New directions for Australian aid delivery
The Australian Development Studies Network seeks to provide a forum for discussion and debate of development issues, and to keep people in the field up-to-date with developments, events, publications, and so on. The Network does this through its publications programme and by conducting or co-sponsoring seminars, symposia and conferences. The Network produces two regular publications.

*Development Bulletin* is the Network’s quarterly journal. It includes short articles (normally 1,500 to 2,000 words); conference reports; announcements of forthcoming events; details of courses, research and work related to development or development studies; project reports; and information about development education materials, recent publications and other news.

*Briefing Papers*, published with the *Development Bulletin*, address a wide variety of development-related issues. They are concise (normally 2,000 to 5,000 words), accessible to the non-technical reader, and may include implications for Australia’s overseas development assistance policy.

The Network also publishes books relating to development issues, and a register of expertise in gender and development, the *Gender and Development Directory Australia* (1995). For a complete list of publications and purchase details, please contact us.

**Correspondence**

If you have information you wish to share with others in the development field, such as conference announcements or reports, notices of new publications, interesting items from the press, information about the work of your centre or courses you offer, or you wish to respond to articles or *Briefing Papers*, please write to the Editor.

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Development Bulletin
Australian Development Studies Network
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel: (02) 6249 2466
Fax: (02) 6257 2886
E-mail: devnetwork@ncds.anu.edu.au

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New directions for Australian aid delivery
## Discussion Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whither development assistance?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hughes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building assistance for development on firmer foundations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penelope Schoeffel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid procurement - to tie or not to tie?</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Cuthbertson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlightening the poor: ODA and rural electrification</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Bryce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New directions for Australian aid delivery</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Rollason</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid: Prospects for Pacific partnership</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Cole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO capacity building in the Pacific</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Taylor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of NGOs in advancing sustainable development</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Knowles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewpoint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten reasons why what we're doing may not help: Aid, poverty and development</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Crosbie Walsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ESD stumble could herald a bigger fall for Australia's aid programme</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Rhiannon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisting the threatened: The shortcomings of one well-intentioned aid project</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Dorney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekong Delta rice-shrimp farming project</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHALOM - A community response to AIDS in Churachandpur, India</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry recovery in Eritrea: A case study of successful NGO-scientific collaboration</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Siegle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the press</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefing Paper</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A new role for NGOs in development?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Remenyi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October 1997
Editors’ notes

New directions for Australian aid delivery

The Simons review of the Australian aid programme recommended that future Australian aid should focus on reducing poverty, but that fundamental changes be made to the ways in which Australian aid is delivered. Among the recommended changes are untying aid, focusing educational assistance on basic education and in-country delivery, providing greater assistance through multilateral agencies and re-examining the relative cost-effectiveness of non-government organisations (NGOs) as channels for development cooperation. This issue of the Development Bulletin provides a variety of perspectives on these changes and on ways of improving delivery of Australian aid. In particular, it focuses on the current and future role of NGOs.

Briefing paper

Joe Remenyi considers the changing role of NGOs in aid delivery and, in light of the Simons review, provides a blueprint for the future.

Viewpoint

Continuing our theme of new directions for aid delivery, Crosbie Walsh of the University of the South Pacific considers aid delivery in the South Pacific, and suggests possible future roles for NGOs, governments, consultants and academics. Lee Rhiannon of AID/WATCH critiques the Simons review with regard to ecologically sustainable development, and argues the case for environmental concerns to be more thoroughly integrated into the Australian aid programme. Sean Dorney of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reviews his experience of a project to improve radio broadcasting in Papua New Guinea.

From the press

Several items in this issue question how ‘developed’ Australia really is. We would like this section to become more reader-interactive, and invite those of you scouring the world press and the internet to send us interesting or quirky news items on development issues in both industrial and developing countries. Please e-mail or fax us your contributions for the next Bulletin in January.

AusAID

We appreciate the continued support we get from AusAID in publishing the Development Bulletin. Our major concern is that the Development Bulletin contributes to increased knowledge and interest in, and support for the reduction of poverty and improved social and economic development.

Network staff

After four years’ invaluable support to our small Network team, Rafat Hussain is leaving. During this time, she has been the mainstay of the Network, and has provided calm, rational assistance whenever and wherever it was needed - which was often. We will miss her tremendously. Kate Fairfax is also leaving, having spent this year with us. She has been largely responsible for editing the Bulletin, and has also been an invaluable team member. We wish them both great success and satisfaction.
We have a new staff member. We are delighted to advise you that Sally Rynveld has joined us and look forward to her support in improving the Development Bulletin and in the service the Network can offer you.

Questionnaire

In the last issue we enclosed a questionnaire asking you about ways we could improve the Bulletin. If you have not yet responded, we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible. We will publish the results of the survey in the next Bulletin.

Next issue

The next issue will be on 'child focused development'. If you have any queries, or would like to contribute to this or any future issue of the Bulletin, please phone, fax or e-mail us.

Pamela Thomas, Kate Fairfax, Sally Rynveld
New directions for Australian aid delivery

Poverty reduction through sustainable development is the objective of the Simons review of the Australian aid programme. It provides global opportunities to review both the objectives and the delivery of those projects which aim to improve the well-being of the poor. The Simons review calls into question the effectiveness of aid programmes which have a variety of often incompatible objectives and delivery mechanisms which are inappropriate to the long-term process of involving people in poverty reduction. The recommendations of the Simons review will have considerable implications for the ways in which Australian aid is delivered and for the role of consultants, consulting companies, private investors, non-government organisations (NGOs), universities and other educational organisations.

Some of these implications are discussed here. Helen Hughes maintains that 30 years of research shows that the only way to reduce absolute poverty is through policies which stimulate production. In discussing the implementation of aid projects she states that the short-term nature of most development projects renders them ineffective, but as ‘short-termism’ is pushed by politicians in both donor and recipient countries it will be difficult to overcome this. Foreign-managed projects, she maintains, have become a byword for waste and often disruption of whole communities, and foreign grassroots workers can crowd out local initiative and expertise. Improving aid delivery will require a restructuring of relations between industrial and developing countries away from that of donors and recipients to economic and political equals, a withdrawal of foreign project managers, advisers, consultants and other ‘experts’ and a handover to communities, local governments and non-government organisations.

Penelope Schoeffel, giving examples from Papua New Guinea, agrees with Helen Hughes that the short-term nature of development projects is a severe constraint to effective aid delivery. She shows that a basic necessity for effective poverty reduction is local political will to reform and build capacity in public institutions. Both she and Rodney Cole point to the different perceptions of aid between donor and recipients, and take the donor-recipient relationship to task. They point out that in most societies gift-giving bestows superior status on the giver and places an implicit obligation upon the recipient.

Sandy Cuthbertson reviews the likely situation if aid is untied. A high proportion of Australian aid (45 per cent) is tied to Australian goods and services. He indicates that this reduces the actual aid budget by at least 20 per cent, and raises the question: how can Australia argue for open trade and competition when it ties aid? Untied aid, he suggests, is better aid and would help Australian companies become more efficient and competitive.

Russell Rollason, Gordon Knowles and John Taylor discuss changes in the role of NGOs in aid delivery, in particular the relationship between local, external and international NGOs. All agree that the effectiveness of local NGOs will be enhanced by building capacity, particularly in the areas of planning, management and evaluation. In future, this will be of vital importance as NGOs are likely to become increasingly responsible for current state-run development activities.

Paul Bryce provides a case study on delivering electrification in rural Papua New Guinea. He reviews common donor assumptions and equally common problems of a lack of project contact with local people. This, he states, is particularly the case in more technically-oriented projects where technical considerations predominate at the expense of social considerations. The common situation is one where ‘The operation was a technical success but the patient died’.

Discussion
Whither development assistance?

Helen Hughes, Professor Emerita, Australian National University

Since World War II, development assistance has amounted to at least $3,000 billion in current terms. Only a small proportion of aid flows, perhaps five per cent, has taken the form of relief for natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, or for human-made destitution, such as that precipitated by civil wars. Such relief, reflecting membership of the global community, should not be confused with development assistance which seeks to contribute to developing countries' growth and development. Support for relief continues to be generous, but it is not surprising that taxpayers and donors to non-government development agencies want an account of how these substantial development assistance flows have contributed to development. With unemployment, poverty and associated social problems growing in industrial countries, it is inevitable that the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance expenditure will be questioned.

Unprecedented rates of growth

The main strands of development are clear. A handful of the 160 or so developing economies have grown at an unprecedented rate, doubling per capita income every decade during the last 30 years. Progress which took two or three hundred years in industrial countries has been achieved in just one generation in these few developing countries. The leading growth countries are clustered in East Asia, including Malaysia and the four 'tigers' (Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan and Singapore), but they also include Chile in Latin America, Malta in the Mediterranean and Mauritius in Africa. In these countries, productivity and living standards have reached, or are reaching, industrial country levels. Absolute poverty has been reduced to negligible proportions. Thailand and Indonesia in East Asia, Botswana in Africa, and more recently China and India have also been following growth paths.

For these rapidly growing countries, however, progress has not been even. The adoption and implementation of growth-oriented policies is difficult. Where liberalisation stalls, economic difficulties follow. Further difficulties may be expected in the future if political stability is not maintained and if economic liberalisation does not continue.

Uneven development

In most of the other 160 developing economies, growth and development have been patchy and slow. Overall, the expectation of life at birth has risen, indicating that nutrition, health and education have improved. Population growth is stabilising, reflecting the demographic transition from high death and birth rates, to greater longevity and falling birth rates. The percentage of the population living in absolute poverty has declined in most developing countries. In India, the proportion of those in absolute poverty has fallen from more than 50 to less than 30 per cent since the 1970s. In China, the percentage in absolute poverty is roughly the same. In other large, rapidly growing countries, notably Indonesia and Thailand, the percentage in absolute poverty has fallen to less than 20 per cent. The main exceptions to these positive trends are mostly in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Asia and Latin America, where growth and development have stagnated so that living standards have stood still or even declined.

Some Latin American countries already had relatively high standards of living at the end of World War II, and thus, despite slow growth, now have relatively high per capita incomes, but retain large pockets of poverty. The quality of life is eroded by widespread alcoholism, drug addiction and crime. High crime rates and civil unrest are characteristic of most of the stagnating African countries. Rapidly growing countries are concerned with environmental conservation, but in slowly growing countries, the environment continues to be degraded.

Conditions for growth

Successful development has some geographic lessons, but geography is a limited indicator of development: Papua New Guinea is an 'African' rather than an East Asian country; the Philippines is Latin American rather than East Asian, and Chile has East Asian rather than Latin American economic characteristics. Rich natural resource endowment has been a hindrance rather than a help to development because of the well-established 'booming sector' effects of mineral and other natural resource wealth. The level of development has not been a determinant of growth. The myth of a role for cultural mores in development, initially applied to the 'protestant ethic' in Europe and more recently to Confucian and Buddhist characteristics in Asia, has been exploded. But the factors that do contribute to development have been clearly identified.

Internal and external political stability and the rule of law are essential. The countries that have grown rapidly made hard policy choices, abandoning the statist which dominated 'development economics' in the 1950s and 1960s. They struggled for macroeconomic stability and for competitiveness through openness to international trade. These policies led to high savings, investment and rapid technological change. Increases in agricultural productivity and output enabled populations engaged in agriculture to fall in absolute as well as relative terms, while employment rose in industry and

October 1997
services. Increasing productive employment opportunities resulted in falling poverty and rising living standards. Education and health services expanded with rising demand and increasing incomes. Growth has been accompanied by profound institutional and political changes, trending toward more democratic governance. Sustainable ecological development became practicable with rising per capita incomes.

Economic liberalisation

The rapidly growing countries continue to have day-to-day problems, however. Some of these arise from natural causes such as unfavourable weather conditions or changes in world markets. However, most reflect the failure to liberalise economic structures and to put in place effective rules in those (limited) sectors where the inability to capture external costs and benefits would otherwise make for monopolies.

The pace of social and political reform required to enable a country to adapt to a changing world economy makes development extremely difficult. The failure to liberalise is reflected in inflation, corruption, and in 'stop and go' macroeconomic policies. The costs of transition are high for individuals and communities, but they are not as high or as difficult to solve as the problems that arise from slow growth and stagnation. In rapidly growing countries, standards of living improve as the social and physical infrastructure strengthens, as productivity continues to grow, and as rising social and individual wealth makes for greater access to education, health services, leisure and recreation. In countries that do not maintain macroeconomic stability, income distribution worsens and absolute poverty becomes entrenched.

If Latin American countries, India, the rest of South Asia and China had opted for market-oriented growth underpinned by macroeconomic stability from the 1950s, they would by now have largely eliminated poverty. African countries would be well on the way to 'middle income' living standards with greatly reduced poverty. Aid flows would have contributed to development and poverty alleviation to such a degree that they would no longer be required.

Global liberalisation, which enabled developing countries to participate in international trade and investment flows from an early stage in their development, now enables them to catch up with industrial countries by their own efforts. Trade and international capital flows, together with more limited but nevertheless expanded migration flows, have proved far more effective than aid flows.

The effectiveness of aid

Donors - whether as taxpayers or contributors to non-government organisations (NGOs) - have learnt that development assistance flows can only be efficient and effective if a country's policies are growth oriented. If they are not, not only is overall growth slow, but it is skewed toward the rich. Absolute poverty fails to decline and in some cases even increases, and corruption and other forms of crime are endemic.

The perception that countries can only achieve development by steadily and continually improving their social and economic policies is growing worldwide. Development assistance was initially conceived as providing additional savings and foreign exchange resources to countries struggling to raise domestic savings and export enough to cover their import needs. The fungibility of capital flows made it possible for countries to switch their own resources from development initiatives to unproductive uses such as defence expenditures, 'white elephant' construction projects and even high consumption for upper income groups. Therefore it was essential that recipient countries targeted rapid growth so that development assistance resources would not be wasted.

A new approach to development assistance

When it was seen that the statist theories of 'development economics' did not work, a new approach to development assistance, again ignoring the fungibility of capital flows, came to focus on providing development assistance directly to poor people through rural development, urban slum improvement and social sector assistance. This approach was developed and welcomed by self-indulgent donors who wanted to play a direct, personal role in the elimination of poverty. Parliamentarians, wanting quick results from development assistance expenditure, were among the leaders of this movement. Bilateral and multilateral aid programmes have accordingly been distorted by 'short termism', despite the very considerable volume of research that indicates that populist views of development harm lower income groups. Some 30 years of research indicates that the only way to reduce absolute poverty is through policies that stimulate productivity, thereby creating employment leading to rapid growth. In countries with growth-oriented policies, the deflection of development assistance did not do much harm. But where national policies were not growth oriented, development assistance for 'direct' poverty alleviation was ineffectual. Armies of development project managers and consultants have failed to devise efficient or effective interventions where the national 'rules of the game' prevented the growth of productivity and social development. Foreign-managed projects and programmes, whether managed by bilateral, multilateral or non-government organisations, have become a byword for waste and often, tragically, for disruption of the lives of whole communities.

'Aid fatigue'

Much of the 'aid fatigue' now prevalent is the result of the growing understanding of the inappropriateness of this approach to development assistance. Countries do not need concentrated foreign exchange resources, high technology and central government savings to develop social sectors. Productivity in agriculture and off-farm rural activities is dependent on national macroeconomic policies, healthy
financial institutions, infrastructural development and competitive markets. Social sectors need qualitative inputs tailored to individual country needs. Local professional inputs and community involvement are essential if national growth opportunities are to be exploited locally. Foreign 'grassroots' workers crowd out local initiative and expertise. Many developing country communities regard foreign volunteers as aid recipients rather than as aid donors. In the heyday of the Peace Corps, African leaders often commented that this was aid that African countries were giving to the United States, 'taking these naive, unskilled misfits out of the United States labour market'.

Aid fatigue is the result of two strands of thinking. It is now widely recognised that countries that have taken growth seriously have, or are, graduating themselves out of the need for development assistance, and now want much more sophisticated bilateral and multilateral relations. Development assistance is seen as a semi-colonial phase with its emphasis on 'dialogue', cooperation and other euphemisms for conditionality at the national or local level. 'Grassroots' aid proponents, together with uncompetitive commercial interests that want to use aid budgets to subsidise their exports, are seen as self-indulgent, wanting to 'do well by doing good'.

The future of the aid industry

Aid lobbyists are working hard to stem the erosion of aid flows. The aid target of 0.7 per cent of national income has been abandoned by all but a handful of donor countries. Much closer to reality is 0.3 per cent of national income. Aid is a typical 'sunset' industry. As a labour-intensive industry, it is a major employer, with perhaps 30,000 full-time employees in donor country and multilateral aid organisations, plus an even larger number of part-time consultants relying on aid flows for their income to a significant degree. NGOs only contribute about ten per cent of aid flows to developing countries, but the numbers involved represent a larger proportion of those employed in the industry.

The aid industry marshals considerable political weight, with NGOs playing a leading role in determining the content and direction of official as well as non-government aid through national and international lobby groups. Other lobby groups include suppliers of goods and services in donor countries that are subsidised if they receive a price advantage through aid 'tying'. The location of aid in, or ties with, ministries of foreign affairs, indicates its political importance in international relations both directly and through multilateral organisations. National bureaucrats benefit from privileged access to foreign aid flows, and often strongly support multilateral aid to ensure their own positions in multilateral organisations. Multilateral institutions themselves devote considerable public relations efforts to lobbying for their own survival.

The main issue facing the aid industry concerns the restructuring of relations between industrial and developing countries - from aid donors and recipients, to sophisticated economic and political relations between equals. Withdrawing foreign project managers, advisers, consultants and other 'experts' from developing countries is already taking place as part of this restructuring. The handing over of community development to local government and NGOs is of particular importance. Poor education with resulting low literacy levels; high unemployment, with accompanying illness, alcohol and drug addiction; the break-up of families and other associated social problems are providing ample opportunities for shifts of welfare activities from developing to industrial countries.

A clearer distinction between emergency relief, which will continue to be needed in countries at low levels of income, and development assistance, will need to be made. In a small number of countries where the lack of political security has led to lagging development, development assistance flows may continue to be justified. For the bulk of the industry, however, restructuring will require moving human and capital resources to other sectors of the domestic economy.

October 1997
Building assistance for development on firmer foundations

Penelope Schoeffel, Development Studies, University of Auckland

This paper contains some reflections on practical dimensions of development assistance and governance problems, with reference to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Pacific. In particular, it refers to recommendation 13.1 in the report of the Simons Committee to review the Australian aid programme:

Recognising the key links between good governance and sustainable development, AusAID should continue to give a high priority to activities within the country programming context that will bring about improvements in governance. Good policies and commitment to reform should be included in the criteria for determining the geographic allocation of Australian aid (AusAID 1997: 350).

A case for a strategic focus on building the capacity of the state in developing countries is made in the latest World Development Report, The state in a changing world (World Bank 1997: 265). Acknowledging that good governance is a prerequisite for effective development, it calls for a redefinition of the state's responsibilities towards improving its ability to undertake and promote collective actions efficiently. This involves matching the state's role to its capability and raising its capability by reinvigorating public institutions. It suggests donors can encourage and assist state reform by providing technical advice in close partnership with local experts, and by providing financial support to ease the pain of transitional arrangements. But it makes the significant point, 'If the history of development assistance teaches anything ... it is that external support can achieve little where the domestic will to reform is lacking' (World Bank 1997: 3). The will for reform is growing in many Pacific Island states, creating increasing opportunities for Australia to place a strategic focus on assisting those who are willing to reform and build the capacity of their public institutions.

Weak institutions: a common cause of failure

As I have argued elsewhere (Schoeffel 1996: 179), and as indicated in many studies of development interventions in PNG and the Pacific Islands, one of the most common causes of the failure of development projects is that they tend to be founded on untested assumptions about the capacity of public institutions or community organisations. The problem may be likened to putting the roof on a house before the supporting infrastructure has been constructed. An example may be found in one province of PNG where I worked a few years ago, where government rural health services, well supported by aid, had virtually collapsed. This was not due to lack of funds, equipment or trained personnel, but because of the absence of effective systems of management and accountability.

Similarly, projects with the objective of encouraging economic growth by trying to increase production have, in my experience, usually been designed with insufficient reference to major institutional risk factors such as grower motivation, extension capabilities, or market infrastructure. These omissions have resulted in a high rate of project failure in the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors throughout the Pacific region. Water supply projects have also had a high failure rate. In one case that I documented in detail, the root cause of the problem was that local people, encouraged by the councillors they had elected, refused to pay taxes to their local government council, which was unable to pay technical staff to do maintenance work. In the absence of local government support, maintenance was thrust upon community groups without the capacity for the tasks involved. Different communities were unable to cooperate in order to maintain the aid-funded water supply systems with which they were provided, with the result that the systems rapidly became dysfunctional (Schoeffel 1995).

Institutional capacity in the Pacific

The weakness of organisational systems, particularly in Melanesia, are often most noticeable at the level of local government and the primary levels of service delivery. Local government, which has the potential to coordinate community development and local services and infrastructure, is particularly important in countries comprising many scattered islands. Yet this level of government often functions poorly. Problems of administration, organisation and management are often greater, and exercise more constraints on development, especially in rural and outer island areas, than problems of shortage of financial and other material resources.

The underlying cause of governance problems in some Pacific Island states may be the weakness of the notion of 'public good'. This is understandably a legacy of the very recent transitional process from small-scale kin-based societies to state systems. There is a widespread belief that government is a form of patron-client relationship, between those with power and access to resources, and those without. There is a corresponding distrust of government. For example, modest proposals for a voluntary land registration programme were widely opposed in PNG a few years ago, because landowners assumed that the proposal was a disguised attempt by the state to alienate customary land.

The inefficiency of the state apparatus in some Pacific Island states has contributed to the hope by many agencies that more effective development processes might be achieved by working directly with communities, NGOs or the private sector. There have been many projects throughout the Pacific
Islands which have been based on the idea that production can be increased or service delivery improved, and cost reduced, through community based action and programmes. It is too often assumed that rural villages are communities with common interests and goals, where there is cooperation in most spheres of life. But this is rarely the case. Villages, often held together quite tenuously by the ownership of common assets, have major internal divisions and rivalries within the community and with neighbouring settlements, which impede cooperation. Furthermore, the trend of contemporary social change throughout the Pacific is for less community cooperation, rather than more, because of growing economic individualism and increasing economic inequalities within communities.

**Alternative approaches**

Local distrust of government or its poor performance in delivering services has encouraged NGOs to assume that the most effective way to assist communities is to bypass government institutions and create new local organisations to replace them. But this approach only sidesteps the problem rather than helping to solve it, and local organisations often fall victim to the same problems of organisation and accountability as government agencies. Similarly, the privatisation of government functions does not necessarily mean that they will operate more effectively.

It is important to involve the community in identifying their own development needs, and in the design and management of services such as water supply, micro-credit, primary education and health services. However, the difficulty of achieving community participation and cooperation within the time-frame of a normal project cycle is frequently underestimated. Many worthwhile initiatives have failed because the period of technical assistance was too short to effect lasting changes. Furthermore, in terms of sustainability, community participation is not an adequate substitute for efficiently functioning local-level public institutions, particularly local government. Both are needed for equitable development.

**Recommendations for capacity building**

Most analyses of development issues in Pacific Island states emphasise the need for human resource development, on the assumption that improvements in general standards of education and increased numbers of trained specialists will overcome the problems of public sector management. In many developing countries, however, public sector employees are often adequately educated but poorly managed, lacking in confidence, and deficient in management skills. The Simons report recommends (6.3) that Australia should develop specific short-term administrative courses though national and regional training institutions. This would only partially address the problem. I think the capacity-building exercise needs to be much more hands-on. Management trainers should work in a participatory mode with administrators in their actual work situations, sector by sector, and in PNG, province by province, facilitating strategic planning exercises and providing on-the-job training or guidance. Often the problems are locally specific and require targeted approaches, rather than theoretical instruction in management principles.

The use of bilateral aid as a means to encourage policy and institutional reform in developing countries is a difficult enterprise because of the nature of the 'gift' transactions involved in development assistance. No matter how we dress up aid in terms of 'partnership' and 'cooperation', in anthropological terms the universal aspect of gift-giving is that it bestows a superior status upon the giver and places an implicit obligation upon the recipient. Bilateral aid in the Pacific has come to be understood by recipients as a system of exchange, in which richer countries give gifts of material and technical assistance, which are to be reciprocated with support for the geopolitical objectives and economic interests of the donor. The conditionality of aid is limited by the fact that aid donors compete with one another with their gifts for the allegiance of their clients; or (as in the case of Australia and New Zealand) for the reputation of being their most influential patron. Recipients are skilled in the manipulation of this situation.

At the delivery level of the international system of aid delivery, two bureaucratic systems operate concurrently under two imperatives: to give and to receive. In many countries with a significant level of aid or soft loan dependence, some government departments receive virtually no budget for their operations, but rely on a succession of aid or loan-funded projects to carry out their functions (and to keep their staffing establishments intact). They formulate aid requests, framed by their own infrastructural and operational needs, to be passed up though government channels for prioritising and offering as a 'pick-list' to donors. The challenge will be to reform this well-established system of aid delivery so that it has a more strategic focus, and to cure the problem without killing the patient.

**The basis for reform**

In a general sense there are no universal prescriptions to enable bilateral aid, Australian aid in particular, to encourage the reform and capacity building of public institutions. A starting point might be for country programming and operations to be based on much more broadly based studies which use social assessment of a country, region, sector or proposed project, to inform the economic or technical analysis, and which explicitly address how reforms might be encouraged, and how public institutions could be made more efficient in that specific context.

The processes of formulating country and sectoral strategies and firm policy recommendations should also be participatory, involving the key stakeholders, to encourage transparency and consensus building. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently employed this approach in Micronesia. Reforms are needed in the face of dwindling compact funds, but these are politically unpopular because virtually everybody benefits from the current high levels of public spending. By
initiating a series of seminars on policy reform options for decision makers and interest groups, the ADB hopes to develop a wider national understanding of the issues and choices. Because of diplomatic considerations and the type of assistance mechanisms it can offer, it may not be easy for Australia to adopt this approach. AusAID could commission and fund other interested agencies, however, to promote public discussion on public policy and institutional reform, such as NGOs, chambers of commerce, and regional and national universities.

Discussions of governance have tended to focus on issues of corruption and political malfeasance. Discussions of reform have also concentrated on the need for rationalisation of state functions, rather than the need to increase the efficiency of the state and its administrative machinery in developing countries. But more effective public institutions will help to build people's confidence in the state and increase their civic consciousness. This in turn will help to promote political accountability and better policies.

References


Aid procurement – to tie or not to tie?

Sandy Cuthbertson, Centre for International Economics, Canberra*

To tie or not to tie - that is the question. The Centre for International Economics’ submission to the Simons review of Australia’s aid programme argued the case for not tying Australian aid to Australian goods and services. In preparing early drafts of this submission, I took a strong tying position. AusAID expenditures should be tied tightly to services that the Centre for International Economics could deliver.

I discussed this draft with my colleague, Bob Warner. He suggested it came across as somewhat self-serving. In defence, I pointed out the several pages on market development benefits, positive employment effects, multiplier effects and even a particularly desperate bit on the balance of payments.

In response, he offered the following logical steps on which a submission might be based, that would serve both us and the nation.

• AusAID is a buyer of some of the services which we at CIE deliver - policy analysis, training etc.
• We are internationally competitive in supplying those services.
• So, a bigger budget for AusAID would raise the demand for things we do well.
• But, a bigger budget for AusAID is out of the question.
• Therefore the only option to provide AusAID the wherewithal to buy more from us, is to make its existing budget go further.
• The obvious way to do that is for AusAID to buy everything it buys at best price.

And that is how it happened. In this brief paper, I will cover three things: the bases for the Simons review recommendations to untie; the criticisms; and the likely outcomes of those recommendations.

The bases for recommendations to untie

The arguments for untying aid are well known and the Simons review covered them well.

• Australia ties a very high proportion of its aid - 45 per cent (compared with 22 per cent for OECD countries). Sweden is reported to tie more, although my understanding is that there is no mandatory tying of aid expenditure by Sweden.
• Tying aid effectively reduces the aid budget - by at least 10-15 per cent. Now, unfortunately, this estimate is inferred from UK studies and we have no direct estimates of the costs to Australia of tying aid. I will come back to this later.
• Awarding contracts to firms because they are Australian, rather than because they are best value, is a form of protection - with the same costs and transfers as any other form of protection.
• In the end, development for any country is up to that country. Economic performance is closely related to economic policy and economic policy is a matter for individual governments. Australia can help with technical assistance, advice and by example. But how can Australians carry the argument for the basic ingredients of good policy (open trade and competition) when management of our aid is closed?
• Tied projects tend to be supplier driven and are frequently not relevant to country needs.

A World Bank colleague once commented to me, ‘If your favourite tool is a hammer, then all of your problems will look like nails’. The Simons review cites a few of the nails that have been supplied in the aid programme when it was not nails that were needed. Our favourite tool at CIE is policy advice and analysis - so my advice is that the key to economic development is good policy. As it happens, I am probably right, but it was nice to see the Simons review’s emphasis on good governance.

The criticisms

The relatively mild recommendation that AusAID should move toward further untying of aid expenditure has been vigorously and, in some cases, hysterically criticised on a number of grounds: the purists have won the day; everybody else does it; there will be no constituency for the aid programme; and, of course, the usual suspects - employment, balance of payments and so forth. I propose to briefly comment on the first three points.

The purists have won

The CIE is a commercial firm. We export about a third of our output and we face international competition on both domestic and export markets. I wish it were otherwise, but it is not. Our motives in arguing for untying aid are entirely practical. Waste and inefficiency will be reduced and aid dollars will go further.

Everybody else does it

In some ways it is very surprising that there is any fuss at all over the recommendation to move away from tying, given that such a move has been official policy of Australian governments for years. It appears that approximately each year, OECD member countries including Australia fly officials to Paris to discuss cutting back on tying aid - with the predictable outcome that everybody agrees to meet again next year, in Paris, to discuss cutting back on tying aid. As the
review puts it, 'Australia should not wait until there is universal agreement in favour of untying before moving in this direction'. As is now being realised in debates about reciprocal reductions in protection, the countries that are leading the way in trade reform are the ones that are attracting the investment and achieving the growth. In other words, the benefits are to be had in going first, not in waiting for others.

**There will be a reduced constituency for aid**

We normally think of aid in terms of transfers from Australians to people in developing countries. Australians have shown they are prepared to make such transfers, but only to a limited extent. That is not surprising - the interest groups to support them are pretty limited. But if the nature of the transfer changes so that aid involves taking a little bit from most Australians and giving some back to a few other Australians, a local constituency for that process is bound to emerge - the Australians on the receiving end of the transfers. That is not a constituency for foreign aid; it is a constituency for local aid.

**What would happen?**

If AusAID had the freedom to purchase a range of products from a range of sources, perceptions that it was paying prices 'over the market' would be much diminished. What if having that freedom led to a big change in the way AusAID did its sourcing? The conclusion I would draw from that is that Australian suppliers to AusAID - whether they be consulting firms, universities, engineering companies, the Wheat Board or rice growers - have been winning the work, not because they were good value, but because they were Australian.

**The proposed study of the costs of tied aid**

The report refers to UK studies which concluded that tying aid in the UK raised the cost of aid by up to 20 per cent. No such estimates exist for Australia, and the review suggests that we get some. In my view it would be much more useful to move towards untying. Trying to do cost comparisons for one-off projects would be impossible and even for commodities such as wheat and rice, price comparisons would become bogged down in standardising for the various dimensions of product and contract - delivery time, storage, packing and so forth. Such issues would absorb much time but would satisfy no one.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the committee and the secretariat on their report. On the particular question of whether to tie or not to tie, they have weighed the arguments in simple, non-technical language and have reached a clear, and what seems to me to be a sensible conclusion.

Everyone knows this government’s attachment to carefully considering the advice it gets from policy review bodies, so I’m sure we can look forward to an equally sensible decision from government.

*This paper is based on a spoken presentation delivered at a public seminar 'The role of overseas aid in the late 1990s', at the Australian National University on 12 June 1997.*
Enlightening the poor: ODA and rural electrification

Paul Bryce, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology, Sydney*

Electricity is the most versatile of energy forms; indeed, sustainable development is arguably impossible without it. It represents a tool capable of bringing about economic, educational, health and other sectoral benefits that are ingredients for controlling one's developmental destiny. In rural areas, electricity also has an important role as a vehicle for information flow, enabling remote communities to take part in affairs beyond village confines, and making national political and social cohesion a potentially meaningful concept.

Despite these benefits, electricity is not available for the vast majority of rural communities, and access is not improving significantly. Moreover, its highly uneven distribution represents a significant divide within and between nations.

The UNDP's Initiative for Sustainable Energy (UNDP 1997) concludes that 'current approaches to energy are thus not sustainable and will, in fact, make energy a barrier to socio-economic development' and that 'significant use of ex-patriots, is becoming increasingly more expensive. A new, more cost-effective approach ... is needed'.

Planned redirections towards new and renewable technologies and local capacity building have general merit, but the disappointing results of some past efforts will continue unless a change in strategy takes place. A paradigm based on new assumptions is translated here into the specific context of Melanesia, but is also relevant in similar contexts.

The challenges for rural energy supply

The energy sector as a whole is in crisis. Nearly half of the world's population have no affordable access to commercial energy services. Conservation and efficiency are academic notions in most rural settings of developing nations. Less than 20 per cent of such villages have nominal access to electricity and perhaps no more than a few per cent have actual and consistent access (Reddy and Goldenberg 1990).

There is a tendency to look to new technologies and new financial arrangements involving the private sector, as a way to meet rural energy needs. The notion that renewable technologies alone are the answer often leads to debate on relative costs of technological 'solutions', but diverts serious attention away from the managerial and institutional frameworks that remain central to any effort in this area.

Encouraging the use of private capital, in credit schemes, loan guarantees and BOOT and BOT arrangements, is seldom a solution for rural village contexts, particularly where poverty-directed overseas development assistance (ODA) is most relevant.

A focus on 'natural' urban population drift also avoids the problem. Economic restructuring will reduce the importance of the rural sector, and indeed urbanisation is growing dramatically in the developing world, along with massive urban problems. The institutional frameworks that sometimes exist in urban areas tend to encourage urban-based ODA. Nevertheless, in many regions, and notably in many of the small island developing nations of the Pacific, there is little prospect of a sustainable physical, social and political environment for economic restructuring without attention to the needs of the dominant rural citizenry. Of the 90 per cent of PNG citizens dwelling in rural areas, three out of four live in absolute poverty, compared to one in ten within urban areas (Flanagan 1997). In the Solomon Islands, the rural dweller accounts for 86 per cent of the population. No more than 500 jobs are created each year in the formal urban sector, for an annual cohort of 6,000 to 7,500 school leavers (Bank of Hawaii 1994). In such situations, rural and urban problems are inseparable. A suitable approach to affordable electricity needs to be found - one that enables meaningful social, political and economic participation of rural people.

The traditional paradigm

There are a number of assumptions specifically associated with technical projects of development assistance, and in particular those associated with electricity supply for rural villages.

Assumption 1: Village development is a technical matter

Investment of ODA in the sector is increasingly recognised in the literature as serving a people-centred developmental objective, since analysis seldom finds such investment justified on economic grounds. The indicators for appraising, managing, implementing, evaluating and reporting on specific programmes or projects is a different matter.

Initial assessment of a rural village electrification programme, for example, is generally conducted by a team chosen for their extensive training in technical matters. Given a positive prognosis from this appraisal, prefeasibility studies often proceed to rank preferred sites for village electrification, using a weighted function of quantifiable parameters. If decentralised renewable technologies are considered, the parameters would involve the potential of the energy source, such as the head and flow of water from available rivers, or the insolation available. If existing and projected demand for electricity at the site is estimated, the figures will normally derive from quantitative models preserving a formal economy, and will accordingly be very small or difficult to estimate. If on-site estimates are considered, the field team will again be chosen for their technical measurement abilities.
Projects then proceed through detailed design, specification, tendering and construction in a similar technical vein. Accordingly, reporting in the literature of completed projects often focuses on machinery choices and technical performance. Training aspects may be mentioned, focusing on the nature and extent of technical training associated with post-project requirements only, and normally conducted for, and within, an institution remote from the village. In contrast, most failures of rural power schemes are attributed to local non-technical factors. The operation can be a (technical) success, although the patient dies.

This process seldom involves meaningful contact with the target recipients, nor does it take account of the local context. The institutional strengthening that must accompany any infrastructural project is seen to be focused elsewhere, and any process of rural participatory appraisal (if considered) will not include village recipients in technical or management roles that may enable local strengthening.

In short, the power supply industry, and its management methods, are based on specialised technology and support structures; the rural developing world is not.

Assumption 2: Village development is a First World matter

People from developing countries with the perceived technical expertise for this developmental exercise are generally over-extended by the challenges of maintaining the existing urban infrastructure. They are also likely to have been university-trained in electricity system design and equipment choices that are tied closely to the needs of First World institutional management and social structures.

Almost by definition, those regions in which ODA is most justified will be the most deficient in such technical expertise. Accordingly, overseas consultants are often relied upon to assess a programme, and are generally chosen to have the maximum level of preconceived knowledge of power system construction and management learned and applied in a foreign context.

Later feasibility and design stages may be provided by ODA-subsidised energy advisers, and dependence upon such overseas expertise will intensify as new and renewable technology projects become more frequent.

During implementation, overseas-affiliated contractors will similarly bring experience gained in a foreign context and an exotic methodology to plant within the new physical, cultural and economic environment.

Disappointing village electrification efforts in the past are correctly seen as partly a problem of institutional weaknesses, since these methodologies have not 'taken root'. The UNDP, for example, sees building indigenous capacities as a clear priority (UNDP 1997). Nevertheless, such capacity building involves translating and strengthening the First World model of university-trained expertise within central institutions, rather than strengthening local level institutions. But local institutions have the most need, and the strongest reasons, to focus on the underlying developmental objective. They are also least likely to be distracted by competing contractual agreements.

Assumption 3: Village development is an urban matter

The choice of expertise for project design and appraisal draws on a small selection of urban-based individuals, commonly people with formal economy-based experiences. In-country expertise may be found within the public or private sectors of a major city, where the few technically-trained graduates have found rapid career advancement outside their rural origins.

Decision making within the electricity 'industry' in urban centres involves assumptions that are not optimal for a rural village setting, including:

- Decisions can generally be adequately made without reference to specific consumer groups, whose requirements are statistically predictable. The social context does not significantly impinge upon design and management; it is a delivery system only.
- Existing and projected demand can be quantified, operation and maintenance costs can be estimated, and competing energy technologies can be compared 'on paper'.
- The consumer, the designer and constructor, and the system operator can be treated as separate entities.
- The environment potentially affected by the power system, and the environment most relevant to beneficiaries, are separate issues.
- A power scheme ends with the generation system, or at most the transmission line. There is the expectation that existing cash-flow and power demand will support connection fees and a usage-based tariff system.
- Dwelling and building construction conforms to presumptions in electricity wiring standards developed in the First World.
- The cultural beliefs, skills base and local physical resources of clients are generally not considered.
- The land for power station and transmission facilities is either government-owned or available for title purchase.
- There is no need for consumer training nor awareness programmes, since separate mechanisms are available for safety licensing, operation and maintenance of the system, and for awareness of the developmental potential of electricity usage.

In short, the power supply industry, and its thinking patterns, are centralised; rural people are not.

The consequences

These structural forces effectively divorce the process of implementing village electrification programmes from the
goal of sustainable development at rural village level. The needs of rural villagers for development assistance stem largely from their position at the far end of the institutional pipeline of information and capacity building. In the case of ODA support, it is often difficult to reach the rural poor from the opposite end of the pipeline, where programmes are developed rationally in very different cultural and organisational frameworks. As a consequence, ODA processes tend to reinforce preconceptions of value-free technology, centralised management and context-free development.

At the same time, there is widespread and justified criticism of the results of rural village electrification programmes. Specific effects that the author has observed, particularly within the context of Pacific Island developing states, may be summarised as follows:

**Local communities are left with:**

- A 'Catch 22' of initially unaffordable costs for connection fees and usage tariffs.
- Rules that preclude connection to most forms of customary dwelling, based on urban wiring practices.
- Few, if any, skills or direct employment opportunities derived from the project.
- Little understanding of locally-appropriate possibilities for electricity-based development, since local involvement has been minimised by the management process, and the developmental objective has been largely lost in technical challenges of providing infrastructure for a harsh, remote site.
- A lack of community cohesion to pool skills and capital for applications of the power, exacerbated by environmental and social disruptions during the construction phase.
- Internal social tensions arising from the impact of an exotic technology, and in all probability the alienation of traditional land and resource holdings.

**The host government or authority is left with:**

- Legal disputes from land alienation, and possibly from displaced persons.
- Recurrent maintenance, repair and security costs.
- Minimal tariff revenue, as the subsistence economy has no obvious means to exploit the available electricity.
- A low plant utilisation factor, leading to reduced motivation for expansion or replication.
- A disappointing lack of local cooperation and communication regarding minor operation and maintenance tasks, and possibly security problems, arising from many of the above factors.
- No development of local infrastructure to support service personnel.
- Imported machinery fabricated by exotic production techniques that cannot be replicated in-country.
- Minimal employment generation, even in urban areas, given the imported machinery.
- Added social costs, arising from continuing population drift to urban areas, perhaps exacerbated by displacement of people and deterioration of community cohesion.

**An alternative paradigm**

There are long-standing examples of successful village electrification projects in the Solomon Islands, often with remarkable ensuing social and economic development (Holden and Gammage 1992; Bygraves 1997; Waddell 1997). Their common characteristic is a 'village first' model of project management. Institutional support runs through several levels, but major effort must occur at local level. It begins with day one of the appraisal process, in which villagers begin to gain ownership of the development process. This process may be separated into the following phases:

1. A village request precedes a process of self-appraisal, based on indicators of social cohesion, community goals, managerial and other capabilities, and information sharing on costs and responsibilities.
2. An awareness workshop builds on initial appraisal information, focusing on understanding the technology, its implications and potential uses, and necessary local resource investments. A local technical appraisal, mirroring that found in conventional approaches, accompanies the workshop, in which preliminary feasibility results can be shared and possible difficulties discussed.
3. Feasibility design draws on the results of the above processes. Costs are weighed against (qualitative) indicators concerned with the likelihood of sustainable development. Technical parameters influence potential costs and are influenced by social and environmental conditions, as well as local resources.
4. Project funding is based on contribution sharing, with a contract outlining the responsibilities of the donor, implementing agency and village community.
5. Implementation follows a design-and-construct methodology that allows some local decision making and avoids costly processes of remote specification, tendering, contractual management and cost over-runs from unanticipated local difficulties.
6. On-site local training, encouraged by previous phases. Off-site training for key women and men in operation, maintenance, project management, load utilisation and electricity safety.
7. A participatory follow-up phase of evaluation, based on developmental indicators set by local priorities in phases one and two.

The 'village first' model requires patiently developed partnerships, but it is not a speculative, academic model. The approach has been tested over many years in the field, in differing technical and social contexts. Results are 'on the ground', with higher levels of local cohesion leading to
internal management and maintenance, and even to other local initiatives, including improvements to infrastructure. The consequence has been a reduction in population drift to urban areas, an increase in the local construction of schools, higher school attendance rates, improved health facilities and the establishment of several local industries.

Summary

UNDP’s Initiative for Sustainable Energy (UNDP 1997), while observing the lack of sustainability of present mechanisms for energy supply, also suggests four areas of improvement:

• capacity building;
• strengthening institutional and legal frameworks;
• encouraging ‘leapfrogging’ to new and renewable technologies; and
• establishing linkages between energy and developmental goals.

The alternative ‘village first’ model of project management for rural electrification addresses each of these areas in a way that enables its appropriation into different cultural contexts, and has been demonstrated to be cost-effective.

The challenge may be seen in the words of one of the world’s greatest achievers, Albert Einstein:

The world that we have created, as a result of the thinking we have done so far, creates problems that cannot be solved at the same level at which we created them.

* Paul Bryce is currently seconded from the Faculty of Engineering, UTS and is President of APACE, a NGO specialising in rural village electrification in the Pacific and South East Asia.

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New directions for Australian aid delivery

Russell Rollason, International Development Support Services, Melbourne

New approaches to aid delivery are urgently needed, based on effective participation of the people whom the aid seeks to assist. The Simons review committee of the Australian aid programme will help set the priorities for the next decade in the same way that the Jackson Committee review (AIDAB 1984) set aid priorities for the 1980s. The intervening 12 years have witnessed dramatic changes in the international economy and in the realities of global poverty - so much so that the aid priorities and approaches for the next decade must change significantly.

Trends for the new decade

Three main trends in international development are having a substantial impact on approaches to aid delivery.

First, overseas development assistance (ODA) is declining and the resources available to the governments of poverty-stricken countries are also in decline. UNICEF's 1997 Progress of Nations report observed that aid has fallen to its lowest level in 45 years. ODA levels fell in 15 out of 21 OECD countries in 1995. The implication is that more will have to be done with less in the fight to eradicate poverty. More cost-effective aid delivery systems are needed.

The Simons report also pointed out that private investment more than doubled between 1991 and 1995, but three-quarters of all foreign direct investment has gone to only ten countries. Foreign investment has flowed to countries and to projects that are most likely to show a profitable and preferably quick return to the investor. The poorest have missed out on these increased private flows.

ODA still has the critical role of assisting development in the poorest countries and regions and in the most difficult situations. More is now expected of ODA, and it will need to be carefully targeted and its impact closely monitored, if public and political confidence is to be maintained.

Second, the dominant economic trends of globalisation and privatisation are causing national governments to lose control over national affairs, whether they like it or not. Under this economic model, pressure is on developing countries - especially those which are not enjoying significant economic growth - to open their economies to global competition, reduce government expenditure and to repay debts.

In a few years, we have moved from a situation where government controlled the development agenda to one where community or civil society organisations (CSOs) are increasingly playing a key role in the development process. As UNDP coordinator Gus Speth recently observed, 'the current trend towards a more enabling and a less doing state' (Speth 1997). Whereas in the past the primary aid relationship was between the governments of donor and recipient countries, in future donors will need to build relationships with local CSOs in cooperation with government, which must retain responsibility for national planning and coordination.

Third, as a corollary of the changing role of government, people around the world are increasingly aware of their rights and entitlements and are demanding the right to participate in the development decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods. Again, to quote Gus Speth (1997):

This (the new peoples power at the international level) is clearly indicative of a growing realisation that no component of society, no single set of actors, whether on the world scene or within countries, can come to grips with the size and complexity of the challenges with which the world is confronted. The world is slowly but, it seems, steadily becoming better aware that solutions, especially if they are to have lasting value, lie in dialogue and partnership building.

The implication of this third trend is that aid delivery must involve CSOs. The people whom we seek to assist through our aid programme, must be full partners in the process from the beginning, if the aid is to have maximum effectiveness and a sustainable impact. Dialogue and partnership must be the cornerstones of the new delivery mechanisms for the 21st century.

What Simons says

If for nothing else, the Simons report is likely to be remembered for recommending the adoption of the one clear objective - 'poverty reduction through sustainable development'. As the report observes, one clear objective is needed to end the confusion that has bedevilled the programme since the Jackson Committee recommended three interlinked objectives for the aid programme.

Whilst the report accepts that the poor are 'between 800 million and 1.3 billion people who subsist on less than US$1 per day', it recognises that the poor are identifiable groups with specific needs, and that targeting poverty reduction requires specific policies and strategies. Not only does AusAID need 'a new poverty-reduction policy framework and a plan for implementing it' (Recommendation 3), identifiable groups need to be consulted and involved in the programmes aimed to assist them.

Assisting economic growth alone is neither an effective nor adequate strategy. As the report says, 'the links between economic growth and improvements in human development are generally strong, but they are not automatic'.
The Simons report recognises that the decline in resources available for development in the poorest countries means that scarce resources must be used to maximum benefit. The report notes that 'one of the strongest lessons emerging from the international literature has been the importance of local participation and local ownership to the success and sustainability of development projects'. Effective participation which is much more than effective consultation, is essential for effective and sustainable development.

Simons rightly devotes a chapter to gender issues, and notes that women constitute 70 per cent of the world's poor. The report recognises that AusAID needs to strengthen its approach to gender and allocate more resources to gender monitoring, policy and coordination work, staff training and the provision of expert advice. The effective participation of women in project design and implementation will be essential if the poverty focus is to increase.

In the past decade, dynamic and thriving CSOs have emerged, particularly in Asia, and increasingly donors are seeking ways to work with these organisations and to encourage cooperative links between these CSOs and governments. A major challenge facing the delivery of Australia's new poverty-focused aid programme is how to work with CSOs.

CSOs include people's organisations, community-based organisations, traditional village organisations, user groups (eg, water user groups) and various cultural and religious groups as well as legal, human rights and political groups. A ready point of access is the NGOs which increasingly act as intermediaries between donors, governments and CSOs.

The Simons committee concluded that 'properly targeted and designed activities in the field of health, education, infrastructure and rural development, can directly benefit the poorest people in developing countries while also building a broader base for economic growth and social development'. If the one clear objective is to become the driving force for the aid programme, then a new understanding of the role and contribution of people to the development process is essential, as is a clear understanding of the role of civil society, something missing in the Simons report.

Building links with civil society in the Asia-Pacific

In the first four months of this year, I visited nine Asian countries as team leader for an Asian Development Bank study of NGOs in the region. I met with local NGO leaders and with the relevant government officials responsible for relations with NGOs.

In the Philippines, following the 'people's power' revolution, the new constitution and several key pieces of legislation such as the Land Reform Act and the Local Government Code have defined specific roles for NGOs and people's organisations (POs). The government has reserved seats for NGOs and POs on a number of key government policy and programme bodies. An enabling environment has been created for CSOs, and development is increasingly a process driven by local communities.

Whilst the government in Bangladesh is still struggling to define its relationship with the huge local NGO community, NGOs have established international reputations and respect for their innovations in microcredit, non-formal education and primary health care.

In Indonesia, the central government is seen to be hostile towards CSOs, particularly over environmental and human rights issues, but at the local level there is often growing cooperation between government and NGOs.

In Vietnam, a range of local CSOs have begun to emerge, even though the government is unclear about their role. The long-established mass organisations are struggling to find a new role in the post doi moi free market system. The major ones have forged good relations with international NGOs and increasingly are seeking to play the role of development organisations.

In studying NGOs in the region and their relations with donor agencies, one of the striking elements is the commitment of CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, to assist CSOs. CIDA has, for example, several programmes with Filipino NGOs, a significant programme of assistance to Indonesian NGOs, and throughout South Asia assists the South Asia Partnership (SAP) which has been active in the region for more than a decade. A key aspect of all these programmes is establishing and strengthening links between Canadians and people of the region.

USAID has similarly established extensive links with CSOs through such agencies as PACT and the Asia Foundation. Other examples can be drawn from the Dutch, Norwegian and European Community programmes.

In the new poverty-focused Australian aid programme, what is needed is a delivery mechanism that enables AusAID to assist CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region and to nurture links between Australians and the people of the region. The Simons report suggests that AusAID is unclear about why it provides funds through Australian NGOs. There are those in AusAID who see consultants and NGOs through the same window, failing to recognise that consultants provide a service, whereas Australian NGOs seek to nurture a process in partnership with local CSOs and NGOs. Both roles are important and certainly complementary.

AusAID has recognised the importance of engaging the community in the development process and it is anticipated that a new community development scheme will be funded in Papua New Guinea (PNG) this year. Whilst Australia has a long history of links with PNG, it is increasingly difficult to find skilled people who are willing to work there for reasons of personal and family security. The aid programme needs activities that will lead to a renewal of personal links between the people of our two countries.
But the general trend in AusAID is to close funding windows for indigenous NGOs. Why have NGO windows at all? Are they simply a political response to pressure from Australian NGOs and the public for more aid to be directly channelled to poor people? Or are they seen as an important means of engaging people in development? The NGO windows should be seen as important mechanisms to increase the effective participation of the poor. Australian NGOs must ensure that the windows are not simply another source of funds for their own programmes. There must be value added by the Australian NGO, and there must be effective participation here as well as in the recipient community.

The report’s recommendation to untie aid could be used to encourage Australian consultants to build partnership links with consulting companies in recipient countries. Such links would further enhance people-to-people links and increase the exchange of knowledge with partners in the region.

Conclusions

Development is a people process and development assistance is about forging links between people for the sake of poverty reduction, transferring resources and technology as well as recognising and enhancing mutual benefits.

In *Is Australia an Asian country?*, Dr Stephen Fitzgerald reflects on Australia’s discovery of Asia in the eighties:

The Australian discovery of Asia had been dominated by institutional engagements; governments - Commonwealth and State, political parties, government departments, business corporations, university administrations, media organisations ... For Australia, not just for one country but for a whole region, there was no prior social interaction, no underpinning fabric of personal connection, no academy, no coterie of intellectuals, no community of writers or creative or performing artists; and therefore no milieu for the mutual discovery and exploration by individuals of such things as values, ethical issues, the place in society of the individual, matters of belief. (Fitzgerald 1997)

The key change needed in the delivery of Australian aid is to move away from a dominant government-to-government focus to a more people-to-people focus. Aid projects, whether government-funded or NGO-funded, must be coordinated with recipient government development plans and objectives. But equally they must be designed and implemented in a way that involves people and facilitates the contribution of local resources to development, rather than supplanting those resources and thereby creating dependency. If poverty is to be reduced and aid-funded development interventions are to be sustainable, the poor - and this primarily means women - must be effectively involved in the design and implementation of aid projects from the beginning.

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Aid: Prospects for Pacific partnership

Rodney Cole, Consultant

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us
It wad frae mony a blunder free us!
And foolish notion.
To a Louse, Robert Burns

If the wisdom of the immortal Scotch bard could be taken to heart by those involved in what Peter Bauer refers to as 'intergovernmental subsidies' (Bauer 1991), more commonly referred to as aid, it is just conceivable that much of the underlying tension surrounding this particular focus of the relationship between Australia and the Pacific Island states could be ameliorated. Aid has become an important feature of this relationship since individual countries gained political sovereignty - Australia's current status being more closely related to its geographical location than to its former role as a colonial power. Indeed, Australia can rightly claim to have had one colony: Papua, as the territory of New Guinea, and Nauru were held under an original League of Nations mandate. It could be argued that commercial colonialism linked Australia firmly to most Pacific countries well before they achieved independence, and thus there is a need to consider the role of Australian aid to the region from a broad perspective.

This paper considers the possible future of the aid relationship between Australia and its Pacific neighbours. This relationship will almost certainly change as a consequence of the recent review of Australian aid policy as set down in the 1997 report One clear objective (AusAID 1997).

Setting the agenda for aid delivery

If the two parties involved in the aid game were to heed the advice of Burns in formulating policies of engagement, they would probably identify quite different attitudes with a central set of common features - growth, development, wealth creation, human resource development and poverty reduction. But behind these facades of justification are other powerful motives that drive the aid machine. While the donor will undoubtedly profess altruistic motives, there lurk political agendas, such as the need to maintain geopolitical ascendancy, and substantial commercial and economic interests, either involving the delivery of aid or markets for domestic production.

On the other side of the equation, while the recipient will express gratitude in overt terms, there is a strong sense of aid being merely a form of compensation for past misdeeds of the colonial period, or a bribe to secure favours in the political arena, or simply rent for the use of resources needed by the donor.

The giving and receiving of aid is surrounded by sets of bureaucratic rules and regulations designed to ensure that it is disbursed within guidelines laid down by both parties to avoid corruption, any overt semblance of pressure on the part of those involved, and to satisfy auditors and pressure groups that it is serving the purpose for which it was intended. From time to time, the donor community feels the need to review aid policy, to move the goal posts, as it were, to indicate what it considers should be the priorities of those in receipt of their largesse. This is all part of the aid game-plan, and recipients accept that they might be inconvenienced by new policy initiatives for a brief period, but they are usually astute or strong-minded enough to stave off any major inconvenience. As Alphonse Karr so wisely observed in 1849, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

The recent review of Australian aid policy is both comprehensive and well conceived, but whether its many recommendations will be accepted is still open for discussion. The following comments by a sometime player on both sides of the aid game are not directed specifically at the review's recommendations relating to the Pacific region, but rather at the general question of aiding small and not so small island countries in their efforts to increase the well-being of their people.

Aid delivery in the Pacific region

A great deal has been written about the problems of aid delivery in the Pacific region: underutilisation, slow draw-down, bureaucratic fumbling, ineffective planning and lack of a sense of urgency in execution of projects, to name but a few. On the other hand, recipients also gripe about the heavy workload imposed on a limited number of officials who are having to cope with a constant flow of donors all exercising their own set of policy requirements, anxious to enhance their own advancement prospects and pursuing agenda which are not necessarily in the national interests of the country in question. It is possible to adduce a wide range of arguments on behalf of both parties - well known issues which will add little to the debate and merely serve to delay resolution of the problem of making aid work to mutual advantage. Peter Bauer (ibid) argued that aid is more likely to inhibit than promote development and should therefore be abolished, but in recognition of the facts of life went on to propose four areas for reform which might assist in achieving the objectives of the aid constituency:

- aid should only go to those governments which adopt policies that promote economic progress and general welfare;
The review committee understandably set out to lay down policy guidelines which would provide a basis for agreeing or not agreeing to assist a country to implement projects and programmes associated with its development needs. As far as the Pacific is concerned, the committee recognised the ‘significant relationship’ between Australia and those states currently in receipt of aid, but warned that continuing high levels of aid cannot be taken for granted. Good governance, development needs and aid effectiveness should be criteria for ‘determining the focus of the aid program’. Good economic and social policies should be regarded as the bases for deciding whether aid will or will not be granted. All this sounds rather prescriptive, but in effect reflects the committee’s way of affirming respect for national sovereignty. In other words, if we don’t like what you’re doing, the ‘drip’ will be turned off, but there will be no exercise of force majeur.

In order that Pacific Island countries (as well as all other aid recipients) can better understand how they might achieve the development objectives that Australia prescribes, country strategy papers will be prepared and perhaps additional staff recruited. In the words of the review report, ‘AusAID’s strategic planning, its knowledge of local conditions, its activity selection and evaluation processes need to be of the highest order, because Australia can affect national development outcomes if the policies and practices pursued are right’ (AusAID 1997: 117). Undoubtedly this is stated with conviction and goodwill, but does it not sound just a little patronising?

The Pacific Island countries, in common with most others (including Australia), undoubtedly have their less than perfect politicians and bureaucrats, as has recently been widely publicised. But they also have large numbers of dedicated and professional individuals, often Australian trained, who are more than capable of developing and implementing development programmes appropriate to the needs of their people. By all means let Australia, with its abundant resources, examine issues likely to affect the future of the islands - issues which island professionals may not have the resources to examine themselves. By all means let these issues be considered in the islands themselves, through public seminars and open debate and, if deemed appropriate, incorporated in national plans for progress. But surely these externally generated strategies should not be the basis upon which decisions whether to aid or not to aid are made.

It is especially important that those in the front line of the aid game - the field officers of the aid bureaucracy - understand that just because it carries a large purse, Australia is not able to pressure island leaders into pursuing policies that it believes to be right and proper. The ‘carrot and stick’ approach is not, in the long term, going to serve Australia’s global interests. This is not to suggest that Australia should adopt a laissez faire approach to its aid to Pacific Island states - far from it. What is suggested is that a greater emphasis be placed on Australia’s role of assisting these states to achieve national goals by way of a partnership rather than as a supportive or possibly even intrusive bystander.

Changing funding arrangements

One important change worth considering in the way that projects and programmes are funded, which would conform to the dictates of Australian aid policy, would be to require, as far as possible, a national contribution to the activity in financial partnership with the Australian aid dollar. It would be interesting to determine the number of projects in the region, funded solely by bilateral or multilateral donors, which were requested on the whim of political or bureaucratic leadership, on the implicit understanding that their success or failure was of little consequence to the recipient government, as someone else was carrying the financial responsibility. The old saying that something achieved at no cost is not truly appreciated has as much application in the context of aid as anywhere. Clearly not all aid endeavours lend themselves readily to a national contribution. However, even a cursory review of Australian aid to Pacific states indicates that there are both capital and other projects which could be readily adapted to require a national contribution as a prerequisite to a major (say 90 per cent) Australian counterpart or partnership contribution.

A reasonable response by the island governments to such a change in policy might well be either to reduce spending elsewhere or to cancel the project. Such a response would be understandable, but not insurmountable. The quantum of Australian aid to any one country is predetermined and should not be reduced by the equivalent of the national island contribution. Rather, the amount ‘freed up’ in the manner proposed should continue to be available to the recipient. This should either be in the form of ongoing support for operational costs of a capital project, say a trust fund arrangement, or of a recurrent budget item cost which strengthens a country’s capacity to achieve the sort of long-term goals Australia sees as desirable, for example poverty reduction.
An open partnership

This sort of change in aid management would require a lot of imagination on the part of the donor agency, and a high degree of goodwill towards the donor on the part of the recipient government, as direct negotiations on the content of the national budget will be involved. No longer would there be a separate aid-funded component of the annual expenditure programme; all items supported by Australia will form part of the annual appropriation, will be voted on by the parliament and subject to scrutiny by both the government’s back bench and opposition. But the change would represent an overt partnership, and a recognition by both parties of the role of the donor and the responsibility of the recipient to properly evaluate a project or programme prior to inclusion in a development agenda. There would be no reason for Australia to relinquish responsibility to the taxpayer for the way in which aid dollars are spent. The project would be monitored by both parties during the implementation stage and then evaluated for effectiveness at its conclusion. This would be an aid partnership at its most open which, if properly developed, ‘wad frae mony a blunder free us! And foolish notion’.

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NGO capacity building in the Pacific

John Taylor, Canada Fund, Fiji*

The dramatic rise in the number and prominence of non-government organisations (NGOs) relates partly to the growing inability of the state to provide social welfare programmes for its citizens. In addition, many people now believe government-led development stifles initiative, absolves people of personal responsibility and encourages dependence. The growing legacy of state inefficiency and corruption has precipitated extensive debate on whether development can be best achieved through public sector initiatives. At the same time, the private sector demonstrates little willingness or capability to alleviate poverty, empower the poor, or invest in the community sector.

These realities are sending donors and development practitioners searching for alternatives to strengthen civil society and promote participatory grassroots development. Often referred to as the 'third' or 'voluntary' sector, NGOs include a wide spectrum of non-profit, self-help and advocacy organisations. These organisations have suddenly found themselves pushed to the leading edge of development thinking and practice.

Overview of the NGO sector in the Pacific

Communities throughout the South Pacific, especially those in isolated rural areas, have become increasingly reliant on NGOs for the provision of basic services. Despite the struggle to secure adequate financial, human and material resources, NGOs are attempting to fill gaps created by government cutbacks and structural adjustment policies in education, health, social welfare, water and sanitation, community development and natural resource management.

Governments throughout the region are also beginning to rely on NGOs to deliver essential public services because of their cost-effectiveness and ability to engage people at the village level, especially in remote locations.

Due to their limited size and resource base, most NGOs perform their work with minimal training and in relative isolation from other NGOs. Very few organisations in the region seem able to handle the increased demands made by donors, governments, and the communities themselves. Many NGOs experience deficits in programme planning and implementation and require assistance with a range of activities in these areas. These are essential skills which must be cultivated if donors and governments are to rely on NGOs as credible intermediaries.

For the most part, Pacific NGOs understand that participation by all stakeholders is a prerequisite for sustainable development, thus they are becoming stronger advocates on a wide range of development issues. When critical decisions are being made by the public and private sectors, NGOs are playing a central role in mobilising community reaction and helping people voice their concerns. Despite these efforts, NGOs recognise the need to increase their ability to conduct research, engage in public debate, participate in public policy making and influence the allocation of development resources.

NGO capacity building

To respond to this challenge, there is growing recognition that NGOs will need to develop genuine partnerships with donors and governments and receive meaningful support for institutional strengthening activities. Consequently, NGO capacity building is now being given a high priority. Indeed, it has been argued that development assistance provided through NGOs will ultimately fail if capacity building and organisational strengthening are neglected.

The term ‘NGO capacity building’ is now frequently used, yet there is little agreement on what this concept actually involves. Current approaches to capacity building are often ad hoc and lack long-term strategic vision. It is important, therefore, that people working within this sector define the term, debate the usefulness of various approaches and understand the resource implications of effective NGO capacity building.

The International Non-Governmental Organisation Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), based in the United Kingdom, is a registered charity whose primary goal is to improve the organisational effectiveness and performance of northern NGOs and their southern partners. This organisation defines capacity building as "an explicit outside intervention to improve an organisation’s performance in relation to its mission, context, resources and sustainability”.

INTRAC proposes that capacity building is:

- complex and lacks straightforward solutions;
- long term and involves a deep and continuing engagement of the organisation and its environment;
- dynamic - a continuous process of renewal to identify new systems and structures to cope with a constantly changing environment;
- costly and requires up front investments of time and money;
- dependent on skilled facilitators who are culturally sensitive, consistent and available to consult with the organisation over a considerable period of time;

October 1997
• owned by the NGO. One of the basic principles of
organisational change is that unless the organisation itself
is committed, the process will be undermined and ineffectiv;

• difficult to measure because of the long-term and evolving
nature of the process; and

• subject to constraints as donor organisations, particularly
in times of budget restrictions, often view capacity building
as an expensive or non-essential activity.

Examples of NGO capacity building efforts in the
Pacific

There are a range of initiatives currently operating in the
Pacific designed to address the need for NGO strengthening.
Some of these activities are not new while others are recently
established or are still in the planning stage.

Some of the approaches to NGO capacity building in the
Pacific are:

Core funding

A small number of NGOs in the Pacific currently receive
grants from various donors to cover some, or all, core
operating expenses. Some of these organisations have been
recipients of core funding for many years. For example,
Solomons Island Development Trust (SIDT) has received core
funding from the Interchurch Coordination Committee for
Development (ICCO, Netherlands) for over 12 years. In other
cases, core funding is provided to an NGO on a short-term
basis (generally one to five years), with the expectation that
the NGO will establish alternative means to cover recurring
costs. Some funding agencies who have provided core
funding to NGOs in the region are AusAID, Bread for the
World, British ODA, Canada Fund, Community Aid Abroad,
ICCO, NZODA, Save the Children Fund and a host of church­
related funding agencies based in Europe.

The placement of overseas and local volunteers with NGOs

In recent years many international volunteer organisations
have shifted their focus away from filling government
placements and are now attempting to recruit more volunteers
to work within the NGO sector. Some of the international
organisations placing volunteers with NGOs in the Pacific
include AVA (Australia), CUSO (Canada), GDS (Germany),
JICA (Japan), OED (Austria), Peace Corps (USA),
SwissTeam (Switzerland), United Nations Volunteers, VSA
(New Zealand) and VSO (United Kingdom).

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), an indigenous organisation
called the National Volunteer Service (NVS) provides
volunteers and other support services to NGOs, community­
based organisations and government agencies who request
assistance in implementing and managing their programmes.

NVS volunteers work throughout the country in a variety of
fields including community planning and organising, small
business development, agriculture, forestry, primary
healthcare, social services, non-formal education and
appropriate technology.

Short-term training activities

Recently there have been numerous training workshops
specially designed for the NGO sector, covering such topics
as proposal writing, fundraising, financial management,
leadership, community development and strategic planning.
Most of these workshops have been run as a one-off activity,
with little follow-up or ongoing support to participants.

NGO consultancies

At any given time there are numerous consultants in the Pacific
providing short-term technical assistance to NGOs. These
consultancies are usually part of a larger government bilateral
or multilateral development project which has an NGO
component. For example, a large population planning project
in PNG has employed an Asia Development Bank consultant
as NGO advisor for the project. Her role is to provide
technical assistance to NGOs in PNG and identify ways these
organisations can participate in the project.

NGO capacity building programmes

There are a few recent examples in the Pacific where
comprehensive institutional strengthening programmes are
being developed by, and for, the NGO sector. For example,
in PNG, a representative group of 20 NGO leaders are
currently participating in the design phase of a five year,
multi­
million dollar NGO capacity building project.

In the Solomons Islands, Development Services Exchange in
cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature and the
Solomons Islands College of Higher Education, are developing
a capacity building programme aimed at community-based
organisations involved in natural resource management.

NGO attachments and exchanges

Various donor organisations are supporting NGO staff
exchange and attachment programmes within the region and
overseas. Attachment programmes have proven especially
beneficial as participants gain valuable, practical work
experience and the opportunity to network with others in their
field. A good example is the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
which offers regular one month intensive staff attachment
programmes for Pacific organisations interested in the issue
of gender violence.

NGO networks

There are several formal and informal NGO networks spread
throughout the Pacific which attempt to keep NGOs abreast
of regional issues and events and which have potential to
mobilise citizens to address their concerns. Well-established NGO umbrella bodies with formal networks include the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement based in Fiji and the Pacific Council of Churches, also in Fiji. The Pacific Islands Association of NGOs, whose members include national NGO umbrella bodies, is currently exploring options for establishing a secretariat in the region.

**NGO-donor partnerships**

Community Aid Abroad (Australia), Save the Children Fund (PNG) and Bread for the World (Germany) are just a few examples of donors who are currently exploring the concept of ‘partnership’, and the most effective ways of providing organisational support to their NGO partners. Bread for the World (PNG) has recently hired a coordinator for its Pacific Partnership Programme which aims to strengthen the work of individual NGOs as well as the collective efforts of its partner network. This programme is currently soliciting input and assistance from other donors and NGOs in order to widen the impact of this effort.

**Donor initiatives**

There are several examples in the region of donor-initiated efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of NGOs. AusAID, as part of its development assistance programme to PNG, will soon launch a new community development scheme. This initiative is intended to provide an innovative NGO funding mechanism which will feature capacity building and networking as central components of the programme.

The UNDP Partners in Development Programme (Fiji), now in its second phase, is currently overseeing a three part regional NGO capacity building programme which includes the design and publication of training manuals on leadership and management, fundraising and financial management, and project management.

The Commonwealth Foundation (UK) recently published *Non-governmental organisations: Guidelines for good policy and practice*. This publication recommends specific actions which NGOs, governments, funders and international agencies can take to promote the work and impact of NGOs while fostering better relationships between all stakeholders.

The Canada Fund (New Zealand) has recently recruited and is co-funding the placement of a CUSO volunteer in Fiji to assist with the task of NGO strengthening in the Pacific and to link relevant Canadian NGOs with Pacific NGOs.

**Possible strategies for NGO capacity building in the Pacific**

All new NGO capacity building efforts in the Pacific need to recognise the many innovative approaches currently being trialed throughout the region. It is strongly recommended that any additional resources be used to consolidate and coordinate existing initiatives. Ultimately what is needed are sustainable, culturally appropriate support mechanisms to ensure the NGO sector becomes, and remains, a capable and equal development partner in regional affairs.

The strategies outlined below centre around the concept of an NGO management resource centre which could serve as the hub for NGO capacity building activities in the region. These ideas are intended to stimulate wider discussion among those interested in NGO sector development in the Pacific.

**NGO management resource centre**

An NGO management resource centre could perform the following functions:

**Research**

This might include conducting research on behalf of the NGO community, or providing technical assistance to enable interested NGOs to develop their own capacity for research and analysis. Topics of particular interest to the NGO sector might include:

- indigenous approaches to management
- the characteristics of the NGO community in the Pacific
- the influence of culture on NGO management practice
- NGOs and gender relations
- conditions of employment among NGOs in the region
- aid flows to and impact on Pacific NGOs

**Conferences, seminars and workshops**

By creating opportunities for NGO staff and stakeholders to share ideas and exchange information, the centre could promote positive dialogue on a wide range of NGO related issues on a regional or national level.

**NGO management courses**

For various reasons NGOs have experienced difficulty in recruiting and maintaining skilled personnel, although the sector has the potential to offer legitimate career alternatives to the public and private sectors. One strategy to address this issue may be to offer NGO personnel access to relevant, affordable and flexible courses on management which lead to accreditation.

**NGO internships, apprenticeships and field study programmes for students**

Offering structured experiential learning opportunities with NGOs would not only enable students to understand the important role NGOs play, but expose them to the unique values and beliefs of NGOs. In exchange, interns and practicum students could provide Pacific NGOs with much needed appropriately skilled, qualified and experienced people.
Information clearing house

The centre could serve as a clearing house for information on a range of NGO related issues and concerns. For example, it could house a comprehensive database of NGOs and their activities throughout the Pacific. It could publish and disseminate donor directories, community resource guides and training manuals. It could also store an extensive collection of resource materials on NGO management.

Networking and resource mobilisation

The centre could play a leading role in mobilising human, financial and technological resources to address the capacity needs of NGOs in the region. It could gather and distribute information on NGO capacity building programmes around the world.

Mobile team of specialists in organisational development

The centre could employ, or engage as needed, a team of highly competent individuals skilled in the area of organisational development. These specialists could respond to requests for assistance by individual NGOs with the goal of helping organisations assess and solve their own problems.

*To discuss these ideas or request further information, please contact:

John Taylor, Canada Fund Resource Person for NGO Strengthening, Equitable & Sustainable Human Development Programme, UNDP Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.
Tel (679) 300 399, Fax (679) 301 976,
E-mail eshdp@undp.org.fj
The role of NGOs in advancing sustainable development

Gordon Knowles, The Salvation Army*

The emerging consensus on the changing, more limited role of government is enabling a new emphasis to be placed on the role of both the commercial and community sectors. This has been accompanied by reductions in the level of public spending, together with the recognition that these non-government sectors may be more successful at providing services previously regarded as being the sole responsibility of government (UNDP 1993:91; Meyer 1992). In developed countries, this trend has been evidenced by the privatisation and/or the subsidisation of health and aged care activities, the deinstitutionalisation of community welfare activity, and the provision of community-based aged care and disability services.

Accumulated experience of donor agencies reveals that government intervention in international development cooperation is often ineffective, especially when addressing the immediate needs of the poor, or implementing small community development projects. This has resulted in increased use of non-government organisations (NGOs) by donor agencies and governments to implement projects, particularly for community development. However, this has created a dilemma for NGOs concerning the role which NGOs perceive themselves to be filling, which may be in conflict with the role which donor agencies and governments expect NGOs to play.

Role of NGOs

Given the present trend towards greater economic liberalisation, NGOs appear to be 'swimming against the current'. Instead of working with government on joint development programmes, NGOs often operate on the basis of self-reliant initiatives. In contrast to the current growth of worldwide corporate alliances, NGOs often rely on the collective action of committed individuals. Whereas economic neo-liberalism reduces the role of the state, social liberalism increases its importance in new efforts to promote privatisation and strengthen the individual's place in society. Social liberalism suggests that the state should assume the role of being the main promoter of development, with a special responsibility to satisfy basic needs, combat poverty, and assist poor communities. While the neo-liberal model is concerned with generating and distributing wealth equitably in order to overcome poverty and provide social justice, in reality there is a significant gap between policy and practice which NGOs have sought to fill (Sanchez 1994:315-317). NGOs have also helped to bridge this gap by raising awareness of environmental issues in economic development.

Erosion, land degradation, forest reduction, and indiscriminate water use are some of the environmental problems faced by the poor on a daily basis. Fragile and limited resources, limited access to credit facilities and market opportunities, and poorly defined land rights work against long-term management and care of the local environment. Whilst the poor often have a strong tradition of managing their lands, various demographic, economic and political factors have placed traditional practices under significant pressure. In recent years, development processes have increasingly focused on the anticipation and prevention of environmental problems, rather than on crisis management, and the term 'ecologically sustainable development' has been incorporated into the NGO aid philosophy. With their particular skills, NGOs can provide communities with a greater understanding of sustainable resource use and options for community development.

The World Bank acknowledges the important role that NGOs play in reducing poverty, and in promoting ecologically sustainable development (World Bank 1993:123-125). The Bank has also recognised the cost-effectiveness of NGOs in service delivery, as well as their innovative approaches and commitment to long-term involvement and advocacy. However, limited financial, technical and managerial capacity, and a tendency to pursue particular issues without due sensivity to the broader context, have been identified as major weaknesses of NGOs (Brown and Korten 1991:65-67).

Leaving aside disaster situations which demand specific responses, the primary ongoing role and responsibilities of indigenous NGOs would seem to fall into three categories:

1 Organising the poor to ensure their participation in the development and growth of their own community and country;

2 Mobilising the financial and human resources of the poor in order to increase their productive capacity and income opportunities; and

3 Developing the capacity of the poor to demand and receive from government a higher share of the nation's goods and services (Bysouth 1986:220).

NGOs also have an advocacy role in which they assist marginalised communities to represent their own views through enhanced avenues for participation. Many NGOs also build community capacity in management, environmental assessment, financial control, project planning, implementation, and evaluation (Robinson 1992:35-37).

Inter-agency linkages: the way ahead

The changing role of NGOs now requires the creation of partnerships with government as intermediary organisations...
between people and government. Because NGOs work closely with local communities, they are often able to initiate changes to government plans for community development, particularly those involving environmental issues. This complementary role of NGOs has often been acknowledged by local government agencies and donor organisations, particularly in the case of the remote rural poor, where NGOs can provide the social preparation needed for large-scale economic and environment projects.

Given NGOs' commitment to poverty alleviation, most of their efforts focus on overcoming obstacles which prevent communities from deriving any benefit from the development processes already being undertaken (Korten 1990:4-6). Some commentators argue that non-profit volunteer organisations constitute an essential third sector of society which is independent but complementary to the government and business sectors. The political power and legitimacy of this third sector is drawn from direct public participation, and helps to ensure a higher degree of public accountability from government and business sectors than would otherwise be expected. Furthermore, it promotes pluralism and protects the interests of minority groups excluded from mainstream political processes (Fowler 1992:21-23).

Promoting sustainable development policies at the national and international level requires immense efforts to inform the public and secure its support. NGOs have already made considerable progress on environmental issues, and have active networks in place (Centre for Our Common Future 1988:67). By improving their own management capacity, NGOs enhance their credibility with government agencies, which are consequently more likely to entrust resources to the community in the future. Another significant role, especially of NGOs of the North, is to provide prepared and well-briefed staff to train and work alongside indigenous NGOs, government agencies, and communities in developing countries.

NGO cooperation

In recent years there has generally been an increased level of cooperation between NGOs, governments, the United Nations, and multilateral agencies. Government and community organisations have collaborated with the World Bank in a number of ways. They have provided policy advice, participated in co-financing arrangements, and assisted in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of significant environment projects. One example is the NORAD fishing resource protection initiative in Namibia, undertaken in collaboration with the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries (NORAD 1994:10-11). NGOs are also engaged in active dialogue with World Bank staff by bringing their views, expertise and experience to bear on policy issues and project design (Edwards and Hulme 1992:21). A project supported jointly by the Kenyan and Australian governments, through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), involved close collaboration with the scientific community. Begun in 1984, the project has supported the development of an agriculture system in the Machakos District of Kenya which provides both economic and environmental protection to the community in that area. This initiative has since been replicated in the area between Nairobi and Machakos by an Australian NGO (Lee 1993:5-7).

Along with the increased capacity of NGOs has come an increased involvement in activities which could be described as commercial, and some commentators suggest that NGOs need to ensure that their role in development is not compromised by commercial interests. NGOs are under increasing pressure to work under contract to governments, donors and other agencies, especially in the area of emergency relief work (Korten 1990:102-104).

In collaboration with government agencies, NGOs are often involved in implementing projects in the areas of education, health, and water supply. Education is crucial to poverty alleviation, and a prerequisite for environmental sustainability. The investment by national governments in female education provide some of the highest returns for development and for the environment. Evidence suggests that women who have participated in NGO-run education programmes raise smaller, healthier and better educated families (World Bank 1992:29-30).

The delivery of community development assistance to developing countries could be regarded as an indirect attempt by donor governments to discipline public sector institutions in the developing country, and thus keep corrupt, inept, or interfering institutions from impeding economic, environmental and political liberalisation (Duchacek 1990:12). There is common agreement on the ineffectiveness of the state to foster local initiative and initiate policies of empowerment, especially for women, the disadvantaged and minorities. Some NGOs suspect that, by supporting the private and non-government sectors, donor governments are able to bypass government institutions, thereby ensuring that more of their aid funds reach the people at grassroots level.

The recognition by central and donor governments that NGOs can perform certain functions better than state instrumentalities, especially at the local level, has important implications, especially for the allocation of resources by government to Southern indigenous NGOs. An example of NGO-community collaboration to achieve environmental protection and prevention of further damage is currently taking place in Guizhou Province in the People's Republic of China. Terraced slopes of less than 25 degrees have enabled water retention and storage to take place, in addition to erosion and prevention of siltation of dams and water resources. The NGO is also involved with assisting a number of communities to install biogas production facilities in each house. Methane is produced in a sealed pit from organic waste materials, and is used for cooking and lighting. This in turn enables children to study at night, is cleaner and healthier for cooking, and takes the pressure off the population to use maize stalks or coal for cooking and heating (Yan and Wang 1992:110-112). However, many NGOs have failed to understand that success
scale. Because services provided by NGOs are almost always project-based, and on a small scale, a lack of uniformity and fragmentation throughout individual countries can create major problems for fiscally constrained states. In many cases, assistance is being provided on a patchy basis, and the benefits do not flow evenly throughout the population. What is happening, in effect, is that the state is being displaced as the main provider of services. In view of the fact that NGOs are increasingly providing these services, supposedly on behalf of the state, NGOs are now required to become more accountable and are subject to greater political pressures (Ghai 1995:13).

Conclusion

As donor operations increasingly emphasise poverty reduction, investment in human resources, and environmental management, more and more donor-supported projects depend on participation and capacity building at the community level. Participatory community-based development depends, in turn, on intermediary organisations with the specialised skills and experience to provide links between community-level institutions, cultures and traditions on the one hand, and national institutions or donor agencies on the other.

This intermediary function takes on a new focus when NGOs attempt to convince local governments and community groups that economic growth based on unsustainable resource use cannot continue indefinitely. The implementation of development programmes which are ecologically and economically sustainable is now a priority for most development-oriented NGOs. Examples of joint NGO-government activity confirm that the work of NGOs complements that of governments of various levels in developing countries.

NGOs are now being used by governments for a myriad of functions. One of the most common functions relevant to this discussion is the provision of services which contribute to sustainable economic growth, human resource development, environmental protection, and institutional capacity building. Now, more than ever, NGOs have the opportunity to make a practical contribution to sustainable development. If they are to fulfil their claimed role, however, they will need to strengthen the link between environmental and economic policies in community development, and ensure that government at all levels recognise the crucial need for change in attitude and behaviour towards the environment.

* Gordon Knowles is currently the Overseas Development Consultant for The Salvation Army Australia, and coordinates 40 aid projects in 16 developing countries.

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Ten reasons why what we’re doing may not help: Aid, poverty and development

A. Crosbie Walsh, Centre for Development Studies, University of the South Pacific

Over 20 years ago, Dudley Seers pointed to poverty, unemployment, inequality and local self-reliance as the central issues of development (Seers 1977: 9-30). He was arguing then against neoclassical views which placed growth and a larger GNP before questions of distribution. He claimed the neoclassical paradigm had lost credibility, but both positions are still very much with us today.

The Simons report (AusAID 1997) is an interesting document in that it advocates a single, sharp focus on poverty in aid delivery, and hence on distribution, while Australian domestic and foreign government policies advocate growth and neoclassical structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) - and hence increased inequalities, at least ‘in the short term’. It could be argued that the two positions are contradictory.

The Simons report raises the question: is the poverty focus (with or without its SAP appendage) any more likely to succeed than the umpteen other aid and development foci of the past 50 years? In seeking an answer, I argue that we need to reflect on certain realities which make effective aid delivery, and the promotion of equitable, sustainable development, extremely difficult - and perhaps unattainable.

The global playing field is not level

Pacific Island nations (PIN), and the Third World generally, continue to be structurally disadvantaged in relation to the world’s major players, and it could be that their disadvantage is increasing. Their exports bring low and erratic prices. Imports are costly, and many are not needed or could be produced locally (typically, over 20 per cent of PIN imports comprise food and beverages). Trade imbalances are typical. Debt levels are high. Trade concessions (SPARTECA and the Lome Convention) may not last much longer. Many development initiatives and export-led economic growth policies require high government spending in infrastructure, plant and human resource development. Underemployment and unemployment levels are far, far higher than official statistics indicate. Advertising and many imported programmes on television undermine local values, and stimulate new, unrealistic consumer expectations. New technologies have further widened the gap between rich and poor nations, while new economic policies have widened the gap between rich and poor Pacific Islanders.

Aid donors which do not address these fundamental inequalities can do little to remove poverty, or promote productive, equitable or sustainable development, no matter how altruistic their motives may be.

Local leaders may be happy with how things are

The fact that no PIN leader or political party has chosen to address the inequalities which exist within their own society raises the question: how serious are they about equitable, sustainable development?

True, there have been some promising noises here and there, largely in response to outside or church influences (Barr 1990), but commitment and political will are still lacking. In Fiji, two reports estimate poverty at 25 per cent of urban populations and
worsening, but little is actually being done about it (Ahlburg 1995; Government of Fiji and UNDP 1997). Could it be that local leaders have chosen to leave things as they are? They benefit directly or indirectly from aid and development practices. Major policy changes could mean they benefit less.

The direction and speed of change are largely controlled by those with political and economic power. They have nothing to gain, at least materially, from policies of equity or poverty alleviation. But they will, of course, accept overseas aid directed to these ends, and aid has the potential to slow down or speed up change. In the Pacific Islands, change could perhaps be best effected through the moral leadership and example of local churches - if they could be persuaded to change.

Aid is political, but we don’t want to get political

‘We must not interfere in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state.’ Really! Aid lobbyists need to think this statement through most carefully. Interference is unwanted intervention, but who decides what is unwanted? The poor, the needy, the oppressed? Visions of Timor, China, South Africa, French testing on Mururoa atoll, Fiji following the 1987 coup, air gunships for PNG, and logging in the Solomon Islands come to mind. Effective aid sometimes cannot avoid being blatantly political, and in a wider sense all aid is political. The problem is how to step through the minefields of so many vested interests in aid donor and recipient countries (businessmen, churches, NGOs, politicians, academics, diplomats, bureaucrats and the voting public), and still help - or at least not hurt - the people for whom the aid is intended. The problem is knowing when, and when not, to interfere. Current concerns with democracy, good governance and the emphasis on political stability could, under certain conditions, prove to be contradictory.

Developmentalists should not allow aid and politics to be separated: development is political and all aid is actual or potential interference.

Aid may be undevelopmental

The notion that aid - or any other such ‘injections’ from industrialised to Third World countries - acts as a catalyst for development should have died in the early days of modernisation theory. The amount is too small, and shrinking; and the types of aid received and their use are rarely contradictory. Aid donor countries and those seeking aid assistance should also recognise the extent to which aid is influenced by lobbyists and pressure groups in donor countries and by the elites (both government and NGO) in recipient countries. Who determines whether the environment, women’s rights, tertiary education (in the Islands and Australia), private enterprise, small business, microcredit, or even poverty should receive aid support? Who really sets the priorities?

Donors and NGOs may be intentionally or unintentionally imposing their priorities and values on recipients, or be too ready to accept local, or local embassy, ideas on the assumption that they are disinterested and must know best. We need always to ask: whose idea was it, really? Where are the vested interests? In what proportions will the various parties benefit? What weight should be given to ‘universal’ and local values? How may this or that proposal meet Seers’ development objectives?

The cultural factor is very important and often misunderstood

All of us suffer from what may be called cultural schizophrenia. We switch between our ‘pretend’ and ‘real’ cultures, failing to recognise any inconsistency. The importance of this observation may be illustrated by three examples from Fiji:

(i) A Fijian student of mine recently asked Fijian top and middle management and their junior employees about lateness. Top management said it rarely happened and was penalised, middle management replies were ambivalent, while junior employees said they were often late and rarely penalised. Top management said what was expected (this is the way modern firms should work); junior employees said what actually happened. Theirs was the ‘real’ culture - the culture of the Fijian-managed firm. All claimed to be answering honestly.

(ii) A recent Pacific Islands Monthly (PIM) editorial criticised some established Fijian church leaders and villagers for wanting a Christian state, and for their hostility towards the number of religious sects now entering the country. Religious tolerance and the separation of church and state were the issues for PIM; community cohesion and the
Aid delivery is thought to be more effective than donor government delivery and a means of bypassing recipient disposal of donor and recipient country NGOs.

Aid which does not recognise the coexistence, dangers, opportunities and possible legitimacy of different sets of values - and of real and pretend culture - is likely to be misused, at least from aid donor perspectives.

**Grassroots participation may not be possible**

Participation is one of the new development in-words, which can mean anything from scant consultation to equitable governance. But significant grassroots indigenous participation may not be possible in certain contexts. It may be impossible in socially stratified Fiji, for example, and in some parts of Polynesia. In Fiji, the chiefs rule (or are made to appear to rule), their authority upheld by culture, religion, and political events following the 1987 coup. In many situations it is discourteous for a commoner even to speak in the presence of a chief. This may apply in the case of a lower ranked chief with a higher ranked chief, or even a Permanent Secretary in the presence of their Minister.

Even assuming some grassroots participation is possible, its extent will be limited to what is culturally acceptable and in the perceived best interests of those with authority. Donor governments probably know this; their NGOs may need to come down from cloud nine.

**Penny capitalism approaches may perpetuate poverty**

Aid programmes which assist small scale business and self-help by the poor may produce minor, and occasionally major, improvements in the lives of a few households. This is a good, but insufficient, reason to support their continuance.

The danger of such aid foci is that they often stem from, or result in, the exclusion of the bigger picture. In failing to address the basic causes of poverty, unemployment and inequality, they may in fact help to perpetuate their existence.

**NGOs may become corrupted**

NGOs have become major aid players, partly because their aid delivery is thought to be more effective than donor government delivery and a means of bypassing recipient government corruption, but partly also because NGO delivery is cheaper. With relatively large sums of money now at the disposal of donor and recipient country NGOs, aid has become big business. Some dangers may result: excessive zeal in competing with each other for funds; expanding NGO bureaucracies; fear of criticising fund sources; loss of independence; and even a perversion of primary aims.

As aid is professionalised (or privatised), the role of NGOs as independent, critical, dedicated lobbyists for improved aid and more principled foreign policies may become severely compromised.

**Just how do structural adjustment policies help the poor?**

Australia is providing some of the pressure, and much of the expertise, to assist PINs to undergo structural adjustment. AusAID policy is now focusing on the reduction of poverty through sustainable economic and social development. But this most appealing policy goal may not be possible if PINs pursue undiluted structural adjustment policies, even assuming that that overworked fairy 'Trickle Down' will eventually work its elusive magic.

Structural adjustment is an ideology, lacking theoretical foundation. There is no evidence that it has worked anywhere to produce equitable development. Despite what we are told, it has not been responsible for the success of the Asian Tigers. PINs cannot compete in a 'seamless' world. They cannot afford the social safety net of family and unemployment benefits used by developed countries. Their firms will not pay redundancy packets. In Fiji, deregulation and loss of protection for infant industries will hinder indigenous Fijian participation in business (MFED 1995: 47). Smaller PINs have no industry to protect and virtually no private sector to take over from the state. Here, as elsewhere, downsizing and cuts in government spending will create further unemployment and a deterioration in basic government services. There is no guarantee that it will lead to greater efficiencies.

This is not to say that SAPs contain no good advice. It is the universal package and the carved-in-stone solution that are being criticised. There are other ways to promote beneficial change.

**What NGOs and governments should do**

**Pacific Island nations**: Negotiate the new global realities. Gain strength by cooperating with other PINs. Give at least as much thought to distribution as to growth, or social disharmony will undermine your economic achievements. Beware of outside values which unnecessarily divide or undermine local communities, and those which promote unsustainable material expectations. Promote the humanitarian functions of the churches. Take SAPs with a pinch of salt, and adapt them to fit each of your local realities. Protect the subsistence sector and some local industries. Recognise that not all foreign investment is good. Safeguard a free and responsible media. Demand greater transparency and accountability in government; expect more civic and leader responsibility, and more public participation. Keep the development debate alive. Be selective about aid; there is no aid without some strings attached, and some aid may be damaging. Temper expediency with large doses of morality.
Aid donors: Do not separate aid from the larger picture. Recognise what can and cannot (and should and should not) be done. Acknowledge your many vested interests. Educate your own people about development, at home and overseas. Be honest with the governments and people of aid recipient countries. Keep asking who you have really consulted. Truly recognise cultural differences. NGOs, be alert to potentially corrupting influences. Support policies, at home and in recipient countries, which place as much emphasis on equitable distribution as on growth. Non-equitable development is unsustainable.

Academics: The role of academics, particularly those in development studies, with respect to aid and development issues should always be to question the establishment, current fads and popular wisdoms. In the past few years, one whole sector of academic argument has been missing as universities themselves have experienced 'structural adjustment'. Times may be hard, but it will not help aid and development causes to allow the neoclassical piper to call all the tunes.

References

Pacific Islands Monthly, August 1997, editorial.
The ESD stumble could herald a bigger fall for Australia’s aid programme

Lee Rhiannon, Director, AID/WATCH

The reaction of AID/WATCH and most development agencies to one clear objective, the report of the Simons committee, was initially one of welcome relief. After years of aid budget cutbacks by both Labor and Coalition governments, a positive voice for overseas development combined with detailed recommendations surprised many. Even the fact that the committee recommended that the government abandon the longstanding UN goal to have industrialised countries spend the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of their GNP on aid, did not dampen the enthusiastic support for the report from many quarters.

Poverty alleviation through sustainable development

The central point of the committee’s report is that poverty alleviation should be the one primary goal of the Australian aid programme. This appears to pave the way for a return to an aid programme that directly meets the needs of the majority of people in low income countries. Delving deeper into the report, however, one is left wondering if in fact the authors may have laid the basis for a serious weakening of Australia’s aid programme.

In putting forward the need for poverty alleviation to be the ‘single and unambiguous objective’ of Australia’s aid programme, the report argues that this will be achieved through ‘sustainable economic and social development’. The term ‘ecological sustainable development’ (ESD) is not used by the authors who, when writing about sustainable development, relegate environmental issues to a very lowly position compared with economic and social concerns.

Although the term ‘sustainable development’ has been confused by the popular press in recent years, there is a considerable volume of work by international fora and the Australian government that provides a detailed and unified definition of this important concept. The report’s authors appear to either not be aware of this work or have chosen not to draw on it.

It is now widely accepted that environmental degradation is always a contributing factor to poverty — either directly or indirectly, in the short or the long term. This link is especially clear in developing countries, where livelihoods depend more visibly on the maintenance of ecological cycles.

While the report acknowledges that sustainable development ‘should be a fundamental tenet of all activities undertaken through the aid programme’, it appears to have misunderstood the underlying principle of ESD, ie, the integration of economic, environmental and social objectives. This principle recognises the intrinsic interrelationship of these objectives and accords equal weight to each in development decisions. It is not possible to achieve ESD by placing ‘human, rather than ecological concerns, at the heart of development efforts’, as recommended by the report. All three concerns need to be integrated, not set against each other.

Links between aid and environmental impact

The links between any particular aid project and its environmental impacts (positive or negative) may become obvious only gradually as impacts accumulate over space and time. This concept is well understood in methodologies developed for environmental impact assessment.

While the report acknowledges the emergence of the environment as a major cross-sectoral issue for consideration within the aid programme, its own treatment of environmental issues is far from cross-sectoral. Scant attention is given to ways in which AusAID could improve the integration of environmental concerns into development assistance. Calling on AusAID to only support projects directly related to poverty reduction, risks the creation of a short-sighted bandaid approach to poverty alleviation, rather than the sound basis for Australia’s aid programme as claimed.

The section of the report on sectoral expertise and focus (chapter 7) is particularly inadequate in its address of environmental concerns. The coordination of environmental advice within AusAID is crucial to ensuring the integration of environmental concerns into all aspects of Australia’s aid programme. It is extremely disturbing, therefore, that the recommendation on this subject is so vague, brief and uninformative.

Environmental audits

The committee has missed a significant opportunity to build on the work of the environmental audits of the aid programme that have been carried out since 1992. These investigations made constructive recommendations as to how all key players in the official aid programme could better manage environmental issues. The conduct of the review, apparently without reference to this body of work, is surprising and calls into question the usefulness of the review’s recommendations to introduce gender audits modelled on the environment audits.

Linking global and national environmental problems

Furthermore, the review demonstrates a poor understanding of global environmental issues and the relationship of such
issues to national environmental problems, the solution of which is integral to poverty alleviation. Global environmental problems are in fact the cumulative and transboundary outcomes of environmental impacts at local, regional and national levels. Issues such as biodiversity, desertification and climate change are central to sustainability. The Australian overseas aid programme is well placed to address such problems through its country and regional programmes.

Climate change

The issue of climate change well illustrates that aid programmes can be compromised if they do not integrate environmental factors. There are already reports that some low lying areas in the Pacific and coastal areas of Asia have been abandoned as communities seek out land that will be less frequently inundated. Funding poverty focused programmes in these regions without paying attention to the link between changing weather patterns and the increased hardships faced by many communities cannot result in lasting solutions. It is therefore hard to understand how the committee could conclude, 'We are not convinced ... that funding for international conventions on biodiversity and climate change should be considered a priority activity for an aid programme seeking to maximise its impact on poverty reduction in developing countries'. It is vital that AusAID continues to provide assistance so that Australia can meet its commitments to implement the Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international conventions. Such international activity needs to be combined with a shift in AusAID's energy programme to total support for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems. If Australia's overseas development assistance does not adapt its projects and programmes to the impacts of climate change, much of our Pacific programme will be unable to meet its goals.

Integrating environmental concerns into aid

It is highly appropriate for AusAID to expand rather than wind back the integration of environmental issues into all aspects of Australia’s overseas development assistance programme. If the government accepts the limited definition of sustainable development favoured by the committee, AIDWATCH believes that the attempt to refocus our aid programme to meet the needs of the majority of people in low income countries will fail.
In mid-1992, as in-country project manager of an AusAID project drawing to its close, I struggled to satisfy the detailed requirements for preparing project completion reports. I assumed what was required was a comprehensive analysis of the successes and shortcomings of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s (ABC) two-year programme of assistance to the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) of Papua New Guinea. The report had to go through various drafts, and so the end parts of the report - especially the one headed 'Weaknesses' - were far milder in their final form than what I had originally written.

Five years on, it is probably easier to assess whether this A$774,000 project achieved anything, and to examine why it did or did not work. The NBC was in a pretty deplorable state by 1989, when the then Prime Minister of PNG, Rabbie Namaliu, asked the then Managing Director of the ABC, David Hill, if we could advise him on how PNG’s national broadcaster could be rescued.

Lamentable state

The extent of the problems had been well documented in the 1987 Kalo Inquiry into broadcasting in Papua New Guinea. Sir Kwamala Kalo’s board conducted extensive hearings and concluded that the NBC was in a lamentable state, plagued by ‘inadequate career structures, ineffective leadership and management and low staff morale’. The Inquiry found an NBC failing to meet its charter; whose radio coverage was ‘inadequate, and in much of the country non-existent’; whose equipment was ‘obsolete and almost unserviceable’; which had ‘no capital expenditure programme directed to expansion or replacement’; and which was ‘shackled by an attitude and structure that may have been appropriate at one time, but [which could] no longer meet the needs of the modern and independent PNG’.

Hill despatched a team headed by Malcolm Long (then head of ABC Radio; more recently, head of the Special Broadcasting Service), to see what could be done. Long’s team found the deterioration had gone even further. The so-called ‘national’ Karai service, carrying essential educational broadcasts, could not be heard in most schools. Amongst elements contributing to the NBC’s problems, the study team found ‘outmoded structural and organisational practices, many of which were bequeathed by the ABC in the early 1970s ... an internal preoccupation with process and form ... an obvious lack of basic broadcasting tools ... no up-to-date realistically achievable National Broadcasting Development Plan ... and no government approved and supported Capital Works Program’.

Long reported that the NBC suffered from ‘organisational, administrative and creative paralysis’ which often led to ‘indifferent program output’. His team proposed a comprehensive, two-year programme of training and assistance to help address these failings. The project began in July 1990, and I was appointed to the position of in-country manager in early 1991.

The Chairman and Chief Executive of the NBC, Sir Alkan Tololo, was new to broadcasting. One of the points stressed to Prime Minister Namaliu by Long was the need for the NBC to have a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with clout and credibility. The former CEO, whose term had expired, had been suspended while a tribunal investigated housing allowance rorts. Sir Rabbie proposed that since the NBC’s problems were so dire, somebody of real standing from outside the organisation should be given the job. He proposed Sir Alkan, a former head of the Education Department, ex-diplomat and Chancellor of both PNG universities.

Plans for reform

Although the ABC had recommended that intensive management training should happen early in the project, it was obvious that such training would be wasted if there was to be real institutional reform and old managers were swept aside. Sir Alkan had taken over an organisation in considerable management disarray, incapable of providing him with coherent plans for reform. The only restructuring document the NBC Secretariat could produce had been initiated by the previous Chairman, recommending the NBC expand beyond radio, take over the government printing office, print a daily government newspaper, build a multi-storey building complete with television studios, and branch out into real estate development!

The disdainful attitude of NBC staff to their own managers was revealed when, as part of a job evaluation and pay scale review, we conducted an NBC staff questionnaire. Strong criticism of management emerged in answers to almost every question. Staff accused managers of incompetence and laziness. When asked what they did not like about the existing job structure, the most common reply (30 per cent) was that there were too many bosses. When asked what the main obstacle was to career opportunities, 32 per cent volunteered that it was the existing management. Asked if there was a sharp distinction between the type of work done by people paid at different levels, 18 per cent claimed their bosses did less work than they did. Most were gloomy about career prospects in the NBC. More than two out of three felt they were in a rut, and 41 per cent said they felt they were in a rut, and a startling 41 per cent said they felt they
had absolutely no career opportunities. Seventeen per cent cited 'nepotism' as the chief obstacle holding them back.

New structure

The first task I was given by Sir Alkan was to develop restructuring proposals that could form the basis for wide-ranging discussion and consultation throughout the NBC. He agreed with Long's recommendation that any new structure needed to place emphasis on the NBC's core business - broadcasting radio programmes. A sketch of the new structure, which proposed halving the number of NBC divisions from eight to four, and boosting the proportion of divisional managers responsible for broadcast output, was presented to the NBC's own managers on Anzac Day, 1991.

Sir Alkan was a great believer in consensus. So for six months NBC staff were encouraged to debate the merits of the reform proposals. We held lengthy meetings at the divisional and unit level, visited the four regions of PNG to engage provincial radio station staff in the process, wrote newsletters and requested written submissions, which came flooding in. It was not until October 1991 that the Chairman was satisfied that the new structure was ready for presentation to the NBC Board. PNG government approval came through the Salaries and Conditions Monitoring Committee. The committee was so impressed that it gave Sir Alkan the power to declare all 614 staff in the NBC unattached, and authorised him to re-advertise every single job.

Right from the start, NBC senior managers had been warned that none of them were guaranteed any of the four, upgraded divisional manager positions. These were to be appointed on two-year performance contracts. While the senior managers had been reluctant participants in the process, NBC staff in general were enthusiastic about the promise of change. The unbelievable dedication of some of these middle- and lower-level staff (despite the incompetent crust above them) was all that kept the NBC on air.

'Old guard' reappointed

All enthusiasm crashed, though, when the NBC Board finally announced who would head up the four divisions of the 'new' NBC. Three were from the original bunch, the 'old guard' so despised by the staff for having overseen the organisation's sad decline. The fourth also came from within and was not noted for his zest for work. Many staff were stunned. Some felt betrayed by the ABC project. Where was the 'new blood' that would help revive the NBC?

Over the years of mismanagement and ineptitude that had preceded Sir Alkan's taking over the top job, the NBC had lost many promising broadcasters, engineers and capable senior managers. Some quit in protest. Others had resigned in frustration. I had sought out a number of these people and encouraged them and other Papua New Guineans to apply for the new 'contract' management jobs. Sir Alkan had decided that nobody from the ABC should be on his selection panel. 'You should not be blamed for who is chosen,' he told me, and the argument did seem persuasive. However, his panel had nobody with any broadcasting or media experience on it. They were all public servants, including the Secretary of the Public Service Union.

The senior management team they chose were appointed in March 1992, just a few months before our project was to end. For the past 18 months, Sir Alkan had encouraged our specialists who had visited the NBC (running courses, writing reports and advising on various aspects of broadcasting) to be brutally frank in their assessments of NBC staff. Almost every one of the 20 or so who had visited by that stage had praised the attitudes of the middle- and lower-level staff they had worked with. There was universal admiration for what one of the trainers described as the 'desperation' of NBC workers to learn the right way or a better way to do the job. But equally, there had been a common story from our people that Sir Alkan's big problem lay with his senior management.

Capital re-equipment plan

Now, the managers we had criticised were back in charge, stronger than ever. One of the worst casualties, once the project itself ended, was the capital re-equipment plan. The ABC had undertaken to provide the NBC with a realistic, ten year Broadcast Development Plan. A top ABC engineer, Michael Mazzei, spent months drawing up the plan, which provided for fixing up the NBC's national transmission signal and overhauling and upgrading studios and facilities throughout the country. The plan was adopted by the NBC Board in late 1992 and endorsed by the PNG Cabinet. The cost was to be 25 million kina over ten years, and we helped to negotiate with the PNG Finance Department a two million kina increase in the NBC's budget for 1993 to start it off. The plan was written with the intention of tapping into further Australian aid.

The NBC did not have the engineering expertise to oversee the implementation of the first part of this plan, and put the job out to tender. The ABC's technical division, AlphaTec, which had provided extensive training to the NBC's technical services department and had developed a good working knowledge of the NBC and PNG, submitted a tender. The 'new' NBC management team rejected AlphaTec, and instead chose a German company which quoted a higher price but offered 'extras' we had not considered necessary. The Germans then sub-contracted the job, had a falling-out with the sub-contractor, and the ten year development plan shuddered to a halt after the first year.

Some improvements

There were some improvements in the NBC's performance, for which our project could claim part of the credit. On air, there was an immediate pick-up in the broadcast sound of the news and current affairs programmes. Prior to the project, NBC news bulletins never carried voice reports from their
own journalists or actuality of those in the news. The NBC's live coverage of the two week long South Pacific Games in late 1991 won it much praise. An entirely new pay scale, aimed at rewarding performance, and simplified career paths (64 job classifications were collapsed into four broad career streams) were also directly the result of the project.

Unfortunately, no PNG government since that led by Sir Namaliu has shown the same concern for public broadcasting. Even his government never delivered on its promise to give the NBC an immediate injection of K485,000 as a 'technical catch-up grant' - part of the original Memorandum of Understanding with Australia. But the cruelest blow to the NBC's fortunes came with the 1995 changes to the provincial government system. PNG's Finance Department decided that running costs of the 19 provincial stations were a provincial responsibility. Nobody told the new governors. So, although the NBC's budget in 1996 was slashed from 11 million to seven million kina, and the other four million kina was allegedly sent to the provinces, almost none of it reached the NBC's provincial stations.

The new minister in charge of broadcasting in Bill Skate's government, Simeon Wai, has announced that he wants the NBC to move into television. A few things might need addressing first. Things such as proper funding and good management. Then again, he could look for an indulgent aid donor and an in-country project manager who is more accommodating about 'counterpart' failure at the upper management level.
Mekong Delta rice-shrimp farming project

Integrated rice-shrimp farming systems are expanding in the brackish water region of the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam. The short rice growing season caused by saline water intrusion in these areas has meant that returns from rice monoculture are limited. The adoption of shrimp as a second crop in the dry season has resulted in significant income gains for some farmers. As the region has become more experienced with rice-shrimp farming systems, several environmental problems have begun to emerge. These raise concerns over the sustainability of the system. Some of these concerns include salinity in rice fields and waterways, siltation of fields and canals, and reduction in wild shrimp seedstock. These environmental problems may result in net losses to these land-use practices over the longer term.

In order to investigate these issues, a new research project entitled 'An evaluation of the sustainability of farming systems in the brackish water region of the Mekong Delta' was recently funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The objectives of the project are:

- to provide a bioeconomic assessment of the sustainability of the current land-use practices (particularly rice-shrimp farming) in the coastal strip of the Delta;

- to provide an assessment of government policy options that may promote the sustainability of these farming systems, particularly land-use planning, management of waterways and other environmental policies; and

- to determine sustainable management strategies that can increase productivity in these farming systems over the longer term without creating adverse environmental impacts.

Major collaborators of the project are the University of Sydney, the CSIRO Division of Marine Science, University of Western Sydney, the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) at the Australian National University and the Mekong Delta Farming Systems Research and Development Centre, Cantho University, Vietnam. In this project, CRES is responsible for the Resource Profile Sub-project, which aims to establish a profile of the water and land resource conditions in the Mekong Delta in general and in the study area in particular.

This sub-project involves the compilation and synthesis of existing data and information on water and land resources. It is divided into three components where each component involves collaboration with a major institution in Vietnam. The main components and collaborators are:

- Availability and quality of surface water resources (Sub-Institute for Water Resources Planning and Management).
SHALOM - A community response to AIDS in Churachandpur, India*

HIV infection, first identified in India in 1986, presents a great challenge to the world's second most populous country. WHO estimates that over two million people are currently infected with HIV in India. Further, it is predicted that India will be the most affected country in the region before the year 2000.

There are three well-documented epicentres of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India: Bombay, Madras and Manipur. The first HIV infection in Manipur was documented in 1989 in an injecting drug user (IDU). Injecting drug use increased dramatically from the early 1980s as heroin became readily available across the 280km border shared with Myanmar. In this state, 78 per cent of people infected with HIV are IDUs. With a population of 1.8 million, Manipur has an estimated 40,000 IDUs, 80 per cent of whom are HIV infected. As initial responses to HIV infection among IDUs proved inadequate, more effective strategies were sought, and found - in the form of the SHALOM (Society for HIV/AIDS Lifeline Operation in Manipur) project.

The SHALOM project resulted from a pilot activity in 1994 involving a number of Indian Christian agencies and NGOs concerned to find ways to assist indigenous responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Manipur. The process has been assisted by AusAID and has drawn upon the expertise of the International Health Unit of the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research.

The SHALOM project provides a comprehensive set of programmes including community education, confidential HIV testing and counselling, home-based care for IDUs with AIDS or associated infections, and drug rehabilitation programmes with vocational training for women. The uniqueness of the SHALOM project lies in its harm reduction approach. The reduction of harm related to injecting or sexual practices in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a new concept to the regions of northeast India. SHALOM has managed to successfully promote this concept to a wide audience in both theory and practice. Its approach consists of four key activities:

- Home detoxification. This involves the monitoring of clients to ensure they are taking their prescribed medication regularly. Many clients take oral detoxification medication and also medication for TB and other infections;
- a syringe and needle exchange programme;
- condom distribution; and
- a Narcotics Anonymous support group.

SHALOM is also developing its advocacy role in promoting the legitimate rights of IDUs. A first step was to engage with law enforcement agencies in Manipur, to promote the important role of needle exchange in attempts to reduce HIV transmission. IDUs have been harassed and/or arrested and often imprisoned for possession of syringes and needles.

Those IDUs who are arrested frequently have their names published in the local newspapers. In response, SHALOM successfully negotiated with local police to not arrest SHALOM clients carrying an ID card. As a result, not only was there a reduction in harm related to use of unclean equipment, but also of harm to clients themselves from police harassment for carrying injecting equipment. SHALOM has also adopted an advocacy role with the state government. Early in 1997 the Manipur state government passed legislation that adopted a state AIDS policy including harm reduction strategies introduced by the SHALOM project. The state government is now set to develop projects modelled on SHALOM in other regions of the state.

Another example of successful advocacy that resulted in the improvement of care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs), involved the District Hospital. In attempting to achieve appropriate medical care for their patients, the SHALOM team found that hospital staff at times denied or delayed appropriate medical treatment to PLWHAs. This was in part due to fear among staff and stigma attached to patients with AIDS, but also due to fatalistic attitudes towards patients such as 'why bother - they are going to die anyway'. In some cases, SHALOM has been able to organise alternative treatment arrangements such as home visits by surgeons, and persuaded reluctant surgeons to operate on patients infected with HIV, or make their surgical facilities available.

With all the talk is the West of treatment for HIV/AIDS, it is important to remain aware that the notion of combination therapy is far from the reality for projects like SHALOM. SHALOM is unable to provide satisfactory medical treatment for infections such as herpes - let alone hope for prophylactic treatments. This project should be a reminder that good work is being done globally - it is the Western optimism and focus on new treatments that is not yet a global reality.

The continued existence of the SHALOM project is quite remarkable, for it has developed in a context hostile to IDUs and the threat that the AIDS epidemic poses to the community. This hostility has found expression within a civil disturbance that is coexistent with the project. A longstanding popular underground movement, claiming independence for Manipur,
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has consistently sought to rid the community of intravenous drug use and therefore AIDS, by systematic threats and punishments directed at IDUs. Many IDUs have been severely maimed and some killed. A more recent disturbance has seen inter-tribal tensions erupt into house burning and killings. While most of this has been indiscriminant of IDUs, the warring parties have accused the project of allowing the problem of intravenous drug use to grow and threaten its closure.

The SHALOM project is an indigenous response to the problems of intravenous drug use and HIV. The staff are drawn from all sections of the community and therefore representative of it. Until recently this has provided a buffer to both forms of civil disturbance, for project leaders have addressed the AIDS problem on behalf of the community from within these tensions. The recent threats associated with ethnic strife pose a new threat to the project and its beneficiaries, as the staff and clients are representative of the tribal groups in conflict. Many of the project activities described above have had to be suspended pending a return to peace.

* This is an edited and updated version of an article in Echidna newsletter No. 16:7. For more information on the SHALOM project, contact Peter Deutschmann at the Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research on (03) 9282 2275, E-mail peterd@burnet.mbcmr.unimelb.edu.au

Forestry recovery in Eritrea: A case study of successful NGO-scientific collaboration

Joe Siegle, World Vision, Eritrea

Emerging from 30 years of war for independence, Eritrea is facing an environmental disaster. Intensive tree cutting to expand the area for cultivation, fuelwood and construction, and to remove positions of cover during the war, exacerbated by a land tenure system that discouraged tree planting, all contributed to a rapid deforestation of the land area. Surveys indicate that at the turn of this century, Eritrea was 30 per cent forested. Today, assessments reveal less than one per cent of land area with forest cover.

This dramatic decline in vegetation has led to massive topsoil loss, leaving only the rock foundation in many locations of the country’s central highlands. During rains, streams and rivers are filled with chalky brown water carrying the silt into the Red Sea and Nile River basins. The results of this environmental disaster are reduced soil fertility and forest product availability. Eritrea currently produces about one-third of its food needs, with yields approximately one-half of the East African average for its major crops of sorghum, pearl and finger millet, and barley. The search for firewood consumes several hours of each day for many rural Eritrean women.

In response, most households have now resorted to using cow dung to supplement their source of fuel. Likewise, the high cost of wood for construction adds considerably to the expense of any building activity undertaken - limiting the availability of resources for other development.

Programme description

Since independence in 1991, the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has given high priority to environmental recovery efforts through extensive tree planting and physical conservation measures such as terracing. To contribute to this process, World Vision, in unison with various Australian foresters, has worked with the MOA to develop and pursue a forestry strategy that can mitigate the loss of top soil in the short-term and generate a sustainable forestry resource for the long-term.

Forestry sector review

The first requirement was to conduct a baseline survey so that an assessment of the current situation and priority needs could be identified. A survey was facilitated and sponsored by Eritrea's Ambassador to Australia, Fessehai Abraham and World Vision in 1993. Scientists from the Australian Tree Seed Centre (CSIRO) and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry worked with the MOA to develop the first strategic review of the forestry sector in Eritrea. They produced a valuable document that the MOA has used as a framework to base its policies and activities on since that time.

Infrastructural capacity building

With this as a basis, World Vision has focused on the rehabilitation of the MOA Forestry Division's capacity, from the nursery centres up. This started in 1995 as infrastructural support, has evolved into technical strengthening, and will increasingly involve community outreach and education. The physical infrastructure has focused on constructing seed stores and reservoirs, and installing water pumps for the nurseries to improve the quantity and quality of tree seedlings produced.

World Vision is in the process of working with 60 of the 73 MOA forestry nurseries around the country. These nurseries are producing around 50 different tree varieties, mainly acacia and eucalyptus species, olive wood (Olea africana) and Juniperus procera.

Development of technical expertise

The technical support has involved training nursery managers, forestry supervisors and national foresters in general forestry principles and nursery management practices. Over 110 MOA staff have participated in these training courses. For some, this is the first formal training they have ever had.

In addition, World Vision has collaborated with the Overseas Service Bureau (OSB) to make available an Australian forester with considerable experience in arid lands forestry - particularly important in Eritrea, where the annual rainfall
typically ranges from 400-800mm. The forester, Dr Chris Palzer, is seconded to the Forestry Division of the MOA to help institutionalise sound nursery management, seedling selection and planting practices.

During his first year in Eritrea, Dr Palzer made numerous practical recommendations. One of the most important recommendations evolved out of some functional research trials. These trials demonstrated that reduced shading and reduced watering of tree seedlings at the nurseries actually increased their survival rates when planted because of the more developed root structure and hardier plant that is generated. In short, the reduced attention helps prepare the tree seedling for the harsh conditions it will face when planted, where it will likely face a seven to eight month dry season.

Initially there was some resistance to these new ideas, which contradicted past assumptions that greater care would lead to healthier plants. For the most part, however, the nursery managers have been convinced of the effectiveness of the new practices. This openness to change and constructive feedback has been led by the head of the Forestry Division, Semere Amlesom. On seeing the trial results, he immediately organised a training programme for nursery managers from around the country.

**Community outreach and education**

Starring this year, World Vision is working with the MOA to begin the process of privatising some of the nursery activities as a means of encouraging woodlot and fruit tree production and to encourage sustainability. Experience in some neighbouring African countries has shown that small-scale, private woodlots are very well managed and generate 400 times that the income individual households were earning from their farming activities on the same land area.

Increased attention to community environmental education and protection of forest areas is required to ensure that tree seedlings planted have the best chance of survival. A major problem is the encroachment of livestock into newly planted areas, severely reducing the survival rates of the seedlings. More time and attention needs to be given to help communities understand how best to integrate the needs of the livestock and tree seedlings within limited land areas.

As part of this educational effort, World Vision with the MOA, will support the training of 28,000 high school students participating in the national tree planting campaign undertaken every summer as part of the government’s emphasis on environmental recovery. In addition to better survival rates for the trees planted, it is hoped this effort will raise awareness among the youth of the importance that the environment plays in the development of the country.

**Results**

While the impact of these initiatives will take time to assess, the initial results are promising. Production of seedlings at programme nurseries have increased by 23 per cent. When this is calculated at a household level, the increase in survival rates will eventually result in the production of enough additional fuelwood to support the needs of some 86,000 families.

**Conclusion**

While much more work needs to be done, the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Australian Tree Seed Centre, OSB, AusAID, the Eritrean Ambassador in Australia, and World Vision have had a significant impact on improving forestry practices in Eritrea. Some of the factors that have made this collaboration successful include strong and appropriate technical guidance, commitment, appreciation of each other’s unique contribution, flexibility by all partners to adjust to changing circumstances, and ongoing funding support.
Indigenous record worst in developed world

Australia’s record in attempting to lift the living standards of its indigenous communities over the past 25 years was among the worst in the developed world, an expert panel on indigenous health has found. The AMA [Australian Medical Association] sponsored Expert Panel on Indigenous Health says Australia has fallen way behind the US, Canada and New Zealand in curbing indigenous community death and disease rates. The life expectancy gap between US Indians and non-indigenous Americans was only three to four years; for Maoris and other New Zealanders, the average was five to six years; yet in Australia Aborigines were continuing to die an average of 20 years earlier than their non-indigenous counterparts. Despite some improvement in infant mortality rates, Australia’s efforts to improve Aboriginal life expectancy had ‘faltered since the early ’70s’, Professor Ring said. ‘A lot of people have come to believe that improving Aboriginal health is all too hard, but there have been rapid and sizeable improvements in life expectancy for US Indians and New Zealand Maoris. So much so ... that you’ve got to ask what it is that we are doing wrong and they are doing right’.

The Australian, 15 September 1997, p.2

Australians may talk about Asia but we won’t invest there, UN finds

Despite official calls for Australia to be considered a part of Asia, our investment in the region has dropped drastically over the past 15 years, a United Nations report has shown.

In 1980, ASEAN countries and Hong Kong received 46 per cent of Australia’s direct overseas investment, but by 1995 that figure had dropped to six per cent for the ASEAN countries and one per cent for Hong Kong, the UN found. ‘Although East and South East Asia’s markets have opened gradually over the past 20 years, Australian investors seem to be turning away from the region,’ says the 1997 World Investment Report, produced by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Although Australian officials and business leaders promote Australia as part of Asia, our investment dollars are still mainly going to Britain, the United States and New Zealand, the report shows. In 1995, 38 per cent of Australian overseas direct investment went to Britain, 25 per cent to the US and 16 per cent to New Zealand. The European Union, excluding Britain, attracted five per cent of our investment in 1995, nearly as much as the ASEAN countries in total. ... Although Australia is not investing in Asia, most of our exports are going there. In 1995, 23 per cent of Australia’s exports went to the newly industrialising economies of Asia, while another 24 per cent went to Japan.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 22 September 1997, p.8
African slave trade thrives on child labour

The child slave trade is thriving in West Africa, according to new research by Nigerian and Togolese human rights groups.

A report, to be published this week, will reveal that the trade is both efficient and ruthless and, in the past two to three years, has assumed 'frightening dimensions'. Mike Cottridge, a director of the London-based Anti-Slavery International, which coordinated the research, said the findings, gathered from interviews with hundreds of children and traders were convincing. 'There has been anecdotal evidence for some years about slavery in Africa, but this is the first hard evidence we have of a well-organised, growing trade in children.'

The revelations come amid mounting concern about the widespread abuse of children in other parts of Africa. Last week, Amnesty International reported that teenage boys were regularly abducted by a rebel Ugandan group, the Lord's Resistance Army, and forced to become soldiers; girls were taken as 'wives' for the officers. Another report by Anti-Slavery International will reveal next week that Sudanese children are regularly kidnapped and used as servants by armed groups in southern Sudan.

West Africa's new illegal child export business is concentrated in the area once known as the 'slave coast', the region that supplied most of the slaves for the American plantations before the slave trade was outlawed ... Benin is the only country in the area to have taken any real action. It recently passed a law setting a minimum age of 14 for children leaving the country to work abroad.

The Canberra Times, 21 September 1997, p.1

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Telegraph, London; reprinted in The Age, 22 September 1997, p.1

Climate change fears

The world is feeling the effects of climate change caused by human activities, with compelling evidence found in large-scale global events, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature.

In a report on the state of the climate, to be released today, the fund criticises the United States and Japan, two of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, for their unwillingness to push international negotiations towards significant reductions by 2005. But it says private-sector commitment will be the key to success, with lower emissions possible only through efficient technologies, cars, appliances, and a rapid increase in the use of alternative and renewable energy.

The Age, 30 September 1997, p.A8

Australia sinks low in Pacific: PM refuses to back down over island nations' demand on gases

Australia's relations with its Pacific neighbours sank to a new low yesterday as Prime Minister John Howard refused to cave in to island nations on the question of uniform targets for reducing greenhouse gases. In a David and Goliath struggle at this year's South Pacific Forum, island states in danger of being swamped by rising seas were forced to relent and omit any mention of targets in their final communiqué ... Instead the final communiqué issued after the forum retreat endorsed Australia's right to adopt its own approach to an international climate-change conference in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

Australia, which provides $450 million in aid to the Pacific, forced the island leaders to omit any mention of targets in their common approach to global warming rather than risk the first major rift in the forum's 27 year history.

The Canberra Times, 21 September 1997, p.1

Female genital mutilation: The word spreads on alternative rituals

The movement against female genital mutilation (FGM) is gaining momentum in Kenya, with a steadily growing number of people becoming involved in alternative rites of passage rituals. When an alternative ritual was first held in August last year (funded under AusAID's Small Activities Scheme), one group participated. In a ceremony held in December, three groups from three different locations were involved. Today, the number of groups has risen to ten. The growth indicates that there is resistance in parts of Kenya to the traditional practice of FGM. Judging from the response to alternative ceremonies, developing community designed rituals is an effective strategy for eradicating the practice of FGM on adolescent girls.

Focus, AusAID, June 1997, p.4

Literacy trips up one in two adults

The first comprehensive national literacy survey has found that close to half the [Australian] adult population suffer significant literacy problems. The survey, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and released yesterday, draws on literacy tests given to 9300 people aged 15-74 in mid-1996. The 20 per cent of adults (2.6 million) on the lowest of five rungs had very poor literacy skills. According to the report's authors, they would have problems using printed materials - newspapers, magazines, and books, but also tickets, labels and timetables - in everyday life. A further 3.6 million people (about 27 per cent) were at level two, and could be expected to experience some difficulties with everyday literacy.

The Australian, 9 September 1997, p.3
Report warns of emission perils

Australia faces widespread economic, environmental and social disruption and additional infrastructure expense as a result of climate change caused by global warming, according to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade report. But the paper, released yesterday [29 September], argues against an international agreement on mandatory uniform targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the ground that the burden on Australia would be unfair, given its heavy economic reliance on fossil fuels.

The report, *Australia and Climate Change Negotiations*, says a target stabilising emissions at 1990 levels by 2010 would threaten 90,000 potential jobs and could cause $12 billion in planned and existing investment in the energy and energy-intensive industries to move overseas ... [But] The Australian Conservation Foundation's Executive Director ... accused the department of making little attempt to verify the information obtained in the survey, or to find out about investment and employment opportunities arising through the programs to reduce emissions.

*The Age*, 30 September 1997, p. A8

Why a symbol of hope makes people cross

The Red Cross is considering scrapping its emblem and replacing it with a 'culturally neutral' diamond logo, although it will retain its name. The purpose is to find an emblem acceptable to the Muslim and Jewish world, so that one universal symbol can be used by the charity and all of its affiliated organisations. At present, member organisations must use either the cross or the red crescent. That means charities which shun those symbols cannot join the movement even if they do similar work. They include Israel's Magen David Adom, whose Star of David emblem is not recognised as a mark of protection in war zones.

The idea of abandoning the cross came from a working group of Red Cross workers and their proposals will be considered by 172 national organisations when they meet in Seville in November. If approved, the new logo would replace the red cross as a protective emblem.

British Red Cross director-general Mike Whitlam expressed serious reservations, saying: 'It's important not to weaken the integrity; if you start to introduce more protective emblems then people in a war zone never know who is who. Why do it when we've got the best logo in the world? The British Red Cross will be asking a lot of questions about this.' He said that for fundraising purposes the red cross or crescent would be incorporated within the diamond emblem. The original red cross was based on the Swiss flag and had no religious meaning.

The First European Conference on Sustainable Island Development

Menorca, 23-26 April 1997

The objective of this conference was to bring together the major players and focus on the development of small islands within the European Union (EU). Participants spanned a broad range of interest groups: politicians, planners, technicians, and representatives of environmentally concerned groups based in various countries, including Friends of the Earth. This mix led to interesting discussions, with the audience frequently polarising into the 'developers' versus the 'conservationists'.

Conference sessions were organised round three themes: instruments for sustainable island development; technological progress and island societies; and cultural heritage and its promotion.

As one accustomed to attending conferences concerned with the relatively poor islands of the South Pacific, I found this one extraordinary, chiefly because most of the small islands under discussion are extremely wealthy. For example, Menorca has an estimated permanent resident population of 65,000 (about the same as Kiribati), but hosts from 400,000 to 500,000 tourists each year. This has led to enormous capital investment in the development of resorts and housing. Much attention has been paid to harmonising tourist development with the natural landscape, and preserving the cultural and historical character of Menorca. The ratio of residents to tourists and the character of the development is similar in neighbouring Mallorca and other Mediterranean islands, and also for the Canaries in the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to their vast wealth from tourism, most of these islands also have other sources of revenue. Menorca also derives income from the manufacture of high fashion shoes and costume jewellery, trade and commerce, fishing and dairying.

Because of their wealth and depth of development, the concerns of these islands seem very different from those of Pacific microstates. Discussions of models of development focused on sustaining the very high levels of development already achieved. The main management concerns were how to meet peak tourist season requirements for water, solid waste management and energy. In the sessions on technological progress, discussion revolved around the incorporation of ultra-high-technology techniques into day-to-day management - for example, the 'virtual hospital' which uses 'tele-medicine, tele-consultation, tele-diagnosis and tele-monitoring'. This technology gives patients access to mainland specialists via various scanning, electronic diagnostic and monitoring techniques.
These rich island populations have similar education levels and the same depth of human resource development as mainland Europe. The big concerns were not the provision of basic services, but how to use the latest technology to maintain them, and how to reduce costs by decentralising labour and overcoming the problems of remoteness using phones, faxes and the Internet.

Inevitably, massive technology development in the main tourist centres has impacted on the island environments more than the protagonists readily admit. Despite the claims of Mediterranean governments and developers that they have minimised environmental damage, the environmental groups found much to criticise, including high levels of non-renewable energy use by huge seasonal population inflows, inadequate attention to non-polluting methods of waste disposal, and the depletion of Mediterranean and Atlantic fish stocks by over-fishing. It was a matter of considerable concern to some participants that although the island of Menorca itself had been declared a biosphere reserve, and even though its waters have been severely depleted of larger fish species, spear fishing is still permitted.

One very interesting session considered a project to develop a showcase island which will support a community with all modern facilities and a high-technology lifestyle, based entirely on renewable energy resources and the re-use of waste products. Unfortunately, the capital costs of such developments in a temperate climate are still enormous and generally unaffordable, even for the rich tourist-based economies of the small Mediterranean islands. Yet projects such as this must continue to occupy more attention in the future, since opportunities for exploitation of non-renewable energy sources are clearly finite. Even relatively simple developments such as the implementation of high-technology communications to facilitate work from home rather than commuting can help to generate significant savings.

Although I met several delegates from the Caribbean at this conference, I did not meet any from the small islands of the Pacific. If there were any, they would have found much to think about. While the islands on which this conference focused might have been part of a different world, there was much to learn from the tourist-based development strategies they have adopted, and particularly from their reorientation towards a greater concern with environmental sustainability. The Pacific has the comparative disadvantage of remoteness, but with its warmer climate, rich cultural heritage and rich marine resources, it has the opportunity to develop its own brand of tourism based on environmental sustainability and renewable energy sources. Tourists are not uniform in their tastes. There are still many throughout the world who are happy to pay more to stay in a solar-powered thatched hut on a remote coral atoll than in a high rise hotel on a commercialised waterfront.

Christine McMurray, Graduate Program in Demography, Australian National University

Society for International Development 22nd World Conference: Which Globalisation? Opening Spaces for Civic Engagement

Spain, 21-24 May 1997

This conference had an ambitious theme - to explore what forms of globalisation might lead to social transformation that addresses the concerns of development workers. In particular it sought to encourage debate about the contradictions and possibilities within the globalisation 'project', which civil society actors could explore in our efforts to reshape global relations. The several hundred international participants formed a unique mix across institutional boundaries, which is the strength and special characteristic of Society for International Development (SID). They included academics, development practitioners, consultants, UN and financial institution representatives, and private sector and NGO workers. While South Asia was well represented, unfortunately South East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific were not.

As there were up to seven concurrent sessions at any one time outside the plenaries, this report is necessarily selective.

In the first session on 'Globalisation and the transformation of political debates', Matthias Finger (Switzerland) argued that the state can no longer control ecological degradation and sociocultural erosion caused by industrial development. This is leading to a crisis in traditional politics - as the consequences of growth are localised and what is profitable and mobile is globalised. States now have major problems of legitimacy, and are faced with reactive fundamentalist challenges. The only response is to 'learn our way out', but we have no mechanisms for collective learning. Worse, traditional politics are preventing learning, and people wrongly assume that the state will solve the problems.

Gita Sen (India) looked at three challenges for civil society: the challenge of cooperation with other development actors - what it means when NGOs are called upon to participate in World Bank projects, for example; the challenge of rethinking NGO roles when there are no institutions of accountability; and the challenge of resistance, which depends on the very existence of democracy, and is threatened by the mobility of capital. David Korten made a passionate plea for recognition of the alternatives to trade-driven agendas and the unmitigated dominance of global corporations, which are rewriting global commerce to serve their own powerful interests. He challenged the increasing concentration of private wealth and state subsidies to support massive, often harmful industries (such as tobacco), while global corporations are destroying the real ecological and social capital on which we all depend. He argued instead for local economies and protectionism in favour of social goals and the environment.
At the workshop on the 'Nation state confronted with globalisation - Northern perspectives', Susan George's simple typology of different Northern responses to globalisation as existing within four quadrants, was instructive and directly applicable to the Australian context. The quadrants were the 'neo-Darwinist separatists' (represented in the US by Ross Perot); the neo-Darwinist integrationists (the Davos 500 companies); the separatists/safety-net people (the anti-NAFTA Coalition); and the integrationist/safety-net people (the Social Democrats and NGOs arguing for social and environmental causes). Colin Hines, author of The new protectionism, argued that Europe would lead the way in returning to a new form of protectionism which strengthened diverse local and regional economies, and used long-distance trade only as a last resort.

At the plenary on 'Accountability under globalisation', Martin Khor (Malaysia) highlighted the competing paradigms of globalisation; the first encapsulated in the series of UN World Conferences, and the second promulgated by the Bretton Woods institutions, which had the threat of trade sanctions to impose on developing countries. The UN is being sidelined by the WTO, which is far less transparent and accountable, and has far greater leverage. Lourdes Arizpe (Mexico) argued that globalisation is embedded in culture and that cooperation and shared ethical values are needed. States need to take more seriously their role in the protection of human rights and minorities; democracy and civil society; peaceful conflict resolution; and intergenerational equity. Such principles were reinforced by the speech from the Bangladesh Prime Minister read to the conference, which called for an emphasis on equity and harmony, adequate regulatory and legal frameworks and access to information as essential conditions within which liberalisation should take place. However, it was pointed out that these conditions do not exist in most developing countries.

The third plenary on 'The encounter of the local with the global' reminded participants of the grassroots struggles in many countries, among them the National Tribal Front fighting for self-rule in India, the frustrating efforts of NGOs to get social clauses into the WTO based on seven existing ILO standards, and women's struggles to challenge their political and economic marginalisation which is exacerbated by the impact of foreign capital on the social unit.

The final plenary on 'Shifting paradigms' highlighted governance as the critical issue. Tariq Banuri (Pakistan) identified the existence of a political community in which people recognised their interdependence, and a moral community of shared ethics and values, as two conditions necessary for a just globalisation process. But neither are present at this time. Citizens are losing government protection from transnational corporations. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (UNEP) noted that escalation of trade has environmental consequences which only make matters worse. Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter American Bank, talked about the challenge of reducing the huge inequalities in Latin America, emphasising the quality of growth, investment in education and health, the need for institutional reform, consolidation of democracy and environmental sustainability. Richard Jolly also echoed the need for globalisation to take place within a ethical frame of values - human needs cannot be met by the market alone.

Space does not permit more detail of other workshops on the 'People's peace process', an exciting exchange of people attempting to build peace between or within war-torn countries, or the whole question of social responsibility in production and consumption and efforts to bring socially responsible businesses and civil society organisations together to develop new bottom lines with ethical, ecological and social indicators.

Overall, it was a stimulating conference with unique networking opportunities. For participants from developing countries however, a quote from Jean Bertrand Aristide, Former President of Haiti, sums up some of their feelings: 'We either enter the global economic system in which we can't survive, or we refuse and face death - we urgently need to find room to manoeuvre.' Room for civil society to manoeuvre was what we were searching for. We found some glimmers of hope in the face of some daunting challenges.

Janet Hunt, Executive Director, Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA).

Third International AIDS Impact Conference
Melbourne, 22-25 June 1997

At this very successful recent conference, over 650 delegates, representing nearly 40 countries from around the world, engaged in three and a half days of energetic and productive debate. The conference was opened by Sir William Deane, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who discussed the success of Australia's 'partnership approach' to the epidemic so far, and encouraged open debate about some of the difficult issues facing us on a local and global level in the future.

A major issue was the emergence of new treatment options for managing HIV, and the impact of the new treatments environment across very different local HIV epidemics in various countries.

Tom Coates, Director of the University of California AIDS Institute, argued that 'everything has changed', and raised new issues that are now important in the epidemic including: who should pay for post-exposure prophylaxis; should it be available to everyone, or only to those judged as likely to complete their gruelling 30-day course of treatment; how is ongoing education-based prevention to be sustained in the face of the 'medical fix'; and does lowering the viral load of those already HIV-infected become one of the key priorities for prevention?
There were interesting parallels and contrasts with the opening plenary speech from Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. Arguing that HIV/AIDS is not over, he said that international efforts in combating the virus not only need to be sustained, but also need to be increased. The fact that the bulk of the epidemic is occurring in resource poor countries precluded thinking that highly expensive antiretroviral treatments constitute any kind of solution - although their provision obviously remains an urgent priority. Against the notion that an HIV-vaccine is the worldwide solution, Piot argued forcefully that we know that HIV prevention, appropriately designed and resourced, can work. He cited the Australian experience, but also that of poorer countries such as Thailand and Uganda.

The global circulation of HIV/AIDS was one of the major themes. Cindy Patton (Emory University, USA), built up a picture of the multiplication of local and global interconnections in response to the epidemic, which belie any attempt to reduce it to national interests, to class interests in a particular national context, or to the machinations of global capital.

Chou Meng Tarr (Cambodian AIDS Social Research project, Phnom Phen), presented the results of an ethnographic study of young men’s sexual practice in Cambodia. She showed the importance of dominant notions of good and bad women, and of cultural dynamics in expectations of sex with women (for example, young Cambodian men were less willing to have unprotected sex with ethnically Cambodian women, as opposed to, for example, sex workers from Vietnam or Thailand). HIV transmission was being profoundly affected by the circulation of ideas of modernity and propriety among young Cambodian men, the international circulation of sex workers, and the impact of international diplomacy given the presence of peacekeeping troops which has changed the local sexual economy.

The issue of HIV/AIDS and human rights was explored by several presenters including David Stephens (La Trobe University, Australia), who described the process of developing and applying a human-rights focused response to HIV/AIDS. This initiative of the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organisations, an international non-government organisation, aptly illustrated the gains and difficulties of such an enterprise. While showing up problems in the process of translating human rights into effective political, legal and social economy.

There were interesting parallels and contrasts with the opening plenary speech from Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. Arguing that HIV/AIDS is not over, he said that international efforts in combating the virus not only need to be sustained, but also need to be increased. The fact that the bulk of the epidemic is occurring in resource poor countries precluded thinking that highly expensive antiretroviral treatments constitute any kind of solution - although their provision obviously remains an urgent priority. Against the notion that an HIV-vaccine is the worldwide solution, Piot argued forcefully that we know that HIV prevention, appropriately designed and resourced, can work. He cited the Australian experience, but also that of poorer countries such as Thailand and Uganda.

The global circulation of HIV/AIDS was one of the major themes. Cindy Patton (Emory University, USA), built up a picture of the multiplication of local and global interconnections in response to the epidemic, which belie any attempt to reduce it to national interests, to class interests in a particular national context, or to the machinations of global capital.

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Anne Mitchell, Community Liaison Officer, Centre for the Study of Sexually Transmissible Diseases, La Trobe University

The Economies of Greater China: An International Conference

Perth, 7-8 July 1997

The International Conference on the Economies of Greater China, held at the University of Western Australia (UWA) was also the ninth annual meeting of the Chinese Economic Studies Association of Australia (CESAA). It was attended by about 70 people from Australia, UK, US, Ireland, Sweden, South Africa, Singapore and the greater China regions (mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau). The conference was generously sponsored by the UWA, the Asia Research Centre (Murdoch University), the Ford Foundation (Beijing Office), AusAID (Canberra), the Australia-China Council (DFAT, Canberra), the Education Section of the PRC Embassy (Canberra), the China Economy Program (Australian National University - ANU), the Access China Centre (Macquarie University), and the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch).

The conference was opened by the Pro Vice Chancellor (Research) of UWA, Michael Barber. David Plowman, Acting Executive Dean of the Faculties of Economics and Commerce, Education and Law of UWA, was also invited to address the conference at the opening session. This session was followed by the first CESAA distinguished lecture delivered by Ross Garnaut, Chair, Economics Division, RSPAS, ANU who addressed China’s role in the Asia-Pacific region after the Hong Kong transfer.

In total, over 40 papers were presented. Most will be published in two edited volumes, China’s reform and economic growth and Foreign direct investment and economic growth in China. Other speakers included Robert Ash (University of London) who delivered the second distinguished CESAA lecture on China’s rural reform, and Jiming Cai (Nankai University), Zongsheng Chen (Nankai University), Leonard Cheng (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Soon Beng Chew (Nanyang Technological University), Wen Hai (Beijing University), Louli Li (China Development Institute, Shenzhen), and Jyh-lin Wu (National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan) who gave presentations at the keynote sessions. In addition, Beverley Hooper, Foundation Chair of Asian Studies of UWA, discussed ‘Consuming China’, reporting the findings and observations from her recent work on consumerism and its social and economic impacts in China.

The theme of the conference was the ‘Economies of Greater China’. The papers presented were generally of a high quality, and covered a wide range of economic topics such as:

- Economic reform, trade and growth
- Rural economy
- Urban economy
- Foreign direct investment

Anne Mitchell, Community Liaison Officer, Centre for the Study of Sexually Transmissible Diseases, La Trobe University

October 1997
• Productivity and industrial reforms
• The economies of greater China
• Political economy

These topics were vigorously debated during the conference and constructive comments were directly beneficial to some participants, particularly the PhD students who made presentations.

In addition, this conference provided the opportunity for Australian economists who work on the economies of the greater China region to exchange with their counterparts overseas. In particular, the conference provided a venue for exchange between scholars from both outside and within China. This form of exchange was particularly highlighted in the special post-conference panel discussion on ‘Current issues in the Chinese economy’. The discussion was chaired by Yanrui Wu, and panel discussants were Louli Li, Wen Hai, and Zongsheng Chen. The two-hour discussion covered various economic issues such as the reform of the state-owned enterprises, Hong Kong after 1997 and the role of economists in decision making in China. The discussion was lively and stimulating. The issues raised will definitely be reflected in the future work of the participants.

Yanrui Wu, Economics, University of Western Australia
Conference calendar

Fourth Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Banking with the Poor

Bangkok, 3-7 November 1997

The workshop will feature recent studies by the Banking with the Poor (BWTP) Network on the policy environment for microfinance and the role for commercial banks. A range of papers drawn from case studies in Asia by the Sustainable Banking with the Poor programme of the World Bank will also be presented. The workshop is being supported by the World Bank, Japan Foundation Asia Center, AusAID and the Foundation for Development Cooperation.

For more information contact:
Leitia Hickson
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Centre for Pacific Island Studies
1890 East-West Road
Moore 315
Honolulu, HI 96822
USA
Tel (1 808) 956 2652
Fax (1 808) 956 7053
E-mail ctisha@hawaii.edu

9th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

Adelaide, 13-16 November 1997

This conference will be held in association with the Three National Centres in HIV Research, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and Social Workers in AIDS. The scientific programme will comprise keynote lectures, symposia, workshops, papers and posters on basic science, clinical, social and epidemiology topics.

For more information contact:
Secretariat
GPO Box 2609
Sydney, NSW 2001
Australia
Tel (02) 9241 1478
Fax (02) 9251 3552
E-mail ashm@icmsaust.com.au

Featuring Paradise: Representations of the Pacific in Film

Honolulu, 11-13 November 1997

This is the 22nd Annual University of Hawaii Pacific Islands conference. The conference will look at how the Pacific and Pacific Islanders have been portrayed in feature films for the past 100 years. Concerned primarily with an historical overview and general patterns, rather than with isolated individual films, the five panels planned for the conference will focus on the themes of paradise, gender, race and class, violence and indigenous filmmaking.

For more information contact:
The Foundation for Development Cooperation
PO Box 10445
Brisbane, QLD 4000
Australia
Tel (07) 3236 4633
Fax (07) 3236 4696
E-mail fdc@ozemail.com.au

Forum '97: New Linkages in Conservation and Development

Istanbul, 16-21 November 1997

This conference is designed to review experiments in conservation and development over the past decade, highlight the most pressing practical problems in this emerging field, and facilitate the creation of North-South and South-South partnerships for mutual understanding and effective action. Conference themes include: culturally conflicting views of conservation; engaging communities in conservation and development; ethics and responsibilities in environmental action; conservation and development in war and peace; business as a partner in environmental action; and institutional pathways to sustainability.

For more information contact:
Conservation and Development Forum
PO Box 115331
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-5531
USA
Tel (1 352) 392 6548
Fax (1 352) 392 0085
E-mail cdf@icd.ufl.edu

1997 Australia New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics Conference

Melbourne, 17-20 November 1997

It is no longer possible to discuss economies without understanding that economics, like all human-created systems, are embedded in and dependent on the ecosphere. This conference provides an opportunity to discuss the question of how to come to grips with the interaction between the economy and the environment. The programme has been designed to encourage the exchange of ideas and includes plenary session speeches, open debates, papers and field trips.

For more information contact:
Conference Plus
Level 5
406 Lonsdale St
Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australia
Tel (03) 9642 5152
Fax (03) 9602 3073

International Conference on Gender and Development in Asia

Hong Kong, 27-29 November 1997

The conference aims to bring together international scholars working on gender and Asian development, where interdisciplinary dialogues are most fruitful and needed. The conference will focus on: gender and political development including democratisation and political culture; gender
and social change including culture and work; and gender, sex and violence including sex tourism, trafficking of women and sexual harassment.

For more information contact:
Ms Serena Chu
Gender Research Program
The Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
7/F Tin Ka Ping Building
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT
Hong Kong
Fax (852) 2603 5215
E-mail gendev@cuhk.edu.hk

6th National Women and Labour Conference
Geelong, 28-30 November 1997

The theme of the conference is 'Feminist social change across the generations: Diversity, power, communication, strategies for change'. The conference aims to gather women together who are interested in improving the lives of all women in Australia, to share information and research and formulate strategies for change. It aims to involve community workers, activists and academics, to form a national women's organisation.

For more information contact:
Felicity Thyer
Australian Women's Research Centre
Deakin University
Geelong, VIC 3217
Australia
Tel (03) 5227 2671 / 2597
Fax (03) 5227 2534
E-mail fthyer@deakin.edu.au

Solar '97
Canberra, 1-3 December 1997

This is the 35th annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society. The conference will present new research results, exchange reports regarding the use of new methods and technologies in industry, encourage the transfer of technology from research into practice and discuss energy policy and politics.

For more information contact:
Solar '97
PO Box 1402
Dee Why, NSW 2099
Australia
Tel (02) 9311 0003
Fax (02) 9311 0004
E-mail ANZSES@keystone.arch.unsw.edu.au

Promoting the Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Communities: Building on our Strengths
Sydney, 3-4 December 1997

This symposium will be a forum where a diverse group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will identify strategies to continue to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, in both the immediate and long-term future. Three questions will be addressed: what do we know about what works in promoting the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities; what are some of the partnerships needed in the future to extend our work in this area; and what actions can participants and organisations take to strengthen work in this area?

For more information contact:
National Centre for Health Promotion
Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
Building A27
University of Sydney, NSW 2006
Australia
Tel (02) 9351 5129
Fax (02) 9351 5205

11th Latin American Congress on STDs and the 5th Pan-American Conference on AIDS
Lima, 3-6 December 1997

This scientific meeting is the largest forum in the Americas for the exchange and sharing of knowledge, methods, experience and expertise in the STD/HIV/AIDS area. The scientific programme includes four subject categories (or tracks): basic science; clinical science; epidemiology and public health; and social science and community participation.

For more information contact:
Secretaria del Congreso
Jr. Paraguay 478
Lima 1
Peru
Tel (51 1) 330 3250
Fax (51 1) 433 1578
E-mail congreso@ulacets.org.pe
Web http://www.taxis.com.pe/ulacets97

Regional and Urban Development Conference
Wellington, 8-12 December 1997

The focus of this international conference will be on the analysis of regional and urban development in the Pacific Rim; policies for stimulation and management of regional and urban growth; and practical issues involved in implementing regional development programmes.

For more information contact:
Dr Philip Morrison
Geography Department
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington
New Zealand
Tel (64 4) 471 5337
Fax (64 4) 495 5127
E-mail PRSCO15@vuw.ac.nz
Web http://www.rses.vuw.ac.nz/geography/conferences/PRSCO15

3rd Pacific Indigenous Business Development Conference
Sydney, 8-15 December 1997

This conference is intended to bring together people from Australia, New Zealand-Aotearoa, the Pacific Islands and the Americas with an interest in business development by indigenous peoples.
Emerging Issues in Health: Priorities and Action

Perth, 14-16 December 1997

This conference has been planned to give public health practitioners, academics and researchers an opportunity to report and discuss issues of health emerging from rapid change, increased mobility and economic development in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and beyond. The conference will take short and long-term perspectives on subjects including health promotion, epidemiology, occupational and environmental health, nutrition, communicable diseases, injury control, health administration, health policy, clinical practice, rehabilitation, research methodology, regional collaborations, teaching and learning innovation.

For more information contact:
Andrea Shoebridge
Conference Secretariat
Division of Health Sciences
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987
Perth, WA 6845
Tel (08) 9266 3009
Fax (08) 9266 2608
E-mail eihconf@info.curtin.edu.au

PTC'98-Coping with Convergence: The Future is Now!

Honolulu, 11-14 January 1998

This is the 20th Annual Pacific Telecommunications Conference. It is intended to provide an opportunity for participants to gain a thorough understanding of the changes occurring in the Asia-Pacific-Americas region. The conference theme reflects the converging issues of the '90s and the 21st century. The key issues to be covered are within the following themes: business and trade; the Internet; the next 20 years; technological drivers; telecoms developments; and applications/users.

For more information contact:
Pacific Telecommunications Council
254 South Beretania St
Suite 302
Honolulu
Hawaii 96826-1596
USA
Tel (1 808) 941 3789
Fax (1 808) 344 4874
E-mail ptc98@ptc.org

AIRAH 1998 International Conference: Global Warming - Are You Ready for the Challenge?

Sydney, 5-8 April 1998

This international conference includes the following themes: climate change, global warming, greenhouse challenge, energy and environment; building integrated design; certification, competency, training and CAP education; controls and indoor air quality; service and health and safety; and products and refrigeration. Those intending to register as delegates can use the Early Bird registration. Early Bird registrations must reach AIRAH National Office by 1 February 1998.

For more information contact:
AIRAH National Office
Tel (03) 9328 2399
Fax (03) 9328 4116
E-mail stleth@airah.org.au

Education for Sustainable Development: Getting it Right

23-25 April 1998

Education is arguably the most important prerequisite for development. In its many forms, education constitutes a major part of government development plans and overseas aid programmes. This conference reviews the effectiveness of education in development projects and programmes, and questions the relevance and cost-effectiveness of educational policy and practice in meeting the requirements of sustainable development. Plenary and workshop sessions will consider educational, methods, policy, curricula, financial support and a host of other issues. Papers are invited.

For more information contact:
Australian Development Studies Network
National Centre for Development Studies
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Tel (02) 6249 2466
Fax (02) 6257 2886
E-mail devnetwork@ncds.anu.edu.au

14th North-South Media Encounter

Geneva, 4-8 May 1998

The theme of the 14th North-South Media Encounter is 'The Mediterranean'. The encounter will comprise: a TV competition for programmes on development issues and/or North-South relations presented by any public or private television in the world; an Independents' Competition, for independent producers worldwide on the same issues; and debates on specific topics. The deadline for submission of VHS videotapes for selection is the end of February 1998.

For more information contact:
Tina Bollat
North-South Media
Encounter
Télévision Suisse Romande
PO Box 234
1211 Geneva 8
Switzerland
Tel (41 22) 708 81 93
Fax (41 22) 328 94 10
E-mail nord-sud@vtx.ch
Web http://www.unige.ch/iued/norsud

October 1997
Women's Worlds: 7th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women

Tromso, Norway, 20-26 June 1999

The conference organising committee is currently seeking ideas to assist in developing the conference themes. Themes suggested so far include: women’s worlds in the 21st century: utopias or dystopias?; Indigenous women of the world; women of/on the coast; women and development; women as politicians; growing up female; women and education; women and aging; women artists.

For more information contact:
Women’s Worlds 99
University of Tromso
N-9037 Tromso
Norway
Fax (47) 77 64 64 20
E-mail
womens.worlds.99@skk.uit.no

Twelfth World AIDS Conference

Geneva, 28 June - 3 July 1998

This conference, will bring together the world’s leading AIDS researchers, physicians, educators, and community leaders for presentations and discussion of the latest scientific advances in HIV/AIDS. The conference unites the efforts of research and community groups for conference planning, with a primary focus of addressing the issues of accessibility of treatment, care, and prevention of HIV/AIDS in the developing world - to begin bridging the gap between the North and the South.

For more information contact:
12th World AIDS Conference
Geneva Secretariat
94, rue des Eaux-Vives
1207 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel (41 22) 737 3344
Fax (41 22) 700 3311
E-mail info@aids98.ch
Web http://www.aids98.ch

Women and Human Rights, Social Justice and Citizenship

Melbourne, 30 June - 2 July 1998

This conference is being organised for next year by the Victorian branch of the Network for Research in Women’s History. Speakers are encouraged to organise panels or roundtable discussions, but offers of individual papers are also welcome. The committee is particularly interested in the participation of indigenous scholars. The closing date for proposals is 31 October 1997.

For more information contact:
Diane Kirkby
Humanities and Social Sciences
La Trobe University
Bundoora, VIC 3083
Australia
Tel (03) 9479 2379
Fax (03) 9479 1700
E-mail hisdek@lare.latrobe.edu.au

XIX Pacific Science Congress

Sydney, 4-9 July 1999

Expressions of interest to attend are currently being called for this congress. The themes under consideration include: lessons from the past - messages for the future; public health in the Asia-Pacific region; communications in the 21st century; natural disaster mitigation; urban development - the environmental impact; interface between Indigenous peoples and science; Asia-Pacific ecosystems; and biodiversity in the Pacific region. Further suggestions are welcome.

For more information contact:
XIX Pacific Science Congress Secretariat
GPO Box 2609
Sydney, NSW 2001
Australia
Tel (02) 9241 1478
Fax (02) 9251 3552
E-mail reply@icmsaust.com.au
Alternatives to globalisation: An Asia-Pacific perspective

John Wiseman (ed) 1997, Community Aid Abroad in association with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, the Department of Social Science and Social Work at RMIT, and the Centre for Urban Research at Swinburne University, ISBN 1 875870 33 4, 137pp., $17.95

Alternatives to globalisation is a compilation of seven papers presented at a two-day Melbourne seminar in September 1996. The papers are grouped under the two main themes: 'What is globalisation and why does it matter?'; and 'Is there any room to move?: Strategic responses to globalisation at local, national and global levels'. An ambitious project, but one that appears to have largely been fulfilled. 'Globalisation' is a relatively recent addition to our lexicon and, like many other buzz words, often defies comprehension and definition. That only makes it even more difficult for those who seek to deal with the impact of the associated processes. This book is therefore a welcome addition to the literature since it deals with how to understand globalisation and explores ways of challenging something that seems inexorable.

John Wiseman's introduction gives a brief overview of the scope and context of each paper. This will assist those who seek information on selective areas or topics. Joe Camilleri's paper on 'Making sense of globalisation' heads the first theme section of the book. Pointing to the complexity inherent in the concept of globalisation, Camilleri's paper teases out the ways in which social change has become global, with consequent threats and issues confronting the state. He ends by asking whether we are witnessing an emerging civil society and concludes that 'the global struggle for humane and legitimate governance has only just begun'. Heading up section two of the book is a contribution from John Wiseman. This paper argues that we need to rethink the ways in which we relate locally and internationally; that, moreover, we need to forge new alliances which bolster the local but also reinforce our connections to the international. Globalisation is not entirely negative according to Wiseman, as the technology that has facilitated the compression of time and space can also be used to our advantage. Following each of these two papers are a number of others by academics and practitioners who, according to their experiences and interests, deal with different dimensions of the particular theme under discussion.

There are some minor negatives in the book. While the title claims an Asia-Pacific perspective, all of the authors are Australian and only one of the papers, by Chris Adams, on 'The impact of globalisation on natural resource management in Indonesia', deals explicitly with a country outside Australia. However there are references to the experience of
globalisation in other countries, although not just confined to the Asia-Pacific region. The paper by Ruth Fincher and Michael Webber is a comprehensive coverage of 'The impact of globalisation at local, national and international levels'. It makes the point that people can exercise choice in dealing with globalisation; passive acceptance is not the only available response. But one point was confusing. The paper asserts that 'globalisation of the [textile, clothing and footwear] sector [in Australia] was ... encouraged ... by the leaders of the TCF unions' (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia) (pages 27-28). The exact meaning of 'globalisation' is unclear here and unfortunately no reference is provided.

If it means tariff cuts, then, as far as this reviewer is aware, the TCF unions did their best to resist but were largely powerless in the face of a determined government. Appropriately, the next paper by Annie Delaney from the TCF deals with the issue of 'Working at home on the global assembly line', an issue which Delaney knows a great deal about. However the reader might appreciate some references in order to explore the topic further. Delaney's paper refers to a recent international labour convention regarding the protection of homeworkers. Here was an example of what Fincher and Webber refer to as 'internationalised organisations of protest', the roots of which can be traced back at least as far as the 1980s (see, for example, the ILO publication, Conditions of work digest). Finally, despite the difficulties in covering such a vast topic as 'the challenge for global governance in promoting social development', Joseph O'Reilly's paper was all too brief.

These criticisms should not deter the reader however. The information and ideas in this book are well worth thinking about.

Helen Lay, Politics Department, Monash University

Reference


ASEAN business, trade and development: An Australian perspective


The general theme of the book is to emphasise that 'the era of Asia-Pacific economic ascendancy ... is now with us' (p.xi). Accordingly, students, academics and Australia's business community need to broaden or update their knowledge and understanding about ASEAN countries and to change their perspective to more confidently engage in the regional economy.

In serving this general theme, the book is structured to provide broad and up-to-date background information about ASEAN business, trade and development as well as Australia's relationship with ASEAN both as a bloc and with individual countries. It also provides practical information about marketing, management, trade finance, legal and taxation systems in ASEAN countries.

The book can, therefore, be read in two ways: as a good reference book for university courses in ASEAN trade and economy as well as business management; and as a useful guide book for prospective trading and business partners of ASEAN countries. Students will gain from more practical knowledge about ASEAN countries, while business people will benefit from understanding broad issues affecting their business environments, such as economic conditions and the institutional framework of individual countries, and the current and future developments of regional cooperation.

The book is structured in three parts: the 'overview' (chapters 1, 2 and 15) which examines Australia's trade and economic ties within the region; 'country' chapters (chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9); and 'functional management' chapters (chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14) which introduce various economic systems operating in ASEAN countries.

The first part serves the 'overview' purpose well and more importantly, provides the context for the detailed country profiles in subsequent chapters. Two issues stand out: regional cooperation focusing on ASEAN, AFTA and APEC; and a growing relationship between Australia and ASEAN. Central to understanding the importance of regional cooperation to ASEAN are the structural changes taking place not only within ASEAN, but also in its relationship with North East Asia (Japan, Korea and Taiwan), which 'has resulted in South-East Asia undergoing an Industrial revolution' (p.2). Such structural changes are demanding even closer economic cooperation and integration within the regional economies, leading to an evolving development from ASEAN, PTA, AFTA to APEC described clearly in the book.

The bilateral relationship between Australia and ASEAN is discussed in the context of structural changes. The ASEAN
market has played a significant role in Australia’s shift towards value-added exports, especially in recent times. The message is that ‘Australia will have to integrate more fully with the ASEAN economies. Doing this involves establishing business links and commitments at many levels and in many ways’ and ‘a multidimensional role is essential if Australia is to grow to become a full member of the regional economy’ (p.29). This argument is echoed in the final chapter on future directions.

The second part of the book discusses individual countries. These country profiles contain useful and up-to-date economic statistics, which include key economic indicators (GDP and its decomposition), main financial institutions, foreign direct investments, exchange rates, total trade, trade composition and detailed bilateral trade with Australia. This information is set against a historical background for each country, clearly indicating the changing trends of ASEAN economies vis-a-vis other countries in general, and Australia in particular. The discussion section of the country profiles reveals unique characteristics of each economy, such as the affluence and technological leadership of Singapore, the sustained economic growth of Malaysia and Thailand, political instability in the Philippines, the size and vibrancy of Indonesia and the potential of Vietnam.

The book also identifies some shared characteristics of these economies such as the suffocating effect of ‘red tape’, infrastructural shortcomings and highly competitive local and foreign firms in most markets. The last point serves as a warning to business people in Australia that ASEAN’s streets are not ‘paved with gold’. To be successful, the key is to be engaged, well prepared, adaptive and, most important, to be more competitive, based on a solid understanding and knowledge about regional affairs.

Challenges facing both the ASEAN economies and Australia in moving their relationship ahead are identified and policy advice offered in dealing with these challenges. For example, for the most advanced economy, Singapore, there is a growing shortage of skilled labour, which is largely responsible for discouraging viable companies from expanding or diversifying. The authors indicate that Australia, equipped with its own advantages in human capital, skills and many other aspects, can play an important role in helping to meet these challenges.

In each country profile, the authors discuss business opportunities from Australia’s perspective and offer some advice in Australia’s dealings with these countries, ranging from taking full advantage of these booming markets on its doorstep to sharing in the growth - to ‘ride on the tiger’s tail’ (p.150). Specific areas for potential cooperation are identified, for example, food, telecommunications, transport infrastructure, mining and energy, and building and construction with Indonesia.

In the third part of the book, five topics ranging from marketing to legal and taxation systems are presented as individual chapters, with ASEAN case studies provided. In some areas, such as non-bank trade finance, case studies from other countries such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan are also discussed.

Finally, the concluding chapter points to future directions of the evolving relationship between Australia and ASEAN, and other related issues such as the role of APEC. One highlight is the first-hand advice provided by Australian business managers working in Thailand.

In summary, the book provides a convenient reference for students, academics and business people in understanding the economic, trade, business, legal and taxation systems in ASEAN countries and evolving relationships between Australia and the ASEAN economies. The discussion is informative and comprehensive. However, the book does not provide in-depth analysis of the underlying forces at work in ASEAN economies, and those interested in these issues will need to refer to more specialised studies.

Ligang Song, Australia-Japan Research Centre, Australian National University

October 1997
Focusing livestock systems research


Despite their economic and social significance to African farmers, both as a multiple economic resource and a buffer against socio-economic risk, livestock industries have performed poorly in both East and West Africa over the past 20 years. Output is growing slowly, imports of meat and milk have risen and per capita consumption of livestock products has declined. The problem is not easily understood and acted upon, since researchers face multiple goals in livestock husbandry, complex management and social arrangements and sometimes apparently irrational and destructive patterns of resource use.

A first step is to understand the functions, constraints and opportunities in livestock production, through diagnostic surveys within a farming systems oriented research programme. Poor diagnosis of problems is blamed by the authors for the low rate of adoption of technologies developed so far from on-farm research. This book describes the experiences of several research teams in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Zambia and Tanzania in using a participatory approach to the analysis and diagnosis of problems in livestock systems. It thus covers both Francophone and Anglophone approaches to Farming Systems Research (FSR). The book is an exploration of appropriate methodologies for diagnostic research, including the collection and analysis of data, identification of solutions and setting of research priorities.

The case studies were originally presented at a workshop titled Diagnosis of livestock systems: Description, analysis and research planning held in Sikasso, Mali, 8-12 June, 1992.

The book opens with a description of the diagnostic phase as a means of gaining information on farmers and their conditions, cultivation and livestock practices, constraints and development potential. Chapter 1 covers topics such as the use and value of secondary data, formal and informal surveys and the logic involved in research planning based on such information. It goes on to discuss the particular characteristics (socio-economic value, the role of the herd as the diagnostic entity, use of common resources) which characterise livestock systems in Africa. The authors note the dangers of immersion in complex herd productivity studies which exclude farmers and delay action, and ask the question: which sorts of data do we need in order to understand livestock systems and identify research needs? Their answer is that data emphasising space and time, and the dynamics of the system, are critical. Participation alone is not enough and better linkages between diagnostic data and resulting research programmes are needed.

Subsequent chapters describe some responses to these needs, including studies of herd dynamics over space and time (chapters 2 and 3), farming systems research on the integration of crop and livestock production using in-depth studies (chapters 4 and 5), participatory techniques (chapters 6 and 7) and a range of innovations including participatory surveys and on-farm trials (chapters 8 and 9), so that the full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative methods are covered.

The study of livestock-keeping by a women's group in northwest Tanzania (chapter 7) is particularly interesting in its use of maps generated by the participants to describe their activities. It also describes the differences in techniques applicable to younger and older age groups and between genders. Methodologies for characterising villages in a goat research programme in Burkina Faso highlight the web of interconnected factors faced by the livestock owner, including resource availability, ethnicity, production objectives and technical know-how. Chapter 6 describes how these factors can be analysed and prioritised in ways that will be helpful to the researcher or consultant.

In analysing the case studies, the final chapter draws several useful conclusions:

- informal surveys are a must in reducing the resources needed for research and speeding up the whole implementation process;
- as a minimum, an agronomist and a socioeconomist should be the mainstay of a multidisciplinary livestock systems diagnostic team. A veterinarian and a soils/vegetation expert are valuable additions;
- women, older farmers and young herd boys should be included in a survey, as their scope of experience can provide valuable information lacking from traditional surveys based only on young or middle-aged male herd owners; and
- techniques such as mapping, diagrams, calendars and wealth and preference rankings are valuable methods which need to be utilised more widely.

The authors conclude that long-term productivity is likely to be better explained by analysing farming communities than by complex studies of animal herds. A wide range of useful but underutilised research tools are available, and by combining formal and informal methods with on-farm trials to update the results, much useful information can be gathered to prioritise a research programme.

The book is a useful addition to the resources of those interested in grassroots development and how to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of aid.

Richard Chisholm, Consultant in natural resources and environmental management.
New books

NGOs, states and donors: Too close for comfort?

D. Hulme and M. Edwards (eds) 1997, St Martin's Press, ISBN 0 31216 190 5, 399pp., A$89.95 (hb)

The use of NGOs to promote development and reduce poverty and hunger has become a major feature of development policy. Donors have poured funds into NGOs, governments have allocated them major responsibilities and their number and size has grown. Has this popularity helped them to solve the problems of poverty, or has it changed them so that they are now part of the 'development industry' that they used to criticise? This book provides a detailed study of the ways in which NGO-state-donor relationships have changed the role that NGOs play in development. It is introduced and edited by two leading experts on the topic. Contributors include leading academics and senior practitioners. The authors conclude that there is much evidence that NGOs are 'losing their roots' - getting closer to donors and governments and more distant from the poor and are disempowering those who they seek to assist.

The road to hell: The ravaging effects of foreign aid and international charity

Michael Maren 1997, Free Press, ISBN 0 68482 800 6, 302pp., A$49.95 (hb)

Much of this book is centred in Somalia, but it draws on the author's experiences with aid organisations over 19 years around Africa - in places such as Kenya, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan and Ethiopia. The author argues that, unlike the popular images in the West about the accomplishments of aid organisations in the Third World, his experience of Africa suggests that the continent is in much worse shape than it was 20 years ago.

Capacity-building: An approach to people-centred development


This book examines the concept of capacity-building and why it is such an integral part of development. It considers specific and practical ways in which NGOs can contribute to enabling people to build on the strengths they already possess, while taking care not to undermine such capacities. The book reviews the types of social organisations with which NGOs might consider working, and the division of training in a variety of skills and activities for the people involved, and for their organisation. The importance of using a capacity-building approach in emergencies, and of the dynamic and long-term nature of the process, is emphasised.

Globalisation and the postcolonial world: The new political economy of development


This introductory text analyses key development issues and debates from the colonial period up to the present. It traces the historical development of capitalism through successive phases of expansion leading to the present implosion. The book's core focus is on the emergence of a new political economy characterised by flexible accumulation and globalisation, and its differential impact on rising and declining regions of the postcolonial world.

Accountable aid: Local participation in major projects

Patricia Feeney 1997, Oxfam, ISBN 0 85598 374 4, A$17.95

In this book the author examines the case of Rondonia Natural Resource Management Project in the Amazon, funded by the World Bank, and considers the frustrations created when local NGOs and communities were effectively excluded from decisions about a project that claimed to be 'participatory'. From a focus on individual projects, the book moves to a consideration of local participation in entire projects - the World Bank Country Assistance Strategies - and community involvement in projects funded by the private sector. It ends with a summary of lessons to be learned by local and international NGOs and major donors.

The history of development: From Western origins to global faith


This book attempts to explain the continuous success of an ideology which has obviously failed in practice. Despite evidence to the contrary, politicians and the development community still mostly believe economic growth will create new jobs, international debts will be repaid, and through globalisation we can achieve prosperity for all. The intellectual history of the concept of development examines the theories and strategies which have held sway during the last 50 years - dependency theory, underdevelopment, the 'basic needs' approach, structural adjustment, human development and sustainability. Given that levels of poverty and environmental degradation continue to grow in many countries of both North and South, the author asks why the world has continued with this project for so long.

Global politics of the environment

Lorraine Elliot 1997, Macmillan, ISBN 0 333 63367 9, 288pp., A$34.95

Debates about the causes and impacts of global environmental degradation go to the heart of economic and political systems and raise fundamental questions about power and inequity in the contemporary world. This book provides a wide-ranging analysis of those debates and competing views on environmental governance, the crisis of capacity in the state system, the international political economy of the environment, strategies for sustainable development and the pursuit of environmental study.

October 1997
Community power and grassroots democracy: The transformation of social life


Popular participation, local democracy and grassroots organising have become watchwords not only for social movements the world over but even for official development agencies. In refreshing contrast to the tendency to skate over the internal divisions and stratification that characterise all communities, this book asks the hard questions - about the power of central bureaucracies, the lack of local skills and organisational experience, the impact of national and transnational structures and social divisions. Not only does the reader learn an immense amount about the limits as well as the potential of community initiatives in the South, but the new social movements approach is skillfully married with resource mobilisation theory to develop a more nuanced and inclusive theoretical paradigm.

The women, development and gender reader


Third World women were long the undervalued and ignored actors in the development process but are now recognised by scholars, practitioners and policy makers to have a critical role to play. This book has been designed as a comprehensive reader for undergraduates and development practitioners, presenting the best of the new vast body of literature that has grown up alongside this acknowledgment. Five parts cover a review of the history of theoretical debates, the status of women in the household and family, women in the global economy, the impacts of social changes on women’s lives and women organising for change.

No place for borders


HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly in Asia and the Pacific region. Within a decade, it will be the epicentre of the disease, yet world attention continues to be focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. No place for borders shows that the dynamism of Asian economies and the movement of people within and between countries is helping to promote the disease. Poor public health infrastructure and international programmes which do not take regional cultures and needs into account add to the problem. The contributors also argue that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been poorly managed since it first appeared in North America, and that this is now creating problems for Asian and Pacific countries. Contributors include those working on the HIV/AIDS problem in international, national and non-government agencies, as well as development consultants, health workers and academic researchers.

A city for all: Valuing difference and working with diversity


The rapid pace of urbanisation is forcing a rethinking of development priorities, and this book explores some of those initiatives through an analysis of the nature of diversity in the city, organisational and participative issues, and the question of gender. The contributors look at the experience of living and working in a variety of cities, of creating secure homes and neighbourhoods, of the design and creation of sustainable environments, and the provision of health services and transport. Case study material examines the urban experience in countries as diverse as India, Indonesia, Somalia, Peru, Spain and Britain.

The political economy of South East Asia: An introduction


This book examines the political economy of contemporary development in South East Asia - a region that has undergone remarkable industrial and economic transformation in the last two decades. It not only explains these changes, but examines the political foundations and implications of transformation and discusses the changing political alignments and struggles taking place and the changing patterns of social organisations involved. The book identifies the central theoretical issues at stake in the debate over economic development in the region. The issues, concepts and debates that separate the conflicting political economy approaches are considered in this book in the context of six country case studies - Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam - and three thematic chapters which deal separately with labour in South East Asia, regional economic institution building and the emergence of sub-regional economic growth zones.

Ecofeminism: Women, culture, nature


In this book, the strengths and weaknesses of the growing ecofeminist movement are critically assessed by scholars in a variety of academic disciplines and vocations. The book explores the real-life concerns that have motivated ecofeminism as a grassroots, women-initiated movement around the globe; the appropriateness of ecofeminism to academic and scientific research; and philosophical implications and underpinnings of the movement.
Decolonizing knowledge: From development to dialogue

This book argues that the linear evolutionary paradigm of development that comes out of the modern Western view of knowledge is a contemporary form of colonialism. The authors cover topics as diverse as the theory of knowledge underlying the work of John Maynard Keynes, what the renowned British geneticist J.B.S. Haldane was looking for when he migrated to India, and the knowledge of Mexican and Indian peasants. They propose a pluralistic vision and a decolonisation of knowledge by the replacement of one-way transfers of knowledge and technology with dialogue and mutual learning.

Patriarchy and economic development: Women’s positions at the end of the twentieth century

At the end of the twentieth century, after four world conferences on women, debates on the impact of economic development on the lives and status of women remain unresolved. The chapters in this book explore two parallel phenomena: the changing position of women and gender relations and the relevance of the concept of patriarchy, and the impact of development - especially industrialisation and wage work - on women and gender. They address questions through theoretical, historical and empirical approaches, and provide critical analysis and macro- and micro-level data for Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian Subcontinent, the Nordic region, and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Corruption, capitalism and democracy

In this book the author demonstrates that corruption does not disappear as countries develop and modernise, but rather that corruption takes on new forms. The book describes how such corruption is damaging to democracy and its institutions, but that it is checked by the ideal of citizenship expressed in civil society. As such it is an important and very relevant study of the development of political corruption.

Worlding women

In this book, the author develops a broad picture of women in colonial and postcolonial relations; in racialised, ethnic and national identity conflicts; in wars, liberation and peace movements; and in the international political economy. Bringing contemporary feminist theory together with women’s experiences of the ‘international’, Pettman shows how mainstream international relations is based on certain constructions of masculinity and femininity.

Human rights diplomacy

This book covers topics such as the relationship between human rights and international stability, the conundrum of cultural relativism, the use of force to settle human rights issues and how violations can be prevented. The author defines human rights diplomacy as the use of foreign policy instruments in order to promote human rights, as well as the use of human rights issues for the sake of other foreign policy aims.

The politics of economic development in Indonesia

Translating key speeches and articles from the political debates surrounding Indonesian economic development, the authors present and analyse trends in development thinking by leading Indonesian figures over the last 30 years.

Political opposition in industrialising Asia

Industrialisation has meant sweeping social transformations across Asia. Some political commentators have predicted that the expansion of civil society and the rapid development of liberal democracy will necessarily follow. The contributors to this volume dissect the extent of political opposition in Asia and analyse the nature of new social movements outside institutional party politics which are contesting the exercise of state power. Nine original case studies explore the variety of political oppositions across Asia.

Searching for security: Women’s responses to economic transformations

Human security is the development buzzword of the 1990s. To attain security, people need to be safe from natural disasters, such as famine, and ‘human-made’ problems such as unemployment. Women are a particularly insecure section of society, with the impact of deprivation disproportionately shouldered by women throughout the developing world. Searching for security examines how economic, political and
environmental factors have contributed to increased gender insecurity in the last decade. Analysing the impacts of insecurity-inducing global changes on the lives of women throughout the developing world, the book discusses the gender responses to these changing circumstances from Africa to Malaysia, Hungary to the Caribbean.

Indian development: Selected regional perspectives


India is a country of great diversity. The commonly used indicators of 'quality of life' (such as life expectancy, infant mortality and literacy) vary tremendously between the different states, rivalling international contrasts between very low performing countries and very high achieving ones. The essays challenge exclusively economic judgements of the development process. The first task is to identify the ends of economic and social development in order to have a basis on which to found the means and strategies. The second task is to understand a wider range of means than those related simply to the use or non-use of markets. The first two overview essays study the issues at the national level, focusing on policy debates and district-by-district demographic indicators, respectively. They are followed by detailed case studies of three very different states: Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal.

The environment and emerging development issues (Vols. 1-2)


Two and a half billion people are affected directly on a day-to-day basis by the allocation and use of purely local resources. Yet 'official' development economics has concentrated on headline international issues and only recently begun to take account of the dependence of poor countries on their natural resources, the link between acute poverty and environmental degradation, and the problems associated with the management of local common property such as soil and soil cover, water, forests and their products, animals and fisheries. In these two volumes, expert contributors provide a set of authoritative studies of emerging development issues, ranging from foundational matters to case studies. They address both analytic and empirical issues on the role of environmental resources in the development process, presenting explanations of existing situations and policies for the future.

Bridging the gap: A guide to monitoring and evaluating development projects

B. Broughton and J. Hampshire 1997, Australian Council For Overseas Aid, ISBN 0 909831 793, 175pp., $40.00 (plus $4 p&h)

This guide has been prepared as a resource for project managers within Australian NGOs who have responsibility for managing and supporting the implementation of development projects. It is specifically aimed at those individuals who are involved in developing practical monitoring, review and evaluation systems to help support informed decision making by implementing agencies.
WorldWatch

This bi-monthly magazine focuses on issues that have an impact on the long-term health of our planet; the battle to rein in an out-of-control consumer economy, to stabilise the global climate, and to protect our rapidly declining cultural and biological diversity. The magazine is written for a wide spectrum of policy makers, educators, researchers, reporters and concerned individuals worldwide. Recent issues have focused on poverty in Mexico, APEC, private financial flows to developing countries and sustainable development, and harvests and grain yields.

For more information contact:
Worldwatch Institute
1776 Massachusetts Ave.,
NW Washington DC 20036
Tel (1 202) 452 1999
Fax (1 202) 296 7365
E-mail wwpub@worldwatch.org
Web http://
www.worldwatch.org/mag

Local Environment

Through the international agreement to sustainable development embodied in the Rio Earth Summit's Agenda 21 programme, and the approval by the European Union of the Fifth Environmental Action programme 'Towards Sustainability', local environmental policy and practice has now developed an unstoppable momentum. As the quest for local and global sustainability continues, policy makers are moving from single environmental issues towards integrated environmental solutions. This new environmental agenda, which brings together social, economic and environmental concerns, will require new ways of thinking and new ways of working. Aimed at policy makers, practitioners, academics and researchers, Local Environment aims to provide the forum for examining, evaluating, assessing and developing this new policy agenda.

International Journal of Water Resources Development

This is an interdisciplinary journal covering all aspects of water development and management in both industrialised and Third World countries. Contents focus on the practical implementation of policies for water resources development, monitoring and evaluation of technical projects and, to a lesser extent, water resources research. The journal is suitable for academics and researchers in the water resources field and policy makers and managers in all organisations that are affected by, or concerned with, water resources development.

Australian Feminist Studies

This journal was launched in 1985 by the Research Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Adelaide. As an international peer-reviewed journal, it publishes academic articles from throughout the world which contribute to current developments in the new and burgeoning fields of women's studies and feminist research. This includes feminist scholarship and critique based within mainstream academic disciplines, and research and discussion that transcends the conventional boundaries between academic disciplines or fields such as cultural studies. The journal also aims to encourage discussion of interactions between feminist theory and practice; consideration of government and trade union policies that concern women; comment on changes in educational curricula relevant to women's studies; sharing of innovative course outlines, reading lists and teaching/learning strategies; reports on local, national and international conferences; and contains reviews, critiques and correspondence.

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Cammeray, NSW 2062
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Sociology

Sociology, the official journal of the British Sociological Association is acknowledged as one of the leading journals in its field. For more than three decades, the journal has made a major contribution to the debates that have shaped the discipline, and has an undisputed international reputation for publishing original research. The scope of the journal is wide ranging - both geographically and substantively - and it includes shorter notes, comments, reviews of recent developments and book reviews as well as core theoretical and empirical research papers. It also publishes occasional issues principally devoted to particular themes such as class and gender and feminism and epistemology.

WIN News

This is an open participatory quarterly by, for, and about women. It includes information on women and health, women and development, women and the media, the environment, violence, human rights and more.

For more information contact:
WIN News
187 Grant Street
Lexington, MA 02173
USA

The Land Tenure Center Newsletter

Published twice a year, this newsletter is a source of applied and theoretical information for professionals and students working worldwide on resource tenure, social structure, rural institutions and development.

For more information contact:
The Editor
The Land Tenure Center
Newsletter
Land Tenure Center
1357 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715
USA
Tel (1 608) 262 3657
E-mail landtenure.center
@mail.admin.wisc.edu
AIDS Care: Psychological and Socio-medical Aspects of AIDS/ HIV

AIDS and HIV infection, the planning of preventative and curative services, and the fear of AIDS affects many echelons of society from individuals, couples and families to institutions and communities. This journal is a forum for publishing research and reports from the many complementary disciplines involved in the HIV/AIDS field. It includes peer-reviewed research from diverse disciplines including psychology, sociology, epidemiology, social work, anthropology, ethics, nursing, education, health education, law, administration and counselling. A particular aim is to publish work emanating from many centres and in so doing, address the global impact of AIDS.

People and the Planet

This newsletter is jointly sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund, the World Conservation Union, the Worldwide Fund for Nature International and the International Planned Parenthood Federation etc., and is published by Planet 21, an independent, non-profit publishing company. Although the articles published in the newsletter are not to be associated with the sponsoring organisations, the sponsors are united in the belief that people, their consumption, technologies and numbers, interact with the environment of our planet in ways which need to be explored - and should lead towards a sustainable and healthy future. Recent issues of People and the Planet have focused on: reproductive health; greening the cities; Habitat II; and the sustainable and healthy future.

For more information contact:
Editorial Offices
People and the Planet
1 Woburn Walk
London WC1H 0J
United Kingdom
Tel (44 171) 383 4388

Environment Business

This monthly newsletter reports on news and developments from the environment sector. It reports on Federal and State government legislation and programmes, and innovations in environment research and technology within research agencies, universities and the private sector.

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Journal of Democracy

Focusing exclusively on democracy, the journal monitors and analyses democratic regimes and movements in scores of countries around the world. Each issue features a blend of scholarly analysis, reports from democratic activists, updates on news and elections, and reviews of important recent books.

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Human Rights Quarterly

This quarterly journal draws upon experts from around the world and from a range of disciplines, and provides up-to-date information on the important developments within the United Nations and regional human rights organisations, both governmental and non-governmental.

For more information contact:
Transparency International (TI)
Heylstrasse 33
D-10825 Berlin
Germany
Tel (49 30) 787 5908
Fax (49 30) 787 5707
Web http://www.transparency.de/

Monday Developments

This newsletter is published bi-weekly by InterAction, a broad-based coalition of over 150 private and voluntary organisations working in international development, refugee assistance and protection, disaster relief and preparedness and public policy. The newsletter helps the staff of private organisations to get up-to-date information on global events that affect their work and serves as a link between NGOs in the North and South.

For more information contact:
Monday Developments
InterAction
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 801
Washington DC 20036
USA
Web http://www.interaction.org/ia/pubs.html

TI Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter is published by Transparency International and is currently mailed to over 3,000 members of government, universities, NGOs, newspapers, and international organisations around the world. It includes country reports and updates from national chapters, analysis, cases from all over the world, and a list of upcoming conferences.

For more information contact:
Transparency International (TI)
Heylstrasse 33
D-10825 Berlin
Germany
Tel (49 30) 787 5908
Fax (49 30) 787 5707
Web http://www.transparency.de/
The Tribune

This newsletter is published by the International Women's Tribune Centre, and focuses on women and development issues. Produced in English, Spanish and French, The Tribune is intentionally designed to be adapted, reproduced and translated through the use of short articles, simple language and numerous illustrations. Development issues in recent editions include: women and law; women, environment and development; women and marketing; claiming our rights; and three special editions that concentrated on plans and preparations for Beijing.

For more information contact:
IWTC
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA
Tel (1 212) 687 8633
Fax (1 212) 661 2704
E-mail iwtc@igc.apc.org

New Zealand Geographer

The New Zealand Geographer focuses on New Zealand-Aotearoa, Australia and the Southwest Pacific region, and encourages communication among geographers regardless of their professional or regional area of speciality. This bi-annual journal is published by the New Zealand Geographical Society. The October 1997 issue of the journal is a special issue on cultural geography of New Zealand-Aotearoa and would be of interest to students and scholars in social and cultural geography, sociology, anthropology and cultural studies.

For more information contact:
The Secretary
New Zealand - Aotearoa Geographical Society
Dept. of Geography
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton
New Zealand

The Journal of Urban Technology

Nowhere are the effects of technology greater than in urban environments. Yet many who are in positions requiring them to make decisions about urban technologies have inadequate knowledge to do so. The Journal of Urban Technology is designed for a general audience whose businesses, occupations, professions, or studies require that they become aware of the effects of new technologies on urban environments. It aims to have people better understand both cities and technologies so that they can improve the former by wisely using the latter. The journal does not limit itself to discussions of technological developments; it also publishes discussions that examine the history as well as the ethical, social, economic, political, environmental, and aesthetic effects of those developments.
Far from being a liberating process for all, much of what has been done in the name of development has served to reinforce the intellectual, material, and financial dependence of those on the receiving end. Some argue that the very concept of development is essentially a vehicle in which cultural values and social norms as well as resources are exported from one part of the world to another, along a one-way route from rich to poor. Aid thus becomes a means by which unequal relationships of power are maintained and patronage is fostered.

The Philippines: In search of justice

C. Pye-Smith 1997, Oxfam, ISBN 0 85598 367 1, 64pp., £5.95

This report is part of the Oxfam series 'Oxfam Country Profiles'. It describes the Philippines as a country at a crossroads. Although burdened with a huge debt, a legacy of the corrupt and inefficient government of President Marcos, the Philippines seems poised to emulate the example of the neighbouring South Asian tiger economies. But there are many Filipinos who will not share in any increased prosperity that might result, in particular the indigenous inhabitants of the region, whose lifestyle is dependent on the rapidly disappearing forests. This report describes how they are making efforts to secure land rights and more control over the resources they need. Also featured are the many fishing communities of the islands, whose livelihoods are being destroyed by international factory fleets, and who are also struggling to survive.

Development for health

Oxfam 1997, ISBN 0 85598 368 X, 112pp., £8.95

The achievement of 'Health for All by Year 2000' has been the declared goal of the international community for almost 20 years. Yet, with deepening economic disparity within and between nations, and with near-universal cuts in public spending on health services, millions of people today are denied access to even basic care. Community participation is reduced to paying for treatment, a cruel parody of the right to participate in shaping health and socio-welfare policies which was affirmed two decades ago.

Empowering communities:
A casebook from West Sudan

P. Strachan and C. Peters 1997, Oxfam, ISBN 0 85598 358 2 0, 88pp., A$23.95

This case study describes the Kebkabiya project in the west of Sudan which began as an attempt to improve food security in the wake of a major famine. Over the years, many other initiatives have been introduced. Oxfam initially managed the project activities, but the responsibility for the project has been largely handed over to a community-based organisation. The account of the increasing involvement of the community, and how democratic structures were built up, provides valuable insights into the way in which a participative approach to development can result in empowerment for the communities. One particularly interesting aspect of the work in Kebkabiya is how the problem of women's impoverishment and disempowerment within a strongly patriarchal society was addressed.

Reproductive rights and reproductive health: A concise report


This report summarises recent information on reproductive rights and reproductive health. It covers topics such as entry into reproductive life; reproductive behaviour; contraception; abortion; maternal mortality and morbidity; sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; reproductive rights; and population information, education and communication with respect to reproductive rights and reproductive health.

Fighting over country: Anthropological perspectives

D.E. Smith and J. Finlayson 1997, CAEPR, Research Monograph No. 12, 216pp., A$20.00

This monograph contains papers from a 1996 workshop, 'Fighting over country: Anthropological perspectives'. A critical issue in the era of native title and in the history of Indigenous land rights in Australia, has been that of disputes about Indigenous land ownership - how such disputes arise and progress; whether they are being created and exacerbated by the processes established under native title and land rights legislation; and how disputes might be managed or resolved. The monograph focuses on these issues, and on how disputes are characterised by the wider public and media.

The above publications are available from:
Oxfam Publishing
BEBC Distribution
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Parkstone
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United Kingdom
Fax (44 1202) 715 556
Hunger 1997: What governments can do

Bread for World Institute 1996, A$34.95

This seventh annual report on the state of world hunger argues that despite widespread scepticism and cynicism, governments have crucial roles to play in reducing hunger and poverty. National governments must ensure national standards and meet global responsibilities. Individual and private voluntary activities make important and creative contributions to ending hunger and poverty in the USA and developing countries, but cannot accomplish a task of this magnitude on their own. The active political participation of citizens - including hungry and poor people themselves - is needed to ensure that governments are effective.

Indonesia assessment: Population and human resources

G. Jones and T. Hull (eds) 1997, Australian National University, ISBN 981 3055 61 8, A$30.00

This volume provides an overview of current political and economic conditions and a review of recent trends in population and human resources. The editors, well known for their long experience in Indonesia and their writings on Indonesian population and human resources, have been able to bring together experts drawn mainly from academic circles in Indonesia and Australia, as well as consultancy firms and NGOs.

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Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 0200
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Tel (02) 6249 5915
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E-mail bevley@coombs.anu.edu.au

Vulnerability and opportunity: Adolescents and HIV/AIDS in the developing world - findings from the Women and AIDS Research Program


Based on an ICRW programme, this report argues that the factors that influence sexual risk among the young, such as lack of information and services, are social, cultural and economic forces that create gender differences in sexual experiences, expectations and abilities to adopt HIV/STD preventative behaviours.

Available from:
Publications Department
ICRW
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 302
Washington, DC 20036
USA

Development in wonderland: The sociological and ecological sustainability of economic growth


The author argues that the physical growth of the global economy relies on increasing amounts of matter and energy being churned through the system. This growth is now breaching environmental limits, raising serious doubts about the sustainability of overall economic growth. Several environmental case studies are examined, including the degradation of arable land, the decline of fisheries, deforestation, biomass appropriation, water scarcity, global warming, ozone depletion, pollution and nuclear waste.

Available from:
World Vision Australia
GPO Box 399C
Melbourne, VIC 3001
Australia
Tel (03) 9287 2297
Fax (03) 9287 2427
E-mail infoserv@wva.org.au

World Development Report 1997: The state in a changing world


This year's report focuses on the role and effectiveness of the state, a topic that ranks high on the agenda in developing and industrial countries alike. The report looks at what the state should do, how it should do it, and how it can do it better in a rapidly changing world. For many, the lesson of recent years has been that the state could not deliver on its promises. Transition economies have had to make a wrenching shift from state-led central planning, and much of the developing world has had to cope with the failure of state-led development strategies. Many have felt that a minimalist state would be the optimal solution; such a state would be innocuous but, on the other hand, ineffective. The report explains why this extreme view is at odds with the evidence of the world's development success stories, be it the development of the industrial economies in the nineteenth century or the post-war growth 'miracles' of East Asia. These examples show that development requires an effective state, one that encourages and complements the activities of private businesses and individuals.

Mainstreaming gender in World Bank lending: An update


This study updates the findings of a 1994 study on how the concepts of women in development and gender have evolved within the World Bank, and how Bank policies and lending reflect these concepts. Drawing from documentation including project documents, economic and sector work, and OED evaluations, this study
analyses the overall quality of lending in fiscal year 1994-95 for gender integration, compares it with that of complete projects, and reviews recent economic and sector work and country assistance strategies. The update calls for actions to ensure that gender concerns are addressed in ongoing work on social assessments, performance indicators, and guidance for implementation completion reports.

Large dams: Learning from the past, looking to the future


Large dams have been a subject of growing international debate and controversy. In 1996, the World Bank conducted an internal review of 50 large dams funded by the Bank; and in April 1997, IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and the World Bank jointly hosted a workshop to discuss the findings and the need for further study. Part I of these proceedings summarises the workshop discussion and recommendations for future action. Part II contains a series of overview papers commissioned for the workshop on four key topics: engineering and economics; social and stakeholder issues; environmental sustainability; and future challenges facing the hydro industry.

Working Papers

Australian National University

Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR)

No.115, B. Hunter, The determinants of Indigenous employment outcomes: The importance of education and training, October 1996

No.116, D.F. Martin and J.D. Finlayson, Linking accountability and self-determination in Aboriginal organisations, October 1996

No.117, I. Anderson and W. Sanders, Aboriginal health and institutional reform within Australian federalism, October 1996

No.118, J. Taylor, Short-term Indigenous population mobility and service delivery, October 1996

No.119, B. Hunter and J. Taylor, Indigenous labour force status to the year 2000: Estimated impacts of recent Budget cuts, October 1996

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No.121, J.C. Altman, W.S. Arthur and W. Sanders, Towards greater autonomy for Torres Strait: Political and economic dimensions, December 1996

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No.127, J.C. Altman and B. Hunter, Indigenous poverty since the Henderson Report, April 1997


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No.131, R.G. Schwab, Post compulsory education and training for Indigenous Australians, April 1997


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**Broadening papers series**

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**Agricultural and Extension Network (AgREn) papers**


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No.73, J. Farrington and J. Nelson, *Using logframes to monitor and review farmer participatory research*, January 1997

No.74, P. McGrath and J. Compton, *Two case studies of the larger grain borers project, Ghana*, January 1997

For more information contact:
Overseas Development Institute
Portland House
Stag Place
London SW1E 5DP
United Kingdom
Tel (44 171) 393 1600
Fax (44 171) 393 1699
E-mail publications@odi.org.uk

**The University of Queensland**

**Department of Economics**


No. 217, D.A. Ahlburg and R.P.C. Brown, *Are migrant's remittances sensitive to changes in their income?*, April 1997

For more information contact:
Department of Economics
University of Queensland
Brisbane, QLD 4072
Australia
Tel (07) 3365 6570
Fax (07) 3365 7299
Australian National University

Geographic Information Systems for Development Planning and Resource Decisions

This course is scheduled to run from 2-27 February 1998. This four week course provides skills in the application of GIS in real world decisions for development planning and resource management by using examples and data sets from a range of sector case studies. It is designed for professionals or practitioners in development planning or resource and environmental management. Participants will gain hands-on skills in the development and use of GIS for storing, retrieving and analysing complex sets of resource and environmental data.

The course is divided into four segments: introduction; skills development using IDRISI - a powerful but inexpensive package supported by the United Nations Environment Programme; combining GIS, remote sensing and ground data for predictive modelling; and the use of GIS and various computer tools as decision-support aids for management.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Information Systems for Successful Projects

This intensive five week course is scheduled to run from 2-27 March 1998. It is intended to benefit policy makers, planners, administrators, project managers, monitoring and evaluation specialists and technical experts from government, NGOs and the private sector. Participants will develop skills using participatory methods to collect data that will form the basis of integrated management and financial information systems. They will learn the principles of assessment, monitoring, review and evaluation; and how to use qualitative and quantitative data for policy development and goal-orientated planning.

Rural Projects: Design, Monitoring and Evaluation

This five week course, from 7 September to 9 October 1998, aims to update the skills and knowledge of middle to senior level rural planners and project managers. A highly participatory and interactive course, it will examine practical techniques for the identification, design, appraisal, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of rural projects in the context of strategic and programme planning. The course incorporates an emphasis on participatory planning techniques, social and gender analysis, environmental assessment and cost benefit analysis. The use of computers and relevant project management software will also be included.

For more information contact:
Jennifer Clement
Training Co-ordinator
ANUTech Development International
GPO Box 4
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel (61 2) 62495861
Fax (61 2) 62495875
E-mail jenny.clement@aplemail.anu.edu.au
University of Adelaide

Graduate Programme in International Economics

A number of economics courses are offered at the graduate level to cater for a wide range of backgrounds and interests and to allow numerous entry and exit points. The courses include a one-semester Graduate Certificate in International Economics and a two-semester Graduate Diploma in International Economics. A four-semester (16 months) Master of Economics and a three year Ph.D programme are also offered. Students with a high quality B.Ec can begin with an Honours degree and later convert their enrolment to an M.Ec, with full credit for completed subjects. Department courses include: international trade and investment policy; international finance; the global trading system; international economic history; long-run economic growth; and development economics.

For more information contact:
The School Manager
School of Economics
University of Adelaide
Adelaide, SA 5005
Australia
Tel (08) 8303 4499
Fax (08) 8223 1460
E-mail egeddes@economics.adelaide.edu.au

University of New England

Master of Letters in Development Studies

From 1998, a Master of Letters (M.Litt) in development studies will be offered at the University of New England. The M.Litt allows students to complete a mixture of coursework and a research dissertation on a topic of their choice. Coursework is interdisciplinary, drawn from a range of departments, including Economics, Geography and Planning, Politics, Sociology, Asian Languages and Society, Economic History, Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Centre for Peace Studies.

The M.Litt may be completed full time over one year, or part time over two years, and can be completed either internally (on-campus) or through distance education (off-campus). This degree will appeal to those currently involved in, or interested in pursuing a career in, a development-related field. Or, for those interested in academic employment, the M.Litt can allow subsequent entry to the Ph.D programme.

For more information contact:
Dr Barbara Rugendyke
Department of Geography and Planning
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
Tel (02) 6773 2923
Fax (02) 6773 3030
E-mail brugendy@metz.une.edu.au

University of Canberra

Centre for Developing Cities

Graduate Diploma in Urban Management

This intensive course-work diploma is taken over a minimum of six months full time, or up to two years in total. It provides students with valuable insights into modern urbanisation and urban governance issues and practice, giving them a practical and realistic basis for seeking or advancing their employment. Subjects covered include: urban research methods; globalisation; urbanisation and economic growth; urbanisation and microeconomics; urban development planning; designing sustainable development; urban politics and governance.

Master of Urban Management

This intensive course-work degree is taken over a minimum of one calendar year full time, or up to three years in total. Its purpose is to extend the perceptions, skills and knowledge of those already employed in senior and middle management, to enhance their capacity to address issues of strategic planning, financial and economic management and public-private sector interrelationships in urban development generally, and in particular sectoral contexts. As well as subjects offered in the graduate diploma, the masters programme offers a research project and subjects in: financing urban development; financial management and investment evaluation; managing urban systems; strategic planning in urban management; and planning and development in large, rapidly developing cities.

Degree by thesis

Through the Centre, Masters and Doctoral degrees by thesis may be taken within the Faculty of Management or the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Canberra.

Short courses, seminars and workshops

Most units in the Masters programme can also be taken as individual short courses for professional development. Short-course candidates receive a Certificate of Completion.
The Centre's 1998 programme runs from 12 January to 18 December 1998.

For more information contact:
Administrative Officer
Centre for Developing Cities
Faculty of Environmental Design
University of Canberra
PO Box 1
ACT 2616
Australia
Tel (02) 6201 2633
Fax (02) 6201 5034
E-mail lrn@design.canberra.edu.au
The Australian Development Studies Network

- The Network offers a forum for discussion and debate of development issues.
- It provides members with up-to-date information and notices of forthcoming events.
- It helps members to inform each other about their work.
- It gives extensive, often annotated, listings of written and other information and education resources.
- Membership is open to anyone interested. Members come from fields as diverse as health, economics, agriculture, administration and human rights.


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Organisation profiles

Isis International

Isis is an international non-government women's organisation, founded in 1974 to promote the empowerment of women through information sharing, communication and networking. Its network reaches over 50,000 individuals and organisations in over 150 countries, from grassroots groups to policy makers. Isis International's activities include:

Resource centres: These house a collection of documentation and information from all over the world on a wide range of development and women's issues. It is made available to all interested groups, institutions and individuals through information services and specialised publications including resource directories, bibliographic catalogues and publications on specific themes.

Publications: The Communications Networking Programme of each office publishes a quarterly magazine: Mujeres en Action, in Spanish, and Women in Action, in English. These publications bring together information, analyses and perspectives about and from women around the world and serve as communication channels for sharing ideas, experiences and models of organisation and action. The Women's Health Journal is published in English by the Health Networking Programme; and Women Envision, a monthly newsletter in English, is published by the Advocacy and Campaigns Programme.

Health networking: The Health Networking Programme in Chile coordinates the Latin America and Caribbean Women's Health Network, while the office in the Philippines undertakes health networking activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Both offices offer health information services and resource materials.

Advocacy campaigns and policy: The Chile office coordinates the Information and Policy Programme on Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Philippine Office produces Action Alerts on campaigns, actions and solidarity appeals of women's groups and networks around the world.

For more information contact:
Isis International
85-A East Maya Street
Philamlife Homes
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel (63 2) 997 512 / 993 292
Fax (63 2) 997 512
E-mail Isis@Phil.gn.apc.org
International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE)

The IUHPE is a non-government organisation founded in 1951. It functions as a global association of people and organisations working in the fields of health promotion and health education. It is dedicated to the promotion of world health through education, community action and the development of healthy public policies. By bringing together people from many sectors to address policy, programme and practice issues, the IUHPE provides an ideal interdisciplinary forum for members from around the world to share knowledge, experience and views. The IUHPE has an official relationship and cooperates closely with WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF. It also collaborates with governmental and non-governmental organisations in developing and improving the theoretical and practical aspects of health promotion and health education.

For more information contact:
IUHPE / South-West Pacific
National Centre for Health Promotion
Department of Public Health and Community Medicine
A27
University of Sydney
NSW 2006
Australia
Tel (02) 9351 5129
Fax (02) 9351 5205
E-mail healthpromotion@pub.health.su.oz.au

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is an informal association of some 50 public and private sector donors that support a network of 16 international agricultural research centres. The Group was established in 1971, and is co-sponsored by FAO, the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. The international centres supported by CGIAR are part of a global agricultural research system. The CGIAR functions as a guarantor to developing countries, ensuring that international scientific capacity is brought to bear on the problems of the world's disadvantaged peoples. Poverty alleviation and natural resource protection are the twin objectives of the CGIAR research on food crops, forestry, livestock, irrigation management, and aquatic resources. The CGIAR also undertakes policy research and provides services to national agricultural systems. Programmes carried out by CGIAR-supported centres fall into six broad categories: productivity research; management of natural resources; improving the policy environment; institution building; germplasm conservation; and building linkages.

To date, CGIAR centres have trained more than 45,000 agricultural scientists. The types of training provided ranged from mid-level regional courses to post-doctoral programmes at CGIAR centres. Many scientists from developing countries who were also trained at these centres form the nucleus of and provide leadership to national agricultural research systems in their own countries. In 1995, a NGO Committee was established to function at all levels of the CGIAR system. Future areas of possible cooperation between CGIAR and the NGO Committee are medium- and long-term planning, external reviews of CGIAR centres and policy making by CGIAR.

For more information contact:
CGIAR Secretariat
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA
Tel (1 202) 473 8951
Fax (1 202) 473 8110
E-mail cgiar@cnet.com

The One World Centre

The One World Centre (OWC) in Perth is one of four development education centres in Australia. There are similar centres in Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart. The OWC was set up over ten years ago to promote education about development. It is now an independent organisation with financial and in-kind support from both government and non-government organisations.

We seek innovative ways to educate people about development issues. A key strategy is to encourage and enable teachers to include a global perspective in their teaching. A professional teacher assists practising and preservice teachers, offering key concepts, classroom activities and teaching materials on global issues. The OWC has a resource centre open five days a week with reference materials, books, journals, country and issue-specific information, teachers' resource books, videos, posters, display kits and simulation games. It is used by teachers, tertiary students, community groups and interested individuals. With the assistance of volunteers, the centre offers various community education programmes such as 'Working and travelling in developing countries' and 'Women for one world'. We pioneer new display kits for school use; recently funds have been obtained from the Lotteries Commission to develop a display kit and conduct workshops with young people on the 'International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty'.

For more information contact:
One World Centre
99 Hay Street
Subiaco, WA 6008
Australia
Tel (08) 9388 2508
Fax (08) 9388 2115
E-mail owc@cleo.murdoch.edu.au
web http://cleo.murdoch.edu.au/-owc/
Materials

Using the Internet

This 32-minute practical video guide uses simple language and real-time online screens to illustrate how to access and navigate the Internet. The programme introduces a range of issues and concepts relating to the Internet including servers, hardware, downloading, e-mail and more.

Available from:
Video Education Australia
111A Mitchell Street
Bendigo, VIC 3550
Tel (03) 5442 2433
Fax (03) 5441 1148
E-mail vea@vea.com.au

Action research: A handbook for practitioners

Ernest Stringer 1996, Sage, A$29.95

This handbook provides a series of tools to assist the novice researcher in moving more comfortably through the research process. After defining and setting community-based action research in the context of qualitative research methodology, the handbook describes a simple but effective model for approaching action research: look - building a picture and gathering information; think - interpreting and explaining; and act - resolving issues and problems.

Reasons for hope: Instructive experiences in rural development

A. Krishna, N. Uphoff and M. Esman (eds) 1997, Kumarian Press, A$44.95

This book presents the experiences of 18 of the world's most exemplary rural development successes from Africa, Asia and Latin America in the words of their originators and managers. The cases are excellent for classroom use and can be read individually for guidance, hints, tips, ideas, or as a set for their broadly convergent advice on how to promote desirable kinds of rural development.

The above materials are available from:
World Vision Australia
GPO Box 399C
Melbourne, VIC 3001
Australia
Tel (03) 9287 2277
Fax (03) 9287 2427
E-mail infoserv@wva.org.au

Resources on micro-credit

The Calmeadow Foundation has a range of publications on micro-credit that may be of interest to groups hoping to establish such programmes. Publications include: Financial management training - accounting module, and Financial management training - finance module. These modules cover basic financial management and accounting principles as applied to micro-enterprises. Each module has been designed for self-study or as a workshop.

Available from:
Calmeadow Resource Centre
365 Bay Street
Suite 600
Toronto, ON MSH 2V1
Canada
Tel (1 416) 362 9670
Fax (1 416) 362 0769
E-mail calmead@inforamp.net

EHP - Environmental Health Project

This USAID-funded project helps development organisations address environment-related health problems. It concentrates on causes of infant mortality and child illness and death in USAID-assisted countries and provides technical assistance among others in tropical disease control, water and sanitation, wastewater and solid waste management.

More information on the project can be obtained at:
Web http://www.access.digex.net/-ehp/

A handbook of communication skills


This completely revised and updated second edition includes a new section on "Interviewing contexts", including chapters on selection, helping, appraisal and survey interviewing. It also has new chapters on "Influencing and persuading" and "Relational communication".

UN-I-QUE

UN-I-QUE stands for UN Info Quest and is an electronic research tool that will aid information seekers from Asia and the Pacific to identify major UN documents through the Internet. It serves as a guide to the symbols and sales numbers of tens of thousands of selected documents and publications from 1946 to the present.

For information contact:
Dag Hammarskjold Library
E-mail dflusa@un.org

October 1997
Pacific passages

This 30-minute video interweaves contemporary footage of ritual events and daily activities of the islanders of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, with the world-renowned collections of the Honolulu Academy of Art and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

Available from:
Pacific Pathways / Palm Frond Productions
PO Box 23296
Honolulu, HI 96823
USA
Tel/Fax (1 808) 396 3326
E-mail cyacoep@aol.com

Population, environment and development linkages


This volume provides an up-to-date listing and analytical survey of population, environment and sustainable development materials. It shows trends and developments in the different areas of the population-environment-sustainable development triangle. It also provides a comprehensive framework from which national authorities involved with population and environment programmes may draw in implementing, monitoring and evaluating their national population and environment education activities.

Available from:
UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
PO Box 967
Prakanong Post Office
Bangkok 10110
Thailand

Where the rivers run dry

This video presents the ecosystem, the people involved, the issues and the debate behind a pioneering water management plan for the Macquarie River in NSW. The river determines the fate of the world-renowned Macquarie Marshes. The story shows what happens as governments and interest groups wrestle with the reality of 'ecologically sustainable development'.

Available from:
Media Associates
Canberra Business Centre
Bradfield Street
Dowerin, ACT 2602
Australia
Tel (02) 6242 1998
Fax (02) 6241 5284
E-mail mariatavior@netinfo.com.au

Developing technology with farmers: A trainer’s guide for participatory learning


This manual is written for trainers in governmental and non-governmental development organisations who are preparing their staff to work together with farmers in developing technologies appropriate to ecological agriculture and using few external inputs. The training is designed to stimulate active learning by participants who draw on their own experience, an approach that mirrors the type of interaction between facilitator and farmers in participatory technology development (PTD).

Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A directory of Third World and US volunteer opportunities

P. Lowenthal and S. Farnoff 1996, JOOpp., US$9.95

This directory raises important questions about the role of volunteers and offers a critical examination of the Peace Corps as the traditional route for people wishing to gain 'international experience'.

Available from:
Food First
Institute for Food and Development Policy
398 66th Street
Oakland, CA 94618
USA
Tel (1 510) 654 4400
Fax (1 510) 654 4551

The developing world

The Open University 1994 (revised version), 12 video programmes, £58.18 (incl postage)

This set of 12 video programmes, each 24 minutes long, is on two cassettes issued by the UK's Open University along with an 82-page booklet of video notes, as Development Studies pack T531/2/3 (1994). Some of the materials formed part of earlier Open University course resources and have been reorganised into this pack.

The programmes, and their accompanying text, cover and illustrate a broad range of development issues in a variety of developing countries. The notes segments background the themes and context of the programmes, followed by an activities and evaluation section. They include a 'Video index' that links sequence notes to index numbers showing
on the screen in five-minute time intervals.

The 12 video programmes are:
1. A vulnerable life: Uttar Pradesh - Daily lives of three households
2. Towards a better life: Rajasthan - Two NGOs, development for and development by
3. Lessons from Kerala: Role of women
4. Out of development? Brazil - Rich resources, mainly poor population
5. In search of identity: Brazil - Aspects of Brazilian culture
6. The cutting edge of progress: Zimbabwe - Impact of Kariba dam
7. Packaging culture: Mursi of Ethiopia - Presenting cultural issues on Western television
8. The poverty complex: Relationships between famine, hunger, poverty and development
9. Mozambique under attack: Effects of structural adjustment and war on health care system
10. Gender matters: Women in developing countries
11. Industrialisation in Malaysia: Impact on women's livelihoods
12. Breaking out: Zimbabwe - Women's lives since independence

Available from:
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA
UK
Fax (01908) 654 825 / 652 175
E-mail dev-studies@open.ac.uk

Electronic fora

New Zealand Development Studies Network

The New Zealand International Development Studies Network (DevNet) is being established to link people and organisations involved and interested in the broad field of development. It seeks to enhance cooperation between development studies and development education, training programmes in universities, government, NGOs and private sector development practitioners; to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information between stakeholders (students, academics, aid managers, NGOs and consultants) working in the broad field of development; and to collaborate in establishing activities of mutual interest to stakeholders.

To join DevNet or for other queries contact:
Ross Bell
c/- Institute for Development Studies
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019, Auckland
New Zealand - Aotearoa
Tel (64 9) 373 7599 ext. 4760
Fax (64 9) 308 2312
E-mail rd.bell@auckland.ac.nz
Web http://www.auckland.ac.nz/dev/devnet

INFODEV-L

This is an electronic forum on health informatics and development. It offers users an opportunity to discuss issues and tasks, and does not start with a set of pre-formatted postings by experts. The forum is less about exchanging expert information than it is about experts, communities, intermediate organisations and other stakeholders 'finding their way' in the emerging maze of new tools, and the possibilities of the electronic venue. The facilitators for the forum will be responsible for extracting key information (issues, questions, lessons learned, tacit knowledge) from the forum postings and reflecting it back in an organised fashion, using a 'meta-framework' being developed for the purpose.

To subscribe send an e-mail message to:
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LCSEWERAGE

This is an electronic discussion list that focuses on low-cost sewerage in both industrialised and developing countries.
The list is coordinated by the Water and Environmental Research Group, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds, England.

To subscribe send an e-mail message to:
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join lesewerage Firstname Lastname

GARNET

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To subscribe send an e-mail message to:
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EDI Forum

The EDI Review, a quarterly newsletter of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank has been replaced by EDI Forum.

To subscribe send a message to:
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using the text:
get EDIREVIEW file name
(filenames are listed in the index of articles, see above)

Human Rights and International Law

Columbia University's new web page provides information on human rights issues. It is linked to the US State Department's annual country reports on human rights practices; the Amnesty International gopher; the Hunger Web; Human Rights Watch gopher; DIANA - an international human rights database; and the Institute for Global Communication's five computer networks known as Peacenet, EcoNet, ConflictNet, LaborNet and WomensNet.

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Style

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

Notes

(a) Simple references without accompanying comments to be inserted in brackets at appropriate place in text, e.g. (Yung 1989).
(b) References with comments should be kept to a minimum and appear as endnotes, indicated consecutively through the article by numerals in superscript.

Reference list

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


Publication/resource listings

An important function of the Network is to keep members up-to-date with the latest literature and other resources dealing with development-related topics. To make it as easy as possible for readers to obtain the publications listed, please include price information (including postage) and the source from which materials can be obtained.
Australian Development Studies Network
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200
Telephone 02 6249 2466
Facsimile 02 6257 2886
E-mail devnetwork@ncds.anu.edu.au