

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The CAP conference in Gold Coast City was a landmark event for us. It brought together CAP members from literally all across the globe, and in so doing it emphasised the global nature of our concerns. Equally important was the deep sense of fellowship and friendship that developed amongst those attending. This owed much to the warmth of the welcome we received from the Australian planners who hosted the event. These things matter – networks and information exchange are likely to be stronger when there is a real sense of being part of a shared endeavour. However, it is important that CAP avoids the trap of becoming a club where the same faces meet up and socialise. There has to be outreach to bring in new people able to contribute their skills and experiences. The issues that we confront as planners – how to build sustainable human settlements in the face of the global urbanisation of poverty – are so important that the social dimension of our organisation must always take second place.

Thanks to the support of the Australian Aid agency and the Commonwealth Foundation and all the CAP members who paid their subscriptions we were able to support the participation of 35 CAP delegates in our Conference. Sadly some other delegates were unable to attend because of last minute visa problems and fears about flights in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 11 September. Of course, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the reason why we were holding our CAP conference in Queensland, was postponed. CAP went ahead, had an excellent international contingent of members in Australia, and delivered a high quality event. In the immediate aftermath of 11 September this was a real achievement, and a practical demonstration of the positive internationalism of Commonwealth communities.

We successfully sought to increase the representation of women and younger professionals in our conference, and these are matters that we continue to work on. In particular we need to start building links to and amongst students and young professionals, and we must consolidate and extend the hard work done by Olusola Olufemi in establishing the CAP Women's Network.

It is also important that CAP develops a more visible regional presence. The year 2001 has seen CAP establish itself through the web-site, the newsletters, the conference and the direct presence of some CAP members in UN events, the Commonwealth Co-ordinating Group on Human Settlements, and the organisation called Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth. The next stage should involve more people, more activities and more outputs. Our plan for 2002 is that there will be a CAP track at the RTPPI conference in Manchester 10-12 June, and a CAP event, hopefully in partnership with other professions, in Johannesburg in September as part of "Rio+10", the review of progress towards sustainable development. We also aim to commit funds to support regional activities, e.g. to internationalise events being held by CAP member organisations.

The Commonwealth comprises 54 countries, 1.7 billion people, 30% of the world's population, and includes 32 small states. It is significant in terms of size, its cultural spread and inclusiveness, and as the only international champion of small states. Rapid urbanisation and the international emphasis on good urban governance are changing the context in which we practice and research planning. There is a significant opportunity for CAP to "make a new trail" as we look to 2002.

Cliff Hague
President

THE CAP FORUM AND RAPI QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE, GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 2001

A Report by Conference Chair Mr Roger Brewster



Introduction

It was a great privilege to host the 2001 CAP Forum in association with the RAPI Queensland Conference under the banner of *2001 – A Planning Odyssey*.

The Odyssey actually commenced in August 2000, with the move of CHOGM from Canberra to Brisbane, and an enthusiastic response to an invitation to host the CAP Forum. We had never heard of CAP until some information about the 2000 Belfast meeting provided enlightenment for the organising committee!

CAP seemed to be a nebulous Association with a fledgling website, administered by a Scottish lady Annette O'Donnell in Edinburgh. Since then we have become part of the Commonwealth family of planning organisations of all shapes and sizes, with common aims and a passion for humanity.

As the event chairperson, I worked initially through the RAPI National hierarchy for advice and guidance. I was very glad to have the assistance of Alicia Yon, a planner from Namibia working with me, as the international co-ordinator.

We discovered a special section in AusAID, the Australian government international aid agency, which could provide funding assistance for international delegates from developing countries to attend the conference. This was a tremendous break-through in making the Forum a reality. The Commonwealth Foundation was also willing to fund delegates and separate submissions were made to each organisation to sponsor 28 delegates.

Nothing in our Odyssey planning could have prepared us for the calamity in the USA, or the close down of the Ansett airline in Australia. It is a tribute to the delegates that all but four were able to make a potentially hazardous trip to the Gold Coast.

There were 35 international people from 22 CAP Member Nations, plus East Timor. They joined a total of nearly 330 local and international delegates for a wonderful four days of sharing our mutual concerns, fellowship and hospitality at the Parkroyal Hotel, Surfers Paradise.

The Programme

The State conference was framed around four sub-themes, which we hoped would hold the interest of both local and international planners. In selecting these themes we were partly guided by the outcomes of the Belfast meeting. These were:-

- communities coping with change;
- the impact of technology on planning;
- sustainable development in the context of tourism; and
- review of the Queensland integrated planning and related legislation.

The conference aimed to benchmark the first year of the new millennium as a watershed for planning in Queensland. The conference brochure encapsulated the theme:

“We are challenged by “space” – the efficient and equitable use of precious land and resources. With our focus firmly on sustainability, the need to understand and integrate the many dimensions of community planning has never been more acute. Yet our communities have entered a “brave new world” of unprecedented technological change. The poor and disadvantaged cry out for affordable housing. Small and large regional communities strive for economic survival and progress, looking to increased tourism, but desiring to balance economic goals with rural community values. While country youth flock to the cities, there is a retro-movement to attractive Australian coastal towns of big city dwellers seeking an escape to a simpler lifestyle.”

The response to this setting was to challenge and stimulate debate on world-wide and Australia-wide issues, encourage discussion on what might be possible, provide examples of on-the-ground strategies, and ask if Queensland’s integrated planning legislation is providing the technical and political environment to move forward.

The CAP Forum was intended to provide an international perspective to the themes of sustainable tourism and communities coping with change and globalisation.

The programme was well received and much positive feedback has confirmed the value of the discussions. The challenge is to advance strategies and action plans in the next 12 months in accordance with the aims of our member organisations.

Combining the CAP Forum with a larger event is the obvious recipe for a successful event, both for the CAP delegates and also for the synergy that CAP brings to the host conference. This was clearly evident in the 2001 Odyssey, which made it so attractive to all participants and will be remembered as a unique event for local delegates.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Peter Ellyard from the Melbourne based Preferred Futures Foundation and an adviser to UNEP and UNESCO and the 1992 Earth Summit was the opening keynote speaker. He challenged us to shift from ‘cowboy thinking’ of modernism to ‘planet spaceship thinking’ of ‘planetism’. Drawing on his book ‘Ideas for the new millennium’ (Melbourne University Press, 2001) he challenged planners to make a positive and creative contribution to building the future

Rev Tim Costello, Director of the Urban Mission Unit of the Melbourne Baptist Church, put a compassionate human face on communities coping with change. He shared his concerns about homelessness, problem gambling and urban poverty in the Australian context. He urged planners to create places for the celebration of life.

Prof. Terry de Lacy from the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism at the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University gave a view of the important role of sustainable tourism in the international arena. His grasp of the statistics growth was impressive and made a compelling argument for developing countries to embrace it.

After two days of discussions and workshops the distinguished thinker Edward de Bono ran the final session as an exercise in communal constructive thinking. From this ideas were developed for future action.

CAP Speakers

The CAP Forum was opened by RAPI National President Barbara Norman. CAP President Professor Cliff Hague gave a thoughtful address on “Habitat + 5”. This excellent presentation was a stirring call for CAP action.

Two keynote presentations were by: Dr Carol Dean Archer from the University of Technology Jamaica – *Communities coping with change*; and Professor Golam Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology – *Sustainable Development and Tourism in the context of Bangladesh*.

These presentations were good examples of the contrasting emphasis on community social processes in a Less Developed Country (LDC) from Carol Archer; and of National and local economic sector impact in an LDC from Golam Rahman.

The Commonwealth Snapshots, chaired by Professor Phil Heywood were: Dr Olusola Olufemi (South Africa) – *Planning for HIV/AIDS*; Mr John Anderson (UK) reporting on the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council Conference – *Development towards Rio+10*; Mr Damien Mate (Australia) – *East Timor Planning Framework*; Mr Lakshman Jayasekara (Sri Lanka) – *National Planning*; Mr Ian Silvera (UK) – *Planning Aid*.

Parallel Workshop themes in the afternoon were: Sustainable Development in the Context of Tourism, and Communities Coping with Change.

The sustainable tourism focus was addressed by Mr Roger Cornforth (New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade) – *South Pacific Islands*; and Mr Georges Phedonos (Cyprus) – *Mediterranean Destinations*.

The focus on community change was addressed by Dr Anna Muller and Mr Braam Harris (Namibia) – *Planning for Rapid Urbanisation in Windhoek*; Mr Dumiso Moyo (Zimbabwe) – *Planning with the Poor*; and Dr Rosemary Wachira (Kenya) – *Kenya perspectives on coping with change*.

It was very clear that CAP now has the capacity to put on larger events. Fitting all these speakers into one day meant that time for discussion was constrained, though the lively informal exchanges outside the formal conference filled some of the gaps.

CAP Forum Outcomes

The CAP Forum afternoon plenary session chaired by Cliff Hague was given over to small group discussion of Strategies for CAP, Action Plans and Resolutions. Several suggestions were offered by the groups, summarised by Barrie Melotte as including:

- Encouragement of more interaction amongst CAP Members;
- Encouragement of small nations to join CAP – e.g. Pacific islands;
- Build on Regional Groupings e.g. Canada and Caribbean, Australia and Pacific islands;
- Representation of Universities in CAP – Planning Education Accreditation; and recognition of planning qualifications in CAP member countries;
- Priority Scholarships for Education and Training, virtual learning opportunities;
- A Commonwealth Centre for Planning Excellence for exchange of information;
- A Commonwealth Planning Students Association;
- Commonwealth Continuing Professional Development Programmes;
- CAP Planner Exchange visits programmes;
- Planning Aid to each Planning Institute in CAP;
- Full time Administration of CAP and regional secretariats;
- Publicity for Resolutions and Action Plans;
- Fund raising from external agencies;

- A CAP Conference every year, identifying a focus and theme for each conference, as happened in the 2001 event – e.g. focus on small islands, more case studies;
- Regional CAP conferences at least once per year;
- Next CAP Forum to be in a developing nation;
- Offer of a CAP meeting in South Africa in 2003.

These suggestions must be followed up in the near future by CAP representatives, in order to capitalise on the Forum.

Social Programme and Sponsorship

The organising committee devised a special programme to encourage more delegate interaction at an opening Wednesday evening welcome function, Thursday night BBQ meal, the Friday Gala Dinner and a boat cruise to finish the Forum on Saturday night.

It was possible to subsidise these events through generous sponsorship from both Queensland State and Local Government and the private sector.

The AusAID sponsorship amounted to AU\$30,000 and the Commonwealth Foundation contributed £16,000. This funding ensured the success of the CAP Forum by supporting sufficient delegates from developing countries. The importance of this aid cannot be underestimated for the successful planning of future events. We did extremely well to fund as many as 30 delegates, because of the CHOGM relationship. Even though CHOGM was postponed, it facilitated the sponsorship. To say that was a miracle, is not to overstate the amazing blessing we received.

Travel and Visas

A comment should also be made about travel arrangements and visas. It was a stressful effort on the part of both the organisers and delegates to arrange travel and visas, mainly because of the lateness of funding approval in mid August, with only 6-7 weeks to finalise travel.

It is important to make travel arrangements as early as possible – even with tentative flight bookings – to avoid the problem of more costly short notice airfares.

It was unfortunate that the Australian government would not waive visa application fees, however the immigration department gave fantastic assistance to us all in expediting approvals, by issue of a visa letter from the conference committee Chair to delegates. This type of arrangement should be investigated for future conferences.

Sending money by bank telegraphic transfer to travel agents and airlines was effective and with more time and no international airline chaos would have been easy. It is recommended that in future, sponsored delegates' airfares should be paid for in advance, rather than having to be reimbursed. It is a matter of trusting delegates to honour their commitments to attend the event, or being able to substitute another delegate in the event of unforeseen circumstances preventing attendance.

The question of payment of accommodation and delegate registration is one that should be further discussed by CAP Executive members. In the case of the AusAID funding, their policy was to definitely exclude registration fees, but accommodation and a living allowance was provided at a set rate. In other countries, the policies of the aid agencies will vary, if it is available at all.

Conclusions

What an amazing Odyssey we have been through together! I said in an e-mail to CAP after the 11 September calamity that we should not let the terrorist actions defeat us and that the show must go on. Well it has exceeded all my expectations and I feel very privileged to have been the “pilot in command” of the voyage.

Many delegates have said it was an unforgettable event and expressed their gratitude and appreciation for our commitment, organisation and hospitality. Their positive comments have been much appreciated by me and by the committee – the effort has all been worthwhile. It was a team effort and I have conveyed your messages to the other members – particularly to our international co-ordinator Alicia Yon and to Chris Buckley, for him to pass on to the Queensland Division executive.

Without the CHOGM and hence the CAP Forum moving from Canberra, it would never have happened and so we are also grateful for the opportunity to serve the CAP and to make new friends around the Commonwealth.

The event will have been even more successful, if the CAP has been further invigorated by this planning odyssey. I am pleased to have been associated with the Scottish lady and would like to thank Annette O'Donnell for her support throughout the past nine months. I also acknowledge the trust of Cliff Hague as CAP President in encouraging the organising team to “have a go” and give us total latitude in devising the programme.

Events such as this become just another memory in life's progress and we look forward to the next gathering of the Commonwealth family of planners in some other place. To those who came to the Gold Coast to share your time, talents and fellowship with us – you are engraved on our hearts.



Roger Brewster
Conference Chair

SHORT REACTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE

The Conference, which was a wealth of knowledge and information, was an experience I'll always treasure. I left Australia wiser and more encouraged by what the planning fraternity can achieve for our community.

Rosemary Wachira, Kenya

I found it humbling. I feel some Australians sometimes perceive we have all the answers being a developed country. Often these answers are still applied in a top down approach contrary to the values of a particular community. It was good to step outside our Australian experiences, to be reminded of a sense of community and to meet some wonderful people — fellow travellers on this “journey of learning”. I thoroughly enjoyed the CAP Forum.

Lynn McTaggart, Australia

It was encouraging to have inputs from the developing world at the CAP Forum this year. The localised cases that were presented and the issues that were discussed from different countries were important as a signal that CAP is rooted in these countries and that we can use the CAP Forum for just such an exchange of experience. I look forward to South Africa's planning profession making a viable and valuable contribution to the organisation in general and to future meetings.

Tanya Zack, South Africa

The CAP Forum was definitely the highlight of the three day conference. It gave a much needed perspective to what planning means and what type and scale of problems planners face in different countries. The contrast between talking about providing affordable housing in the Australian context and how to plan for the housing needs of orphans of the AIDS epidemic in South Africa or settlements with one tap and two toilets per eighteen households in Namibia was stark and thought provoking.

Rose Coburn, Australia

The opportunity to attend an international conference and hear wide-ranging planning issues and experiences was immensely rewarding. It was particularly beneficial for Queensland's young planners to learn what planning and planners are facing across the Commonwealth. I have heard many positive comments that the inclusion of the CAP meeting in the RAPI Queensland Conference enriched a meeting that usually focuses on local issues.

Sandy Vigar, Australia

The synergy from the Queensland Conference and the CAP Forum cannot be understated. This synergy is both a valuable lesson and a significant opportunity for our growing Institute to be at ease within our Oceania Region and the emerging Commonwealth.

Barrie Melotte, Australia

The CAP Conference was a wonderful experience. I learnt a lot from exchanging ideas and experiences with planners engaged in community based planning and I'd like to think that I'd made a few friends as well. I look forward to the next CAP Conference in Manchester.

Ian Silvera, UK



CAP group (3).jpg

(double click above to view photograph)

The photograph was taken at the CAP Business Meeting held at Gold Coast City on Sunday 7 October.

Back Row (left-right) – Alicia Yon (Australia), Olusola Olufemi (South Africa), Ian Silvera (UK), Chris Buckley (Australia), Dumiso Moyo (Zimbabwe), Phil Heywood (Australia)

Middle Row (left-right) – Peter Kibinda (Kenya), Ron Shishido (Canada), Katherine Perreau (New Zealand), Lakshman Jayasekara (Sri Lanka), Clive Harridge (UK), Georges Phedonos (Cyprus), Elias Masta (Papua New Guinea), Tan Kah Hoe (Singapore), Rosemary Wachira (Kenya), Yolanda Alleyne (Barbados)

Front Row (left-right) – Roger Brewster (Australia), Khairiah Talha (Malaysia), Bosire Ogero (Kenya), Annette O'Donnell (UK), Cliff Hague (UK), John Anderson (UK), Muhammad Zainuddin (Malaysia), Asad Mohammad (Trinidad and Tobago)

PLANNERS WORKING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONS

John Anderson reports on Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements Promotional Support Group; Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC); United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Habitat Pacific; Conference at Brisbane Australia on 5 October 2001

This conference ran parallel to the RAPI Queensland Conference on the Gold Coast. Its combined themes were: 'Looking to the Sustainable Development at Rio+10' and 'Partnership for Aid, Development and Community Asset Management'. I attended with CAP former Vice President Asad Mohammed, and we both gave papers.

After a formal opening by the Acting Lord Mayor the introduction to the day was made by Zena Daysh, Executive Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC). Her aim was to raise the level of environmental issues by producing not just a communiqué, originally for CHOGM but also an Action Plan which she hopes to take directly to a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in March 2002.

The full basis of the Habitat Agenda was outlined by Dr Anna Tibaijuka the Executive Director of UNCHS. She outlined her programme and task schedule for the forthcoming Rio+10 Meeting in Johannesburg next September.

The meeting then moved to more detailed studies starting with Habitat Pacific and the problems of Fiji described by Bob Naiker, former Managing Director of the Fiji Housing Authority. In these Pacific islands the population growth is outstripping the health and education infrastructure. Because of their relative isolation from larger markets economic expansion is difficult, and consequently the range of products tends to remain very limited. At the moment water and sewage systems are adequate but they need increased management. Climate changes associated with global warming are occurring, and many of the islands have little 'freeboard' above sea level. However several aid programmes are running and if corrective action is taken soon the situation could improve.

John Lowry of the Commonwealth Association of Surveyors and Land Economists (CASLE) followed with a presentation looking at ecologically based settlements and dwellings in East Timor and including an interesting house designed using the techniques of the Northern Territory Aboriginals. He also raised the problems of different land tenures and conflicting interests.

Graham Meltzer of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) developed the housing theme, examining the history of co-operative housing movements from the start in Denmark and Sweden to more recent developments in the Netherlands. These schemes allowed for both shared accommodation and a partially shared living pattern with joint meals taken by several families in a communal building providing a centre for the individual homes.

Asad Mohammed, representing CAP, then described the aid programme being worked jointly with Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. He highlighted the problems of different professional training and mutual recognition of qualifications obtained in the context of the wide variety of experience available in different West Indian countries.

The last three speakers were all organised by Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth (BEPIC). As one of the founders of BEPIC, and representing CAP, I gave a brief introduction on this group, its history and how today most environmental projects require more than one profession to contribute to their success. BEPIC promotes the Habitat Agenda across professions with particular reference to:

- Interchange of Experience
- Joint recognition of Qualifications
- Education both of Developers and Local Governments
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Backing CCGHS by providing expert evidence across institutional barriers.

Professor Margaret Reynolds, ex Australian Senator and President of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), then gave a paper on poverty and human rights. The majority of people in the Commonwealth live in poverty and they need the Commonwealth to give them some focus for self-identity. She quoted Mahatma Gandhi: *“I will give you a talisman ... Recall the face of the poorest and weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? ... Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away.”*

The day was summarised by Malcolm Prouse, President, UNAA (Queensland), who is establishing a centre in Queensland for Habitat Pacific.

CAP has forged a major link with CHEC and CCGHS. CHEC and CCGHS are beginning to be listened to by world governments but governments have to be kept up to date. The Habitat Agenda is not static; it has to be updated. As CAP we are now in a strong position to play a useful role in providing information through these links so as to get planning issues into our governments' lists of policies. Zena Daysh has an excellent track record of achieving successful meetings, and if she manages to promote our planning ideas to a group of Prime Ministers this will raise the level of perception of our profession as others see us and give us a real perception of what we can achieve globally.

John Anderson

Secretary General and Vice-President (Europe)

CHANGES PROPOSED TO THE CAP CONSTITUTION

Christine Toppin-Allahar and her colleagues in the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners have reviewed CAP's constitution and are proposing a number of changes. They were asked to undertake this task when CAP met in Belfast in June 2000. Copies of the proposed changes are being circulated by the Secretariat to all member institutes of CAP. Anybody wishing to receive their own copy of the proposed changes should contact Annette O'Donnell.

Among the changes proposed are:

- Explicit mention of "creating more sustainable settlements and adequate shelter for all" amongst CAP's objectives.
- A new class of "Affiliate Members" open to "organisations from Commonwealth countries involved in professional activities in national, regional and local planning" or "involved in planning education and research", where the organisation does not qualify in its own right for full membership of CAP.
- General tightening up of rules and procedures for the operation of CAP.

The proposals will be put to the next meeting of CAP, which is anticipated to be in Manchester, England 10-12 June 2002.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Yasmeen Dinath, a student at the University of Witwatersrand, attended the Town and Country Planning Summer School, under a scheme operated with CAP to support the participation of young Commonwealth planners in the School. She reports on the experience.

Attending the Town and Country Planning Summer School at the University of Exeter this year, proved to be a truly invaluable learning experience. As the international guest delegate from South Africa, I wondered what the experience would be like and how I would be able to relate to British Planning. In the end I was able to relate much of what was being said and done to South African Planning. There were similarities and differences, strategies that may be applied to South African Planning, and tools that South African planners may share with their British counterparts.

The vast range of topics presented at this year's two weeks of Planning Summer School was indeed impressive. It ensured an adequate mix of theory with invaluable examples of practice and real-world experience that delegates shared through their presentations. These topics stimulated much debate, and informal discussion sessions were an important source of fresh approaches and perspectives. Presentations by my fellow guest delegates, as well as delegates from the Netherlands, Scotland and Wales, provided fascinating insights into planning in different and new contexts. The chance to meet and interact with the other international guest delegates who were representing Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Poland, Montenegro and Zimbabwe was especially valuable.

The Royal Town Planning Institute's Special Fund made it possible for all international delegates to have a superbly organised pre-school tour around the South and South-west of England for four days. The tour took us to Portsmouth, Southampton, Wareham, Portland, Dorchester, Bath, and Bristol. We were given the opportunity to meet local planners at each place we visited. Each gave us an expertly guided tour of important planning projects and initiatives in their local area. This type of exposure motivated the international scholars to compare and discuss different perspectives and provided a wealth of new ideas from which to draw. The tour provided a good picture of planning in action in England.

On arriving at Summer School in Exeter, we were able to better reflect and absorb what the range of speakers presented. The overall message put out to planners at this year's school was that Planning as a profession is in need of major change, if it is to respond adequately to the changing needs of the people it serves. Creativity and resourceful ways of doing things were promulgated through the various seminars presented. In essence, there was a call for reforming planning to a better co-ordinated enabling function rather than a restrictive or regulatory one - making planning more people-friendly. The importance of recognising a regional agenda i.e. the Context of the European Union was also stressed and planners were urged to ensure that their efforts are well integrated and aim to achieve similar means.

I have returned to South Africa with a renewed enthusiasm for approaching planning with creativity and zeal but also with the important lessons learned from insights into the realities of planning in action.

Yasmeen Dinath

Dept. of Town and Regional Planning
School of Architecture and Planning
University of Witwatersrand
Johannesburg



CNV00028 (2).JPG

(double click above to view photograph)

The photograph was taken in the gardens of the University of Exeter on the first full day of the Planning Summer School, after the welcoming lunch.

Cliff Hague, President of the Commonwealth Association of Planners is pictured with two of the three Scholars from Commonwealth countries.

(Left to Right) Yasmeeen Dinath (South Africa)
Rosemary De Four (Trinidad & Tobago)
Cliff Hague (CAP)
Cath Ranson (Town and Country Planning Summer School Council)

CAP'S ROLE IN PLANNING EDUCATION

Asad Mohammed reports on a new CAP Education Initiative

A simplistic division of the Commonwealth into developed and underdeveloped, richer and poorer, colonising and colonised, does not present any obvious solutions to issues of quality assurance and accreditation of planning schools.

The old approach of many Third World societies of turning northwards to Britain or Canada or southwards to Australia or New Zealand is fraught with problems of relevance and cost. Third World training programmes and professional associations also cannot assure the same consistency and stability of such historical accreditation mechanisms.

In Britain and Canada the Single Europe Act and the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) respectively have occasioned new thinking on the role of accreditation and its relationship to reciprocity. Accreditation was focused on ensuring an acceptable level of education for professional registration in the particular countries for which they were developed. Reciprocity is focused on measuring levels of training obtained and noting gaps in training to be filled, in order to allow reciprocal exchange of professionals.

Even Commonwealth countries such as South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand which have historically reviewed their planning education in relative isolation are all now participating in a more open world with greater movements of planning professionals within expanding trading blocs.

Other Commonwealth countries like the African and small South East Asian countries have young training programmes, professional associations and revised statutory codes of planning practice all at the same time. In the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Commonwealth (the largest concentration in the world) such as in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the Caribbean Sea, smallness poses a serious impediment to meaningful institutional development in training and accrediting planners.

At the 1996 Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) meeting in Auckland, a paper by John Anderson raised the potential of a CAP accreditation mechanism similar to the one used by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA). The CAA mechanism provided international quality assurance by drawing on the strengths of the larger and more established National Associations and Schools of Architecture. At the same time regional differences and contextual relevance was protected by a review mechanism that brought a range of smaller and newer Associations and Schools into the process.

At the CAP Belfast meeting of 2000, the issue was again brought forward and two strategies were suggested:

- a. A Commonwealth Association of Planners Network of Planning Schools (CAPNOPS)
- b. A CAP accreditation mechanism.

Both activities have moved slowly along until the Brisbane meeting of CAP (October 2001). There now seems to be renewed vigour to move both processes along in a parallel but related manner to produce firm implementable proposals in a year's time.

A committee has been established including Professor Phil Harris, Witwatersrand University, South Africa and myself, Asad Mohammed, University of the West Indies. As additional inputs to the work of the committee, we will monitor two ongoing Commonwealth processes.

The first is the work of the RTPI Education Commission. This Commission is to review “the role and remit of planning; the structure and delivery of higher education; employers’ requirements; globalisation of employment practices and the practices of comparable professional bodies”. Within that context the RTPI will review its own role. For further details see the website that the Commission has set up at www.uwe.ac.uk/fbe/RTPI. The second is a comprehensive review of the process of accrediting and registering professional planners being undertaken by the South African Council for Town and Regional Planners (SACTRP).

The committee membership and the processes to be monitored will allow a good balance of the issues and representation of the north and south. We will also draw upon the experience of Professor Mohammed Qadeer formally of Queens University, Canada and Martin Drake, who has done much work in this area, formally of Wits and a previous member of the CAP Education Committee. Apart from the above review we intend to elicit inputs from training institutions and professional organisations by both structured and informal mechanisms.

At the Brisbane meeting it was noted that CAP was not trying to develop a Commonwealth wide alternative to existing processes of professional review and registration, which will continue to be provided by member Associations. The CAP mechanism was seen as providing smaller and newer planning education programmes (and Associations) an alternative accreditation mechanism to simply adopting a process used in a larger or more established jurisdiction.

Given the growth of the field of Development Planning in the Metropolitan countries, which is focused on the needs of Third World societies, it may be that even such programmes may benefit from a CAP process that draws on the common wealth of our schools and professional associations in both the north and south.

Until we get in touch with you formally we welcome any inputs. Send your queries, questions, or comments to either or both amohammd@eng.uwi.tt or 041phillip@cosmos.wits.ac.

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PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Perhaps it is the absence of the mystique of a peculiar apparatus in the process of inculcating the discipline of town and country planning which encourages almost every initiate and all proselytes to believe that each is entitled to change the profession to suit his or her own fancy.

Even the Bar has the mystical tradition of wig and gown, but the planning profession appears to be all things to all people because it has no mystique other than a transparent jargon. And now, like a cloud no bigger than a man's hand appearing on the horizon, we have the promise of GIS for apparatus!

What purpose pray will it serve without the imagination that is lacking in the first place? Will the intelligent tool displace its operator? Will the computer programmer replace the town and country planner?

It is undoubtedly the comprehensive and pervasive scope of the professional practice as much as the Broadway by which entry is obtained, that attracts most of the novitiates. The proselytes are as ever as elsewhere more enthusiastically "born again" to dazzle the old practitioners with the same blinding flash of light that the converts saw on their Damascus Road.

Does the profession have to be a populous and popular haven of all aspirants in order to deliver the effective service that is a true expression of the purpose of its discipline? If whosoever will may come; how many of the called should be chosen?

Should the profession be conceived as restricted to the exercise of development control by local government officials; or liberated as generally facilitating the creative art of design to anticipate and accommodate the necessities of human civilisation through architecture and engineering harnessing the latent forces of nature to produce an ecological harmony of its diversity?

I believe that at the core of the Town and Country Planning profession there must be the ability or competence to conceive and design a practicable framework for progressive allocation of compatible land uses and development by means of architecture and engineering with geography (physical, social and economic) for basic information. By "progressive" I mean what the modern environmentalists refer to as "sustainable" in the context of growth inducing change on a continuous basis.

I believe that once the design capability or competence is lost, Town and Country Planning as a profession becomes something else that is unworthy of the original definition.

I believe that new professions have as much right to be autonomous as Town and Country Planning has a right and responsibility to preserve its integrity. As Polonius says to Laertes... "To thine own self be true....."

Leonard St.Hill

Chartered Town Planner and Civil Engineer
Barbados

CAP WOMEN IN PLANNING NETWORK

Olusola Olufemi, Convenor of the Network, reports on its work so far.

Progress

Since Belfast 2000, the following activities/actions have taken place with regard to the CAP Women in Planning Network:

- E-mail communication was sent to all members present at the Belfast meeting as well as a few other planners known to be involved in women and planning issues.
- A draft questionnaire was sent to members to comment and respond to in July/August 2000. The questions asked revolve around the impact of planning on gender, impact of gender on planning, role of gender in planning and suggested roles of gender in planning.
- Responses to the above questionnaire were received from Uganda, Zambia, UK, Australia and South Africa. Individuals who responded did so on behalf of their Planning Associations/Institutes or in their personal capacity of being involved in gender planning issues. An article was published on “CAP Women in Planning Network” by the RTPI Planning journal of 5 January 2001. The article specified the proposed aims of the network and the issues and challenges facing the women’s network.

Responses

What follows are the responses from the various countries. One has to sound a caution note here. The responses might not be an entire picture of what obtains in these countries because it is based on one or two respondents from each country.

Uganda

Issues that tend to affect women more than men are “the renewal programmes, which resulted in displacements. This is due to the fact that women (men) are forced to stay in more suburban areas with less density of development” (Byendaimira, 2000). Distance to these suburbs constitutes a security risk for women whose workplaces are far. Women’s safety often cannot be guaranteed. There are a few women in the planning profession in Uganda. Thus, their male counterparts who do not understand the specific needs and problems of women take most decisions.

On the role of gender planning, in Uganda (as elsewhere – Nigeria/South Africa), it is women who do the children’s school run, shopping, cooking and other domestic chores in addition to their professional tasks. The male dominated planning profession does not take cognisance of this in planning decisions and implementation of projects.

South Africa

Women in planning is still an issue. Though women are involved at the grass roots, in the professions, especially planning, men still dominate.

“We haven’t reached the stage where the best person for the job gets it irrespective of gender but it is no longer a naïve dream” (Taylor, 2000). Citing his experience in the Winterveld and Mabopane areas of South Africa, Taylor (2000) indicated that women get involved in planning, are very effective and no one challenges the need to have women in the community committees. He asserts “ a woman got up to say at a meeting that men were often away from home and it was the women who had their fingers on the pulse of what was going on....”. This statement changed the composition of the committee to reflect better gender balance. There is thus positive news in terms of gender at grassroots and in terms of planning education (see tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: University graduate database: National qualification trends for Town and Regional Planning

Year	Total	Bachelor	PG Diploma	Masters	PhD	African	Coloured/ Asian	White	Male	Female
1991	148	75	15	57	1	6	6	136	93	55
1992	170	75	21	74	-	15	4	151	98	72
1993	113	59	4	48	2	9	4	100	70	43
1994	150	71	13	66	-	16	7	127	90	60
1995	161	60	23	78	-	34	11	116	86	75
1996	152	58	35	58	1	41	12	109	87	65
1997	157	59	38	60	-	39	15	113	88	69
1998	165	57	39	60	-	41	13	111	92	73

Source: Human Sciences Research Council 1999b

Table 1 indicates that in 1991, there were 55 female graduates of Planning and this has increased to 73 in 1998. The data is based on surveys of graduates, it would thus reflect those who responded to the survey and overall results are therefore likely to be distorted. But the indication from the table is that female graduates in planning are increasing as shown in table 2 as well.

Table 2: Gender profile of students

Programme	Percentage female (of sample)
N.Dip and B.Tech at ML Sultan Technikon	40
B.Sc (TRP) Wits University	58
B.Sc (TRP) University of Pretoria	55
MTRP, University of Natal	62
M.SC (Development Planning) Wits University	67
Masters in Environment and Development Natal (Pietermaritzburg campus)	44
Postgraduate Environment programmes Natal (Durban)	50
Masters in Development Studies Natal (Durban)	69
Masters in Public Administration at University of Durban Westville	31

Source: Human Sciences Research Council, 1999b

Though a few, women professional planners in South Africa are making a difference. Most project allocation procedures in South Africa since 1994 openly discriminate against white men because they were deemed favoured in the past. Women are being given preference in project allocation by the authorities but significant issues remain on the professional level.

United Kingdom

Planning certainly reinforces inequalities if gender is not considered at the early stages. In the UK, like in South Africa and Uganda, the decision-makers are predominantly male. In the planning profession, 75% are male and 25% are female.

Many people have a dismissive approach to the role of gender (women) in planning. "It is disregarded by others who see social inclusion as the catch all" (Reeves, 2000).

Zambia

Planning has an explicit impact on gender in ensuring equal access to facilities and services. Unfortunately, many women are unaware of their rights due to socio-economic and cultural

reasons, and gender issues remain largely ignored. Institutionalisation of a new paradigm that would focus on women's empowerment in housing, land distribution and the categorisation of facilities and services is needed.

Women are far less well represented than their male counterparts. The ratio in Zambia can be put roughly at 1 to 8 or 10. Zambia, like most developing countries has not made much progress in this regard. It can still be proved that socio-economic and indeed psychological barriers, given the hazardous nature of the built environment professions, hinder women from being involved (Babarinde, 2000).

Australia

According to Hillier (2000):

- Planning can serve to isolate women with young families in outer suburbs of cities by mono-zoning residential developments. First time home-buyers who have little money struggle to purchase two cars (one for each adult), and may find that women who remain at home during the day lack access to public transport and hence, to services and facilities.
- Poor urban design may increase women's fear in urban areas.
- Lack of decent home occupation policy may mean that women are unable to work from home and may be denied a source of income.
- Lack of understanding of different needs for Muslim women, play space for children and assumptions that everyone can use public parks.

Most planners are male and plan in a gender-blind women-ignoring male-oriented manner (Hillier, 2000). For example, single use zoning, lack of regard for safety, lack of public toilets (for pregnant women and women with children), lack of planning for frail aged (most of whom are women).

"In Western Australia we are at the stage of making women more visible by informing planning officers that women have different needs from men in the built environment and women experience the built environment differently. We have not yet begun to enter the stage of celebrating women's diversity and considering the different needs of different groups of women-aged, pregnant, ethnicity etc" (Hillier, 2000).

"Too often women lose their gender awareness when they enter the planning office at the start of the working day. They are taught (in education and practice) that planning is neutral and too often blindly accept this and continue to plan in what is effectively a male stream manner" (Hillier, 2000).

Suggested role of gender in planning by respondents

1. Gender needs to be explicitly mainstreamed into all aspects and stages of planning.
2. A safer city for women is a safer city for all.
3. The pursuit of sustainability ideals and public policies focusing on equal access, equal rights, and conjugal roles that are consistent with the progressive (not retrogressive) cultural revival in human settlements. This would allow for meaningful collaborative-inclusionary planning at all levels.

Making women more visible in planning

From the above discussion it becomes imperative to say that:

- There are few women planners and their efforts are not visible enough because of male dominance in the profession. Thus, more intensive action needs to be initiated by women in the profession as well as in planning education.
- Women, as pillars of their communities experience the impact and burden of decisions that do not recognise their needs (e.g. displacement/relocation/eviction) more than men.
- There are certain barriers such as, patriarchy, culture, submissive attributes and regressive policies that hinder women's maximum involvement in planning, professionally and in their communities.
- Isolation/neglect of the fundamental needs of women especially in the location and design of human settlements. These are needs in terms of distance to in-house and out-house facilities such as water, schools/crèches, sanitation, cooking, laundry and bathing facilities among others.

Women planners have the knowledge, skills and potential to participate in policymaking, decisions and project implementation. To consolidate and make the network sustainable, a **CRED** approach is suggested in moving the CAP Women in Planning Network forward.

CRED Approach

- **Collaboration**

Collaborating with existing women in/and planning networks e.g. London and Australia. Organising a CAP Women in Planning workshop could facilitate this collaboration.

- **Representation**

Representation of women planners in all planning, decision-making, project implementation and policy at all levels.

- **Education and awareness through marketing and mentorship programmes.**

'Catch them while still young.' Marketing the profession to attract young women into training.

- **Databank through research**

The approach would be to have a databank of all women planners in the Commonwealth. This could be achieved by the various planning organisations involved in CAP.

As reiterated by Olufemi (2001:23), this is not just another 'women's thing'. Let us join hands, minds and brains together to reinvigorate and mainstream women into the CAP agenda.

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Hillier, J. (2000), E-mail communication

Olufemi, OA (2001), CAP Women in Planning Network, RTPI, *Planning*, 5 January 2001, p.23

Reeves, D. (2000), E-mail communication

Taylor, R. (2000), E-mail communication

If you want to be part of the Women in Planning Network please contact Olusola at 041olo@cosmos.wits.ac.za and copy your message to annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

RAE TOWN – PROJECT PLANNING OR URBAN HUSBANDRY?

In this short article, Patrick Anderson, President of the Jamaica Institute of Planners (J.I.P) reviews recent urban renewal initiatives.

It seems like urban revitalisation is back on the agenda, big time. The Prime Minister of Jamaica announced an Inner City Renewal Programme in forty-eight communities in the country and on March 28, 2001 the programme was launched with Rae Town as the pilot. In September of 1998 a similar Inner City Renewal Programme was announced with much fanfare at Jamaica House. The Inner City Renewal to date may be summed up as a regimen of announcements and pronouncements involving short-term labour absorption strategies through Lift Up Jamaica, ram-jostling for grant funds and progressive poverty.

Overall, this inner city programme is conceptually flawed in the conspicuous absence of communities in partnership being encouraged to drive their own development process. The second flaw is the absence of the necessary policy, financial, incentive and asset base to enable the process to be successful. With what confidence can we presume that the Rae Town thrust will be in any way different from the others? We all, and especially the people of Rae Town, would want to know how this one will be made more sustainable than the others. The gestation period has been long and expectations, once high, have been dashed.

The scurry of urban projects has sent me back for a refresher course to some of my texts that I used at planning school. I always thought they would be useful some day and that's why I discouraged my spouse from passing them on to junior for writing practice, lego modelling and kiddie architectural design. The text that most impressed me and held by interest, was not Jane Jacobs' *"The death and Life of Great American Cities"*, nor even Frieden and Sagalyn's *"Downtown Inc: How America Rebuilds Cities"*, but *"Cities Back From the Edge: New Life for Downtown"* and in particular the chapter titled Project Planning or Urban Husbandry.

The authors (Roberta Brandes Gratz and Norman Mintz) start off by saying that, "Two approaches invariably conflict in each story on downtown change. The first and most prevalent is the project approach to rebirth". They say that the process of project-based planning must have a project to achieve, market, sell and involve the public in selecting a predetermined solution, which is usually the project. Project based planning is usually big to be meaningful, (the budget for Lift Up Jamaica was \$2.5 billion over a two year period, with big contractors, big government agencies and experienced developers). They go on to say that "Under project based planning, the new is added at a large enough scale to overwhelm and alter what exists".

What exists may be wiped out entirely, as with urban renewal. Here is a recognition, and the essence, of what urban renewal is and the tragedy it wreaks, yet in this country we platform an Inner City *Renewal* Programme and a Tax Incentive for Urban *Renewal* legislation, both administered by a big government agency, the Urban Development Corporation (author's emphasis). Essentially the urban renewal politics is one of displacement and gentrification as so succinctly described in one case by Jose Olives. In France he called it "an offensive... seeking to recover the Paris agglomeration for the middle classes...". We have already had our own Jamaican displacement and attempt at gentrification in the 1960s and early 1970s. Western Kingston and Tivoli Gardens are good examples. The current removal of zinc fences and attempt at displacing 400 families from around Kingston Public Hospital are yet others.

We have all become victims of project planning treating the world or the future as if it were a blank computer screen with the project as the focus and the rest of the world relegated to the margins. That is what we get when we remove the people's interest from planning and 'elevate' it to the high science of formulae, calculations and projections, usually under-girding the interest of developers, financial institutions and land speculators. And all of these generously supported by government incentives whether in land donations, tax incentives or low interest mortgage loans. Forty years ago Jane Jacobs was aware of the dynamism and complexity of the redevelopment process, and that since it had to be people-based it could not be reduced to pure science.

The alternative for Gratz and Mintz's is "Urban Husbanders". These are the planning visionaries who "assume that assets are already in place to be invigorated and built onto in order to stimulate a place-based rejuvenation that adds to the long-evolving, existing strengths of downtown neighbourhoods, instead of replacing them. Urban husbanders advocate introducing change incrementally and monitoring it carefully, providing a great opportunity to learn from each step". The authors summarise by saying "Urban Husbanders are the initiators of most of the successes" presented in their book, and there have been quite a few.

Where are the Urban Husbanders in Jamaica, who ought to be opponents of the mechanistic approach to project planning and urban renewal? If anything, revitalisation is meant to be about problem solving, relying heavily on the expertise of citizen users, and the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of long time residents. Building on resources to diminish or overcome problems should be the chosen route instead of projects that obliterate those worthy resources. This is what is expected in Rae Town and the other 47 communities and neighbourhoods to be 'renewed'. I particularly like the imagery of husbandry. It conjures up a notion of nurturing, care, tending and building-on. To a people still emerging from our agricultural roots this evokes a powerful icon, using our past to reinvent our future.

When the planter boxes were erected on Mountain View and other thoroughfares I doubt very much if neighbourhood and community people were consulted, least of all, advised of the options and non-sustainable implications. Was it meant to convenience pedestrians by shrinking the already narrow pedestrian access; was it understood that it could provide a foil for criminals at night and provide an open lavatory for people who have no access to downtown sanitary facilities? I'm sure it was sold as training and employment opportunities and not as short-term opportunism.

Budgets are rarely in place to sustain these programmes which are designed to placate and compound an already bad situation. The Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation which owns the pavements were not even consulted by the implementing ministry. Rae Town has its Sunday night old hits sessions which has been a staple for 23 years; it is also a fishing village without proper sanitary conveniences. Will project planning provide the necessary husbandry to nurture, build and "enhance what little urban fabric is left in that downtown community", into a diverse place that reflects the city of Kingston? I doubt it.

I'm afraid that because the downtown of Kingston has been neglected for such a long time the Urban Husbanders are going to lose out to the project planners. The Husbanders are essentially advocates and I remember the scorn the former Government Town Planner of recent memory heaped upon one planner, Arlene Dixon, who was painstaking in ensuring that the vision of the Montego Bay community was brought into the mainstream of the planning process. For doing this, the plan was denigrated to an "advocacy plan", meaning literary that it had no merit. Yet advocacy should be the most important consideration for government as a way of sampling the community's opinions and ensuring that you are "in sync" with local priorities.

Communities, starting with Rae Town, will have to redefine themselves within the context of the prevailing nation state, the emerging global economy and don the mantle of an urban social movement, which continues to serve oppositional and positive functions in the restructuring of local civil societies. There is a long tradition of such action in Jamaica going all the way back to slave revolts. The latest is the activity of the citizens in Majesty Gardens protesting deplorable health conditions, the insecurity of their children and the lack of municipal services. It is not pretty, but it is effective. Rae Town and other inner city communities contain the objective conditions for action, with their high degree of poverty, lack of social services and the adverse impact of a New World economy. The inevitability of lines being drawn between private (increasingly, transnationals) and state interests on the one hand and community members struggling for a stake is assured.

Patrick Anderson

President, Jamaica Institute of Planners

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NEW BOOKS

A.Dal Cin and D.Lyddon (eds), 2001, “International Manual of Planning Practice: Fourth Volume”, International Society of City and Regional Planners, The Hague. 300 pages + Glossary and Comparisons.

If you want to check out the structure of local government in Bangladesh or the operation of town planning in Swaziland then this handy reference book needs to be on your bookshelf. The International Society for City and Regional Planners (ISoCaRP) first began publishing the Manual in 1989, when it contained just 13 countries. Volume 1 then came out in 1992, covering 26 countries, Volume 2 came in 1995 and Volume 3 in 1998. Volumes include “new” entries, but also updates for countries where there have been recent changes. In total then four volumes now cover 68 countries.

ISoCaRP have taken a pragmatic yet systematic approach to compiling the Manual. Essentially they ask their members to provide text in respect of their home country, but to do so against a standard template of questions. This has ensured consistency and comparability, and over time the coverage of countries has been progressively extended by new entries. Given the diversity of languages and technical concepts this represents a considerable achievement. The focus concentrates on the statutory aspects of town planning. For each country there is a description of the administrative structures and the legal framework of planning control with basic questions like “Who gives consent?” and “Who can object?” However each contributor also offers a short commentary on the system in her/his country. The editors then provide a glossary of terms and an overall comparison at the back of the volume.

ISoCaRP is supported financially by the Dutch Ministry for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. UNESCO’s International Social Science Programme on Management of Social Transformations have also provided money to make the Manual possible. For further information about how to get a copy of the Manual e-mail secretariat@iscocarp.org or check their web site at <http://www.isocarp.org>.

Richard H.Schneider and Ted Kitchen, 2002, “Planning for Crime Prevention: A TransAtlantic Perspective”, The RTPi Library Series, Routledge, London and New York. 331 pages.

Crime and fear of crime figure prominently on lists of urban ills that undermine the notion of sustainable living environments. A book that tackles the difficult topic of what planners can do to help reduce these problems is therefore welcome. The authors (Schneider for the USA and Kitchen for the UK) carefully review the crime statistics and the range of place-based policy and design interventions that have sought to prevent crime and increase the public’s sense of security.

The authors compare experiences in the USA and the UK to reach a set of conclusions. They argue that crime and fear of crime matters very much to people and that planners must begin to address these fears much more effectively. Design of the built environment impacts on opportunities for crime and fear of crime, but there needs to be more rigorous evaluation of anti-crime design initiatives, and approaches have to be tailored to local circumstances. Similarly design is not the only influence on patterns of crime, and planners need to work closely not only with the police but with other professionals and with the community to maximise the effectiveness of crime prevention.

This book does not pretend to equip planners with a standard formula for dealing with crime but it does provide a thought-provoking and carefully researched analysis on a topic that is still poorly understood. It should be of interest to many CAP members, even those practising in countries where conditions are significantly different than those in either the UK or the USA. For further details of the RTPI Library Series of books that are being published by Routledge see www.rtpi.org.uk.

C.Pugh (ed), 2000, “Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries”, Earthscan Publications Ltd, London.

This is an edited volume that covers a broad range of concerns including health and the application of Local Agenda 21 in cities. It includes case study evidence from a number of cities, and charts a path towards more sustainable urban environments. For details email earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk or see their web-site which is www.earthscan.co.uk.

<p>If you find new books that you think would interest CAP members please write a short review like the ones above and send it to Annette O’Donnell for inclusion in a future newsletter. Thanks.</p>

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

The Commonwealth Association of Planners, in its role as a nominating agency, was pleased to nominate Pamela Ayebare for a Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship.

Pamela is a member of the Uganda Institute of Physical Planners. She is currently working as a Planner with the Uganda Department of Physical Planning and is responsible for the 5 Districts of Kamuli, Iganga, Bugiri, Tororo and Busia.

The Commonwealth Foundation received 39 nominations for 12 places and the Selection Committee had a very difficult task in selecting the Fellows because of the very high calibre of the nominees. Unfortunately Pamela was unsuccessful on this occasion. However, we welcome the fact that one of the successful ones was Mr Buddley Ronnie, an Assistant Physical Planner from the Solomon Islands, who had been nominated by the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE).

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

CAP has been invited to nominate good practices for this international award. The scheme was instigated by the Government of Dubai in 1995 and is a biennial programme. It aims at enhancing awareness of outstanding and sustainable achievements in improving the living environment in line with the principles of Habitat II and the Dubai Declaration.

Awards were made in 1996, 1998 and 2000 and there have been over 1,100 submissions from 115 countries. So far over 26 organisations have won awards, including ones from Canada, India, Kenya, and Tanzania. Each winner receives a trophy, a certificate and a monetary prize of US \$30,000. Also two representatives from winning organisations get funding to attend the awards ceremony, which is held on World Habitat Day. Complete information on the awards is on the internet at <http://dubai-award.dm.gov.ae>. You can visit the UNCHSW website to get more information on previous submissions and ways in which to make submissions for the 2002 award. See <http://www.bestpractices.org> then go to database search and enter GEN26 to access the entire database. Hard copy details of the scheme in English are provided free from The DIABP Board of Trustees, P.O.Box 67, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, or e-mail info@dm.gov.ae to ask for copies.

It would be good to get CAP schemes nominated for these prestigious international awards. If you want CAP to put forward a scheme that you have been working with, please check out the details and requirements of the award.

DIARY DATES

CAP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002

Please note that invoices for next year's subscriptions will be sent out to CAP members in January 2002.

JAMAICA INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

The Jamaica Institute of Planners invites you to its Quarterly Professional Development Seminar on "Whither Urban and Regional Planning in Jamaica" which is being held on January 9, 2002 at 5.30pm. Please contact jiplanners@yahoo.com if you would like more information.

PLANNING AFRICA CONFERENCE

18 – 20 September 2002

International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban, South Africa

For details contact Christine Platt. Her email is: plattcf@mweb.co.za

RTPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10-12 June 2002

Manchester. "Making Planning Work – Hard Choices about Growth".

For details see the RTPI's website – www.rtpi.org.uk.

It is intended to hold a CAP track at this event.

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

26-29 May 2002

Vancouver. Annual Conference.

For details see CIP's website – www.cip-icu.ca

LETTER

Dear Editors,

The newsletter is my main contact with CAP apart from PLANNING in which the occasional article appears.

The newsletter does contain articles and news that interests me. I particularly like the progress report on planning from around the Commonwealth. I also like the electronic delivery.

As to improvements, I would welcome more articles from practitioners about their experience of planning in different countries. I appreciate that you can only print what you receive, but how about taking one or two countries each time and inviting contributions from practitioners.

John Knight

Member of Executive Committee
RTPI North West Branch

The Newsletter welcomes letters from readers. These should be sent to Annette O'Donnell.

The Next CAP Newsletter will be published in April 2002. All copy for inclusion should be sent to Annette O'Donnell by March 15 2002. Please keep sending us your news and articles. THANKS!