centres springing up everywhere, she said, centres provided development studies with a higher profile and a focus for funding. From her experience with the Centre for Development Studies at Flinders she said that there was a lack of administrative interest, there was seldom any financial support, there were no additional staff to run the development studies courses, which were offered at undergraduate and post graduate level, and no physical space. She stated that while it was nice to be concerned with theoretical and ideological issues, the first requirement in establishing either a centre or an undergraduate or postgraduate course in development studies was a room, or an office, devoted to development studies. Second, was additional staff. Currently in most universities those teaching development studies have to make additional teaching time available from already busy schedules. Generally, she said, there is little bureaucratic commitment to development studies. A higher profile would help overcome this.

Brian Brogan, National Centre for Development Studies, ANU, outlined the research and teaching activities of the National Centre for Development Studies.

This he said provided an example of a well funded centre with both teaching and research staff. However the graduate courses available were restricted by staff limitations and space and while staff from both the ANU Research Schools and the Faculties were brought in to assist with courses, the teaching courses were limited to what the Centre felt it could do best, although he said, he was aware of criticism of the narrow range of courses. With regard to research, he said the Centre undertakes a broad range of research, most of it policy oriented. Some was undertaken for AIDAB but an increasing amount was undertaken for international bodies like World Bank or the Ford Foundation. The Centre, he said, makes a policy of bringing in academics from other universities and other disciplines to work together on these research projects. With changes in funding in tertiary institutions and the introduction of full fee paying students he said the Centre was having to get out and sell itself and recommended that other centres do the same.

Pamela Thomas of the Australian Development Studies Network, outlining the work of the Network, pointed out that while there appeared to be some despondency amongst those working in development studies, over the last ten years there had been a massive increase in interest in this area. Not only was the Development Studies Centre (now NCDS) established but so were the Centre for Development Studies at Flinders and the Development Studies Centre at Monash and a number of other informal groups of academics concerned with development issues. Formal undergraduate and postgraduate courses in development studies had been initiated at Deakin, Flinders, Monash, ANU and in several of the Colleges of Advanced Education. There had been a great increase in the number of conferences and symposia related to development studies and as a corollary, AIDAB, the Department of Education and the non government aid organisations had established development education sectors. The Australian Development Studies Network had been established in 1984 with 25 people on the mailing list. Three years later it has a mailing list of 2,300. This she said shows considerable interest within Australia in development studies, not just in the universities, but in the Colleges of Advanced Education, in government departments, research institutions, among consultants and the general public. The Network, Dr Thomas said, gets considerable feedback from members both in Australia and overseas and provides a link between those working in different disciplines. In the last two years the Network has put out eight newsletters,

eight briefing papers, four conference or symposium reports, published two books and organised or funded seven development-related conferences or workshops which have provided the opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion and an exchange of information.

Dr Thomas concluded by saying that the Network was for the benefit of those working or interested in development studies and they should feel free to make recommendations or to provide material for inclusion in the Newsletter or Briefing Papers.

### Field Work and Consultancies

Marika Vicziany, Economic History, Monash, said that while fieldwork was crucial to development studies there was a widely held belief that doing fieldwork was either inexpensive or one way to have a holiday. Nothing could be further from the truth. Field work is expensive, difficult and often uncomfortable, she said. There was little appreciation of the real costs of acquiring and transporting documents, and academic staff and post graduates get little recognition from their universities, governments or communities for the personal effort which has gone into fieldwork. Currently fieldwork is grossly under-funded she said and the bulk of funding goes to academic staff. The postgraduate students who were best off Dr Vicziany said, were those at ANU where they could claim up to \$7,000 travelling expenses during their scholarship period. Elsewhere it was best to belong to a small research centre.

With the possible advent of the "Dawkins education era" Dr Vicziany put forward for discussion some ways in which development studies and fieldwork could be funded, as a turn away from dependence on government was likely to be both needed and desirable. Her suggestions were:

1. A policy commitment from the Federal Government to continue to support small scale research projects and to give academic fieldwork a new prominence.

2. An attempt by both government and academia to create a more public spirited Australian business community. (The universities, colleges, schools, libraries and scholars in Australia do not receive donations, endowments and inheritances in the same way as Europe and America.)

3. Getting financial backing from the Australian business community by providing graduate level courses which provided employees with special skills.

4. Getting financial backing from international development agencies.

In conclusion Dr Vicziany urged conference participants to get out and sell themselves to government, to private business and to national and international agencies. If they remained sitting around in their ivory towers, funding would pass them by and, to the detriment of the developing world, development studies would die.

Ian Sheddon, Engineering Consultant, Shedden Pacific Pty Ltd, considering the role of private enterprise in the AIDAB academic equation took academics to task over their poor grasp of the realities of what kind of academic research was needed and who would pay for it. While in the 70s, he said, purely academic research had high status and was in demand, this is no longer the case. Today what is required is: A better balance of applied versus pure research; a higher proportion of the education budget to go to technical training; an increased role for development practice as distinct from research; and an encouragement of the entrepreneurial role in starting new activities.

Mr Sheddon also took the academic world to task over report writing. He said most academics did not know how to write an adequate report because most forgot that reports were primarily to influence someone and that good policy recommendations were more important than scientific method and elegant analysis. He said he would pay people in inverse proportion to the thickness of their report. Mr Sheddon presented a list of recommendations relevant to both AIDAB and to academia. To AIDAB: Don't be fooled by thick, erudite reports; give consultants an incentive to produce reports which concentrate on conclusions, firm costed recommendations and a punchy sales spiel aimed at the two eventual clients (AIDAB and the host government); encourage private initiative. To academia: You are not writing an esoteric paper but selling a point of view; join a team with the private sector as the academic world does not have a good track record of project management.

Papers were also given by Chris Manning, Jim Polhemus, Bob Rice, Ken Aspinall of AIDAB and Russell Rollason of ACFOA.

#### Teaching about Development

Four sessions were devoted to this topic: one on teaching development in the tertiary institutions with papers from Sue Abeyasekere, Philip Eldrige and Alan Martina; one on development education for overseas development professional with papers from David King and John Holmes; a third on teaching development in the schools with papers from Jane Williamson-Fein, Wayne

Perkins and Ted Trainer and a fourth on public education, in which the speakers were Janet Hunt and Annmaree O'Keefe.

For further information on development education resources and networks contact:

Janet Hunt  
ACFOA  
Box  
Canberra ACT 2601;

For information on AIDAB:

Annmaree O'Keefe  
GPO Box 887  
Canberra ACT 2601

The proceedings of the conference will be available shortly from:

John McKay  
Development Studies Centre  
Monash University  
Clayton VIC

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**ANZAAS Conference "Science and Life in the Tropics", James Cook University, Townsville, 24-28 August**

The theme of this years conference was very widely interpreted and sessions covered such a diversity of topics that there was less opportunity than usual for cross-disciplinary discussion between the physical and social sciences. The exception was the two-day Menzies Symposium on Nutrition and Health in the Tropics, organized by the Menzies School of Tropical Medicine, Darwin. This symposium presented a useful combination of physical and social research which included the nutritional composition of food, new methods for nutrition testing and aspects of nutrition education in the South Pacific and in tropical Australia. Other sessions of specific interest to development studies were those on "Science and Technology" which focused on appropriate technology and technological adaptation, and "Political Change in the ASEAN Region".

#### Nutrition and Health in the Tropics

A major aspect of this symposium, which brought together nutritionists, medical personnel, nutrition researchers, geographers and anthropologists from Australia and several Pacific Island countries, was the increasing similarity of nutritional problems between Australian Aboriginal and Pacific Island peoples. While it was apparent that the results of nutritional research being conducted in tropical Australia would be of value in assessing nutritional problems elsewhere it was stressed that nutrition education and any other interventions

intended to improve nutrition had to be situation specific.

Professor Michael Gracey, of the Princess Margaret Children's Medical Research Foundation, Perth, outlined 17 years work among Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, Western Australia, and maintained that there is ample evidence that prior to urbanisation and regular European contact Aboriginal children were healthy and well nourished. Isolation was a protection against disease and nutritional deterioration, but with the recent communication revolution there were increased nutritional problems. The situation he said had changed dramatically in the last 3 years with radio telephone, better roads and the introduction of television. Three major changes in the region would have an irreversible impact on Aboriginal society. These were the RAAF base at Derby; increased tourism; and mining, all of which required support services which would bring thousands of people into what were previously isolated areas. The impact of these activities on Aboriginal society, in particular on their health, will need to be very carefully monitored, he said, and health education started now.

Professor David Rush of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York outlined recent research into nutrition, birth weight and infant mortality and the impact on birthweight of special protein supplements for pregnant women. He pointed out that low birthweight, which is an important factor in neonatal mortality and infant health problems, is not independent of social status. Although in most industrial countries there has been a very marked decline in neonatal deaths since the mid 1940s, the difference in the proportion of deaths between working and upper classes remains the same. A major factor in determining infant birthweight, Professor Rush said, is maternal nutrition. In Japan there has been a rapid increase in birthweights since 1957 and this is associated with improved diets. In the USA the Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC) provided special feeding for pregnant women and deprived children under 5 years of age. In 1986 there were 3.3 million participants, an estimated 46 per cent of low income women, at an overall cost of \$1.6 million annually. The effect of better maternal diets which included increased quantities of protein had been a drop in infant mortality and foetal death. Increased protein had not led to increased birthweights, but to an increase in the circumference of infant's heads, indicating increased brain growth. Professor Rush pointed out that these infants needed to be followed up to see what happened to them.

Birth weight, Professor Rush said, was not an adequate indicator of survival as there were considerable differences in survival at low weights between industrial and developing countries, but given well co-ordinated health care services this type of programme could be important for developing countries where infant mortality was high. Overall success would require improvements in primary health care and health education as it was a waste of time to improve neonatal outcomes when infants died later of respiratory or infectious diseases.

Dr Jaqui Badcock of the South Pacific Commission outlined the growing nutritional problems in the South Pacific. These are associated, she said, with urbanisation, a change in life style and a move from traditional diets which contained a high proportion of fibre to diets that comprised largely imported foods which contained little fibre but a very high sugar and fat content. Diabetes, cardiovascular problems, hypertension and cancer were diseases which were largely unknown in the Pacific 30 years ago, but are now among the major causes of death. Dr Badcock pointed out that some South Pacific countries combine the health problems of the past with those of the western world.

Dr Sitaleki Finau, of the Community Health Programme at the University of the South Pacific stated that Pacific Island societies do not appreciate European perspectives of their health or being used as "guinea pigs" for European medical research. He said that many Pacific Islanders now found difficulty knowing what, and who, to believe. "At first we were told that our local foods were no good, and that we must give children milk and bottle feed them, now we are told that our local foods are good and that bottle feeding is no good. We are sick of being told we are too fat and that we are always wrong". Dr Finau stated that health and nutrition must be approached with much greater understanding of Pacific Island perceptions of food and what comprises a good meal as in the Pacific food has much wider significance than just nutrition.

The 18 papers from the Menzies Symposium are available from:

Cheryl Rae  
Menzies School of Tropical Medicine  
Casuarina  
Darwin NT

#### Medical History in the Pacific

A well attended two-day session on medical history covered the establishment of curative and preventative health services and the distribution and transmission of disease

in a number of South Pacific and Southeast Asian societies. Nineteen papers were presented and topics included the Philippines during the late Spanish and early American colonial periods when public health regulations were crucially important to establishing social and political control; the health problems faced by Aborigines in northern Australia and attempts to devise public health institutions to respond to these needs; the evolution of tropical medicine and its influence on research institutions and public health policies in Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea; and recent medical research, including the race to develop a malaria vaccine.

For further information on the papers contact:

Professor Roy MacLeod  
Department of History  
University of Sydney  
Sydney NSW 2006

### Science and Technology Symposium

The major factors emerging from this section of the conference were the difficulty developing countries had in catching up with technological advances in developed countries; the shortage of science and technological training available in developing countries secondary and tertiary institutions; and the problems of relevant technology transfer.

Dr S Hussain of the James Cook University outlined the very limited opportunity for students in developing countries to study science and technology. In research conducted in 45 countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa with results from 222 universities and 217 colleges he found that the majority of scientists and technicians with sound academic and professional qualifications had migrated to western countries, very few had become teachers and the number pursuing scientific or technological research could be "counted on one hand". There is a serious shortage of relevant scientific institutions. For example, one would expect developing countries to have strong scientific support for agriculture. This was not the case. Only 25 of the 43 states in the sample had a college or faculty-level agricultural institution. Similar numbers had faculties of engineering and medicine.

On the whole very limited funding was available for science and technology and this was usually spent on attempting to copy leading institutions in the western world in terms of buildings, laboratories, computers and other equipment, rather than well qualified manpower. As a result these

institutions were merely showpieces that could not be used effectively.

Dr Hussain said the gap between the developed and developing countries was not only widening but worsening at an increasingly rapid rate. Developing countries need to develop their own indigenous technologies and transfer only appropriate technologies from developed countries.

Drs Seyeul Kim and H Sohn in a paper which considered development of appropriate technology in Korea and investigated a number of traditional farming technologies in relation to modern technologies and large-scale farming industries concluded that in Korea the promotion of modern, large-scale, capital-intensive industries and technologies were costly in economic and social terms and tended to benefit the industrial sector while doing little to meet the basic needs of the rural sector. Rather than large-scale industry, developing countries should emphasize small-scale business and labour-intensive machinery. Considering the effectiveness of traditional rice drying methods, straw cutters and the chee-ke (simple pick-up baler) the authors concluded that it was more important to concentrate on making small improvements to these technologies which had considerable advantages for small-scale farmers rather than adopt capital intensive, expensive farm machinery.

In a paper entitled "A Simultaneous Equation Model of Telecommunication Technology, Trade and Development" Dr Neil Dias Karunaratne of Queensland University concluded that studies of economic growth in developing countries had over-emphasized the role of trade-led growth as a cure for underdevelopment by virtually neglecting other important technological factors in the development process. The new information technologies, he said, with their capacity for basic needs delivery to remote and impoverished areas, can overcome some of the problems associated with basic needs delivery. More importantly, these technologies can mitigate the failure of trickle-down mechanisms and promote development "with equity". Dr Karunaratne stated that the new information and telecommunication technologies are likely to be more important than trade in promoting egalitarian development.

### Political Change in the ASEAN Region

This report from Ron May.

The keynote speaker Dr Lau Teik Soon, president of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, providing an overview observed that every ASEAN state had



adopted a Western form of parliamentary democracy but each had modified it to serve 'the national interests', to meet the demands of modernisation and nationalism without jeopardizing political stability, social harmony and economic growth. Dr Lau discussed four 'fundamental factors' which, he said, must be considered in any analysis of the political situation in ASEAN: The vulnerability of the nation-building process; economic dependence on foreign, industrialized countries; the 'communist threat'; a volatile external environment, and foreign sources of threats to national security. Political change is inevitable in the ASEAN states, Dr Lau, concluded 'but it is not likely to be of a drastic nature'.

Two other papers dealt with political change in the Philippines. Dr Raul Pertierra of UNSW gave a paper titled 'Moral Communities and Political Change in Philippine Society' and Dr R.J. May of ANU one on 'Political "Normalization" in the Philippines and the Future of Political Parties'. Dr Pertierra sought to apply the notion of 'moral community' to the explanation of local political action, especially in its relation to larger political structure. Using data gathered in a rural community in Ilocos he demonstrated how political behaviour is embedded in normative and institutional spheres outside the formal political structure. Dr May traced the demise of the established political party system under the martial law regime of President Marcos and the emergence, through a 'jungle of acronyms', of shifting coalitions of opposition parties, factions and 'cause-oriented groups'. Following the February 1986 revolution and an emerging process of 're-participation', some commentators on Philippine politics foresaw the re-establishment of a two-party system. In opposition, Dr May argued that for some time 'above-ground' politics in the Philippines is more likely to be characterized by the continued interaction of shifting coalitions of personality-dominated political parties and cause-oriented groups. The recent constitutional plebiscite and parliamentary elections have reinforced the position of President Aquino but it remains to be seen whether she can continue to control the evident political tensions within her own political organization.

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#### Workshop on Dryland Agriculture

This workshop organized by the Canberra chapter of the Society for International Development (SID) considered the technical, economic and social issues associated with dry land agriculture and the current and future possibilities for Australia helping to

solve dryland farming problems in developing countries, most particularly Africa. There were four major speakers followed by a discussion on the topic of Australia's contribution to dryland development.

This report from Dr Colin Barlow.

#### The Australian Dryland Situation and its Relevance to Problems Overseas (R.A. Fischer, CSIRO, Canberra)

Dr Fischer pointed out that Australian dryland agriculture has both physical and biological similarities with agriculture in the developing world, and that many of these parallels were unique and not found in the agriculture of other developed countries. Physical similarities comprise matching climates and soils. In common with many developing countries, our dryland soils are low in fertility, and we have substantial areas of important sub-tropical and tropical vertisols, oxisols and ultisols.

Australia grows many of the same winter crops as the developing world, the most important of which is wheat, but our dryland summer crop experience is more limited. Australia's heavy involvement with sheep, as well as dryland pasture improvement and the integration of livestock and cropping, leads to other unique parallels with the farming systems of North Africa and the Middle East, and to a lesser extent with the semi-arid tropics of Africa and South America.

Dr Fischer said that despite these physical and biological similarities, there has been surprisingly little transfer of unique Australian dryland agricultural technology to developing countries. Nevertheless many of the countries have dramatically increased their production of grains through the application of new technology and improved water supply. Most of this technology has been developed locally with aid from international centres and programs and there has been a net flow of this technology towards Australia from developing countries in the last 20 years.

In the future, Dr Fischer suggested, there will be a small but significant contribution of Australian technology to the dryland agriculture of the developing world. ACIAR will play a role in this transfer, but its current focus appears not to be on the major semi-arid areas of the developing world.

Despite the absence of formal training in agricultural development in Australia, the reputation of Australian agriculturalists overseas is surprisingly strong, and we need to exploit those features of our cultural and educational system which enhance these

skills, and hopefully facilitate their transfer to more overseas agriculturalists.

**Australian Dryland Farming In North Africa and the Middle East (Lynne Chatterton, IFAD, FAO, Rome)**

The huge sum of money spent to improve sheep and cereal production in North Africa and the Middle East through the introduction of high cost European and American farming methods have largely failed. Dr Chatterton said yields of cereals in some countries have remained static for 50 years, at about 600 kg/ha while sheep production from pasture has fallen dramatically over the last twenty years and most sheep production relies on imported grain. Dr Chatterton pointed out that erosion of farmlands and steppe and rangelands has reached a critical state, and alarm at the resulting desertification is widespread. If Australia is to help farmers in North Africa and the Middle East, Dr Chatterton argued, then the Australian government and institutions need to lift their game in the provision of intelligent and useful aid.

The South Australian farming system is particularly suited to small resource-poor farmers because it is probably the cheapest wheat/sheep system in the world. Yet the returns in production and environmental benefit are very high. Australia is the only developed agricultural country with this ability and knowledge, yet it provides fewer resources for aid to this zone than any other resource rich nation. Providing an alternative to the plethora of information and resources that continue to support high cost and environmentally inappropriate European-style agriculture in North Africa and the Middle East is an exhausting business for individual Australians working in the region.

Dr Chatterton concluded by saying that Australians overseas see the possibilities of a 'good Australian image' and lucrative markets for Australian farm machinery and equipment foregone because of lack of official generosity and entrepreneurial intelligence, and a dominance of communication exchange by administrators and technicians lacking in sensitivity towards farming and its context.

**Tree Planting in the Seasonally Dry Tropics (Stephen Midgely, CSIRO Forestry Consultant)**

Mr Midgely pointed out that it is now generally recognized that the main cause of deforestation in the tropics is the poverty of the people who live in and around the forest and who must depend on it for their basic

needs of food, shelter, energy and income. The solution to the problem of tropical deforestation Mr Midgely suggested was not found in textbooks on tropical silviculture. It is a developmental issue and must be resolved by making the conservation and rational use of tropical forests more profitable and attractive to rural people than the liquidation and destruction of these resources.

Mr Midgely recommended that profound changes in present forestry policies be made, including changes in attitudes. Before forestry programmes can be introduced there must be an assessment of local perceptions of the problem of forestry, fuelwood and land use and knowledge of local land tenure and land use patterns. In addition a political will must exist and the right trees chosen. A sustainable system of trees and crops must be introduced. In conclusion Mr Midgely said that particular attention should be paid to good extension, an area often overlooked.

**The Timor Project (Ian Tuck, Managing Director, ACIL Ltd, Melbourne)**

Mr Tuck described an ADAB-funded project situated in West Timor - part of Timor Island just north of Australia, in the "Nusa Tenggara Timor" region of Southern Indonesia. The climate of West Timor resembles that of north Australia, he said, with a long dry season and periodic droughts. There is overpopulation in relation to the land resource, and physical deterioration of the land. Fundamentally, the difficulties lie in the cultivation of hillsides for the basic crop, maize, and their subsequent erosion caused by heavy rainfall. Overgrazing of Bali cattle is also a problem, Mr Tuck said. Swidden agriculture has meant burning and denudation and the use of wood for fences to protect crops. As wood is increasingly used people have to walk further to collect firewood. Water is also scarce. The chief aims of the project, which began as a small pilot effort but has been expanded, are to arrest deterioration of the physical resources and to improve the living standards of local people. This partly involves introducing better technology, but also means overcoming social and institutional problems.

A major technological thrust is improving water supply through establishing small dams, and after considerable trial (and error) this is now being achieved. People with a dam have the social benefit of adequate water, and if any water is available over and above human needs it is used to grow vegetables which were not cultivated before. Another technological thrust is to enhance the existing cultivation systems by establishing

strips of *Leucania* along the contours at time of cultivation. This helps to prevent erosion, adds nitrogen to the soil and can be cut for animal fodder. Although fertilizers and other purchased inputs are minimal, maize yields have improved as a result of this practice, and the system is being adopted by farmers outside the project.

In conclusion Mr Tuck explained that attempts are being made in the project to interact with, and build up, local communities, and that the role of Indonesian NGO's is seen as important.

#### Panel Discussions

The following main points were raised in the panel discussion by panelist Dr B Carrad, AIDAB; Dr E Craswell, ACIAR; Prof K Back, IDP; Dr B Shaw, NCDS; Ms Elizabeth Reid, ACIAR; Mr I Tuck, ACIL Ltd.

1. Geopolitical Emphasis. AIDAB had narrowed its focus to the Southeast Asian and Pacific area too rigidly, as Australia had a comparative advantage in providing aid outside this area, in particular to dryland agriculture regions.

2. Research. The recent tendency to undertake developing country agricultural research in a "farming systems" context was good in that it led to better local linkages and feedback, and could thus have more positive effects. However, research and recommendations were often implemented without adequate assessment and understanding of existing farming systems and their socio-economic base. The latter aspects should be given greater regard in North Africa and other dryland areas.

3. Training. Although IDP had been usefully involved in building higher level training institutions in Indonesia and Malaysia, Australia was seen to be lagging behind many other developed countries in providing middle-level training to those actively involved in dryland and other types of agricultural development.

Field level extension and training had been neglected in official Australian projects, and when NGO's had been asked to participate it had often been too late to make any effective contribution. The role of Australian NGO's working in conjunction with local NGO's should be emphasized more.

4. Official Aid. Most aid programs are not closely related to key development objectives and try to cover a multiplicity of goals. More focused programs are needed.

More emphasis should be given in official projects to the role of NGO's.

In directing aid to North Africa and other places outside its geopolitical area Australia should make use of multilateral agencies to which it contributes.

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#### East Africa-European NGO Food Aid Seminar

This report from Doug Porter.

The primary recommendation made at this three day seminar held at Mombasa, Kenya in September was that food aid should be given only in situations of unforeseen natural and/or man-made calamity, where rapid response is required for survival, and it should be given for a limited period of time. The seminar was attended by representatives of African NGOs, governments and food aid/development agency representatives from Europe, North America and Australia. The seminar was based around case studies of each major form of food aid - emergency, food for welfare or nutrition, and food for work. These were followed by presentations from African NGO representatives and EEC and Euronaid delegates. The seminar was sponsored by Euronaid, a consortium formed by large European NGOs to administer EEC food aid through NGO channels.

The seminar provided the first occasion for east African NGO field staff from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to meet and freely discuss their experience with food aid since the 1984 emergency. African participants insisted that the seminar 'pay particular attention to the developmental impact rather than emergency uses of food aid', and to the research, institutional capacity and policies necessary to respond innovatively to the long term needs of the region.

Remarks from papers given provide the focus of the seminar:

1. "Food aid is almost never the most effective way - in terms of costs or impact - to tackle the real problem. Hunger is a question of poverty and this is about the distribution of resources and the poor's ability to influence the political process."

2. "Food aid is servicing from above. Food security and development are about mobilizing from below - there is a basic contradiction between the two."

3. "In emergency situations our response unavoidably creates structures of organization and management. These are delivery organizations which are not necessarily suited to mobilizing for development. It is very difficult to dismantle or to turn around the institutions we have created. And we must therefore be wary of discussions which, when the

emergency is over, want to focus on making these structures more efficient - this may just entrench them and add to the problem we have of turning them around."

A major topic of discussion was how to assess the impact of food aid. One paper suggested the following criteria:

1. Does the use of food aid reflect a careful analysis of the critical points or bottlenecks constraining development among the target population?

2. Is the intervention responsive to local circumstances (environment, society and politics) and does it encourage people's active involvement at the earliest possible stages?

3. Does the use of food aid encourage and supplement the mobilization of local resources?

4. Does the intervention strengthen local people's capacity to appraise their situation and to devise and control strategies of change?

5. Beyond the intervention, are the resulting activities locally sustainable, from the organizational, political and environmental points of view?

The seminar gave considerable attention to the constraints on food security in the region. Efforts to improve food security through sustainable agricultural programmes are seriously hampered by unprecedented external debt, widespread and prolonged conflict affecting Uganda, Sudan, Eritrea, and the austerity measures imposed by international creditors. The papers noted how these problems interconnect and contribute to environmental degradation, escalating poverty and the diversion of resources away from long term development needs.

As follow-up to the seminar, workshops are being held in each of the participating countries and it is likely that a multi-year program of research, training and institution strengthening will eventuate in order to reassess the potential of food aid in emergency and developmental situations and develop new initiatives in food security policy and project assistance.

Copies of the Seminar Summary and Recommendations (37pp) are available from:

The Secretary  
Steering Group  
East African-European NGOs Food Aid Seminar  
PO Box 30762  
Nairobi, Kenya.

### Human Rights in the South Pacific: Directions for Australia's Foreign Policy

This two day conference organized by the H.V. Evatt Memorial Foundation and held in Sydney in November provided an opportunity to discuss human rights violations in the Pacific and Australia's human rights policy in relationship to its aid programme. Background papers on human rights issues in seven Pacific Island countries including Fiji, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Irian Jaya and Kiribati were presented and speakers included President Ieremia Tabai of Kiribati, Dr Tupeni Baba, Minister for Education in the deposed Government of Fiji, Russell Rollason, Executive Director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Stuart Harris, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Jaques Boengkih of New Caledonia. The conference opened with the presentation by Don Dunstan of the findings of the human rights delegation to Melanesia. The delegation visited Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands but were denied entry into New Caledonia and Fiji. Their findings are reported here in full.

1. There are severe human rights problems for ordinary people caught up in the government sponsored development programs in PNG and, to a lesser extent, in the Solomons and Vanuatu. These problems relate to individual rights to see documentation relating to their financial situation, intimidation by government employees, lack of consultation and arbitrary deprivation of property.

2. The situation for Irianese refugees in PNG, currently living in camps along the border is unsatisfactory.

3. Increasing violence in PNG is a matter of great concern. Rape and violence against women have reached unprecedented levels in the urban centres. Domestic violence is of particular concern in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu as traditional methods of protection are disappearing under the pressure of western ideas.

4. Foreign intervention and exploitation is increasing. Military involvement by France, visits by USA military forces and superpower rivalry, particularly involving nuclear arms are not welcomed by Melanesians but are often suffered in silence. Commercial and economic exploitation by Australian, Japanese, French, British and USA companies is increasing and depriving Melanesians of rights to their own resources. Timber, minerals and fish are being sold as concession rights to companies who provide very little return to local people and who use methods which are unacceptable in developed countries. People

at the village level suffer directly from these activities and land is being destroyed by thoughtless government policies and unscrupulous companies.

5. Women bear multiple burdens in Melanesian society - due to western development process, the damage to traditional values and the traditional place which women occupy in Melanesian cultures.

6. The right to self determination is denied to the Kanak people of New Caledonia. French policies discriminate against Kanaks in public life and in economic development. Kanak culture and language is discouraged. The legal system, epitomized by the recent acquittal of the Hienghene massacre case, provides no justice to indigenous people.

7. The situation for civil and political rights in Fiji is condemned in the strongest fashion. The illegal Rambuka regime has not only been responsible for the breakdown of the criminal justice system and instituted arbitrary arrest, restrictions on the movement of political opponents and censorship of the media, but has incited racial antagonism. Current proposals for a new constitution appear to discriminate against Fijians of Indian and Melanesian origin.

The Delegation views with concern the steadily worsening situation throughout Melanesia for social, economic and cultural rights. The potential for cynical power play by political leaders at the expense of human rights gives rise to enormous concern throughout Melanesia. Lack of understanding amongst Melanesians and Australians of these important issues gives cause for concern.

President Tabai speaking of the relationship between economic assistance and human rights stated that development was a right that had to be earned not received and that economic dependency, from his experience, neither assisted development nor improved human rights. Eight years after independence, he said, Kiribati is one of the poorest countries in the region, but economic dependency does not make for development. "Ultimately the problems of development are the total responsibility of our own people. Our success depends on the policies we pursue." President Tabai explained that it had been an early objective of the Kiribati government to meet its own needs and not beg for the running costs of the country. "But with no economic resources we lack leverage. As a very small nation with no clout we have very limited international rights. We do not get a fair deal and other countries, like the United States, do not like to respect our need. They like us to hang

onto their apron strings and not pursue our development goals. As a small nation we are expected to follow the dictates of the metropolitan countries but they forget that our development interests may not be the same as theirs. For example an important part of our development is supporting subsistence agriculture and fishing and in the absence of any better alternative we will continue. We want many small projects not big central projects. We want local communities to have a say. But donors don't like this."

President Tabai outlined the important influence that aid donors had over the effectiveness of Pacific Island development. In most Pacific Island countries, he said, the economies are near stagnation as world prices are down. Most Pacific Island leaders are aware that to improve the situation they must improve their trade relationships both with the metropolitan countries and between countries in the region. But this is difficult for small countries like Kiribati which have no products to export. As a result there is a widening economic gap between large and small countries. The SPARTECA trade agreement makes the situation worse rather than better. "We object strongly to this and we would like to demand an end to the agreement. We really must address this use of small island states. We need new approaches but they may not fit the rules of the aid game. Let me give you an example. Solar salt could be our major product, but we need a reliable market. We have wasted valuable years trying to establish this market to no avail. We produce only a tiny amount - not enough to threaten any large country. Why can't Australia or America offer to buy our salt? We need a more positive response to our own efforts to reduce dependency, because with dependency we lose the basic human right of determining our own development path and we lose our dignity. But this is not the way aid works. We have to fit in with the donor and in very small countries the donors have tremendous influence. We know there are no easy solutions, but we are totally committed to self reliance. I believe we can succeed."

Russell Rollason considering the linkages between human rights and development pointed out the importance of considering the environment within which human rights can or cannot be implemented. He raised the question "if the structure of society is such that development does not provide at least some benefits to most of the population should we continue to give aid?" On these types of issues, he said, Australian policy and practice is contradictory and confusing. It is not enough for the economy to do well while the people suffer. He queried the

sense, from a human rights perspective, of Australia cutting or reducing assistance to Fiji, Kampuchea and Vietnam as it was the people who suffered from these policies not the government. "In a situation where it was politically difficult for Australia to continue to provide bilateral aid we should provide assistance through the NGOs."

Mr Rollason recommended that AIDAB should include human rights strategies within the projects they provided to countries with poor human rights records.

In discussion, Australia's own human rights record was queried and it was pointed out that we can't attempt to improve human rights in the Pacific if we are unaware what Pacific Island people think about human rights within Australia.

Stuart Harris outlining the problems associated with incorporating human rights issues within Australia's aid policy, said that Australia's human rights policy was based on an international agreement - the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. This however is difficult to implement as there is no understanding of the minimum demands and these are both hard to define and get accepted within the international community. Human rights are often in conflict with other interests and it is easy for countries to use sovereignty as a shelter for human rights violation. While there have been improvements in the last 40 years there remain cultural, economic, civil and political constraints to increasing demands for human rights. While the promotion of economic rights should go hand in hand with social rights, the emphasis remains on economic rights.

Dr Harris stated that in the last year the Australian Government had made 240 representations to United Nations about human rights violations, including condemning the coup in Fiji and expressing disapproval about lack of Kanak rights. Dr Harris said that the NGOs could do a lot to help improve human rights as they are not constrained in the way governments are.

Pamela Thomas comparing the different development histories of Kiribati and its nearest neighbour, the Marshall Islands, made the point that high national levels of economic assistance and individual access to welfare programmes in the Marshall Islands had done little to improve the basic human rights of access to clean water, adequate housing or health care and had led to economic and psychological dependency on the United States. In addition, dependency in the Marshall Islands had not only reduced individual and national rights to sovereignty

but had weakened the opportunity for these rights to be attained in the future.

Jaques Beongkih pointed out that New Caledonia has a dual economy - a modern economy for the French community and a traditional subsistence system for the Kanaks. As a result the standard of living is high for the French and poor for the Kanaks. Although Kanaks were given French citizenship in 1950, this was with "special status". The French education system, he said, has not been adapted to New Caledonia and although 100 per cent of Kanaks had attended school none have any skills. Teachers are not properly trained, they have no knowledge of Kanak culture, and recently the director of teacher training was fired because he wanted to train Kanak teachers. Jaques stated that economic and social policies ensured economic dependency on France. New Caledonia receives twenty times the aid that Australia provides to PNG and France is determined to stay in the Pacific at any cost. Given the current situation, he said, there seemed little hope for improvements in basic human rights. Kanaks can be imprisoned without trial and the acquittal of gendarmes who shot dead four Kanaks at Hienghene showed that "Kanak have even less rights than dogs".

Proceedings of the conference are available from:

Gabrielle Vuletich  
H.V. Evatt Foundation  
Suite 1134  
121 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

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#### Workshop on Development Strategies for South Pacific Developing Countries, Auckland, August

This workshop, organised by the Asian Development Bank for its member countries was attended by ministers and senior bureaucrats from island countries and by observers from aid and international agencies in the region.

Five major meetings pertaining to aid policies, aid delivery and aid financing were held.

This report from Rodney Cole.

#### Absorptive Capacity

There was broad agreement that the level of financial support to island states in the South Pacific was adequate, but that there were other major constraints to accelerating growth and development such as inability to absorb funds because of poor

planning and implementation capacity. This situation was exacerbated by the bureaucratic requirements of donors which were understood, but difficult to accommodate, particularly in small countries where anything up to 20 aid agencies might be providing widely differing support.

### Aid Coordination

At the moment, there is a real gap in donor/recipient dialogue and recipient countries should take appropriate initiatives to bring donors together in order to achieve a higher level of coordination and efficiency. For example, Vanuatu paid tribute to the considerable support received following the recent hurricane as a result of a meeting of donor countries and agencies. However, after the meeting they were still left to cater to the bureaucratic processes of some 18 agencies, placing considerable strain on a planning and coordination office of only three people.

The proposal for a bank-led consultative group for the Pacific (based on the format of the traditional World Bank consultative group) was not pursued.

The meeting concluded that the initiative now rested with countries to invite donors to participate in individual country meetings at which the broad question of coordination would be discussed.

### Education

There was general consensus on the need to lift the level of education and training in most island states, particularly with a view to improving decision making and planning capabilities. It was recognised that high level training could, in some countries, facilitate out migration, but this was accepted as part of the cost of improving the level of skills in individual countries.

### Private Sector Development

It was agreed that the private sector had been neglected, partly as a result of the colonial heritage. Big government had led to an increasing dependence on foreign aid merely to survive, and this in turn had affected dynamism in the private sector. It was suggested that private sector growth could be actively encouraged by getting the pricing mechanism for island products and incentives correct and that there was no need for any major intervention by government. Regulatory systems should not be excessive and where governments felt there was a need to undertake traditional private sector activities, these should be independent and judged by commercial criteria. There was

a need to identify new initiatives in private sector development and to move away from more traditional dependence on agriculture. Some of the small scale industry activities, particularly in Tonga and Samoa, were cited as good examples of the manner in which employment was being created and foreign exchange earned.

### Agriculture

The view of some participants was that agriculture must remain for the foreseeable future the main area for growth in the island states, but that there were serious limitations to what was described as the 'coconut economy' being able to support expanding and more demanding populations. Frustrations with village life led to migration, first to urban centres and then abroad (particularly in the case of Polynesian countries) and it was therefore important that those countries enjoying remittances should channel these into agriculture and development rather than the more conspicuous evidence of successful migration, e.g. churches and large motor cars. It was argued that the benefits of processing primary produce were highly questionable, particularly in the coconut industry. There was recognition that marketing needed to be improved and a break from the traditional reliance on exports of tropical produce to Australia and New Zealand.

There was a plea for recognition of the Pacific as needing 'special treatment' because its problems differed from other island regions. This concept was dispelled by reference to the special market access afforded through SPARTECA and LOME; to the large aid flows; to the special treatment by Australia insofar as island students were concerned; and the ability of some countries (particularly Polynesia) to achieve substantial flows of funds through remittances. It was suggested that there was a need for the island states to get their own act together, particularly in communications and training and to make more positive decisions as to where their priorities lay, rather than placing the blame for internal inadequacies on developed countries of the region and elsewhere. It was generally agreed that the island states of the Pacific were well served through aid and market access.

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### Micronesia and Australian Foreign Policy, Canberra, November

This one day symposium was organised by the Network in response to growing Australian interest and requests from the

Department of Foreign Affairs for information on the Western Pacific.

For the last 40 years much of Micronesia has been part of the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (USTTPI) which comprised the Marshall Islands, Yap, Ponape, Truk, Palau and the Northern Marianas. While under American trusteeship, these states were not considered within Australia's sphere of influence and were accordingly given little official or unofficial recognition, although there was some knowledge of the impact of atomic testing in the northern Marshall Islands. As a result, very little is known either in Australia or the South Pacific about the development experience or the aspirations of these Micronesian states.

With the recent independence of both the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and the attempts of Palau to negotiate an acceptable compromise for independence with the US, there have been marked changes in Micronesian relationships with the rest of the Pacific and changes in Australia's relationships with the former USTTPI. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is now a full member of the South Pacific Forum and in July this year Australia entered diplomatic relations with both the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It was the first nation outside the United States to officially recognise the independent status of these states.

The symposium provided detailed information on Micronesian political, economic, social and strategic issues with particular reference to the role of economic assistance. It also discussed the ways in which these issues might relate to future Australian policy in the region.

The discussants were Dr. Bill Fisher, Department of Foreign Affairs and former Australian Consul-General responsible for Micronesia; Professor Fred Fisk, former director of the Development Studies Centre; Paul Greco of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement; Stephen Pollard, an economist working for the Government of Kiribati; and Anne Nakano-Jackson, a journalist and author on Micronesia.

Participants included representatives of government departments, non government organisations, aid deliverers, researchers, academics, and the media.

**The New Age Micronesia: Current Social and Economic Trends, John Connell**

Geographically, Dr. Connell said, the island states of Micronesia differ considerably, but all have limited economic resource bases. FSM is composed of a mixture of high islands and coral atolls, Palau is largely high islands while the Marshall Islands is composed entirely of very small, scattered coral atolls. All are prone to climatic hazards. Historically, these states had Spanish, German, Japanese and American administrations. Following World War II, they became US trust territories and have undergone a unique form of military colonisation, an unusually 'dependent' form of development and now have limited prospects of achieving any degree of real economic or political dependence. Dr. Connell stated that in less than a century, this enormous and strategically important region within the Pacific had gone from subsistence to subsidy. "In many respects the forty year period of US Administration was a period of benign neglect, though in the Marshall Islands, notably Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik, it was far from benign." Economic development was limited and in the outer islands the physical impact of colonialism was minimal. The American era was a period in which the subsistence economy was destroyed and aid-dependent welfare states emerged. The prospects for industrial development, Dr. Connell said, are almost non-existent because of the small size of the domestic economies, high wage levels, energy costs, the lack of resources and distance from markets.

The population of the Micronesian states was becoming rapidly urbanised with approximately 60 per cent of the population now living in town. The impact of military bases, urbanisation, widespread welfare and free American food aid has been dramatic, Dr. Connell said. Given the current situation, Dr. Connell concluded it was unlikely that any of the new island states could achieve significantly greater political, social or economic self reliance. The few available options are diminished by changes in aspirations that have resulted in changes in attitudes to traditional agriculture and loss of skills and knowledge that enable survival and success in environments often threatened by natural hazards. With the terms of the Compacts of Free Association with the US it seems likely that economic dependence will increase.

**Nuclear Issues and Australian Foreign Policy, Stewart Firth**

Dr. Firth outlined the US strategic interest in Micronesia and the importance of



these islands as a buffer zone between the US and the rest of the Pacific and Asia, and as a fallback position should the US lose bases in the Philippines. Important military communications bases were also established there. Dr. Firth pointed out that, unlike all other United Nations trust territories, the US was given permission to use the Micronesian Islands for military purposes, although the United Nations treaty clearly stated that the US was to foster social and economic development, to improve the health and education of the people and prepare them for eventual independence. During the 1950s the region was used for 66 atomic tests, for nuclear storage and dumping and more recently for missile testing and a variety of other military exercises. A large military base was established at Kwajalein atoll and is now used as a major communication base and for testing inter continental ballistic missiles. It is not surprising, Dr. Firth said, that when the Micronesian states wanted independence, there was some pressure exerted to ensure that the US retained strategic control of the region. The Compacts of Free Association signed with the FSM and the RMI both give evidence of this. Currently, the details of the Palau constitution and Compact of Free Association are still under negotiation, as the Palauans want a nuclear-free clause, which is unacceptable to the US.

#### **Strategic Interests and Palauan Democracy: John Anglim**

Considering US strategic interests and the economic dependency of the Micronesian states, Mr. Anglim explained that following United Nations criticism that the US had failed to honour its trusteeship obligations to promote economic and social development and progress towards self government of the Micronesian people, Kennedy appointed a commission to investigate the complaints, but also to recommend policies that would ensure that the people of Micronesia "freely chose" a US-determined future. The US built schools, hospitals and roads, but ensured Micronesia's economic dependence by encouraging American-style consumerism and by stimulating growth of the public sector and stagnation of the private sector. The report recommended a US-oriented school curriculum and US promotion of political development on the US model. In 1978 the Trust Territories were divided into four political units and encouraged to develop their own constitutions. Throughout Palau people held village meetings and after months of deliberations, a Constitution was adopted in 1979 and approved by 92 per cent of Palauans. The Constitution became a major obstacle to the US pursuit of strategic

interests in Palau, Mr. Anglim said, because it claimed a 200 mile maritime zone, but specifically in Article II, Section 3 stated that "any agreement which authorises use, testing storage or disposal of nuclear, toxic chemicals, gas or biological weapons intended for use in warfare shall require approval of not less than three-fourths of the votes cast in a national referendum."

The Constitution also made the provision that the power of government to take private property for public use shall not be used for the benefit of a foreign entity.

The Palauan people were aware, Mr. Anglim said, of the physical damage which had occurred in other parts of Micronesia by nuclear testing and of the forced relocation of people from some of the Marshall Islands. Considerable pressure was applied by the US to have these articles amended. A referendum was held, but a week before it the US position was made clear. If Palau was to reject the arrangements for storage, testing, use and disposal of nuclear material, economic pressure would be applied by the US and "we would have to sit down and see what we could work out that could accommodate the Constitution with-out modifying the Compact". As Stewart Firth commented "It is an odd kind of democracy which demands the correct vote". Five referenda were held and with pressure for Palauan acceptance of the nuclear provisions growing, the nuclear provisions were again refused by the Palauan people. In 1986 yet another Compact was drafted. Mr. Anglim said that it is claimed to incorporate a \$1 billion aid package and extended the powers conferred on the US, so that the US may operate nuclear capable and powered craft; Palau must deny entry to non US military forces, but accept any military forces invited by the US; Palau must at 60 days notice make available to the US any land the US chooses and Palau must compensate the owners; the US military may be exempt from any environmental standards; further, Palau relinquishes sovereignty over the 200 mile maritime zone.

This Compact, put to the vote in February 1986, was ruled invalid, nonetheless, it was put unchanged to another referendum in December and declared lost.

Mr. Anglim concluded by saying that Palauan democracy is under siege. The US has time on its side because only the US can terminate the Trusteeship agreement. "The people have been offered only two choices: to remain a trusteeship, without even the appearance of independence; or to accept Free Association, a status which, despite appearances, denies independence and democracy."

## Aid Policy and Social Issues in the Marshall Islands, Pamela Thomas.

Dr. Thomas said that although it was widely accepted that economic growth is associated with improvements in educational standards and overall health status, there is increasing evidence that the linkages between social and economic development need closer investigation. It was also clear, she said, that high levels of welfare funding do not always produce expected results and that this had important implications for aid delivery. There was ample evidence of this in Micronesia where over the last 20 years the per capita spending on health, education and social welfare programmes has been almost double that of any other Pacific island society. While diseconomies of scale and the scattered nature of the states reduced the effectiveness of such programmes, results have not been commensurate with outlay, she said. In the 1960s, 166 different, uncoordinated welfare programmes were introduced. They included feeding programmes, programmes for the aging, housing programmes, youth and sports programmes, all designed for disadvantaged urban Americans and transferred without adaptation to the small island conditions of the Pacific. In addition, the USTTPI expenditure on capital improvement programmes (CIP) jumped from nil in 1968 to \$US 20 million in 1970 and over the next 10 years a total of \$US250 million was allocated as CIP funds. Most was spent on developing infrastructure, including docks, airports, roads and school cafeteria. While these projects increased employment, Dr. Thomas said, they did little to increase economic productivity or Micronesian skills. Almost none of the very considerable US economic assistance was channelled into local investment or into improving local agriculture, administrative or technical skills. At independence the Micronesian states had top heavy bureaucracies, almost no primary production, populations with health and social problems, and inadequate skills to plan or implement government's development policies.

Dr. Thomas gave health as an example of inappropriate development expenditure. The recurrent and development budgets for health are generous at approximately \$US105 annually per capita. However, in comparison to other Pacific island states with health budgets of less than one quarter those of the Micronesian states, health is relatively poor. This, in part, is due to the problems of rapid urbanisation and almost total reliance on imported food. Currently, 92 per cent of all food consumed is imported. However, health spending has been geographically and socially in-equitable and almost no effort has been put into training Micronesians in

medical skills. In the Marshall Islands, until the beginning of 1986, two-thirds of the recurrent health budget was spent on surgical referrals to Hawaii or paying short-term expatriate health professionals, rather than providing training for Marshallese or establishing effective primary health care. As a result, only 27 per cent of children are immunised, nutrition problems are growing rapidly and over one third of the adult population suffers from diabetes. Women in particular, she said, suffer from lack of access to health care and as a result, their reproductive health is poor and the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases is increasing rapidly. The Micronesian states have a serious lack of people with agricultural, health, administrative, planning or technical skills. This is an area where Australia may be able to provide appropriate assistance.

The papers from this symposium, together with a report of the discussion and recommendation to government are available \$10 from:

The Australian Development Studies Network, Australian National University, Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*Background information in this issue of the Newsletter focuses on Africa: on the problems of drought and famine in the African sahel and upon drought, destabilisation, guerilla warfare and famine in the Southern African front line states.*

### The African Front Line States

In the last budget, the Australian Government increased its economic assistance to the front line states of Southern Africa to \$55 million over the next five years. For the last ten years, these states have suffered from the impact of guerilla warfare reportedly supported by South Africa in its attempts to destabilise the area, hinder development and create greater dependency on South Africa. Over the last five years, some of these states have also suffered from drought of increasing severity. Those not forced from the land by terrorism are being forced off it by drought and the movement of refugees into the towns and across the border into the countries to the north has intensified in the last 12 months. Food deficits, inadequate water, lack of housing or health facilities face both the front line states and their neighbours who are themselves affected by drought. The future of these states is in doubt and any form of

rehabilitation will obviously require massive, continued assistance.

The Australian aid contribution to the front line states will largely be channelled through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), whose member states are Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania, Angola, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Australia's aid package will include assistance towards road and rail links between the states, in particular maintaining the security of the rail links between the landlocked states and Mozambique, food aid, agricultural rehabilitation and educational scholarships.

The following country statistics provide basic background information on the SADCC states. They are compiled from the background papers for the symposium on the front line states "The Politics of Survival and Development" organised by the Centre for Development Studies at Flinders University earlier this year.

#### Angola

GDP per capita 1984	: US\$456
GDP real growth	: N.A.
Balance of trade	: US\$1,255m
Av. life expectancy	: 41 years
Infant mortality	: 200 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1984)	: 28%
Population (1986)	: 8.7 million

Angola comprises 1,246,700 sq. km, with a flat, unproductive and unhealthy coastal area, and behind the mountainous edge a vast, fertile plateau. It borders Namibia to the south, Zaire, Zambia and Congo to the north and east. It is situated both in central and southern Africa and has a combination of arid and mediterranean climate.

#### Botswana

GDP per capita	: US\$589
GDP real growth	: 4.1%
Balance of trade	: US\$129m
Av. life expectancy	: 55 years
Infant mortality	: 75 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1982)	: 61%
Population (1984)	: 1.1 million

Botswana, covering 557,600 sq. km, lies in the centre of the Southern African Plateau, with a mean altitude of 1,000 metres above sea level. It borders South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The central and southern areas are dominated by the Kalahari Desert. The north-west features

an extensive delta and flood plains from the Okavango River, Angola. 80% of the population live in the eastern margin with good soils and sufficient rainfall in most years for pasture and cultivation. It is a semi-arid-continental climate with mostly erratic, uneven rainfall.

#### Lesotho

GDP per capita	: US\$270
GDP real growth	: -3.8%
Bal. of trade 1984	: US\$-476m
Av. life expectancy	: 50 years
Infant mortality	: 94 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1982)	: 70%
Population	: 1.5 million

Lesotho lies deep in the South African interior. Its 30,350 sq. km are hilly and mountainous. It is divided into four ecological zones: 1) the lowlands; 2) the foothills; 3) the mountain zone in the Drakensberg Range; and 4) the Orange River Valley.

#### Malawi

GDP per capita	: US\$151
GDP real growth	: 1.8%
Balance of trade	: US\$72m
Av. life expectancy	: 46 years
Infant mortality	: 160 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1980)	: 36%
Population (1986)	: 7,290,000

Landlocked Malawi is located in South-Eastern Africa. It is bordered to the north by Tanzania, on the east, south and south-west by Mozambique, and on the west by Zambia. Its total area is 118,484 sq. km, of which 24,208 sq. km are water. Most of Lake Malawi (third largest lake in Africa) is within Malawi's borders. Plateaus constitute about 3/4 of the country. The wet season lasts from November to April and a dry one for the rest of the year. Rainfall and temperature vary considerably from one region to another.

#### Mozambique

GDP per capita	: US\$152
GDP real growth	: N.A.
Bal. of trade 1986	: \$-575m
Av. life expectancy	: 51 years
Infant mortality	: 105 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1984)	: 27%
Population (1983)	: 13.8 million

Mozambique stretches along the eastern coast of Southern Africa and has an area of

783.3 sq. km. The country borders Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa. It comprises a broad coastal plain rising to central uplands, and then a high plateau zone with ranges from 540 to 900 metres. The western margin has a mountainous area. The Zambezi and the Limpopo are the largest of many rivers. Climate varies from tropical to sub-tropical.

#### Namibia

GDP per capita 1986	: US\$1,162
GDP real growth 1984	: -3.6%
Bal. of trade 1984	: US\$-8m
Av. life expectancy	: 41 (Ovambos) 65 (whites)
Infant mortality	: 163 per 1,000 for blacks : 21 per 1,000 for whites
Literacy	: 35%
Population	: 1.2 million

Namibia lies on the south-west coast of Southern Africa, taking up 824,000 sq. km. 50% of the land is desert and only 2% is suitable for crops. Namibia borders South Africa (the Orange River), Botswana and the Kalahari Desert to the east, and Angola to the north. Huge pastoral holdings (an area equivalent to East and West Germany combined), are owned by Europeans in the South. Black Namibians are crowded into the Ovamboland Plain in the north, watered only by annual floods from Angola.

#### Swaziland

GDP per capita 1984	: US\$787
GDP real growth 1983	: -1.8%
Bal. of trade 1984	: US\$-79m
Av. life expectancy	: 54 years
Infant mortality	: 125 per 1,000 live births
Literacy (1976)	: 55%
Population (1986)	: 650,000

Swaziland is one of Africa's smallest countries. 17,364 sq. km., the country is entirely landlocked, sharing its international boundary with South Africa and Mozambique. It is a country of great geographical contrasts and is divided into four well defined regions. The high veld to the west is rugged and has a temperate and humid climate. The middle veld is subtropical and essentially grassland. The low veld is tropical and semi-arid. The Lubambo Range separates Swaziland from Mozambique's coastal plains.

#### Tanzania

GDP per capita	: US\$219
GDP real growth	: 2.1 %
Balance of trade	: US\$665m
Av. life expectancy	: 52 years
Infant mortality	: 110 per 1,000 0-1 years live births
Literacy (1983)	: 85%
Population (1984)	: 21.1 million

Tanzania has an area of 945, 087 sq. km. One of the major land characteristics is a vast inland plateau which is broken by several major rivers. This plateau is terminated to the north and south by highlands which are more fertile and better watered than much of the plateau. Most of the country receives its rainfall in one rainy season from December-May; however, evaporation exceeds rainfall for 9 months of the year. The major seaports of Tanzania are Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara.

#### Zambia

GDP per capita 1986	: US\$269
GDP real growth	: 3.4%
Bal. of trade 1984	: US\$302m
Av. life expectancy	: 51 years
Infant mortality	: 105 per 1,000 live births
Literacy	: 47%
Population (1984)	: 6.4 million

Zambia has an area of 752, 620 sq. km, with a large high plateau area of between 1,000-1,300m above sea level. The high altitude moderates the tropical climate. May-August are the cool, dry months; September-November are the hot, dry months. The wet season extends from December to April. There are several deeply entrenched river valleys, the most important being the Zambezi. Although there are extensive areas of lakes and swamps, southern Zambia has suffered severe drought in recent years.

#### Zimbabwe

GDP per capita 1984	: US\$595
GDP real growth 1986	: 6.0%
Bal. of trade 1984	: US\$184m
Av. life expectancy	: 56 years
Infant mortality	: 120 per 1,000 0-1 years for blacks : 17 per 1,000 for whites
Literacy (1982)	: 69%
Population (1986)	: 8.3 million

Zimbabwe is landlocked, sharing borders with Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and

South Africa. Its total land area of 391,100 sq. km can be divided into four main regions: 1) the high plateau, 25% of land area and 1,200 to 1,500 metres above sea level, lies to the south-west and north-west; 2) the middle veld, 40% of land area is 600 to 1,200 metres above sea level; 3) the low veld, below 600 metres, comprises the narrow basin of the Zambezi River in the north and the Limpopo and Saba River valleys in the south; and 4) the Eastern Highlands, very mountainous rising to 2,594 metres.

Although Zimbabwe lies in the tropics, the high elevation of much of the country means that the climate is generally not tropical. Warmest months are October and November. Seasonal rain falls mainly in the summer months. Only one third of the country has an annual average rainfall of more than the 700mm considered necessary for semi-intensive farming.

For further information or the full proceedings from this symposium, together with country profiles and teaching notes (\$7.50), contact:

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Centre of Development Studies,  
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Bedford Park, SA 5042.

#### The Drought in Africa: Appropriate Responses

*This report is condensed from the ODI Briefing Paper "Coping with African Drought", July, 1987. The full report is available on request from the Network.*

#### Has Africa's Climate Changed?

The extended 'Sahel Drought' of the early 1970s was widely seen as a single, unusual event. Recent longitudinal analyses of rainfall data show instead that the 16 year downward trend in mean annual rainfall which commenced over the Sahel in the mid-1960s was unprecedented in this century. This opens up the possibility that Africa is experiencing a shift towards a more extreme climate.

Historical and paleoecological evidence indicate that Africa has experienced more extreme droughts in the distant past. The drying up of Lake Chad in its interior basin, past failures of the Nile's flood and the presence of 'fossil' sand dunes within currently vegetated areas all suggest a shift towards a more arid climate is a definite possibility.

The location of Africa's recent droughts - the Sahel, Sudan, northern Ethiopia, Somalia, Botswana and parts of Zimbabwe and Mozambique - lie on either side of the

equator along the northern and southern margins of Africa's better watered lands. This is precisely where such deficits would be anticipated under a shift towards increased continental aridity.

Most climatologists see temperature differentials between the tropics and the earth's colder areas as the engine which ultimately causes moisture to circulate through the atmosphere. If increased carbon dioxide accumulation (or any other influence) should lead to a predicted worldwide 'hothouse' effect, temperature differentials would diminish and African countries would experience dramatic changes in the continental distribution of rainfall. While some areas nearer the equator may receive more rain, moist air does not travel far north. This leaves the Sahel and the Sahelian-Sudanic zones with insufficient rainfall for farmers' crops and animals.

#### Politics and Drought

Political decisions have greatly increased the severity of drought impacts in Africa. One difficulty has been the unwillingness of national leaders to admit they can no longer keep citizens fed. In Ethiopia, officials in early and mid 1984 were preoccupied in organising the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of their revolution, making it doubly difficult to admit a crisis had developed. Since inter-governmental transfers of food aid depend on a formal request for assistance, failure to admit a crisis can greatly delay the organisation of effective response. In the Ethiopian case, there was the added political complication that western donors objected to Ethiopia spending hard currency to support military operations in the very areas (Eritrea and Tigray) where the drought was most severe. Potential donors may suspect a country has sufficient food in reserve or that aid would be diverted. This may explain the slow USAID response to Somalia's claim in May of 1987 that 12 of its 18 regions were experiencing severe drought affecting five million people.

Another difficulty for landlocked countries arises if their neighbours close their borders (as Nigeria did during the last drought) or if they forbid export of cereal grains (as Niger did to drought afflicted northeast Mali).

Probably the most severe impact of a drought occurs when it coincides with military conflict within the countryside. Both the national regime and local insurgents have an incentive to channel food to their own forces while denying it to communities they suspect of supporting the other side. Peasants may lose their animals and

foodstocks to guerilla forces, while the unsettled military situation makes it impossible to bring in relief food.

An example is provided by Mozambique, where the economy has experienced five years of severe decline in earnings brought about by the South African backed MNR insurgency. These actions have coincided with a failure of the rains over southern Mozambique, leading to a national food deficit of at least 465,000 tons of cereals at a time when some 1.5 million people are hungry and there are hundreds of thousands of refugees arriving out of the bush to take up residence in the more secure areas.

#### Solutions that didn't work

After the 1983-85 drought, external donors had the disturbing realisation that the array of expensive technical interventions adopted after 1975 had made little positive difference. The six most drought affected Sahelian nations (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) banded together in 1973 to form an intergovernmental committee to combat drought, known officially by its French acronym, CILSS. The western donors responded in 1975 by establishing their own parallel grouping, the Club du Sahel linked to the OECD in Paris. In combination, the CILSS/Club du Sahel identified some 714 projects in ten sectors, which constituted their first generation programme for combating drought (1977-82). Of the \$3.3 billion so targeted, the largest single amount (nearly one third) was reserved for irrigation development. Other types of projects included ranching, afforestation and land rehabilitation. The results were meagre and provide clear lessons for the future. First, many countries are still only *poorly prepared to cope* with a sequence of bad years. To counteract its single season 1984 drought, the Kenyan Government imported 1.5m tonnes of grain. For poorer countries like Mozambique or Somalia with neither Kenya's productive agriculture nor its infrastructure, the current drought is having devastating local impacts.

Second, drought *cannot be fought only within the driest zone*. The trees being cut supply the energy needs of distant urban centres. The disappearance of cereals from remote markets occurs because those in the densely settled Sudanic zone are also short of food. Any effective approach to alleviate the impacts of drought must look at population pressure and food availability within all zones.

Third, in the absence of governmental interventions people may be forced to

*destroy their own productive resources while attempting to survive*. It is the rapid loss of their trees and herds which renders people so vulnerable and their eventual recovery so slow.

Fourth, *political factors*, have compounded the sufferings of those experiencing drought, because governments have been unwilling to act soon enough, have closed their borders, or because military conflicts have destroyed the capacity for community action.

Fifth, most of the remedies implemented after the Sahelian droughts of the early 1970s *failed to protect people* once severe drought returned. Governments soon forgot the lessons of the recent past, and failed to see that drought relief measures were effectively implemented and maintained. In 1983-85, it was again the international political economy of famine relief drawing on food reserves in Europe and America which bridged local food deficits to keep Africa's poor people alive.

#### Policy Options for the Future

Promising interventions for ameliorating drought are getting people back to the land; restocking ex-pastoralists; establishing cereal reserves; improvements in marketing structures; community managed irrigation; social forestry; early warning systems; and resettlement of populations outside the most drought affected zones.

The measures for ameliorating drought impacts have several features in common. They are mainly low-cost innovations employing relatively simple technologies that usually do not depend upon imported inputs. They appeal to farmers because they address real problems within the production system. They can be promoted in the community, and do not require a large administrative superstructure. Many observers agree that the necessary innovations can be promoted most effectively by changing the pay-off matrix: making it profitable for farmers to farm in a way that is in their own long term interest. There are technologies at hand which meet this objective.

This optimistic observation echoes the arguments put forward in Harrison's *The Greening of Africa*. A shift in emphasis away from bureaucratically initiated and controlled large projects should be welcomed. Even so, the underlying message of this review has been that there is very little room for manoeuvre. The direct transfer of foreign technologies into African practice has not yielded happy results, while the institutional system is still strongly biased towards operating through bureaucratically imple-

mented projects. Many African leaders (and external donors) retain a preference for the very modes of operation which have so often failed in the past. Governments have not learned how to go about promoting small-scale irrigation, livestock development and social forestry. They are also unlikely to maintain the necessary innovations during the years between recurrent drought crises. It will take a great deal of further experimentation working with farmers and concerned scientists to find effective and lasting remedies for the 'normal' droughts African peasants may increasingly encounter.

## CURRENT ISSUES

### AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAMME 1987/1988

In the 1987/8 budget, the Australian Government allocated \$1,007 million for overseas development assistance (ODA). Although in nominal terms aid increased by \$30 million since the last fiscal year, in real terms it declined by 3.3 per cent. At 0.36 per cent of GNP it is the lowest allocation for 25 years and puts Australia below the ODA average for other western nations. In 1967/8 ODA reached 0.59 per cent of GNP, but over the last twenty years has fallen steadily with a marked decline in the last two years (Table 1).

Table 1: Official Development Assistance 1968-1988<sup>1</sup>

	Current Prices (%)	Constant (1983-84) Prices (%)	Real Change over Previous Year (%)	ODA/GNP Ratio (%)
1967-68	141.3	598.8	8.6	0.59
1968-69	148.0	608.9	1.7	0.55
1969-70	171.5	675.3	10.9	0.58
1970-71	180.6	678.9	0.5	0.56
1971-72	200.5	708.5	4.4	0.55
1972-73	219.2	707.2	- 0.2	0.53
1973-74	264.9	746.2	5.5	0.53
1974-75	334.6	796.7	6.8	0.57
1975-76	356.0	735.5	- 7.7	0.51
1976-77	386.2	719.2	- 2.2	0.47
1977-78	426.1	736.0	2.3	0.48
1978-79	468.4	750.6	2.0	0.45
1979-80	508.7	734.0	- 2.2	0.44
1980-81	568.0	744.4	1.4	0.44
1981-82	658.0	782.2	5.0	0.45
1982-83	744.6	798.1	2.0	0.47
1983-84 <sup>2</sup>	931.8	931.8		0.51
1984-85	1011.4	953.3	2.3	0.50
1985-86	1031.0	907.5	- 4.8	0.46
1986-87	975.6	795.1	-12.4	0.38
1987-88 (est.)	1007.6	760.5	- 3.4	0.36

<sup>1</sup> Encashment method of calculation. See Appendix A.

<sup>2</sup> The Australian Government's contribution towards the education of students from developing countries within Australia was included as ODA for the first time in 1983-84. See Appendix B.

The major objective of Australian ODA is stated to be the promotion of economic and social development in developing countries, most particularly in our neighbourhood. However, Government recognises that Australia's political and economic interests must be considered and that a balance between humanitarian concerns and Australia's interests must be maintained. The emphasis on self-interest is particularly apparent in the allocations outlined in the current budget where greater attention than in the past is paid to providing opportunities for the Australian private sector to both manage aid programmes and to provide Australian goods and services. As in the past, the aid programme is divided into three major sectors - country programmes, global programmes and corporate services (Table 2).

Table 2: Australian Official Development Assistance (\$m)

Program Element	Expenditure				Estimates 1987-88
	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	
Papua New Guinea	302.1	314.1	319.3	325.3	300.9
South Pacific	44.5	47.8	51.5	69.7	68.2
Southeast Asia	109.6	119.0	108.7	103.2	118.0
Other Regions	106.4	110.3	82.2	73.9	85.1
Programs Coordination and Support	106.8	109.2	112.5	98.5	97.2
Total Country Programs	669.4	700.4	674.2	670.6	669.4
Emergencies and Refugees <sup>1</sup>	43.4	46.6	47.1	36.1	40.4
International Organisations	155.5	173.0	190.7	154.7	166.0
Community and Commercial <sup>2</sup>	20.0	39.4	46.3	43.7	64.9
Total Global Programs	218.9	259.0	284.1	234.5	271.3
Total Corporate Services	11.3	13.0	16.6	19.5	22.4
Expenditure by other Government Bodies, Miscellaneous Items, Revenue and ODA adjustments	32.2	39.0	56.1	51.0	44.5
Total Net ODA	931.8	1011.4	1031.0	975.6	1007.6

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure figures include funds appropriated during the financial year to meet unforeseen emergency needs.

**Country programmes:** Nearly two thirds of Australia's ODA is allocated to country programmes which are aimed at assisting governments of individual countries as well as regional organisations in planning and implementing development programmes. Under this programme, Australia provides direct assistance to ninety countries, but gives special recognition to the Pacific region. Papua New Guinea receives 45 per cent (\$300.9m) of the country programme allocation. Southeast Asia 17.6 per cent, the South Pacific 10.2 per cent and other regions 12 per cent. Student subsidies of 12 per cent are also included in this sector. Over the last three years there has been a marked increase in assistance to China (\$17m), but a reduction of almost 50 per cent in aid to South Asia.

In the last three years small allocations have been initiated for both women in development activities, and for development education. Both areas would appear to need

greater funding. The women in development fund is allocated \$600,000.

Table 3: Assistance to International Organisations (\$m)

Program Element	Expenditure				Estimate 1987-88
	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	
Emergency Aid	1.5	4.0	4.5	2.8	7.4
Relief and Refugees					
UNHCR	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.0	4.7
UNRWA	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.2	1.2
Relief Food Aid	20.2	16.5	24.9	21.1	17.5
Other	16.4	20.6	11.7	7.9	9.6
International Financial Institutions					
ADF	12.8	18.6	25.0	21.6	11.7
IDA	70.1	60.0	62.5	65.6	70.4
IFAD	2.1	2.5	2.8	1.7	2.5
United Nations					
WFP	32.8	53.4	61.5	33.6	41.5
UNDP	16.0	16.0	16.0	14.0	15.0
UNICEF	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.5	3.1
UNFPA	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.6
UN Women's Funds	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.3
Other UN	1.0	1.4	1.8	0.6	1.3
Commonwealth	8.4	8.5	9.0	7.8	10.3
International Agricultural Programs	6.0	6.6	7.5	4.7	5.5
International Health Programs	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.4
Other	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>198.9</b>	<b>219.6</b>	<b>237.8</b>	<b>190.8</b>	<b>206.4</b>

Table 4: Community and Commercial Programs (\$m)

Program Element	Expenditure				Estimate 1987-88
	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	
Voluntary Agencies	6.5	7.3	9.3	7.3	10.6
Development Education/ Public Information	-	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
DIFF	0.9	12.5	16.4	15.6	30.0
ACIAR	7.0	11.0	11.7	12.9	14.8
IDP	5.3	7.2	7.2	6.2	7.1
Academic Research/ Seminar Support	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>64.9</b>

Global Programmes are those which support international organisations. Of the \$271 million allocated to multilateral aid, 31 per cent (largely in the form of food aid) goes to the International Emergency Food Reserve; 30 per cent to major international agencies (Table 3); 15 per cent to emergency services and refugees; 13 per cent to community services (non government organisations and Australian Volunteers Abroad); and 11 per cent to commercial programmes like the Development Import Finance Facility (DIFF), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the International Development Programme of Australian Universities and Colleges (IDP) (Table 4). It is anticipated that funding for DIFF will increase to \$100 million in the next five years.

Corporate Services funding is that used to administer the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau's programme. At \$22.4 million, it represents 2.2 per cent of the total aid budget.

Further information on the aid budget is provided in Australian Government's Budget Related Paper No. 4, entitled *Australia's Overseas Aid Programme, 1987-88*, which is available from the Development Education and Public Information Section, AIDAB, Box 887, Canberra, ACT 2601.

The Network will publish, in February, a Briefing Paper on DIFF and a seminar paper outlining possible new aid targets for Australia.

## THE DEBT CRISIS AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT

### New Publications

An important focus of development research in the last five years has been the cause and impact of the international debt crisis and, in developing countries, research into the impact of structural readjustment policies which were initiated to improve their economic performance. The crisis has exposed the unsustainability of the economic development models adopted by international development and financial institutions and recent research has shown that adjustment policies implemented by the IMF and World Bank have paid little attention to their social impact on the bulk of Third World populations. It is the poor countries who have borne the brunt of the international debt crisis and the very poor in these countries who suffer most from economic adjustment.

It is forty years since John Maynard Keynes recognised that the risks of international financial disorder, particularly within the newly independent Third World countries, needed to be minimised and proposed the establishment of an International Clearing Union which would provide the structure through which money earned by exporting nations could be lent to importers. In effect, it would provide a clearing house using trade surpluses to finance trade deficits. By charging interest on both borrowing by deficit countries and on the credit accounts of the surplus countries, the cost of adjustments to trade imbalances would be shared equally between rich and poor countries. This would have



prevented the current situation in the international financial system where all the costs of adjustment to trade imbalances have to be met by the deficit countries. "The severe austerity of the debtor countries contrasts starkly with the feeble adjustments of surplus countries such as Japan and Germany." (*Life After Debt*, AFCOA, 1987). The International Clearing Union was not adopted.

Issues of the debt crisis and structural adjustment have been dealt with comprehensively in four December, 1987 publications:

*Adjustment with a Human Face*, Oxford University Press, Oxford;

*The State of the World's Children*, UNICEF, New York;

*Life After Debt: Australia and the Global Debt Crisis*, Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Canberra; and

*Debt Adjustment and the Needs of the Poor*, the Final Statement of the United Nations/Non Government Organisations Workshop, NGLS, Geneva.

These publications outline different perspectives of the debt crisis, but all criticise the IMF and World Bank adjustment policies. The IMF and World Bank are now net recipients of funds from development countries, and in many cases over 50 per cent of developing countries' entire budgets are spent on debt repayment, leaving little for social and economic development. Perhaps the greatest criticism is that the IMF and World Bank policies are concerned with getting the balance of payments right at the expense of human capital.

Currently developing countries have sharply reduced export earnings, high interest rates, stagnating aid flows and external debts of over \$US1,000 billion, a situation which affects the world economy. They are paying more than \$US100 billion a year in debt servicing, of which 50 per cent is interest. Financial resources, rather than flowing from the first world to the third, are doing the reverse. In 1986 \$US27 billion, \$14 billion in aid and \$13 billion in loans, flowed from the first to third world countries, while \$54 billion in interest and debt repayment flowed in the opposite direction. A high proportion of this debt was contracted in the 1970s when transnational banks found outlets in developing countries for surplus funds. It is claimed that the banks were often imprudent in their lending policies and large portions of loans were spent on unproductive infrastructure, industrial projects and armaments. There is also evidence that transnational corporations

bribed political leaders to accept loans for large capital works programmes.

The impact of growing debt is increased infant mortality; decreased access to food; growing malnutrition; increased ill-health and the reappearance of diseases thought to be conquered; increased landlessness and unemployment; drastic cuts in real wages; rising prices of goods consumed by the poor; the collapse of education, health and other social services. At the same time international aid flows, including Australia's contribution to developing countries, have declined. The four publications outline innovative and practical ways in which the negative impact of the debt crisis on Third World countries can be minimised and a more equitable distribution of resources implemented.

*Life After Debt* provides a comprehensive background to the debt crisis and its impact, not only on developing countries, but on Australia. It includes three detailed case studies, from the Philippines, Indonesia and Zambia, which illustrate how the debt crisis arose, the impact of adjustment policies and the national and international impact of debt. The book also provides innovative policy directions for ways in which the Australian public and the Australian Government could help alleviate, not only Third World debt problems, but their own. At \$5.95, this book is extremely good value. It is available from ACFOA, Box 1562, Canberra, ACT 2601.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

*Philippines Under Aquino*, Peter Krinks (ed) published by the Australian Development Studies Network. This publication provides detailed background information on the social, political, economic and military factors which underlie the Aquino administration and influence the actions of the major political figures and the rural and urban poor.

The book was developed from a symposium organised by the Development Studies Colloquium, Sydney and the Network. 140pp \$A12.00 plus \$2.30 postage.

Available from Bibliotech, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601 or the Network

*Human Resource Development In the Pacific*, David Throsby (ed), published by the National Centre for Development Studies. This publication emphasises current and future policy directions in health, nutrition, formal and non, formal education and women's participation in labour markets. It gives particular

attention to the role of aid in improving human resource development.

230 pp \$A20.00 plus \$2.30 postage.

Available from Bibliotech, GPO Box 4 Canberra ACT 2601

*New Caledonia or Kanaky? The Political History of a French Colony*, John Connell. This is the first book in English to give a detailed account of the historic sources of conflict in New Caledonia and to describe the recent struggle for Kanak independence and its wider significance for the South Pacific region and for other overseas French territories. This account traces the continuity of political disputes from early mission rivalries through two bloody insurrections in Melanesian defiance of the settler colony, to the rise of radicalism in the 1970s.

462 pp \$25.00 plus \$2.30 postage

Available from Bibliotech, GPO 4, Canberra ACT 2601

*Disarming Poverty, Disarmament for Development in AsiaPacific*, published by ACFOA, Canberra 76pp \$5.00

Available from ACFOA, Box 1562, Canberra ACT 2601

*Nuclear Playground in the Pacific*, Stewart Firth, 230 pp, published by Allen and Unwin, \$A13.95

Available from all University Book Stores in Australia.

*Accelerating Food Production in Sub-Saharan Africa*, John Mellow et al (eds), published by John Hopkins, 448 pp, \$US33.56

Available from The John Hopkins University Press, 701 West 40th Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21211

*Readings in Australian Geography, Proceedings of the 21st Institute of Australian Geographers Conference*, Arthur Conacher (ed), 500 pp, \$A20.00

Available from the Institute of Australian Geographers, Department of Geography, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, WA

*The United Nations Development Programme in Papua New Guinea, Pacific Aid Research Project Report No. 2. 1987*, New Zealand Coalition for Trade & Development \$NZ17.60

Available from New Zealand Coalition for Trade & Development, PO Box 11345, Wellington, NZ

*Japan's Aid Program*, Alan Rix, International Development Issues Monograph No. 1.

Available from AIDAB, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT 2601

*Australia's Relations with the South Pacific*, the AIDAB Submission to the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and

Defence, March 1987, International Development Issues Monograph No. 2.

Available from AIDAB, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT 2601

*Life After Debt*, published by ACFOA, Canberra, 109 pp, \$5.90.

Available from ACFOA, GPO Box 1562, Canberra ACT 2601

*World Recession And the Food Crisis In Africa*, Peter Lawrence (ed), 1986, 314 pp, \$25.00.

*The Ethiopian Famine*, Kurt Jansson, Michael Harris & Angela Penrose, published by Zed Books, 1987, 196 pp, \$25.95.

*Our Common Future*, World Commission on Environment and Development, published by Oxford University Press, 1987, 393 pp \$34.00.

*Food 2000 - Global Policies for Sustainable Agriculture*, World Commission on Environment and Development, published by Zed Books, 1987, 131 pp \$14.95.

*Energy 2000 - A Global Strategy for Sustainable Development*, World Commission on Environment and Development, published by Zed Books, 1987, 76 pp, \$14.95.

*World Military and Social Expenditure 1986*, Ruth Leger Sivard, published by World Priorities, 1987, 52 pp, \$14.50.

*Does Aid Work?* Robert Casson and Associates, published by Oxford University Press, 1987, 381 pp, \$34.00

*New Hope or False Promise - Biotechnology and Third World Agriculture*, Henk Hobbelenk, published by ICDA, 1987, 72 pp, \$7.50.

All available from Australian Council for Overseas Aid, GPO Box 1562, Canberra ACT 2601

*Law and Order in a Changing Society*, Louise Morauta (ed) published by Department of Social and Political Change, ANU. 119 pp, \$9.00

Available from Publications Officer, Department of Political and Social Change, ANU Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601

*The Demographic Dimension in Indonesian Development*, Graeme Hugo, Terrence Hull, Valerie Hull and Gavin Jones, published by Oxford University Press, 1987, \$49.95.

Available from University Co-Op Bookshop, ANU, Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601.

*Adjustment with a Human Face: Protecting the Vulnerable and Promoting Growth*, Richard Jolly and Giovanni Cornia, published by Oxford University Press, \$US15.95.

**Empowerment and the Law: Strategies of Third World Women**, Margaret Schuler (ed), published by OEF International. \$US20.00.

Available from OEF International Publications, 1815 H Street, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20006, USA.

**What American Think: Views on Development and US - Third World Relations**, Christine Contee (ed), published by Overseas Development Council.

Available from ODC, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington DC 20036, USA.

**The Community Participation Handbook**, Wendy Sarkissian (ed), published by Impact Press, 150 pp, \$A36.00.

Available from Impact Press, PO Box 155, Roseville NSW 2069

**The Social Impact Assessment Handbook**, Paul Wildman and Geoff Baker, published by Impacts Press, 148 pp \$38.00.

Available from Impact Press, PO Box 155, Roseville NSW 2069

**Financing Health Services in Developing Countries**, published by World Bank, \$US7.50.

Available from The World Bank Publications Dept., K910, 1818 H Street, NW Washington DC 20433, USA.

#### Islands/Australian Working Papers

87/16 **The Labour Market in Papua New Guinea**. 1986 market sector summary data, P A McGavin and R A Gill, 62 pp.

87/15 **Taxation in Papua New Guinea: Backwards to the Future**, Richard Bird, 60 pp.

87/14 **The Viability and Vulnerability of Small Island States - the Case of Kiribati**, Stephen Pollard, 60 pp.

87/13 **New Zealand Development Assistance**, Mary Sinclair, 46pp.

#### NCDS Working Papers

87/5 **International Financial Trends in East and Southeast Asia**, J R H Pringle, 37 pp.

87/4 **Industrialization and Economic Growth**, Helen Hughes, 30 pp.

87/3 **Tax Reform in Developing Countries**, Richard M Bird, 20 pp.

87/2 **A Conservation Framework for Development Assistance**, Bill Brown, 60 pp.

#### China Working Papers

87/1 **The Role of Microeconomic Reforms in the Decentralization of China's Foreign Trade**, Yun-Wing Sung, 24 pp.

All working papers \$A5.00 including postage. The above papers are available from the National Centre for Development Studies, ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601

**Pacific Economic Bulletin**, Volume 2, No 2, December 1987 is now available at \$10.00 from the National Centre for Development Studies, ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601

#### Centre for Development Studies Working Papers

No. 18 **The Parameters for Project Impact: Looking at the Impact of 'Community Aid Abroad Development Projects on Society at Micro Level**, Jane Hardy, November 1987.

No. 17 **Zimbabwe: Co-operatives and Socialist Development**, Paul Nursey-Bray, September 1987.

\$5.00. Available from the Centre for Development Studies, Flinders University, Bedford Park, Adelaide SA.

#### Australian International Development Assistance Bureau Papers

**Development and Foreign Aid in South East Asia**, Peter McCawley

**Women and Development**, Louise Morauta

Available from AIDAB, Development Education and Public Information Branch, GPO Box 887, Canberra ACT 2601

#### Centre for the Study of Australian Asian Relations

No. 40 **Indonesian Foreign Policy: More Style than Substance?** Heath McMichael, February 1987, 28 pp \$4.00

No. 41 **Western Images of China**, Colin Mackerras

No. 42 **Australian Relations with the Philippines during the Marcos Years**, Robyn Lim

Available from the Centre for the Study of Australian-Asian Relations, School of Modern Asian Studies, Griffith University, Nathan Qld 4111

#### Papers from the 17th Waigani Seminar

**The Ethics of Development: The Pacific in the 21st Century**, Susan Stratigos and Philip Hughes (eds), 5 volumes, K5.95 per volume.

Available from The University Bookshop, PO Box 114, University, Papua New Guinea.

## DEVELOPMENT CENTRES AND NEWSLETTERS

### Pacific Manuscripts Bureau

The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau was established in 1968 as a non-profit making organisation sponsored by a number of international and leading libraries specialising in Pacific research. They include in Australia: the Australian National University Library, the National Library of Australia and the Mitchell Library, Sydney. In New Zealand: the National Library of New Zealand and in the United States: the University of Hawaii Library, Honolulu, and the Library of the University of California, La Jolla.

From 1968 to 1985 the Bureau's executive officer was Robert Langdon and the present executive officer is Bess Flores, formerly the South Pacific Commission librarian for 17 years.

The Bureau is concerned with collecting and cataloguing unpublished literature relating to Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia including letters, diaries, records of business and trading houses, ships' logs, papers of political parties, women's groups, youth groups and other associations and organisations. It also collects photographs, tape recordings, films and videos.

The Bureau would like to hear from people who have a private collection, however small, of unpublished and semi-published material relating to the Pacific and who would be willing to lend this to the Bureau for copying, distribution to members and sale to non-members. Island libraries, archives and other institutions indigenous to the Pacific are entitled to privileged purchase rates. The Bureau may arrange for the material and/or the microcopy to be donated to a library or archive in the Pacific, with the owner's compliments. In this way the Bureau has built up a stock of over 1300 microfilm titles, with new titles constantly being added. Sales catalogues and price lists are available free of charge.

Bureau publications included indexes to the *Pacific Islands Monthly* as well as to microfilmed whaling records, Roman Catholic Church archives as well as detailed card indexes on other materials and press cuttings on all Pacific island and Pacific regional institutions.

The Bureau is currently proposing that a survey should be made of completed and current microfilm projects in the Pacific; of at-risk documentary material held in Pacific Island archives, libraries, government offices, regional bodies or in private hands, identified as being of research and development significance. The objective would be to make this material more

widely available and to ensure its preservation.

For further information contact:

Bess Flores,  
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau,  
Research School of Pacific Studies,  
Australian National University,  
Box 4, Canberra, Australia, 2601.

### The International Centre for Research on Women

The ICRW based in Washington includes a section responsible for conducting and publishing research on women's issues in Third World countries. The Centre is currently offering small grants for research into "Maternal Nutrition and Health Care in the Third World", through its Maternal Nutrition and Health Care Program. The ICRW encourages the design of maternal nutrition and health projects that are sensitive to the multiple responsibilities of women in the Third World and highlight key social, cultural, behavioural, technological and economic factors that influence the choices women reproductive age make concerning their own nutrition and health care.

For further information:

Project Director  
Maternal Nutrition and Health Care Project,  
International Centre for Research on Women,  
1717 Massachusetts Ave.,  
Washington DC 20036, USA.

### Northern Territories Centre for Southeast Asian Studies

Founded in May 1987, the Centre will focus its teaching and research on Australia, Aboriginal and Southeast Asian anthropology, economics government, history and natural sciences and will incorporate students and staff from the University College of the Northern Territory, CSIRO, the Darwin Institute of Technology and the Northern Territories Museum of Arts and Sciences. The interim committee comprises: Dr Davis Mearns, Dr Paul Webb, Dr Dennis Shoesmith, Dr Trevor James, Miss Fiona Jack-Hinton and Dr Laurie Corbett. The Centre hopes that scholars from overseas and other parts of Australia will visit the Centre when they are passing through Darwin, join in the discussions and seminars and present a lecture on their research interests.

For further information on the Centre contact:

Dr Paul Webb,  
University College of the N.T.,  
GPO Box 1341,  
Darwin NT 5794

Phone (089) 462265

The Centre for Environmental Studies,  
University of Tasmania

This centre is a multi-disciplinary research and postgraduate teaching organisation with general research interests in land use, environmental law and policy, pollution, energy, environmental thought, green politics and ecological issues. Many of the research areas have direct application to developing countries, including recent research into fuelwood supply and use. Other areas of research of particular relevance to developing countries are designing and testing simple low cost stoves for use in developing countries, testing of slow combustion cooking stoves and work on a cooking stove which will generate a small amount of electricity and run a refrigeration system. Research has recently been conducted in Tonga into energy use and planning with specific reference to the availability and use of fuelwood. Research has also been conducted in social forestry in Karnataka State, India and into designing renewable energy systems for island communities.

Currently there are five postgraduate students, two research assistants and one technician working on the fuelwood research programme. This research group meets regularly and welcomes interaction with similar groups in other countries. The centre offers masters and PhD courses.

The Centre places special emphasis on information transfer and its Wood Energy Project has published a number of papers and has a large collection of literature on the subject. In addition the Centre regularly publishes the *Fuelwood Research Bulletin* which is distributed to 63 research groups in 23 countries.

For further information contact:

Dr John Todd,  
Centre for Environmental Studies,  
University of Tasmania,  
GPO Box 252C, Hobart,  
Tasmania, AUSTRALIA. 7001.

Business Centre for Asian and Pacific  
Studies, Phillip Institute of Technology

This Centre was established in August 1987 within the School of Business at the Phillip Institute of Technology, Melbourne to coordinate the expertise of academic staff who have an interest in Asian and Pacific business. Its activities developed from formal units offered in the Institute in Thai Business Management, International Management, Japanese Business and Japanese Society, Management and

Industry. The Centre generates research data on various aspects of overseas business and arranges study tours of Australian business for overseas delegations. BCAPS offers a range of business consultancy, research, management development and information services aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Australian industry in the international environment. It arranges training programmes, seminars and conferences and has an information service of economic and business data from the Asia and Pacific region.

For further information contact:

Ken Wright,  
Business Centre for Asian & Pacific Studies,  
School of Business,  
Phillip Institute of Technology,  
P.O. Box 179,  
Coburg, Melbourne, Australia 3058.

The School of Mines Regional Centre for  
Asia and the Pacific, University of NSW

This centre will be fully established in 1988 and will promote and develop the School of Mines activities in applied geology, mining engineering, mineral processing and extractive metallurgy specifically in response to the perceived needs in the region for mineral resource and other related earth-science based development. The SOMRC will be involved in special training activities, research, consultancies and development projects and in the further establishment of regional links through twinning, exchange and network arrangements with other organisations in the region.

For further information contact:

Dr Mike Katz,  
The University of New South Wales,  
P.O. Box 1,  
Kensington,  
Australia 2033

The Philippines Resource Centre, Melbourne

The Philippines Resource Centre, established in 1982, collects up to date and comprehensive materials on developments in the Philippines. It provides resources and services to a number of institutions, groups and individuals who are concerned with Philippines issues and assists in the dissemination of information on the Philippines to a broad range of Australians. The Centre concentrates its research activities on Australia's direct and indirect links with the Philippines, and specialises in the production of topical information. Within Australia it works closely with a number of community-based solidarity groups, Filipino community organisations, overseas non government aid

agencies, students, teachers, trade unions and women's organisations.

The Philippines Resource Centre has just begun two new monthly publications *Philippines Bulletin* and *Philippines Issues*. *Philippines Bulletin* provides a monthly series of news updates with reports direct from Filipino people's organisations while *Philippines Issues* will provide a comprehensive examination of crucial issues in the Philippines and their significance and implications for the majority of Filipino people.

For further information contact:

Philippines Resource Centre,  
P.O. Box 5,  
Fitzroy,  
Melbourne,  
Australia 3065

### Newsletters of Interest

**The Centre for South Pacific Studies** at the University of New South Wales, has established a newsletter which will deal with South Pacific issues. The next will report on their first conference "Developments in the South Pacific: Some Cautionary Tales". For further information contact Dr Grant McCall, School of Sociology, University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW 2033.

**The Papua New Guinea Women's Wantok Association Newsletter** provides information on Melanesian issues with special reference to women's issues, as well as information on what Melanesian women are doing in Australia. For further information contact: PNG Women's Wantok Association, P.O. Box 1718, Canberra, ACT 2601.

**The African Studies Association of Australian and the Pacific Newsletter** which is published twice a year contains results of African research, information of Association activities and reviews of recent books on Africa. The December, 1987 edition, edited by Dr Cherry Gertzel includes "Woza Albert as a teaching text", by Kevin Magarey, "Sanctions and Self-Emasculation", Richard Leaver, "Australian Aid to Africa", Russell Rollason and "AIDAB African Food Security Training Courses", Barry White. For further information contact: Dr Cherry Gertzel, Flinders University of South Australia, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

**The Pacific Islands Political Studies Association** has been recently established at the Brigham Young University, Hawaii Campus and is planning to put out a series of publications on the governments and politics of the Pacific Islands as well as a regular

newsletter. The association is also proposing to develop text materials for classroom use. For further information contact: Jerry Loveland, Director, the Institute of Polynesian Studies, Brigham Young University, Hawaii Campus, Laie, Hawaii 96762, USA.

**The Environment Newsletter** is once again to be published quarterly by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme based in Noumea after a five year spell in "retirement". It reports on its own research activities as well as on major environmental research projects or issues in the region. It welcomes articles. The SPREP activities are co-ordinated by a groups made up of the South Pacific Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The current issues of the newsletter includes articles on a marine park survey in Western Samoa, the PNG databank on conversation, wildlife and management of natural resources, protection of the rare New Caledonian bird the "kagu", cyclone damage to coral reefs in Tokelau, coastal water quality monitoring and a feature article on problems in the South Pacific environment.

The newsletter also contains information of forthcoming conferences on environmental issues and information on courses in environmental subjects. For further information contact: The Editor, Environment Newsletter, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, SPC, BP D5, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia.

**Go-Between** is an irregular newsletter published by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Geneva. It provides a wide range of information on non government aid organisations from first and third world countries as well as background information on current development problems, international conferences on development-related topics and books on development topics. For further information contact: Susan Bovay, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland.

**North-South Health Dialogue** is a regular newsletter with originates in Finland and covers a wide range of health issues and ways in which first and third world countries can collaborate to improve health status. It is primarily concerned with providing an exchange of information between the medical profession, health workers and academics who work in the health field. The October 1987 edition reports on an international symposium on health and environment in developing countries with

particular reference to occupational health and chemical safety, and the problems of working women in developing countries. For further information contact: North-South Health Dialogue, Box 719, 90140 Oulu, Finland.

**The DAP Project Bulletin** which reports on research into draught animal power is now published quarterly. It also covers conferences and recent publications. For further information contact: Dr R. Petheram, Graduate School of Tropical Veterinary Science, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Islands '88: The Islands of the World, University of Tasmania, Hobart, 16-21 May, 1988

The theme of this conference is "Towards Self Reliance" and major sessions will be devoted to strategies for survival of small but diverse societies and ways to enhance island development and autonomy. The four major areas for discussion are: tourism, health care, appropriate economic development, and energy for rural and isolated communities. For further information contact:

Dr R. Chapman,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Tasmania,  
GPO Box 252C, Hobart, 7001

Asian Studies Association of Australia Bicentennial conference, ANU, Canberra, 11-15 February, 1988

This conference will depart from the usual conference format to incorporate papers, discussion, film, video, art exhibitions and fashion shows in an attempt to provide a more holistic understanding of Asia. Major areas for discussion include changing power configurations in Asia, land rights and land claims, journalism in contemporary China, population change in Southeast Asia, development and change in Sabah, women's health and reproductive health care in Southeast Asia and caste and class in India.

The conference will be followed by the Asian Studies Association of Australia women's caucus (Tuesday 16 February) For further information contact:

Dr David Marr or Dr Jennifer Brewster,  
Pacific and Southeast Asian History,  
Australian National University,  
Canberra, Australia 2601

ANZAAS 1988 Centenary Congress, Sydney, 16-20 May, 1988

This congress will celebrate the centenary of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. The congress will focus on Australia, New Zealand the South Pacific and its major theme will be *What Use - Science and Technology?* The congress will include symposia on the following topics : AIDS, environmental awareness, Australia 1995, inequalities in health, the leading edge of technology, and the information society. For further information contact:

Mr B O'Rourke,  
1988 ANZAAS Centenary Congress,  
118 Darlington Road,  
University of Sydney,  
NSW 2006

26th Congress of the International Geographical Union, Sydney, 21-26 August, 1988

The IGU congress will cover a number of themes including the following development-related topics: the impact of European contact on the region, transport, cash cropping and political infrastructure. In association with these themes excursion will be arranged to Papua New Guinea to Mt Hagen and Lae. For further information contact:

IGU congress Secretariat,  
GPO Box 2200,  
Canberra, Australia 2601

Africa-Pacific Comparative Conference, La Trobe University, August, 1988

Organised by the newly established African Research Institute in conjunction with the African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific, the conference will concentrate on the similarities and contrasts between the colonial administrations and the development experiences of Pacific Island states and African nations. Major areas of focus will be the colonial experience, the process of decolonisation, political change, economic development, rural development, health, balance of trade deficits, the aid experience, comparative demographic changes and the transfer of technologies. For further information contact:

Dr David Dorward,  
African Research Institute,  
La Trobe University,  
Bundoora, Australia 3083

Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment, Griffith University, 5-8 July, 1988

This conference will focus on recent research into social and environmental impact assessment. The major themes will be recent development in EIA methodology, policy, legal and institutional changes, applications and case studies, teaching, training and extension in EIA. Papers are being called for now. For further information contact:

The Secretary,  
School of Australian Environmental Studies,  
Griffith University,  
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4111.

Potentials of Comparative Social Research Workshop, University of Auckland, 1-13 February, 1988

Sponsored by the Asia-Pacific office of UNESCO this regional training seminar is aimed at encouraging the establishment of comparative social research projects in the Pacific and to enhance the methodological skills of social researchers. For further information contact:

The Secretariat,  
Potentials of Comparative Research Methodology,  
Department of Sociology,  
University of Auckland,  
Private Bag, Auckland, NZ.

International Conference on Women, Development and Health, Michigan State University, 21-23 October, 1988

This conference will examine the connection between socio-economic change and women's health in the Third World. The major topics will include: rural production, migration, international divisions of labour, transfer of technology, child survival, reproduction and sexuality, women as health care providers, health care and the community and public policy. Papers are being called for now. For further information contact:

Rita Gollin,  
Director,  
Women in International Development Office,  
202 Centre for International Programs,  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1035  
USA

International Conference on Asian Urbanisation, Nanjing University, China, 8-14 August, 1988

This conference will address a wide variety of issues concerned with Asian demography, housing, town planning, health service provision

and urban social, economic and political problems. Papers are being called for. For further information contact:

Professor Gonghao Cui,  
Department of Geography,  
Nanjing University,  
Nanjing, Jiangsu,  
The Peoples Republic of China.

The Emerging Pacific Era-Challenges and Prospects, East-West Centre, Bali, 20-24 June, 1988

This conference sponsored by the East-West Centre, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and the Indonesian Alumni Chapter, will include six workshops, a keynote address, luncheon speakers, videoteleconferencing, and discussion sessions. The major topics will be: the interaction of cultures and technologies in the Pacific, human resource development to achieve national and regional goals, the role of women, resource management, business opportunities and challenges and the role of the mass media in the electoral process. For further information contact:

International Alumni Conference,  
East-West Centre Alumni Office,  
1777 East West Road,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848 USA

Asia and Pacific Regional Conference on Pollution in the Urban Environment, Hong Kong, 28 November - 2 December, 1988

The major sessions in this conference will deal with the pollution problems of high rise buildings, sanitation, traffic control and consider new areas of research. Papers are now being called for. For further information contact:

POLMET Secretariat,  
Hong Kong Institution of Engineers,  
9/F Island Centre,  
No 1 Great George Street,  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

Society for International Development 19th World Conference, New Delhi, 25-28 March, 1988

The theme of the conference is "Poverty, development and collective survival: Public and private responsibilities". Debates will include the permanent poverty crisis in the third world, lessons from the Asian development experience, NGOs and development projects, the role of the private sector, women in development, human rights in development and debt adjustment with a human face.

The conference will be preceded by a meeting



on women in development, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 21-23 March, 1988. For further information contact:

SID International Secretariat,  
World Conference Programme Committee,  
Palazzo Civiltà del Lavoro, (EUR)  
1-00144, Rome, Italy.

The Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference, Loughborough University of Technology, 5-8 January, 1988

The theme of the Third World Development Research Group at the conference will be Technology and Development. For further information contact:

Dr Morag Bell,  
Department of Geography,  
Loughborough University of Technology,  
Loughborough, Leicestershire,  
LE11 3TU, UK.

Workshop on Women and Development, Commonwealth Geographical Bureau, March, 1988

For further information contact:

Dr Janet Momsen,  
Department of Geography,  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE1 7RU, UK.

International Symposium on Man, Health and the Environment, Luxembourg, 3-5 March, 1988

This conference will cover a broad range of health and environmental issues in developed and developing countries.

For further information contact:

The Secretariat, AEE,  
c/- Ministry of the Environment,  
5A Rue de Prague,  
L-2348 Luxembourg.

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Please write or phone Pamela Thomas, The Australian Development Studies Network, National Centre for Development Studies, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia, telephone (062) 492466.

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