

CAP NEWS

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TOWARDS ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR ALL: CAP INVOLVEMENT IN ISTANBUL+5

The adoption of the Habitat Agenda at the UN's Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in 1996 was immensely important for Commonwealth planners for two reasons. Firstly, the UN was saying to its member states that they need to work together to achieve sustainable human settlements. CAP is one of the few genuinely global organisations in urban and regional planning, and so has important responsibilities to put the UN sentiments into practice. Secondly, Habitat II forged a new type of partnership between the UN and non-governmental organisations, local authorities and the private sector. This new inclusive relationship presents opportunities and challenges to CAP. A door has been opened into the deliberations of the UN, but in embracing new partnerships the UN is also turning away from traditional top-down approaches to planning and management of cities, towns and rural areas.

“Istanbul+5” is the shorthand for the process of appraising the implementation of the Habitat Agenda over the five years since its adoption. There will be a Special Session of the General Assembly in June 2001 to do this. Before that we have a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session. This will be held at the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in Nairobi from 19-23 February. In the week before that the eighteenth session of the Commission of Human Settlements will meet in the same venue. The pre-session documents can be accessed on <http://www.unchs.org>.

I will be attending these events as part of the UK delegation. CAP members may also be present in delegations from other countries. As CAP President I will also take part in the Commonwealth Consultative Group in Human Settlements (CCGHS) on 10 February. This group was set up by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, to provide a Commonwealth input to the Istanbul+5 process. All 54 member countries have the right to membership of this group. The group has adopted the goal of:

“Demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”.

CCGHS is committed to assisting Commonwealth countries to implementing the Habitat Agenda in practical ways, including:

- Identifying priority areas for action;
- Promoting the sharing of ideas, experience and best practices;
- Identifying new, and making more effective use of, existing resources;
- Assisting in capacity-building;
- Promoting good governance and security of tenure.

The CCGHS is seeking to develop partnerships that are “pro-poor, recognise the poor as development actors and partners, assist in poverty alleviation, target the no-income and low-income groups and cater to the needs of children, youth, women and other disadvantaged groups”. The priority areas for action that CCGHS is proposing in its draft document are shown in the box below:

- a) Secure land tenure.
- b) Access to funding through international and national agencies, together with innovative local schemes particularly for women and low-income groups while utilising the labour “capital” of the no-income group.
- c) Promotion of employment opportunities in conjunction with shelter provision.
- d) Encouragement for innovative investment in rental accommodation.
- e) Promotion of national and international action for gender equity, particularly in areas relevant to shelter.
- f) Catering for the special needs of children, the disabled, disadvantaged and otherwise marginalised sections of the community.
- g) Promoting adoption of existing Commonwealth statements on:
 - Gender issues
 - Corruption
 - Good governance, and
 - The involvement of civil society.
- h) Training and capacity-building to support member countries’ human settlement programmes through courses and workshops, targeting individual skills and organisational efficiency.
- i) Development of mutually supportive partnerships. This important feature of CCGHS activity will fuse government, civil society and the private sector into a cohesive and efficient support mechanism.
- j) Seeking establishment of monitoring systems to assess progress and regulate against slippage.
- k) Maintaining and improving individual and community health by providing safe, clean water supplies, adequate waste management, good air quality and dedicated campaigns against HIV / AIDS and malaria, both of which have a severe negative impact on the human resource capacity due to lack of access to adequate treatment for people in developing countries.

The CCGHS Draft Priority Areas for Action within the Istanbul+5 process.

The CCGHS priorities show that planning and management of settlements, the core concern of CAP, now has to be practised in the institutional space between the state, the private sector and civil society. This means that traditional notions of town planning as unilateral state action to enforce development standards need to be critically examined. However, the CCGHS priority areas miss two important ideas about settlements that have been strengths of town planning thought. These are that place identity is important to people and to cultures, and that it is better to have a plan or a strategy than to operate in an entirely ad hoc manner. An area strategy can be a valuable means of making the targets of partnership transparent to all the stakeholders, and a means of monitoring the efficient use of resources.

The next CAP Newsletter will report on the discussions in Nairobi, and preview the June Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

Cliff Hague

POVERTY: ERADICATION OR ALLEVIATION

I'm forever amazed that the paradigm that we still operate from in a number of our planning institutions, whether training, policy or implementation, is one of the physical. I will not be surprised, therefore, to obtain feedback that our focus in this issue on poverty is misplaced, and can even hear the retort, what has poverty got to do with planning. Shifting the perception, practice and boundaries of our discipline is indeed difficult to effect and a role of the Jamaica Institute of Planners (JIP) is to lead this change. We also need to be bold and provocative in setting a vision for where we want to go. The social components of planning must, therefore, be brought front and centre to join the other more prominent ones.

Over the last twenty years or so, international development agencies such as the United Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank have led the movement for governance change in broadening development definitions and pushing underdeveloped nations like ours to shift our thinking and behaviour. I'm reminded here that it was the IDB that forced the Jamaican government to consider a relocation policy for those people directly impacted by the North Coast Highway Project. The bureaucrats were adamant and probably still are that a policy to guide decision-making was not necessary. It is quite unfortunate and disconcerting that this apparent progressiveness and concern for our own people is not home grown.

Poverty is as pervasive today as it was 50 years ago when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted. Perhaps as much as 30% of Jamaicans are so enslaved by such depressing poverty that they are denied their basic human rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of meaningful lives. Among this thirty- percent are two groups, women and children, who comprise approximately 70% of those who exist in dire poverty.

Poverty is not just the lack of income, as so many of us seem to think. It is the absence of safe drinking water, the lack of health care that shortens life; it is also "illiteracy that imposes severe restrictions on the access of poor people to knowledge, informed opinion and political participation" (UNDP Document).

In Jamaica the adverse impact of poverty expresses itself in squatting, violence, high crime rate, hopelessness, unemployment, short life expectancy and improper use of resources that leads to depletion and lack of education and training.

Taking into consideration the fact “that more progress has been made in reducing global poverty in the last five decades than in the past five centuries” (UN Doc.) do we then continue to speak about the palliative of poverty alleviation rather than the attainable goal of eradication? It is the writer’s view that there are enough wealth and resources in the world and if managed properly and distributed more equitably poverty can be eradicated in a reasonably short period of time. The language and notion of alleviation, easing or mitigating speak to uncertainty and the lack of commitment, while eradication envisages a future for human growth, development and achievement, building capacity, setting national targets and achieving them, advocacy, putting the poor first, make development more people centred and the development of anti-poverty policies and strategies. Planning must be at the front and centre of this change strategy, which is as much a political one as it is social and economic.

Patrick Anderson
President Jamaica Institute of Planners

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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

In the last Newsletter I wrote of my aspirations for a new, revived CAP. Much remains to be done, but I am really delighted with the start that CAP has made. This second issue of the Newsletter shows that CAP is on the move. From Australia we have news of the CAP congress linked to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 2001. There is a contribution from New Zealand about their Resource Management Act. Things are happening in Malta and Cyprus. There has been an important meeting of CAP members in the Americas. A CAP Women's Network has been launched, with a major article in RTPI News by Sola Olufemi from South Africa. In just four months CAP has been active in 4 continents. A really global body has begun to emerge.

Establishing a CAP web site has been a key leap forward. If you have not seen it already do check it out at www.commonwealth-planners.org.uk. Better still send us your news to put on the "What's New" page. The idea of the web-site has been warmly welcomed by the Commonwealth Foundation. The web site offers us a means of communicating with members (and non-members) across the world.

Two further ideas are currently being worked up. One is the concept of International Planning Aid, the subject of a paper from Jon Talbot that is on the web site. This is something that the CAP Executive will need to explore. Can CAP be the focus for linking planners across the Commonwealth who will give their time voluntarily to assist in worthwhile projects in other countries? Can some of these linkages be achieved electronically? How might such a system link with existing planning aid arrangements that exist in some member countries, and how can it relate to the Commonwealth Service Abroad Programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat? The second idea is CAPNOPS, the CAP Network of Planning Schools. It should be possible to develop a network, including "twinning" between planning schools in different Commonwealth countries. Such schools could explore exchanges of staff and students, collaboration over curriculum, quality assurance or joint participation in comparative research. The Network will be formally launched at the World Planning Schools Congress in Shanghai (11-15 July 2001); for details of the Congress see www.caup-tongji.org/wpsc2001.

The response to a twenty-first century CAP has been immensely encouraging. We now have to make CAP really visible within the Commonwealth and to individual planners. We can potentially tap into the professional expertise of something like 25,000 planners, people skilled at analysing urban and regional change and developing practical answers. We can extend the hand of friendship to colleagues in five different continents, learning from each other and helping each other. The great news is that the achievements of the last few months show that this vision is attainable.

Cliff Hague
President

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

The Caribbean Conference for Town & Country Planning has applied for membership of CAP. Its membership includes National Associations of professional planners where such exist in the Commonwealth Caribbean, viz, Barbados Town & Country Planning Society and Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planner, plus official agencies responsible for the administration of Town & Country Planning practice where national associations do not exist viz

Director of Physical Planning Ministry of Public Works Bahamas
Director of Housing & Planning Belize
Director of Planning Turks & Caicos Islands
Director of Planning Cayman Islands
Town & Country Planning Department Tortola
Department of Physical Planning Antigua
Physical Planning Department Nevis Island Administration Nevis
Physical Planning Dept. Min of Agriculture Land Housing & Environment Montserrat
Physical Planning Department Ministry of Finance Dominica
Physical Planning Department Ministry of Planning St Lucia
Physical Planning Department Ministry of Finance & Planning St Vincent
Physical Planning Unit Ministry of Finance Grenada
Town Planning Department Central Housing & Planning Authority Guyana

The Caribbean Conference was formed in 1984 and only difficulties of communication have precluded the other Commonwealth Caribbean countries from participating in biennial workshops. As a member of CAP an application has been made through CAP Secretary to the Commonwealth Foundation for some funding to help this year's workshop. These workshops are often the only time that individual planners in the Caribbean can meet fellow professionals as some countries only have one planner on their staff.

The Conference Coordinator is; Leonard St Hill, 9 Bamboo Ridge, Holders, St James, Barbados W1. Tel/fax +1 246 432 1947

John Anderson
CAP Secretary

REGIONAL MEETING AMERICAS

A Regional Meeting of the Americas was held on 9 November 2000.

Delegates from the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners (TTSP), Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and Jamaica Institute of Planners (JIP) attended the meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The Barbados Professional Planning Association was invited but they were unable to send a delegate due to their World Planning Day celebration on 11 November 2000.

The main theme of the meeting was Regional Co-operation in the Americas.

For further details please contact:

Asad Mohammed, CAP Vice-President Americas (TTSP) – email amohammd@eng.uwi.tt

Michael Frojmovic, CIP International Program Manager – email acr@istar.ca

NEWS FROM MALTA AND CYPRUS

Malta or better the archipelago of the Republic of Malta consists of three major islands, that is Malta, Gozo and Comino, and a number of islets. Urbanisation exists on Malta and Gozo with the former being the larger island and the most densely populated. The Maltese islands have a total population of 381,000 and a total area of about 244 sq. km. The islands are located in the centre of the Mediterranean, about 375 km north of Libya and about 93 km south of Sicily.

In Malta an integrated comprehensive planning system was only introduced in 1992. It is important to note that some fifty years ago only architects and civil engineers practised “planning”.

Prior to 1992, a national physical plan or some form of central planning agency did not exist. The development carried hitherto by private developers was regulated either by key plans or planning schemes for each town and village. Development by Government bodies was not regulated by any national plan, but often by the whims of politicians chasing after local constituency votes. Political forces, for some reason or another, seemed reluctant to engage in any serious planning framework and efforts such as that of the 1968 Town and Country Planning Act resulted in a run of the mill. Also in some cases politicians took the front-line in opposing and ignoring the planning momentum, when for example, in 1974 they abolished the planning section of the government works department.

In 1992 by the enactment of the Development Planning Act the Planning Authority as the main planning agency was formed and the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands came into force. The functions of the Planning Authority are basically concerned with forward planning, development control and enforcement. It is important to note that the Maltese planning system is similar to the British one.

Since 1992 the planning culture continued to spread slowly and on the 28 October 1997 the Malta Chamber of Planners was established.

The Chamber is an autonomous professional organisation, not affiliated to any political party, whose goals (not listed in order of priority) are:

- to promote and advance planning as a profession and to raise the profile of the profession;
- to establish, maintain and enhance professional standards in the planning profession and to endeavour for high levels of achievement therein;
- to establish, promote, maintain and enhance a professional ethic and responsibility within the planning field and instil a planning ethic in clients and employers of the membership as well as in decision takers;
- to safeguard the quality of planning input in policy and decision-making, and to encourage an integrated approach to planning;

- to safeguard and enhance the role of planners in society;
- to safeguard and protect the professional independence of planners;
- to ensure that decision-making processes related to, or otherwise affecting, the use of environmental resources and of physical space are based on sound technical and planning considerations;
- to promote planning considerations and related knowledge and their application for the benefit of society; and
- to promote the involvement of planners in policymaking and decision taking processes.

Although at present MaCP is not legally recognised by government yet it is formally recognised as the major planners' society. In fact various discussions and consultations were held with the government regarding issues such as the reform of the Maltese planning system, the introduction of a legislation to regularise the planning profession and the membership of Malta in the European Union.

At present MaCP is finalising its Code of Ethics and is also finalising the draft planners' legislation. The latter will be presented to the minister responsible for planning in the coming weeks. Hopefully this legislation will be given the green light by the present cabinet of ministers and will eventually be approved by the Maltese parliament.

John Anderson (CAP Vice-President Europe) met Anna Caramondani from the Cyprus Association of Town Planners at the meeting of the European Council of Town Planners last December. The Cyprus Association are willing to host a planning workshop for the European Sector this year, in particular to consider policies for the Mediterranean countries. As a result an application for funding to the Commonwealth Foundation has been made for the workshop to be held in Cyprus later this year for planners in Cyprus, Malta and Gibraltar. It is hoped that this can be repeated in Malta next year.

Christopher Borg
President Malta Chamber of Planners (MaCP)

RAPI AND CIP MEET CAP

Representatives of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI) and the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) have visited the UK and met with CAP. Neil Head, RAPI's National Executive Officer met Cliff Hague and Annette O'Donnell in CAP's offices in Edinburgh in December. Neil explained the developing international perspective in RAPI, who have committed \$10,000 to help develop a planning association in East Timor, and are involved in delivering training. Neil also discussed plans for the CAP conference and business meeting which will be hosted by RAPI in October.

Michel Frojmovic, International Program Manager, from the Canadian Institute of Planners was in London in January and met John Anderson, CAP Secretary. CIP have not been in CAP in recent years, but are now rejoining. Like RAPI they are involved in development work internationally. A programme has been developed for placing students and newly qualified planners in projects in Latin America, The Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. CIP are looking for some collaboration with UK schools to expand the programme, which is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Michel was returning home from carrying out consultancy work in Latvia. We are now looking at a database of CAP members who have experience in international work and consultancy. There may be a possibility of an exchange of relevant experience between interested individuals and firms, or even direct collaboration on projects.

Ron Shishido, who is Chair of CIP's International Committee and a member of the CIP Council, has also been in touch with Cliff Hague to explore the contribution that CIP can make to CAP, and the scope for linking CAP into some of CIP's international development work.

CIP have very little information on CAP and its activities in earlier years. Although there is a leaflet on the history of CAP it is out of date (and copies are difficult to find) but as a result of the prompt by Michel, John Anderson will issue a revised version in the spring. He has a copy of the leaflet thanks to Judith Eversley, RTPi International Officer's filing system.

Personal contacts with members of CAP-affiliated bodies visiting the UK are always welcome if they can be arranged. Cliff Hague, Annette O'Donnell and the CAP office are in Edinburgh which is about 4 hours from London by train. John Anderson in Lincoln is about 90 minutes from London. Please let Annette know if you are in the UK and can meet us.

NEW RTPI PRESIDENT BACKS CAP

As the Royal Town Planning Institute's newly installed President, and last year's Chair of the Institute's Management Board, I have been watching recent developments at the Commonwealth Association of Planners with considerable interest. I am delighted at the substantial progress that the Association has made during the last year, particularly in the establishment of an effective secretariat and in the development of good communications, of which this Newsletter is a fine example.

The involvement of Cliff Hague and John Anderson (both past Presidents of the Institute), as President and Secretary of the Association, has given clear leadership and firm direction, financial support has been forthcoming and new members are joining, all signs of a positive and productive future.

I am convinced that planners have to continue to expand their international links - the world-wide growth in urbanism sets us all new challenges. We can learn much from each other and I foresee a world-wide network of planners, all communicating through Newsletters such as this, through e-mail and the use of web-sites, working together in the struggle to improve living conditions for all.

I, and the RTPI Council, are fully behind your aspirations and wish you every success in your continuing efforts.

Nick Davies
President RTPI

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

**PLEASE NOTE ALL
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2000
AND 2001 ARE NOW
OVERDUE. PLEASE PAY AS
PER THE INSTRUCTIONS ON
YOUR INVOICE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE**

CONFERENCES

The **American Planning Association's (APA) 2001 National Planning Conference** will be held in **New Orleans March 10-14**. It is hoped that Asad Mohammed (our Vice-President for the Americas) will be able to represent CAP at this event. For details visit the APA's website which is www.planning.org or phone +1 – 312-431-9100.

The **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) 2001 Annual Conference** will be held in **Glasgow June 13-15**. For details visit the RTPI website which is at www.rtpi.org.uk

The **Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) 2001 Conference** is to be held in **Ottawa from Sunday 8th to Wednesday 11th July**. Any CAP members who might be in the area will be warmly welcome and after reading this may be able to adjust their programmes to include a visit to Ottawa. Further information can be obtained from Michel Frojmovic. His email address is ACR@istar.ca

The first ever **World Planning Schools Congress** will be held in **Shanghai July 11-15**. The details can be found at www.caup-tongji.org/wpsc2001 or fax +86 –21-6598-3414.

The **2001 Velo-City Conference** has attracted abstracts from 11 Commonwealth countries – Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and the UK. It will be held in **Scotland on 17-21 September**. This is the world's largest cycling conference, and is an international focus for planners, transport experts, politicians, and, of course, cyclists. Topics will include green transport plans, car-free housing development and encouraging children to ride bikes. Conference themes are Health and well-being, Tourism and economy, Environment and land use, and Sustainable transport and planning. For details see www.velo-city2001.org or email r.williams@edin-city-dev.demon.co.uk or fax Richard Williams at +44 – 131-469-3716.

The **Royal Australian Planning Institute's** 2001 National Conference on the theme "Capital Dreaming" is in **Canberra on October 28-30**. For details email conference@conlog.com.au, or fax +61 – 2- 6285 1336.

CAP FORUM GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA 3-7 OCTOBER 2001



Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) members and all planners throughout the Commonwealth are encouraged to travel to Australia during the southern hemisphere Spring for an exciting planning event that will coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) being held in this part of Australia.

The CAP Forum will be held on Saturday 6 October. It will focus on the impacts of globalisation on communities and environments. On 7 October there will be an open business meeting that will discuss a CAP statement to CHOGM on the role of planning in delivering the Habitat Agenda. These CAP activities will be part of the Annual State Conference of the Queensland Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute.

THE CONFERENCE AND FORUM THEMES

The State Conference will have as its theme “2001 – A Planning Odyssey”. In recognition of the tumultuous path travelled by planning and its practitioners, the conference will benchmark the first year of the Millennium as an appropriate time to identify the impacts on communities of new technologies and travel and tourism, and how our communities are coping with this new world. The major sub-themes are:

- ❖ sustainable tourism;
- ❖ responding to new technologies;
- ❖ communities coping with the new world;
- ❖ integrated planning, focusing on Queensland’s new world standard legislation for integrated planning.

The one day Commonwealth Forum will provide an international focus on these themes, with an overview of the special considerations of the developing countries. Speakers from around Australia and the Pacific Rim will address both the conference and forum.

This will be the first time a major planning conference will coincide with CHOGM, and is an opportunity not to be missed.

THE VENUE

The Gold Coast is Australia's premier tourist destination, and sixth largest city. It is where 42 kilometres of the world's most beautiful surfing beaches meet one of Australia's most exciting cities. A natural wonderland with the ocean to the east and mountains, waterfalls and rainforests to the west. It has world class shopping, dining and theme park facilities and is the golfing capital of the Southern Hemisphere. The Gold Coast is only 1 hours drive time from an international airport and has its own domestic airport.

The Parkroyal Surfers Paradise will be the venue. It is part of the Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation Group and is providing accommodation and facilities at affordable rates.

The climate in South-East Queensland during Spring is very comfortable. Day time temperatures average 26⁰C and night-time 17⁰C.

WELCOME

RAPI's representative on CAP is Barrie Melotte, who is the Immediate Past National President of RAPI and a great supporter of CAP. Barrie says *"The timing of the Queensland Division's conference with CHOGM provides the profession with an opportunity to showcase the important contribution planners can make to communities throughout the Commonwealth. The Queensland Division are leaders within RAPI in areas of continuing professional development, mentoring of international kindred associations, and in shaping public policy. Our colleagues there will bring together key community and business leaders, mayors and city leaders in a dynamic and stimulating conference environment. Above all, conference delegates and representatives of all 54 countries of the Commonwealth will be made most welcome."*

Hardy travellers may wish to stay on in Australia to attend RAPI's National Conference later that month (28 October – 31 October) in our national capital Canberra. I look forward to meeting you all in Queensland later this year."

WISH TO KNOW MORE ?

A web site providing details on the Conference and Forum is at www.ast-marketing.com/RAPI/conference2001.htm

Additional details may also be gained through:

RAPI – Queensland Division
Gold Coast Branch
Ph: 61 7 55 911-811
Fax: 61 7 55 911-380

AST Destination Management
Conference Services
Ph: 61 7 55 389-911
Fax: 61 7 55 385-876

Conference Secretariat
PO Box 5025
Gold Coast Mail Centre Q 4217
Australia

LEARNING FROM KOLKATA: ‘A MEETING BY THE RIVER’

Sharing experience, and forming ‘partnerships’, between cities as diverse as London and Kolkata (as Calcutta is now known) is never easy, but can be immensely rewarding. An on-going project between the London Rivers Association (LRA), the West Bengal Government and a range of interests in Kolkata shows how ‘international planning aid’ activities can work.

The friendship between the LRA and Kolkata’s under-resourced metropolitan government, agencies and NGOs has been growing over the past three years. Exchange visits between the cities fleshed out the bones of a conference (*A Meeting by the River*). The aim was to recapture the energy and vitality of the magnificent River Hooghly, or Ganga, as it is locally known, through the redevelopment of derelict port land. We also wanted to explore how urban rivers can be used as a catalyst for city-wide changes, by reuniting rivers and cities and establishing visionary strategic frameworks.

The preparatory work (and ‘getting to know you’ phase), culminated in the meeting in February 2000. We were asked to form a team to address the key issues: what kind of planning framework is required, who should be involved, how would proposed changes be resourced, and so on. Our multi-disciplinary team of seven, all volunteers, brought experience of engineering, heritage, finance, organisational development and spatial planning; and, of course, a thirst for understanding the grain and rhythm of cities.

Our objective was simple: to get people talking together and looking at ways of overcoming the mutual suspicions that had prevented positive change along the river. The neutrality of an outside third party seemed to do the trick. From three days of intense and impassioned debate a shared vision and Action Plan began to emerge. Within 24 hours of the close of the conference, a Task Force was established and actions were agreed. These were a fascinating mix of do-able ‘quick wins’ resourced through the ingenuity of Kolkatans, and longer term actions requiring preparatory work and financing.

The speed of implementation and change on Kolkata’s waterfront has been breathless. Two incredible waterfront parks have been established on former derelict port land, for a fraction of the time and money required elsewhere. A dock wall that had dislocated the river from the city has been removed. There is now a city centre heritage improvement zone and the waterfront and significant public spaces close by have been cleaned up.

These physical improvements are integrated with cultural and promotional initiatives. These include the adoption of a Kolkata strap line, *The Gifted City*; and the establishment of a promotional *Kolkata First* (following examples from London and Mumbai). Perhaps most impressive, the first Ganga Festival (*Walk for the River*) has now been held, with Kolkata's *Statesman* newspaper poignantly suggesting that "no city can restore its pride by neglecting the river". Our work is destined to continue as Kolkata thinks about the longer term changes it desires, including the development of strategic policy frameworks, the renovation of major buildings and changes to the waterfront transport infrastructure.

It is perhaps difficult in cities coping with grinding poverty and blitzed with well-heeled consultants funded through aid programmes and development bank activity, to comprehend the types of relationship described here. As a somewhat perplexed Kolkatan official at the British High Commission asked, 'what's in it for you?' All members of the team agreed: a dynamic learning, energising and reflective experience that provides tangible positive impacts.

Ian Munt
London Rivers Association (LRA)

For more information contact Ian Munt/Rose Jaijee at the LRA, 24-31 Greenwich Market, London SE10 9HZ Tel: 44 028 293 9275
email: londonriversassociation@btinternet.com

HIV/AIDS at the grassroots: Some thoughts for planning

Placing HIV/AIDS epidemic within the grassroots poses a challenge to all because this is where the impact (figure 1) of the epidemic is mostly felt, an impact that compromises sustainability efforts if not addressed.

Figure 1: Impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

Disease	HIV+	Implications
Ill-health		
Lack of care		Lack of access to care
Declining productivity		Loss of job/low or no income
		Non-affordability of services
		Multiple burden on housing, transport, healthcare, water, electricity etc

AIDS Death

Impact

Declining life expectancy
Planning for a declining population
Homelessness, orphanages, child-headed households
Loss of human, physical and social capital, unemployment
Cost- care, burials etc
Orphanages, home care, hospices
Land requirements for Cemeteries

At the end of 2000, people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) globally were 36.1 million (25 million in Sub-Saharan Africa); new HIV/AIDS infections was 5.3 million and deaths due to HIV/AIDS were 3 million. The cumulative number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic is 21.8 million (UNAIDS, December 2000).

For planning, the impact of HIV/AIDS means a proactive, holistic and comprehensive approach has to be adopted in alleviating the problem, since it affects personal, social, economic, political and environmental spheres of humanity.

GRASSROOT CHALLENGES

Planning according to Dror (1973:330) is “the process of preparing a set of decisions in the future, directed at achieving goals by preferable means”. Planning is directed at action. Policy could refer to accepted programmes of actions and set goals to be achieved by a nation with reference to human settlements activities. Policies are meant to tackle, eliminate or ameliorate the problems associated with each component of human settlement, e.g. HIV/AIDS, poverty, to ensure that the human settlements resulting will meet social desires, maximise human needs and aspirations, and provide a safe, habitable and decent forum for the efficient performance of human activities.

Thus, planning and policy challenges of HIV/AIDS at the grassroots (local government/local authorities) could be seen in the following areas:

Household/community

Economic

Demography

Social

Education

Health and housing

Governance

Other areas worth exploring at the grassroots include:

- Community-driven networking especially in informal settlements.
- Design, subsidy, housing quality-water, sanitation; transport planning.
- Rental housing, social and cooperative housing, homelessness.
- Housing abandonment-decay –obsolescence-homelessness due to deaths from AIDS and inability of children to pay bonds or maintain the house.
- Housing-subsidy, finance, construction, quality, appropriateness.
- Child-headed households/orphanages/drop in centres.

There must be a strong political decision on the way forward, HIV/AIDS should be put in context in any decision/discussion; it is a constituency problem and the constituency is the public. There should be collaborative planning and synergy among the following sectors: welfare, health, housing, finance, environment, education, labour, NGOs, CBOs, religious groups and the private sector as shown in Figure 2, since AIDS is a trans-sectoral subject.

Figure 2: Partnership approach to HIV/AIDS at the grassroots

Grassroots Private Civil Community

If planners are proactive about HIV/AIDS pandemic in a collaborative way, services could be improved and made more accessible and affordable. This would in turn enhance the standard of living and increase longevity and decrease costs (direct and indirect) and improve the human development index. All these would be positive steps towards sustainable cities/environment.

Since the first principle of Local Agenda 21 is that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development (UNCED, 1992) it very obvious that poverty, exclusion, inequity, inequality, bad governance, power, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, etc, inadequate and poor shelter and ignorance all threaten sustainability. When the needs of the future generation are mentioned, what legacy is the present generation leaving behind? These issues have to be tackled first before we can have a sustainable environment, an environment that would not compromise future generations.

Role for Planning

Planning involves the ability to anticipate future events, analyse and evaluate situations and derive satisfactory solutions. To achieve planning efficacy at the grassroots to deal with the HIV/AIDS problem, here are some thoughts for planning:

- ❖ Proactive approach – review policy to accommodate the pandemic
- ❖ Integral part of every policy
- ❖ Planning policy- take cognisance of the pandemic and formulate plans around it
- ❖ Inner city renewal/planning for adaptable structures
- ❖ Community participation/empowerment
- ❖ Community mobilisation to assess HIV risks
- ❖ Facilitate prevention programmes through community networks and empowerment
- ❖ Experiential learning through drama, music, pictures using local language
- ❖ Mapping out isolated areas using the Development Planning for Real model
- ❖ Good listeners
- ❖ Assist in overcoming fear, denial and stigmatisation through communication
- ❖ Advisory and advocacy roles

CONCLUSION

AIDS is a reality. We are all active victims of HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS is threatening to become another source of economic retardation and backwardness. HIV/AIDS is about continually making the problem a discussion point, combating silence, shame, fear, increasing awareness, enhancing communicative and subject related competence, learning from models, co-shaping general conditions and systematic and continual inclusion of the subject in the portfolio analyses at sector and country level.

HIV/AIDS will continue to pose challenges to humanity if the trend continues. Humanity or government should not see it as insurmountable, rather it is a matter of continuous search for solutions to a devastating human catastrophe. HIV/AIDS continues to be a challenge until humankind finds a cure.

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THAT SINKING FEELING – the planner’s response to the effects of global climate change – Part One

Introduction

The 1990s saw global recognition of the existence and possible implications of climate change resulting from man’s use of fossil fuels. Belligerence on the part of some developed countries in the north has been replaced with commitments by some countries to take action to slow the production of Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs). These actions include investments in natural gas, renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency in industry, housing and transport, as well as the controversial development of ‘carbon trading’ in which ‘underproducers’ of GHGs sell their GHG ‘allocation’ to ‘overproducers’.

For the predominantly southern poorer countries, these actions are probably too little and too late. For whilst it is the rich countries which industrialised first and who have produced approximately 2/3 of the GHGs attributable to climate change, it is the poorer countries who will bear the brunt of its effects, both in the short and medium-long term, and who are less socio-economically equipped to deal with them. Recent predictions of climate change indicate that its effects are going to be more serious than previously thought.

In particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are about three times more vulnerable to climate change than developed countries. For these nations, the implications of the likely impacts of global warming and climate change such as more frequent and severe extreme weather events (hurricanes and cyclones), sea level rise and saltwater intrusions into aquifers are particularly acute.

The majority of the economic mainstay activities take place on the coasts of SIDS, including built development, housing, industry, tourism and commerce. Accordingly, a substantial proportion of the population inhabits the coastal zone. Their coastlines also contain important ecological resources such as mangroves and coral reefs that are the nursery grounds for fish and shellfish (as well as important tourist attractions). Many SIDS are already threatened by sea level rise and hurricane damage. Most if not all SIDS lack economies of scale and are already vulnerable to the vagaries of international trade.

Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC) Project

A World Bank / UN Global Environment Facility / Organisation of American States project presently being implemented, is attempting to assist Caribbean countries in assessing and coping with the anticipated impacts of global climate change. The Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC) project involves 12 English speaking countries in the Caribbean region. Most are small islands, but it also includes Guyana on the South American mainland, whose capital, much of its

infrastructure and most productive agricultural land is below sea level, and Belize in Central America. The economies of most of these countries depend on agriculture and tourism – both threatened by climate change.

The CPACC project is split into 9 components that aim to tackle various aspects of building a regional (Caribbean-wide) expertise in planning for and adapting to climate change. Each component involves all or several of the participating countries. They include components to monitor the effects of climate change and establish databases and information systems. This is particularly important given that there are currently no computer models capable of predicting climate change effects at the regional level - existing best estimates are of sea level rise of 50cm by 2050 and 1m by 2100, which would obliterate many Caribbean beaches and threaten much coastal development. Other components are aiming to create inventories of coastal resources and uses, formulate coastal policy frameworks (including land use planning policy), monitor coral reefs, assess coastal vulnerability, develop economic valuation of coastal resources, formulate economic and regulatory proposals and prepare greenhouse gas inventories.

In the next edition, the implications for land use planners of adapting to climate change will be investigated in more detail.

Andrew Coleman
Senior Land Use Planner

*Tourism is the mainstay of many Caribbean economies. It is also particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal erosion resulting from climate change.
See attachment for relevant photograph of Antigua.*

Note: Andrew Coleman is a British environmental planner working for the Interim National Physical Planning Commission (INPPC) of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Country Team for Component 7 of the CPACC project: 'Economic valuation of coastal and marine resources'. He welcomes comments on this article and can be contacted by email at: colemanaj@rave-tt.net. For more information about the CPACC project, visit its website: www.cpacc.org.

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BREAKING THE STRANGLEHOLD OF THE STATUTORY CODE – A KIWI PERSPECTIVE

A recent CAP-related article in the British magazine, *‘Planning’* struck a chord with me. In it, Cliff Hague observed that:

“Planning has developed in local or national canisters. Planning and planners have suffered from the fact that different statutory codes have so fundamentally defined planning practice. This stamps planning with parochial status.”

This certainly holds some truth in the New Zealand context although there are complexities too.

A radical review of the national town and country planning system and related environmental laws in the late 1980s culminated in the passing of a single, integrated Resource Management Act (RMA) in 1991. This was heralded at the time as a groundbreaking piece of legislation. In international terms, New Zealand appeared to be leading the way, ushering in a new era of sustainability in planning. Nearly a decade on, however, things don't look so rosy and I would contend that New Zealand needs to look at experience elsewhere or risk stagnating if it allows practice to be determined solely by its own specific statutory code.

The sustainable management ethos of the RMA, with its strong emphasis on managing the environmental effects of development on biophysical resources, has failed to deliver on the wider sustainable development agenda including sustainable urban development. Indeed, urban planning issues in particular have tended to be neglected under the new legislative system (Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 1998). This is not to say that planners and local government have not responded to problems and opportunities related to urban growth (and decline) within communities. However, practitioners have frequently had to look beyond the official statutory “planning” framework to devise appropriate, creative and realistic solutions. It is probably fair to say that innovation in urban planning within New Zealand since 1991 has occurred despite the RMA, not because of it. This may be traced to the particular political economy prevalent during the gestation of the legislation and the clear aversion of the government of the day to socio-economic planning and intervention in the market. For example within its national overview of environmental priorities, *“Environment 2010 Strategy”* (Ministry for the Environment 1995), it was not even prepared to accept any distinction between urban and rural areas – something for which it was rightly criticised.

Local authorities in New Zealand's largest urban area, Auckland, have had to work together over the last 5 years or so to formulate new approaches to dealing with metropolitan growth. They have often been challenged along the way by the guardian of the RMA, central government e.g. in relation to setting physical limits to urban expansion or promoting the use of masterplanning techniques to guide development, both of which were considered not to accord with a "sustainable management" approach to planning. The Auckland Regional Growth Forum's resultant "*Regional Growth Strategy: 2050*" (Regional Growth Forum 1999) is a non-statutory "plan" for New Zealand's most urbanised area of just over a million people, formulated outside of the RMA (with a hint of American-style urban growth management practice about it). It is a wonderful example of good urban planning – strategic, visionary, flexible, collaborative and participatory – but it certainly is not a product of New Zealand's statutory environmental planning system. It will also rely on a variety of different tools and techniques for its implementation, not only the RMA.

In contrast, statutorily-led environmental planning practice in New Zealand largely consists of the very slow production of detailed, weighty and highly legalistic effects-based regional and district resource management plans, the processing of applications for resource consent (often involving lengthy appeals) and the operation of a complex compliance monitoring and enforcement regime.

Not surprisingly over the past decade there has been debate within practice and academia as to what "planning" nowadays actually is within New Zealand (Gunder 1995, Gunder 2000, Raeburn 2000). Is it simply "passive" regulation of market-driven development proposals to ensure acceptability against environmental criteria/thresholds in resource management plans, or is it a broader activity than this, legitimately encompassing social and economic concerns, and a much more interventionist affair? Should the planning schools be producing resource management "technicians" solely versed in operating New Zealand's peculiar statutory planning code or fully rounded planners with transferable skills capable of working with others to help craft and deliver well-founded visions of how urban areas and regions might develop in the future?

In both cases I would like to argue the latter position ought to be the case rather than the former. If New Zealand planning is to fully contribute to global challenges such as those identified at Habitat II e.g. sustainable human settlements, adequate shelter for all etc, then it must break free of the myopic interpretation of that term imposed upon it by its own statutory code, the RMA. The Commonwealth Association of Planners provides an international network of comparative practice and experience against which to benchmark and critically evaluate good and (bad) habits!

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UK GLOBALISATION WHITE PAPER

The UK's Department for International Development, which supported the CAP conference in Belfast in June 2000, has issued a major new policy statement. "Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor" is the title of the White Paper on International Development that was published in December. It commits the UK government to "work with others to manage globalisation so that poverty is systematically reduced and the International Development Targets achieved" and to "promote economic growth that is equitable and environmentally sustainable." To these ends it argues that more of the UK and global research effort should focus on the needs of the poor. The White Paper says that Britain will work "to reduce the contribution of developed countries to global environmental degradation", and work with developing countries to embed the sustainable management of environmental resources into poverty reduction strategies.

- A reduction by one half in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.
- Universal primary education in all countries by 2015.
- Demonstrated progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005.
- A reduction by two-thirds in the mortality rates for infants and children under 5, and a reduction by three-fourths in maternal mortality - all by 2015.
- Access through the primary healthcare system to reproductive health services for all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible, and no later than the year 2015.
- The implementation of national strategies for sustainable development in all countries by 2005, so as to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015

The International Development Targets agreed at the UN conferences in the 1990s.

The White Paper argues that globalisation is not only about world markets and trans-national corporations, but "the growing inter-dependence and inter-connectedness of the modern world, the spread of democracy, and the proliferation of global agreements and treaties, including international environmental and human rights agreements." It suggests that, provided the right policy choices are made, globalisation can create wealth that lifts the poor out of poverty.

“Stronger international institutions and a much stronger commitment to sustainable development at the national and international level are needed to help the world shift to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption,” it says. The need is “to promote sustainable and inclusive economic and social development that spreads its benefits to all sections of society”.

One proposal of particular interest to CAP members is the commitment to establish the Commonwealth Development Corporation as a means of public/private partnership to provide equity financing in the poorest countries.

Equity is a recurring theme throughout, and not least in respect of the environment: “The poor contribute least to environmental problems, yet are the most vulnerable to their ill effects.” So environmental sustainability has to be built into development planning, along with equity. This requires an effective institutional framework so that there are consistent pro-environment actions across different ministries.

The White Paper can be accessed on the Internet at www.globalisation.gov.uk. The UK’s Department for International Development also produces a quarterly magazine called “Developments”. To get on the mailing list send a fax to +44 1732 748620. Articles from past issues can also be seen at www.developments.org.uk. Issue 9 on globalisation is particularly relevant to the White Paper, and Issue 10 on urbanisation will be of interest to many CAP members.

Cliff Hague