

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

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Newsletter Editors: Cliff Hague and Annette O'Donnell

Secretariat

c/o Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland, 57 Melville Street. Edinburgh EH3 7HL, United Kingdom

Tel +44 131 226 1959 Fax +44 131 226 1909 E-mail annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

Website www.commonwealth-planners.org.uk/

PLANNING FOR THE POOR: A response from Dumiso Moyo

I absolutely agree to the feelings and view of Patrick Anderson in his Article published in CAP Newsletter No2 entitled “ Poverty: Eradication or Alleviation”. I am in total support of poverty eradication and I strongly believe that planners must equip themselves with the skill and motive to plan for the poor. Real poverty is something very tangible, particularly in developing countries, and planners cannot afford to sweep the poverty crisis under the carpet. Planners the world over have to accept that poverty has to be tackled, and planners have a key role to play in limiting the impact of poverty and its subsequent eradication.

Is it not time that development plans incorporate words such as “poor”, “less privileged”, “no-income group” and “most-vulnerable” in its glossary of terms? These words reflect real life situations but the planning statutory development or subject plans are shy of these issues. This raises questions like “ Is planning for the rich or poor?” I am sorry that in my own country Zimbabwe and other developing countries too, planning is certainly not of meaningful benefit to the poor majority. We refer to the activities of the poor as “informal” and some planners treat the so-called “informal” activities with ridicule and scorn despite the fact that most economically active people are directly or indirectly players in this “informal sector”.

Development control measures, with specific reference to the African continent are mostly Eurocentric. They fail to capture the norms of absolute poverty in poor communities and thereby fail to accept the need to plan for the poor. In my view planning concerns for harmony, order, health etc should be applicable to all social environments irrespective of income levels of those societies or communities. A properly prepared and thought out plan can still provide order and all other intentions of development control even in poorest communities. The poor can still achieve harmony and order!

Unfortunately, current development control standards have adopted the developed world standards and so classify the dominant reality as unaccepted. As a result the activities of the poor are considered devious and blotting the town planners’ beautiful plans.

Poverty is not acceptable, but we have to plan to create the best environment for the poor. Failure to do so perpetuates poverty. If planning in developing countries has no agenda to eradicate poverty, then the profession will have no role in the African continent. The planning profession would face serious problems should the majority poor people question the validity of planning intervention to their social, economic and political processes. The benefit of planning intervention should be unquestionable to all concerned.

Africa, poor as it is, has the ability to bounce back to its feet and take advantage of its abundant natural and capable human resources. Planning will have a key role in this transformation or revolutionary phase of the African continent, but we need a form of planning with vision and a commitment to tackle poverty.

Planning strategies must be at the forefront of poverty eradication. This makes planning the most crucial profession in Africa where natural and political disasters have relegated most inhabitants to the deep-rooted claws of poverty. But who will ensure that planning is applied as a tool for poverty eradication not only in Africa but the world over?

In my view the application of planning to poverty eradication can be best realised by those people who do not doubt the abilities of the planning profession. This is the challenge to the planning profession. We need to unite as a profession to establish the strongest drive for the eradication of poverty and the Commonwealth Association of Planners is best placed to coordinate this thrust. Many professions are able to articulate the magnitude and severity of poverty but the planning profession must be a step ahead by providing practical skills and options for the coordination of activities for poverty eradication.

I challenge planners throughout the world and those in the Commonwealth in particular to strive for the eradication of poverty, and accept that until poverty is eradicated the planning profession has to plan for the poor too. The current mindset by planners in developing countries in particular who tend to consider the entrepreneurial abilities of the poor to be against the intentions of sound planning needs careful reconsideration. The negative perception of planning by the poor, who are a majority in Africa, should at all cost be avoided.

The relevance of our profession to society is undergoing a litmus test in dealing with challenges brought by poverty. Our failure to pass this test will, in my view, have a bearing on the quality of future personalities who are attracted to various planning schools to take up planning as a profession. The best will certainly opt for society relevant professions. All planners must therefore take up the challenge to eradicate poverty and not the other way round. CAP is expected to spearhead the poverty eradication campaign using the planning tools and planners require to be well trained to take up this mammoth challenge of the new millennium.

Dumiso Moyo

CAP Vice-President (East and Southern Africa)

Istanbul+5: Cliff Hague reports from New York

Was it “Istanbul plus five” or “Istanbul minus five”? The UN General Assembly held its Special Session (UNGASS) in New York in June, ostensibly to reaffirm its commitment to the Habitat Agenda and to identify ways to overcome the barriers to achieving the goals of “adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements in an urbanising world”. However, the mood was tetchy and downbeat as the drafting of the Declaration from the event got ensnared in semantic tangles, and countries who had been less than enthusiastic about the outcome of the 1996 Summit in Istanbul used this gathering to try to hold their ground.

The UN game involves offstage bargaining between international groupings of countries in search of a consensus on wording that every member can live with. Generally there is no identifiable Commonwealth presence in this process. Most Commonwealth countries are part of the Group of 77 (“G77”), a loose collection of less developed and “non-aligned” countries. The UK is part of the European Union, whose 15 countries operate together, and generally lead with a strong agenda of concerns for sustainable development and good governance. In this they are frequently supported by the Canadians and some other Commonwealth countries. The USA has its own line, as evidenced by their rejection of the Kyoto treaty. Countries like China and Iran work hard in the corridors and corners outside the meeting rooms to hold the G77 countries to their lukewarm line on issues central to the spirit of the Habitat Agenda such as decentralisation and empowerment of local government, partnership with non-governmental organisations and gender equality.

At times the politics gets in the way of tackling the pressing issues posed by rapid urbanisation, the spread of informal settlements and poor living conditions, and lack of security of tenure. However, from a Commonwealth point of view there were some encouraging signs. The Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) has been formed with financial support from the Commonwealth Foundation and from the UK’s Department for International Development, as reported on the CAP web-site and in our last Newsletter. It held a very successful meeting in New York, which was well attended and very positive. A number of Ministers took part, and Dame Veronica Sutherland, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth, was the main speaker.

I represented CAP at this meeting, and two things were clear. Firstly, the settlements issue is gaining increasing recognition within the Commonwealth. As planners we can easily overlook how little concern has been shown for urban development by Commonwealth governments and agencies in the past. Planning and housing have been seen as local, administrative matters. Globalisation and the unprecedented growth of urbanisation as a force for modernisation and economic development is changing that. My second recognition was that there is a lot of consensus within the Commonwealth about the way ahead, and a real interest in learning from each other. It was notable, for example, that CCGHS provided a means to present the Commonwealth goal to the

UNGASS. That target is: “Demonstrable progress towards adequate shelter for all with security of tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”.

Commonwealth countries also figured strongly in the good practice case studies that were presented in the UNGASS. Out of 15 presentations 4 were from Commonwealth countries. Jacqueline de Costa, an active member and past president of CAP, also had the important role of “facilitator” during the final session, and used it to make a forceful presentation on the need to reduce global inequalities.

A group of speakers from South Africa told how they were operationalizing the right to adequate shelter. They particularly emphasised the role of savings by poor and homeless groups, and the involvement of women in all aspects of the housing process. The focus of the Indian presentation was on “Community-driven provision of universal sanitation”. Again the presentation reflected the partnership between government and civil society that was central to the project, and again women had played a key part. The project involved the creation of communal toilet blocks which had yielded real improvements in health in informal settlements. The Tanzania case study concerned waste management in Dar es Salaam. The city had decentralised and privatised its waste management services. Community-based organisations had taken on the work in informal settlements and collection and recycling had improved, there had been job creation and capacity building. For further details see www.ilo.org/seed. Finally we heard of the attempts to re-establish democracy in Nigeria and implant the principles of good governance as a key building block for sustainable development.

So where does planning in the Commonwealth stand after “Istanbul +5”? UNCHS is calling this “The Urban Millennium”. I am in no doubt that the combination of globalisation and the enormity of the urban challenge will lead to increased networking in the Commonwealth around the issue of sustainable settlements. The Commonwealth is exceptionally well placed to make the connections, both South to South and North/South. It has the potential to be a conduit for innovative policy, practice and research that is pro-poor. CAP needs to work with others through CCGHS to this end.

The Habitat Agenda poses significant challenges to professional town planners, as it does to all professional specialisms. It is no coincidence that community involvement figures so strongly in the good practices presented in New York. Yet much traditional planning has been the preserve of professionals working in Ministries or council offices, and it has often been weakly connected to economic development and reactive to rapid urban growth. I believe that we need to rethink the concepts and institutions of “town planning” to make them broader and more inclusive. At community level “planning” has to become process centred around the priorities of the community, a catalyst connecting needs, environment and opportunities. But there is also a real need for strategic planning at city and city region scales, where the identification of safe and accessible land and directions for development has a huge contribution to make to security of tenure, environmental protection and economic development. despite the diversity of the Commonwealth, I think these generalisations are widely applicable. An Urban Millennium needs new approaches to urban planning.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I want to thank all those member organisations who have responded to the request from our secretariat to pay two years of subscriptions - for the current year, 2001, but also for last year as well. This is the clearest demonstration of confidence in CAP and its attempts to become a vibrant Commonwealth professional organisation reaching out to planners across the world, linking them together and to others involved in the creation of sustainable human settlements. We still have some way to go before we can claim to have an operational contact in every Commonwealth country, but we are clearly progressing in that direction. I was particularly pleased that we have now re-established contact with Nigeria, and that the Institute of Town Planners there has re-subscribed to CAP after a period when there was a breakdown of communication. As President I value all our members, and I am very aware that CAP needs to have a presence in every part of the Commonwealth if it is to be an effective and visible body. The lack of a CAP connection to West Africa in recent years has been a weakness that Nigeria's membership overcomes.

CAP asked for subscriptions at irregular intervals during the 1990s. Most of the professional planning bodies who constitute CAP's potential membership are small organisations, administered by volunteers in their spare time. They are unlikely to budget for their subscription to CAP if CAP only asks for the subscription at infrequent intervals. In these circumstances it is good that subscriptions are still coming in. However we need to get to a situation where the CAP subscription is an automatic item in annual budgets. In turn the CAP secretariat promises to invoice all members by December for their subscription that will be payable on 1 January each year. I am asking all member organisations to ensure that they have this item in their budgets for next year and to pay promptly in January 2002.

Our three newsletters this year, our web-site, our forthcoming conference in Australia and our active involvement in CCGHS show that CAP is delivering a service. It can do better. I want it to do better. As the Canadian item in this "News" section shows, good organisation, a demonstrable level of activity and commitment of resources can then attract further resources from outside. CAP has been supported by the UK's Department for International Development and has been promised help from the Commonwealth Foundation. We are optimistic that the Australian aid ministry will provide backing for the CAP conference in Queensland in October. We should now start looking at raising support in cash and in kind from elsewhere - e.g. the private sector. It should be possible to get to a situation where subscription income is multiplied four or five times by support from other sources. But to move in that direction we have to show that we are effective in raising our own income from subscriptions. Similarly paying the subscription is the most tangible way to demonstrate support and to get involved in the work of CAP.

I am looking forward to our conference and business meeting in Queensland at the time that the Commonwealth Heads of Government are in Brisbane for their biennial meeting. RAPI, the Australian hosts, and CAP are trying hard to raise money to support the participation of people from some of the poorer Commonwealth countries. I hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend. We have a day conference on October 6 that follows the Queensland Chapter of RAPI's annual conference. The Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements are aiming to put on a half-day conference on 5 October which CAP will support. Then on October 7 we have the CAP business meeting. At this we will present the accounts for the year, discuss our plan for the next 2 years, and elect the new Executive. If there are matters that you want to raise, but will be unable to do so in person, please contact CAP's Honorary Secretary, John Anderson, at the CAP headquarters address and he will bring them to the attention of the meeting.

Cliff Hague
President

NAMIBIA NATIONAL HABITAT COMMITTEE

The Namibian National Habitat Committee was formed in 1995 to prepare for the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. As part of the preparatory activities, a National Plan of Action (NPA) was formulated and adopted by the Namibian government in March 1996. Participants came from the private and public sectors, as well as the NGO/CBOs, trade unions, churches, regional and local authorities.

The Committee did not disband after Istanbul, but held monthly meetings and organised the annual Habitat Day. In 1999, the National Habitat Committee was tasked to review the original NPA. A national workshop was convened and major stakeholders presented progress reports and discussed future actions.

Representatives of the Committee were part of all official Namibian delegations to conferences in Nairobi such as the Sessions of the Commission for Human Settlements and the PrepCom meetings for Istanbul +5, including the Regional meetings. Furthermore, members participated in related activities, for example the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements in Nairobi and London, UK.

The activities of the stakeholders revolved mainly around issues such as land tenure, the servicing of land for housing purposes, the construction of housing and provision of loans. The National Housing Action Group promotes saving schemes through the country to enable low-income earners to acquire a house and land. The Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing (MRLGH) became the lead ministry in the decentralisation of government functions. The Ministry is also responsible for the Regional Councils and the various local authorities, including traditional Councils. In the

past, the MRLGH implemented the Build Together Programme, which received a Habitat Award.

A restructuring of the MRLGH resulted in the creation of the Division of Housing and Habitat Coordination. The National Habitat Committee is part of this Division and therefore enjoys high-level political support. In the beginning of 2001, consideration was given to the fact that most activities take place in the capital Windhoek. In recent years the MRLGH has provided funds to the regions to be used for the preparations and festivities surrounding the Habitat Day.

The Committee is currently considering ways and means to implement the decentralisation of its activities, which includes the creation of regional and local committees tasked with the promotion of the issues contained in the Habitat Agenda. As part of this effort, a mechanism will be investigated to promote a holistic coordinated approach in the development of housing especially for the low-income groups.

Andreas Wienecke

Manager: Research, National Housing Enterprise, Namibia

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS PARTNERSHIP WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) is heading up an important three-year international development project program aimed at promoting and strengthening professional planning in Trinidad and Tobago and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

By committing “in-kind” contributions of staff and volunteer time, the CIP was able to secure \$300,000 in project funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in March 2000. The program will contribute to strengthening local governance by helping to establish community-based approaches to urban and regional planning.

Under an agreement with CIDA, the CIP is working with overseas partner organisations in Trinidad and Tobago as well as Cuba and El Salvador. The Institute will lead a series of workshops, training programs, and other activities designed to strengthen existing or emerging associations of professional planners, at both the national and regional levels. Like the CIP, our overseas partners are also committing in-kind donations of time and expertise.

The partnership with the Trinidad & Tobago Society of Planners will serve as the basis for establishing links with planning associations throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean. As the CIDA-funded program evolves over the next two years, CIP intends to adapt this regional approach to serve as the foundation for CAP Americas programming.

Besides strengthening the CIP's role as Canada's national organisation for the planning profession, such international projects carry a variety of professional and societal benefits for the partners involved. By showcasing Canadian expertise to help advance the profession in other countries, CIP raises our country's profile and helps open doors for Canadian firms wishing to conduct business abroad. Our involvement also provides a basis for collaboration and, as a result, stronger ties with other national and international organisations and agencies engaged in similar activities.

The experiences gleaned from working with our various partners provide CIP with a more complete perspective on the state of planning in other countries. It enables the Institute to more fully contribute to discussions on urbanisation, urban poverty, sustainable development, and other key issues worldwide. Similarly, this expanded knowledge base enables the CIP to better contribute to the development of Canadian policy on housing, transportation, environment, technology, agriculture, natural resources, and international trade.

There are also opportunities for the CIP membership to become involved. At various times over the next three years, opportunities are expected to arise to include CIP members in specific activities under this program, including by contributing expertise and participating in missions abroad. Details about specific opportunities will be announced in future CIP publications and posted on the CIP web site (www.cip-icu.ca) as they arise. In the meantime, members wishing to express their interest or who wish to obtain additional information can contact:

Steven Brasier

Executive Director, Canadian Institute of Planners
801 – 116 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5G3
E-mail: sbrasier@cip-icu.ca
Phone: (800) 207-2138 or (613) 237-PLAN
Fax: (613) 237-7045

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

CAP has been invited to submit nominations for the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship scheme. Each year 12 persons are chosen and funded by the Commonwealth Foundation to take part in a 3 week programme of learning activities in London and one other Commonwealth country. This period will be 3-23 March 2002. The aim is to develop people who can then actively promote the Commonwealth in their own countries. The successful candidates undertake a small study relating to their work and professional interests, and after returning home organise activities that support the Commonwealth, and for which the Commonwealth Foundation offers “modest grants”. Full information about the scheme can be found on www.commonwealthfoundation.com or from Annette O’Donnell in the CAP secretariat (e-mail to annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk).

This is an excellent opportunity for individuals, and it also gives us a chance to promote planning in the Commonwealth. CAP is keen to make at least one nomination and ideally more. We can make up to three nominations and at least one of these must be a woman. Nominees must be between 30 and 50 and be “interested in areas of work outside their own speciality.” They should have good inter-personal skills and be actual or potential “opinion leaders”. It is expected that only one of the 12 awards will go to a person from a developed country.

If you wish to be considered for one of the three CAP nominations please read the full details of the scheme and then send the following to Annette O’Donnell:

- A C.V. of 1000 words,
- letters of recommendation,
- a 600 word statement about why you wish to be considered, and
- a 500 word research proposal.

Annette needs these by 7 September 2001.

COMMONWEALTH AWARDS FOR ACTION ON HIV/AIDS

Previous editions of the Newsletter have carried stories about the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in Commonwealth countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the challenge this poses to planners. HIV/AIDS was a major concern at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Durban in 1999. In paragraph 55 of the Communiqué from that meeting, urged action at all levels to tackle the problem. This led to the formation of the Para 55 Group of NGOs, and now they, together with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Business Council have created 12

awards “for outstanding work, activities or projects in the area of HIV/AIDS”. The awards ceremony will be held in Melbourne, Australia on 4 October 2001, and nominations must be submitted no later than 31 July 2001. There are three categories - policy and advocacy, prevention and comprehensive care; and 4 groups - government; civil society/NGOs/ community-based organisations; the private sector; the media. There is an emphasis on practical action, community involvement and inter-disciplinary and inter-agency work, so there is scope for initiatives involving planners to be nominated. For full information please see www.para55.org, or contact Annette O’Donnell at the CAP secretariat.

TOWN PLANNING ON THE MOVE IN PAKISTAN

Town planning should be used as a catalyst of change at grass roots level in Pakistan, where it can enhance people’s participation in managing the quality of life. This was the key message from a major seminar held at the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore in March. The meeting expressed great concern about the rapid deterioration of the downtown areas of cities. They are in transition from being largely pedestrian areas to being areas where vehicles dominate. In addition land values are high and escalating, though there is also under-utilisation of some urban areas. Urban renewal projects are needed to create high rise residential and commercial developments with open vistas, more open space, better road networks, a stronger economic and tax base and better civic amenities.

There were also calls for city beautiful partnerships involving City District governments, elected representatives, civic leaders, CBOs and NGOs and the community. The aim would be to take practical actions on the ground. These would include removal of encroachments, improvement and provision of parks and open spaces, landscaping, water supply, solid waste disposal, and traffic regulation.

Above all the meeting called for a major revamp of the planning system. It was decided that “A comprehensive planning law should be enacted at federal level outlining the town planning procedures”. The planning law should include detailed procedures for the preparation of comprehensive development plans for all urban and rural areas of Pakistan. There should also be the establishment of a separate Ministry and Town Planning Departments at all levels of government. The institutional framework was seen as an important issue, with calls for the preparation and implementation of Master Plans at District level, then Local Land Use Plans at the next level (Tehsil) and Action Area Plans at the lowest (Union Council) level. The enforcement of development control was seen as a means to achieve effective implementation of these plans. The need for more and better training in planning for officials was also recognised, together with the potential of GIS to provide a means of monitoring and plan evaluation.

Professor A. Sattar Sikander (Pakistan Institute of City and Regional Planning)
University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

NEWS FROM NIGERIA

The Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) is one of the largest national professional planning organisations in the Commonwealth with 1500 members. It was founded by 3 pioneer town planners at a historic meeting in Lagos in 1966. The Federal Government of Nigeria formally recognised the profession of town and county planning by the Town Planners Registration Council Act in 1988. The Act established the Town Planners Registration Council. In December 1992, an Act on the revised Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Law was promulgated. This Act is a landmark in the history of this Institute as it demonstrates clearly our government's commitment to the same lofty objectives of the founding fathers. The Institute is a founder and very active member of the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN). It also has a mandatory continuing professional development scheme and is running events throughout the year and in different cities for its members. The 32nd Annual Conference/General Meeting will be held in Uyo on 25-28 October, 2001. The theme of the conference will be "Delivering the Democracy Dividend: The Role of Town Planning and Town Planners".

The Institute is represented on a 14 person Committee set up by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, to review existing settlement and housing policy for Nigeria. Nigeria participated in the Istanbul +5 Conference held in New York, where its programme of decentralisation was featured as one of the good practices (see Cliff Hague's report from New York). The global campaign on Good Urban Governance was launched in Nigeria on 10-12 April, 2001.

The NITP has held a Conference of Directors of Planning and Heads of Planning Organisations. Presently the various states in Nigeria are enacting edicts on town planning in consonance with the Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Law.

Jordan Aisuebeogun

Executive Secretary of the NITP

NEW BOOK FROM UNCHS - "CITIES IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD"

The UN Centre for Human Settlements has just produced a major global report on human settlements. Published by Earthscan (www.earthscan.co.uk), it follows a similar overview report in 1996 that was called "An Urbanising World". The 2001 report quickly makes the fundamental point with a quote from Kofi Annan: "*We know that the global dilemma of squalor amid splendour is a creature of human agency, and it can be reversed by human agency*". This could stand as the credo of planners and as an explanation of why very different societies need to plan and manage urban and regional development, rather than assume that is something that "just happens".

The report runs to over 300 pages and is packed with data and examples. It sets out the current analysis and prescription of the international community - that, properly managed, globalisation can be a progressive and liberating force, and that urban development is a vital component if the benefits of globalisation are to reach the poor. Good urban governance is required to redistribute the currently unequal costs and benefits of globalisation. This means decentralising power, building partnerships and new co-operative frameworks, and strengthening the policy development process. This is a report that should be essential reading for CAP members, both practitioners and researchers. For those seeking to get a copy, the ISBN is 1 85383 806 3 (paperback) or 1 85383 805 5 (hardback).

RAPI STATE CONFERENCE 3-5 OCTOBER & CAP FORUM AND MEETING 6-7 OCTOBER 2001

Chairman's welcome

It is my pleasure to send a warm greeting from sunny Gold Coast, Queensland the tourist capital of Australia, to invite you to attend the RAPI State Conference and the Commonwealth Association of Planners Forum for 2001. As you can see the theme is *2001 – A Planning Odyssey* as being appropriate for our journey into the new millennium.

The State Conference will offer to professionals, Local and State Government administrators and policy makers, technocrats and academics in land use planning and related disciplines an insight into current concerns, trends and solutions to the accelerating change in our society. This year's conference focuses on four main themes:

- Sustainable tourism and what that means to the resident communities and the environment;
- The impact of technology on community planning;
- How communities are coping with change in this *brave new world*; and
- An overview of the Queensland Integrated Planning Act and related globalisation.

The conference journey will blast off with a welcome function at 7.00pm on Wednesday evening 3 October at *Voyager Parkroyal*, accelerate to warp speed on Thursday and Friday and touch down at a burnout dinner function on Friday evening.

On Saturday 6 October we are especially privileged to host the Commonwealth Association of Planners Annual Forum, which this year is linked to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Brisbane, commencing 5 October. It will take a fascinating worldwind tour of planning issues faced by many of the 54 Countries of the Commonwealth. All conference delegates are invited aboard to gain an invaluable global perspective from a satellite eye view of the challenges our kindred associations are meeting, especially in developing communities.

These events will also link with an inaugural Festival of Thinking being held at the Gold Coast from 2 – 8 October, inspired and hosted by Dr Edward de Bono. It is appropriate that land use planning should feature as a matter worthy of serious reflection and positive strategic policy thinking. However, we intend to have fun as we make this planning odyssey!

Our website will be updated regularly so please come to visit us again at:
www.ast-marketing.com/RAPI/conference2001.htm

Roger Brewster

Conference Chair

Tel: (07) 55911811

Fax: 0755 911380

Email: info@landplanaustralia.com.au

CAP and RAPI are actively seeking funding from Commonwealth and aid agencies towards meeting some of the costs of the participation by planners from less developed countries in these meetings. Please contact Annette O'Donnell if you are interested in going to the CAP meeting in Queensland.

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR

There is an exciting planning conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24 – 26 October 2001.

This international conference is being jointly organised by the Singapore Institute of Planners (SIP) and the Malaysian Institute of Planners.

The theme of the conference is “Living Cities in the K-Economy”. It will look at how the Information Age is restructuring cities and will ask what shifts are needed to achieve liveable cities?

The aims of the event are:

- To share experiences and to stimulate interaction on how we might build living cities which perpetuate ecological, economic and social viability.
- To raise awareness of liveable cities with reference to Local Agenda 21, especially in Malaysia, Singapore and the region.
- To develop and enhance the city planning fraternity’s skills on planning for living cities in the K-economy.

For further information please contact Mrs See Toh, Vice President SIP (Email: kumchun.seetoh@jtc-consult.com).

The web site is www.mip.org.my

CAP Planning Education Focus

We aim to make this a regular feature of the newsletter that focuses on Planning Schools in the Commonwealth and what they are doing that is relevant to the Habitat Agenda.

This first article looks at the Centre for Environment and Human Settlements.

The Editor welcomes other contributions, which should be sent to Annette O'Donnell.

The **Centre for Environment and Human Settlements (CEHS)** is the overseas wing of the School of Planning and Housing at Edinburgh College of Art / Heriot-Watt University. CEHS is one of a limited number of specialised study and research centres in UK higher education institutions focusing on human settlements issues in the developing and rapidly urbanising world. It offers dedicated postgraduate courses in planning and housing as well as study possibilities for higher research degrees. It has a strong publication focus, undertakes funded research, develops innovative knowledge-provision services and can prepare and implement specialised short courses in continuing professional development. These activities are summed up in the CEHS Development Strategy as the two “T”s and two “R”s as illustrated below:

Recent developments within CEHS include:

- Development of a **new dedicated postgraduate course** pathway: a 9 month Diploma or 12 month MSc in **International Housing Development**. This will run in parallel with the Diploma/MSc course in Urban and Environmental Development which was instituted a few years ago and which has a planning focus (we still offer a 2 year Masters of Urban and Regional Planning course with a focus on the developing world and RTPI accreditation option). The new Dip/MSc IHD will cater for those who already possess professional training or equivalent experience in or 'near' housing development and who are seeking further qualification with a degree of specialisation in housing with an international focus. It is thus designed to interest both UK/European students with an interest in international housing issues, as well as students from the developing and rapidly urbanising world who seek a postgraduate specialism in housing studies. It is also specifically designed to attract professionals

who desire career change or specialisation in housing through a short dedicated course.

- Publication of a **new book** examining the themes of environmental, social, economic and political sustainability, entitled “**Urban Development and Civil Society: the role of communities in sustainable cities**”, published in April by Earthscan, London (ISBN 1 85383 717 2). This book draws on research undertaken through CEHS by staff and students, and critically analyses case studies from Mozambique, Pakistan, China, Philippines, Costa Rica, South Africa and England, covering a wide range of issues in urban development. The main focus of the book is how communities are, or can be, organised to represent civil society as an important counterpart to the role of the state and market in the new millennium.

CEHS is not a large organisation. On the contrary our aspiration is to work collaboratively and flexibly with a large number of other individuals and organisations. In recent years this has included links with international partners in university and research institutions in Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Philippines, and South Africa; and research development activities with other higher education institutions, the private sector and local governments in the UK and Europe. Currently we are investigating mutually beneficial links with organisations within civil society such as NGOs and professional associations such as the Commonwealth Association of Planners. We look forward to ideas and contacts from, and through, CAP members, based on this short article.

For more information on CEHS, see our web-site at <http://www.eca.ac.uk/planning/cehs.htm> or contact us at: 79 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2HJ, SCOTLAND. Tel: +44 (131) 221 6164; Fax +44 (131) 221 6163; E-mail cehs@eca.ac.uk. and we will be pleased to send a brochure, CEHS newsletter and/or course and publication details.

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

Introduction

In the last edition of the newsletter the likely effects of climate change for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were considered. This further article outlines some implications for land use planners to adapt to the environmental, social and economic effects of global warming. Unlike in more wealthy countries, there has been a general lack of knowledge and expertise to adequately plan for some of the effects of climate change. One of the objectives of the CPACC project is to overcome this skills gap by developing and enhancing relevant technical and institutional capacity.

There are a number of pitfalls that planners and other decision-makers can fall into in relation to climate change. These include not giving it enough weight when making decisions and giving it too much weight. Recognising these risks goes a long way to preventing an inappropriate decision being made. There is also the dilemma of uncertainty: at present, there are no computer models that can reduce the uncertainty in respect of the effects of climate change on Caribbean SIDS, yet these are the very countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This is often an important ingredient in decision making.

Desirable actions include carrying out, or encouraging other stakeholders to carry out, vulnerability assessments of buildings and infrastructure that may be affected by climate change, valuing environmental and development resources using techniques such as contingent valuation and developing decision making techniques to help the choice of best adaptation option.

When drafting terms of reference for Environmental Impact Assessments, planners should require developers to take into account the effects of climate change on proposed development. Likewise, they should use their influence to ensure that technical specifications for public and private development projects take into account changes in the environment resulting from climate change.

The main implications of climate change for planners fall into 3 areas: planning for adaptation to sea level rise, planning for adaptation to other aspects of climate change and planning to ameliorate climate change.

Planning for adaptation to sea level rise

It is essential that land use planners engage with the myriad stakeholders in the coastal zone. There is already evidence of sea level rise and associated coastal erosion, which threatens development and human life. Planners are one of the most important stakeholders who can influence mitigating the impacts and effects of sea level rise.

There is clearly an urgent need in most SIDS for integrated coastal zone management that will involve greater co-ordination between (or amalgamation of) policy, planning, legal and implementation agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders and institutional strengthening. Such an approach has been adopted in Barbados and is likely to be promoted throughout the Caribbean.

Planning options may include relocation of existing or proposed developments away from areas at risk (including the use of minimum setbacks from High Water Marks and 'managed retreat'), adaptation policies e.g. constructing new and protecting existing hard and soft coastal defences such as coral reefs and mangrove forests and removing or relocating existing development in the coastal zone at risk.

Planning for adaptation to other aspects of climate change

Although most of the world's attention has focused on sea level rise, other potential effects of climate change are as, or more, damaging. For example, there is likely to be more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as hurricanes and cyclones. A possible response to these events is to introduce stricter building codes to minimise risks, although enforcement remains a problem in many SIDS especially those in which squatter settlements provide a large proportion of the housing stock.

Also required are stronger policies on development in flood risk areas to prevent damage to existing or future development. Dialogue with drainage engineers, examining flood records, local historical records and even talking to long-term residents can help to identify areas at risk from flooding in extreme weather events (e.g. once in 50 years) – events which will become more common as the effects of climate change are felt. These responses may include preventing development in the flood risk area (and areas 'upstream') and requiring flood control measures. Watershed management, including policy on land use change, is also critical in mitigating long-term impacts.

Other implications for planners include the need to begin planning for land uses that will help to compensate for the effects of climate change such as desalination plants (as coastal aquifers in many low-lying countries are likely to become inundated with seawater as a result of sea level rise) and small or large scale water collection and storage facilities. The adoption of urban design guidelines and building codes can also take into account the need to promote natural ventilation and reduce passive solar gain in countries that are likely to experience hotter weather.

In addition to the effects on humans, climate change will affect the natural environment. Small increases in sea temperature are likely to harm, or kill, coral reefs that are extremely important as nurseries for fish and as sources of income from tourism, as well as serving as important offshore coastal defences. In these circumstances it is even more important for planners to play their part in reducing stresses on coral reefs from land based pollution and development. Other marine habitats that will be threatened by climate change include mangrove swamps and seagrass beds. On land, changes in

rainfall and temperature are likely to affect vegetation types and make the protection of watershed areas more important in countries likely to become drier.

Planning for mitigating climate change

Although SIDS are not presently required by international agreements to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, many of the policies and actions that reduce the use of fossil fuel-derived energy in land and buildings can be regarded as good planning practice. They include reducing the need to travel by careful location of uses that generate demand for transportation, encouraging mixed uses of buildings and areas and encouraging use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the private motor car. Encouraging the use of cleaner fuels, such as natural gas also helps. Planning also has a role to play in encouraging the use of renewable energy. Developing planning policies that encourage the construction of wind farms and solar energy ‘power stations’ or encouraging designers and architects to provide space on individual buildings for solar energy cells or solar water heaters can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as reducing reliance on expensive imported fossil fuels. Waste management issues such as the use of landfills also contribute to GHG emissions in the form of methane. Encouragement of reducing, reusing and recycling waste can also have other beneficial environmental impacts.

Conclusions

Climate change is a global phenomenon caused by the actions of rich, developed countries that will initially impact primarily on poor countries, particularly SIDS. Planners have a crucial role to play in ensuring that SIDS are able to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change. They need to engage with other decision makers and stakeholders, particularly in the coastal zone, to develop multi-agency policies and responses to the threat of climate change.

Hopefully, through the CAP and other networks, planners around the Commonwealth will be able to share good practice in adapting to and reducing climate change.

Andrew Coleman

Senior Land Use Planner

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@hotmail.com. For more information about the CPACC project, visit its website: www.cpacc.org.

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HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PLANNERS

Dumiso Moyo offers a view from Zimbabwe of the fundamental issues that CAP ought to be considering.

I wish to qualify my remarks by making it quite clear that the success of CAP as an association of various town planning institutes in the Commonwealth cannot be fairly measured against the expectations of one member Institute such as the Zimbabwe Institute of Regional and Urban Planners. However, Zimbabwean hopes and expectations for CAP are certainly part of the fundamental issues that CAP ought to be considering.

The following is a snapshot of the planning landscape in Zimbabwe:

- increasing urbanisation
- increasing poverty levels in urban areas and increased calls to review planning and building standards
- planning is a legitimate practice with an increasing role to fulfil
- increased political influence of planning, urban management and urban governance
- the continuation of outdated legislation as a result of inertia and lack of the capacity to instigate change
- inadequate professional development programmes for practising town planners as evidenced by the non-availability of distance learning programmes
- increased unemployment for town planners and a notable level of under-employment for certain town planning professionals
- insufficient application of information technology in the field of planning
- insufficient planning research programmes
- emphasis given to cities at the expense of small towns in their respective size, structure and distribution
- declining quality of services infrastructure, such as roads, water and sewage and refuse disposal, against the increased cost of providing these services
- the private sector views planning as highly restrictive, prohibitive and retrogressive
- numerous buildings, monuments and scenery are jealously preserved by the planning profession
- a very enthusiastic planning profession, well supported by capable planning schools at the University of Zimbabwe and the Harare and Bulawayo Polytechnic Colleges
- an increasing number of capable women planners since 1980 when there were only four professional women planners in the country
- the Planning Institute is working towards planner registration
- rural district councils are undergoing capacity development programmes but against a background of limited resources

- the evident massive donor fatigue which has affected the plan implementation process particularly in relation to housing and infrastructure provision and the postgraduate training of town planning professionals.

The above snapshot makes clear what the Zimbabwean town planning profession expects from CAP.

A Forum

First, we expect CAP to provide a forum for sharing experiences with other planners in the Commonwealth to deal with the issues raised above.

In the short term it is hoped that CAP will provide the opportunity for planner networking in the Commonwealth countries and throughout the world. This networking could take the form of newsletters, journals and through the Internet.

Unfortunately, only a very few planners in Zimbabwe have access to the Internet or even a computer for that matter!

Networking should also be a way of identifying existing skills or expertise in the planning profession, regionally and globally.

For historical reasons, member countries in CAP have experienced, are currently experiencing, or will in future experience some of the features which are characteristic of the planning landscape in Zimbabwe at the moment. CAP-organised seminars and conferences would certainly provide access to information exchange on such issues as:

- planning in predominantly poor societies and understanding of diverse urbanisation processes
- planning techniques in predicting uncertain futures
- housing and infrastructure provision for the poor
- dealing with inequalities in planning
- management of politics in planning
- facilitation and protection of huge private and public investments through prudent urban management and respect for private property rights
- promotion of sustainable development in both rural and urban areas
- managing the changing role of town planners in view of increased responsibilities.
- merits and demerits of planner registration and the management of successful planning institutes

Conferences to discuss these and similar issues could be organised at the regional level so as to crystallise the issues and views of countries experiencing similar or identical problems. For example, a conference to discuss the problems specific to Africa in the planning of urban and rural areas is long overdue. We hope CAP will help to organise such a conference.

Facilitate Funding

We hope that CAP will in future help to facilitate funding for the training of town planners particularly in applying research methods and information technology to daily planning practice. For example, the application of information technology to planning in Zimbabwe is unacceptably low at the moment, mainly due to lack of resources to train professional planners in this field.

In relation to planner education, we anticipate that, in the medium to long term, CAP will either establish a recognised CAP qualification or standardise the planning qualifications in the various schools of planning including those in Zimbabwe.

This would enable CAP members to be employed throughout the CAP countries. This would be one positive way of improving the quality of training for town planners and would keep pace with rapidly changing global trends and expectations.

The standardisation of planning education could certainly be improved by planner exchange programmes throughout the CAP member countries. The exchange of knowledge and experiences would make the local planning fraternity more confident in the knowledge that the planning procedures being advocated had been tried and tested in other parts of the world. In particular, it would give confidence to planners as managers of urban change.

The confidence level among planners in Zimbabwe is too low to make positive change possible. I believe they feel that change is too risky. There is a growing trend for planners to prefer the status quo and thereby reduce their exposure to accountability for their decisions. This trend cannot go unchecked.

Furthermore, planning decisions in Zimbabwe often take a long time to implement because of planners' lack of confidence. We therefore hope that the interaction of planners through CAP would help to breed a high level of confidence among planners.

Financially Secure

Administratively, we want to see CAP becoming financially secure so that it can meet its basic objectives. For CAP to become financially sound, it is imperative for its member associations to do likewise. We sincerely hope that the interactive processes and activities initiated by CAP will enable member associations to share ideas on their growth so that their respective visions can be realised.

The Zimbabwe Institute of Regional and Urban Planners has great confidence in the potential of CAP as a vehicle for developing the planning profession and we look forward to being able to start experiencing the little wonders to which CAP can give rise.

Dumiso Moyo is the President of the Zimbabwe Institute of Urban and Regional Planners and Vice-President CAP (East and Southern Africa).

(This article was first published in the RTPI News pages of 'Planning' magazine 4 May 2001)

TOWN PLANNING IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM: SOME THOUGHTS FROM PAKISTAN.

Professor Sattar Sikander reviews the challenges ahead.

The transition from the 20th to the 21st century offers a timely opportunity for planners in Pakistan and in the rest of the Commonwealth to reflect upon the past and to prepare for the future. It is estimated that the population of the world will increase from 6 billion to 8 billion by 2025. In developing countries in particular this will be coupled with fast growth in the number of new families, who will generate a huge demand for housing, educational facilities, jobs and infrastructure, as well as recreational and other facilities. The cities of the third world are growing even faster than the total population. At least for the foreseeable future, the third world possesses fewer resources than the developed world to meet the challenges of the future. These relate to the proper handling of the administrative, economic, financial, social and political problems posed by rapid urbanisation. These problems compound the basic tasks of providing food, shelter, jobs, education and healthy services to the population. There are also the problems of mitigating absolute poverty and of stemming the “brain drain” of qualified people from less developed countries.

Conventional thinking, mainly borrowed from the West, regards large cities as a cause of social evils. The aftermath of the industrial revolution and the associated unplanned urbanisation (similar to the current experience in Pakistan) made a lasting impact on socially conscious theorists and some practitioners. To these people the existing size of the large cities and their dense concentrations of people are already considered undesirable, while further metropolitan growth is unbearable and should be stopped at all costs. There have been debates about the optimum size of cities, based on the proposition that beyond a certain scale cities begin to generate costs and problems that are difficult to overcome. It has been shown, for example, that extensive low density cities such as Sydney incur mounting losses in the provision of commuter transport, while problems of waste disposal are another evident difficulty as a city grows. These observations raise major questions for the pattern of human settlements development in Pakistan in the 21st century.

Large cities are often compared unfavourably to rural areas. The social consequences of urbanisation involve readjustments between in-migrants and existing urban residents. It has been argued that social unrest, tensions between different ethnic and social groups, and conflict between generations is more common in large cities. This is evident in the case of Karachi. Our urbanisation policy should take account of these insights as we plan urban development for the 21st century.

In Pakistan urbanisation is taking place at a very rapid rate. The urban population is increasing at nearly 5% per annum, a rate that is high even in comparison to other developing countries, and a much faster rate than the western nations experienced at the

peak of their industrial growth. In the 21st century urbanisation will be the biggest challenge for planners in Pakistan.

According to WHO estimates, Pakistan's population will reach 248M by 2020, and 131 M of them will be living in urban areas. This is something like three times the existing urban population, and implies that we need another Karachi, another Lahore, and hundreds of medium and small sized new towns.

We are unable to control and manage our existing cities. What will happen if they are doubled in the next two decades? This poses an enormous challenge to planners and allied professionals. We must prepare for this challenge now. The Government should prepare perspective plans for the next 50 years for the distribution of the population according to areas' potential and available resources. National, provincial, regional and local plans for urban and rural areas should be prepared now, or it will be too late. If we do not act now there will be more slums, more *katchi abadis*, pollution, traffic jams, housing shortages, lack of infrastructure, and poverty.

Rapid urbanisation is expected to continue for another half century. To cope, bold, forceful and radical drives are needed. Amongst other things we need to:

- plan and create new urban settlements;
- establish a strong and effective institutional framework from local to national level for the preparation of development plans;
- strengthen academic and research institutions, to train people and conduct research to face the new realities and challenges.

Information and computer technology is crating tremendous changes in cities and regions by breaking the traditional organisation of time and space, and hence changing the socio-economic environment. Since the importance of information is increasing day by day in almost every aspect of human affairs, the speed and method of creating, obtaining and distributing information also becomes important. On-line shopping and tele-banking change urban areas. Understanding the impacts of information and computer technology is an important issue for the planning profession today.

Energy and environmental problems will also emerge as important issues during this century. The rapid reduction of green areas, including forest denudation, poses multiform problems. In recent years we have also witnessed frequent climatic disorders, like floods and abnormally low or high temperatures. Many scientists believe that these are related to the green house effect and the thinning of the ozone layer on a global scale. Such climatic disturbances may affect the short-term supply and demand balance for food, but in the long run they could also change the pattern of human settlements. To tackle environmental problems professional planners need to reconsider present development practices and evolve alternative modes of development.

The spatial range of environmental problems extends far beyond national boundaries. Therefore there needs to be extensive collaboration in research, practice and policy making. The concept of sustainable growth and environmentally friendly development should guide planners in the 21st century.

Globalisation and communications technology are increasing the amount of communication between individual regions and countries. Is this the age when planners will begin to make plans for the city and region in the broader context of Asia or even the globe, rather than in a narrowly confined spatial context? Several decades ago Doxiades pointed out the realisation of ecumenopolis, which means that all the world becomes urbanised and forms a single urban system. It sounds very like the UN Centre for Human Settlements notion that we have now entered the “urban millennium”.

Scientific and technological advances can transform lives in unimagined ways. Planners need to be attuned to these impacts, and able to take advantages of technical innovation and change. Advances in science and technology, depending on how they are applied to planning, can have significant implications for justice and affluence within the society.

Another feature of the new century is the likely continued increase in civil society organisations. Large and small, national and local, there are likely to be increasing numbers of institutions involved in the urban development process. The number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Private Voluntary Organisations (PVOs), Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), Grass Roots Support Organisations (GRSOs), and Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGOs) has been increasing in recent years in many different Commonwealth nations. In the years ahead the planners’ ability to work with non-state organisations such as these will be a critical factor in promoting the ideas of sustainable global civil society and good urban governance.

The new millennium is also witnessing the global emergence of multi-cultural values and life styles. Again developments in transport and communications have brought people from different cultures together. The Commonwealth in particular is defined by its diversity, that fits well with the emergent global multi-cultural network society. Planners throughout the Commonwealth should have a good grasp of multi-cultural values and awareness of the lifestyles of different people in their efforts to plan for and with communities.

I believe that here in Pakistan, we planners need to work out our own alternatives to these problems, and prepare a new type of planning education for the 21st century. We need to work hand in hand with the government to evolve a new system of good governance for local planning to make our people prosperous, healthy and peaceful.

Professor A. Sattar Sikander (Pakistan Institute of City and Regional Planning)
University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore

THE CAP NETWORK OF PLANNING SCHOOLS

Cliff Hague

This is an extract from a paper that Cliff Hague is giving at the World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) in Shanghai 11-15 July 2001. The full paper is available on the CAP website at www.commonwealth-planners.org

What follows is in the nature of a consultative exercise. I hope that we can get responses from a significant number of planning academics from Commonwealth universities. It will be published on the CAP web-site and comments will be invited. Copies will be sent to those planning schools in the Commonwealth that CAP can identify, and then feedback will be sought to put before the CAP meeting in Queensland in October.

The **aim** of the Network will be to foster collaboration and exchanges amongst planning schools who are in Commonwealth countries, so that they and their members can advance the understanding and practice of planning in the context of the Habitat Agenda. The link to the Agenda is vital, because, as argued above, without connecting planning to the needs of the growing number of the urban poor, and without a commitment to planning as an inclusive process, a part of good urban governance, the exercise will be fatally flawed, even if it achieves some mechanical successes.

It is proposed that any planning school from a Commonwealth country be allowed to **join the network**, possibly for a small charge commensurate with ability to pay. Joining will mean an obligation to provide basic data about the school for the database, which will be compiled and held by the CAP secretariat. In return the school will receive a copy of that database or directory, so that it will have details of other schools, their programmes and research interests and contact details. A shorter version will be posted on the CAP web-site. In addition staff and students in a network school would be eligible to receive the CAP Newsletter electronically, and also to be kept up to date about CAP events.

However, it is hoped that the main **activity** in the Network would not be one way from the CAP secretariat. Rather CAP would encourage the schools to provide news and short articles for the Newsletter, and would run a regular feature on a CAPNOPS member institution in the Newsletter. The main activity within the CAPNOPS would be between the members themselves. The Network would be a way of encouraging linkages and synergies between planning schools globally, backed by CAP and its secretariat. What form, might these activities take? Here are some ideas:

Two schools might agree to become "twins" or a group of schools within the Network might declare themselves to be partners, and develop a range of activities over a sustained period. Alternatively the Network could provide a looser framework within which individual staff or students might exploit new opportunities. Some possibilities might be:

- An undertaking by two or more member schools to facilitate **movement of staff and students** between the two schools. One form of this would be short-term student exchanges on the SOCRATES model that operates in Europe. In this there is an agreement to waive fees and to encourage and support student exchanges, and accept that the work done on the exchange can count for credit in the "home" degree programme.
- There could also be **staff exchanges**, possibly with house swaps to reduce costs.
- Another possibility is that the "twins" / partners may agree to **promote each other's post-graduate programmes** to their own undergraduates.
- A further possibility is the **sharing and /or joint development of teaching materials**. The electronic age makes this much easier. Thus there could be joint development say of teaching about approaches to shelter provision, or transport planning, or comparative planning systems. There might even be scope to introduce shared assessment, e.g. through emailing of materials and student reports, for example.
- There could be mutual support in **course development**, from the level of a programme as a whole to reading lists for particular modules.
- There could be scope to develop **joint courses** that give the students have some flexibility where to study.
- There could be shared approaches to **supervision**, enabling students to undertake supervised field work in another country.
- CAPNOPS could also be a basis to find **partners for bi-lateral or comparative research projects**.
- There could also be collaborations on **quality assurance**, exchanging ideas and best practices.

One issue that has been of great concern to planning schools in some CAP member countries has been **accreditation**. Many would like to gain access to some form of external accreditation, but felt that existing systems such as that of the RTPPI are not easy to access and may not be appropriate to their local conditions and problems. CAP has recognised this as a problem but has so far failed to produce any solution. One possibility is that members of CAPNOPS could produce and operate a system of

accreditation in association with CAP itself. It is not the place of this paper to set out how such a scheme might operate - e.g. whether accreditation might be for parts of courses or whole courses. The point is that there is an issue here that has not been addressed, and the advent of a committed group of planning schools working within CAP could produce innovative thinking and responsiveness to the needs of schools and their students.

In all this one cannot ignore the disparities that exist between planning schools in different countries, since some of the more general global inequalities are reflected within higher education systems. One hope would be that an inclusive network could be a way that the planning schools together sought to work to combat these problems, while also increasing their own attractiveness and competitiveness through mutual learning. It is important to note that a lot of innovative work is being done in some of the poorest countries, where approaches to participation in planning for example, constitute practices that others could learn from.

Conclusion

Globalisation is changing places and planning. The Habitat Agenda provides a challenge to traditional planning practice, professionalism and education. CAPNOPS could be an exciting new opportunity to use globalisation for the benefit of those in planning education and thereby to embed the knowledge skills and values needed to deliver the Habitat Agenda and to make planning relevant to the great challenge of creating sustainable human settlements.

Schools interested in CAPNOPS should contact Annette O'Donnell, CAP Secretariat, RTPI Scotland, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH 3 7HL, Scotland, or by e-mail at annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

Comments on the concept and suggestions for how CAPNOPS might operate and what it might do should be sent to Cliff Hague, c/o the CAP Secretariat or by e-mail at C.Hague@eca.ac.uk

FEEDBACK... FEEDBACK... FEEDBACK... FEEDBACK... FEEDBACK...

Since September 2000 we have produced 3 copies of the CAP Newsletter. Copies 1 and 2 can be downloaded from our web-site (www.commonwealth-planners.org) or can be obtained from Annette O'Donnell at the CAP secretariat. We now want your feedback on it, so that this can be reported to the CAP Business Meeting in Queensland on 7 October. Please take a few minutes to e-mail your degree of agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly agree			Strongly disagree	
The CAP Newsletter...					
1. Is my main contact with CAP	1	2	3	4	5
2. Contains articles and news that interests me	1	2	3	4	5

What do you like about the CAP Newsletter?

How do you think the CAP Newsletter could be improved?

Thanks.

If you have any articles, dates or news for the next edition of the Newsletter please send your contributions to Annette O'Donnell. The next issue is due out in October.