

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

Issue No 6

July 2002

CAP Opens Door to New Members

CAP has created a new membership structure that will remove barriers preventing planners in small Commonwealth countries from joining. A new category of "Affiliate Member" will be open to organisations from Commonwealth Countries where no national professional planning body exists. This change was agreed at the CAP Business Meeting in Manchester in June. It addresses the situation in many Commonwealth countries where there are few planners and no formal national professional body.

Affiliate membership will also be open to organisations in Commonwealth countries involved in planning education and research. This will pave the way for planning schools to sign up to CAP and provide their students and staff with copies of CAP News and access CAP events. Branches or Chapters of larger planning institutes will also be able to join as affiliates and have their own representation within CAP.

CAP President Cliff Hague described the changes to the Constitution as "the most radical overhaul of CAP since it was formed in 1971". A substantial list of changes were prepared and proposed by the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners, and the vast majority of them were accepted. Christine Toppin-Allahar, a planner with a legal background, worked with other members in Trinidad and Tobago to put together the constitutional amendments.

Cliff Hague paid tribute to their hard work: "The changes were skilfully drafted. They make things more clear and more secure, while also providing flexibility. Constitutions may not set pulses racing, but they are essential infrastructure for an efficient and accountable organisation, which CAP now is."

Full coverage of CAP's Manchester Conference is inside this issue of CAP News.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 CAP Opens Door to New Members
- 2 President's Piece
- 2 Manchester Conference Special
- 7 Earth Summit News
- 8 Help Needed
- 8 Other News
- 9 Getting Together
- 11 News from Planning Schools
- 12 Conferences
- 14 Special Supplement – The Commonwealth Lecture

CAP acknowledges the assistance of the Commonwealth Foundation whose Core Grant helped to support the production of this Newsletter.

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President's Piece

Cliff Hague

This issue of CAP News comes out between two major events. The CAP Conference and Business Meeting were held in Manchester in June, and the Earth Summit begins in Johannesburg in late August.

Putting on a Conference and Business Meeting only 8 months after the previous one in Gold Coast City, Queensland, was a major effort, especially on the part of Annette O'Donnell, CAP's Administrator. Budgeting, organising speakers, supporting the travel and accommodation needs of delegates from all around the globe, and generally handling all the paperwork is a huge undertaking. Quite simply, without Annette's hard work the event could not have happened.

What did happen was immensely worthwhile. The talent, commitment and solidarity amongst the CAP delegates from many nations was again an inspiration. The Business Meeting took important decisions. Equally important, a set of properly and professionally audited accounts were presented and approved. Any CAP member who wants a copy of these accounts should contact Annette at CAP's Edinburgh office, and they will be sent one. The presentation of audited accounts is fundamental to good governance and proper accountability. In the past CAP was seriously weakened by not being audited. Those problems are now behind us.

The new Constitution agreed in Manchester requires a Conference of Delegates to be held at intervals of no longer than two years. The Malaysian Institute of Planners has kindly offered to host the next such Conference in 2004, and this offer has been accepted. Importantly this will also allow us to use the rest of 2002 and all of 2003 for regional events, aimed at directly involving more people in CAP and establishing active regional networks and activities.

The Earth Summit begins in Johannesburg at the end of August. Expectations are already somewhat muted, not least because of the unwillingness of the USA to sign up to the agreements reached in Kyoto, and the failure of the G8 meeting in Canada to adequately address the needs of Africa. It will be deeply disappointing and disturbing if the governments of the world fail the test in Johannesburg. Respect for the environment and a commitment to narrowing the gap between the haves and have-nots should not be optional extras – they are the very essence of a global community.

Governments should lead and commit their immense resources to the challenge of achieving sustainable urbanisation. However, in the end the skills and attitudes of professionals such as planners are also vitally important to achieving results on the ground. When we know the outcomes from the World Summit on Sustainable

Development, each planning organisation should audit its own policies and practices. Are we doing enough? Are we doing it well enough? What can we learn from others? What can we share with others? I hope that we can use CAP's networks to build a more sustainable and equitable planning practice.

Manchester Conference Special

CAP Changes its Constitution

Significant changes were made to CAP's aims and procedures by the Business Meeting in Manchester on 10 June. Christine Toppin-Allahar and colleagues in Trinidad and Tobago had prepared a range of proposed amendments to the constitution of CAP, aiming to modernise CAP's focus and impart clarity and accountability into the organisation. The proposals were worked through by the delegates and most of them were agreed.

The objects of CAP were updated in the light of the Habitat Agenda, to add a commitment to work for "more sustainable settlements and adequate shelter for all". Thus sustainable development and social justice are now embedded in CAP's *raison d'être*. The amended constitution makes it clear that the development of a planning service is not an end in itself, but a means to foster and focus knowledge and skills for creating "more sustainable settlements and adequate shelter for all". Similarly, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been added to the list of those organisations with which CAP seeks to collaborate. There is also now an object to promote and sustain "ethical standards" in professional conduct. Of course, words on paper do not save the planet or take the poor out of poverty. However, the amended constitution does set the vision and the challenge for the work of CAP.

Important changes were made to membership. The result is that there will now be two classes of membership. Full membership is open to "national organisations of professional planners in Commonwealth countries" and to "international organisations of individual professional planners in Commonwealth countries where no national organisation of professional planners exists". In addition there is a new class of Affiliate member that is open to: "organisations from Commonwealth countries involved in professional activities in national, regional and local planning education and research". The effect of this change is to open the way for sub-national organisations of planners to join as Affiliate members and to create a form of membership for planning schools and research institutes.

What will be the difference between Full and Affiliate members? The meeting agreed that Affiliates would have the same rights as Full members, except that they would not be eligible to be voted onto the Executive. The hope is that some organisations will want to join as Affiliates, and that this mechanism will allow CAP to reach out, to engage more people in active membership and also to increase income from subscriptions.

The situation of countries suspended from the Commonwealth was discussed. The meeting felt that planning organisations in such countries should also be suspended from membership of CAP. The view was that suspension had to be seen to mean something, and that as a Commonwealth body we should act in a way that is consistent with the thinking of the Commonwealth as a whole.

There were also important changes that clarify the names and status of delegates. It is now clear that the selection and naming of a Delegate (and "Alternate Delegate") to a CAP Business Meeting is the right and responsibility of each member organisation. This should strengthen transparency and accountability, and is consistent with the efforts that CAP has made to improve its governance procedures. A range of other amendments tighten up procedures, e.g. to facilitate proxy voting, and to ensure that membership and voting is conditional on paying subscriptions.

The roles and responsibilities of the President and Vice-Presidents have been defined. The President now carries the duties of being Chief Executive Officer and is accountable to the membership "for the orderly and proper conduct of all the affairs of the Association". Each Vice President now has an explicit responsibility to liaise with member organisations within her/his region, to be a point of contact and to convene meetings in the region. In addition a post of Secretary General has been created, with responsibility for accounts and administration. The Secretary General will be appointed by the Executive.

Important changes were made in respect of regional representation. Previously the Constitution had defined the regions as being "Africa, The Americas, Europe, SE Asia, SW Asia and SW Pacific". This was thought to be too inflexible and to restrict the capacity of CAP to reach out to all parts of these huge areas. The definition of the regions is now removed from the Constitution and instead placed in an accompanying Schedule, thus giving greater flexibility to vary the regions to match circumstances. The most immediate effect is that the meeting agreed to sub-divide Africa into three regions - Southern, East and West. Hopefully this will quickly strengthen the presence and activity of African planners in CAP. Consultations will be held with other regions to find out whether they too would wish to move towards some more disaggregated regional units.

Australia

The only disappointing note at the Manchester meeting was the notification that the Planning Institute of Australia (formerly the Royal Australian Planning Institute) had voted to withdraw from CAP. A short fax had been sent to CAP saying "The Council resolved that participation in the Commonwealth Association of Planners be discontinued. The Council resolved to investigate more regionally focused arrangements. We have appreciated our previous association and wish you well for the future."

CAP President Cliff Hague had responded with a letter expressing surprise and disappointment at this decision. He pointed out that as recently as last December RAPI had formally written describing the CAP Forum in Brisbane "a great success" and adding "We look forward to working with you in the future". The CAP meeting in Manchester agreed to write to PIA urging them to reconsider their decision.

Meanwhile the Queensland Division of RAPI, who had hosted the Brisbane meeting last October, sent a delegation to Manchester. Alicia Yon and Roger Brewster report on their visit.

Mission: Obtaining Affiliate CAP Membership for RAPI Queensland, Australia

Alicia Yon

The CAP conference and business meeting at Manchester was once again well attended by representatives from various member countries. Amongst the delegation were two town planners - Roger Brewster and Alicia Yon - representing the Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI) Queensland Division.

The RAPI delegation's attendance was armed with a mission in mind, to put forward a strong case to continue the RAPI Queensland Division's commitment to involvement in CAP following the disappointing withdrawal of the RAPI National body prior to the 2002 CAP conference. RAPI Queensland realised the value of exposure to CAP members during the very successful forum hosted on the Gold Coast in 2001 and that the flow-on effects of maintaining links with Commonwealth planners requires an ongoing presence within CAP.

Consequently, RAPI Queensland requested CAP to consider allowing the Division to join the organisation as an affiliate member. Contributions to CAP would be substantial as RAPI Queensland comprises ± 800 members, of which 400

are corporate members. The possibilities and opportunities of contributing towards international development and assisting fellow CAP member countries through planning, resources and sponsorship could be significant with such a large membership. It is hoped that by maintaining involvement with CAP through RAPI Queensland, the RAPI National office will reconsider joining CAP again in the foreseeable future in the context of the new Planning Institute of Australia.

The CAP business meeting agenda item on CAP constitutional amendments foreshadowed a change to the Constitution to allow affiliate membership. The RAPI proposal was a perfect test case for the amendment and after very supportive discussion, it was formally agreed that the amendment will include such membership.

The CAP Executive unanimously agreed to accept the proposition by RAPI Queensland Division to be eligible to join CAP as an Affiliate member with full voting rights, but no eligibility for appointment to the Executive Committee, in line with the newly amended CAP constitution.

Phase one of RAPI Queensland's mission to acquire associate membership with CAP has now been successfully accomplished. The next stage of the mission involves establishing a CAP secretariat in Queensland to continue the established networks and international camaraderie. RAPI Queensland believes that this would undoubtedly prove to be another success story due to the demonstrated dedication and enthusiasm by its members.

Watch this space for future updates on our next mission to set up an Aussie CAP secretariat!

Alicia Yon
RAPI/PIA Queensland Division

A Personal View on CAP

Roger Brewster

My involvement with CAP has only been since September 2000, when I accepted the responsibility to head the organising team for the CAP Forum at Australia's Gold Coast in October 2001. It was only at the recent business meeting discussion on the CAP Constitution that I have become acutely aware of the solid foundation the Association rests upon, and at the same time of how fragile is the network when only a few willing volunteers are dedicated to the cause of furthering its objectives and keeping the life blood of communication flowing between member institutes and individuals. Unfortunately dedication disease can so easily terminate in total burnout!

This newsletter is a vital instrument in opening up the network to many more member planners and it could become a forum for wider discussion of relevant planning concerns and opportunities confronting us. Placing the newsletter on member web sites is one way to disseminate the forum and make the CAP aims more widely known and relevant to the various institute members. A wider sense of "ownership" of CAP is important in my view to strengthening the ties between us all.

Better appreciation of the enormous challenges facing Commonwealth nations – eg on AIDS related depopulation and long term sea level change induced mass migration – at the personal level are pre-requisites to commitment to active involvement. The supportive efforts by the Canadian Institute of Planners are highly commendable – not only in the Caribbean, but even in China – and are indicative of what could be achieved by other Institutes, when personal commitment by the few is translated into a program involving the many.

The current Spiderman movie echoes these sentiments with the catch phrase "with great power comes great responsibility". The power of planning knowledge and the resources of the developed nations should be matched by the social responsibility of a commitment to action in support of our less fortunate and endowed Commonwealth planning fraternity. When CAP member institutes are motivated to change from having a "Club" attitude to adopting a "Servant" role, then the power of the CAP network will greatly increase as the life blood of a loving brotherhood flows throughout the world.

I would encourage planners in the less developed nations to air their concerns and needs in the CAP newsletter, to challenge the stronger members - and of course I include Australia and New Zealand in this group - to become proactive in CAP.

I will also be encouraging the Queensland Division of the new Planning Institute of Australia to expand its current support of East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to the other Pacific Island nations and elsewhere. We expect to set up not only a CAP Secretariat within the PIA Division, but also pursue a Centre of Planning Excellence to link with the UN Habitat initiatives in the region. Funding for these proposals will be sought from the private corporate sector as well as from government sources. An internet on-line planning information service is also being investigated with the UK based Planning Exchange Information Service as a resource for CAP members. This is a small but significant start to increasing the involvement of PIA in the regional planning fraternity – and hopefully will become more inclusive before burnout sets in!

Roger Brewster
RAPI/PIA Queensland Division

Elections and Office Holders

The following were voted into office:

President: Cliff Hague (RTPI)

Vice-President Americas: Ron Shishido (Canadian Institute of Planners)

Vice-President Europe and Secretary General: John Anderson

Vice-President East Africa: Bosire Ogero (Kenya Institute of Planners)

Vice-President South Africa: Dumiso Moyo (Zimbabwe Institute of Regional and Urban Planners (ZIRUP) – subject to discussion between ZIRUP and South African Planning Institute

Vice-President West Africa: subject to discussion with the Nigerian Institute of Planners

The election of Vice-Presidents for other regions was deferred to allow full consultations with members in those regions about their preferences for regional groupings.

CAP will continue to be administered by Annette O'Donnell and the headquarters will continue to be at 57 Melville Street, Edinburgh.

CAP Conference

CAP ran a number of workshops on 11 June, that were attended by CAP delegates and others interested in CAP's international agenda. In each case about 30 people took part in the workshop, and the quality of contributions from speakers and from members of the audience was high.

Professor Harry Dimitriou from University College London introduced the day. He worked for many years in Hong Kong and so was well qualified to speak on the theme of "Hard Choices about Growth". He gave a very perceptive analysis of often conflicting factors which have to be considered and given a relevant weighting when making planning decisions. The planning process is often more far reaching in its effects than is first apparent and this wider range of thinking outlined by Professor Dimitriou resulted in a very stimulating discussion. Interestingly, it concluded that there is no easy method of resolving certain basic conflicts although there will always be argument about priorities and usually the thought process behind this is difficult to analyse, often local pressures are paramount and detailed analysis becomes confused.

Buddley Ronnie was the delegate who travelled furthest to get to Manchester. His journey from the Solomon Isles had crossed several time zones, but he was still able to give an excellent presentation on the work that planners are doing there. The Solomon Isles are six large islands and about 300

small ones. There are 30 planning staff, but it has not been possible for any of them to progress to a full professional qualification.

Buddley addressed the theme of good governance and explained how planners were working with rural residents to promote bottom-up involvement in plan-making. This prompted a lively discussion, with the audience drawing on experience right across the Commonwealth and beyond it. We heard, for example, how difficult, even inappropriate it was to seek to build a participatory kind of practice in Laos, a country where there was no real tradition of civil society. There were also some wry comments from British planners who recognised from their own practice many of the problems that delegates from Uganda and Zimbabwe narrated about the practice of participation.

This session provoked a lively discussion about the capacity of strong states and top-down planning to achieve significant levels of development. The theme was taken up in a later workshop by Khairiah Talha from Malaysia. She described the way that Malaysia had developed from an agricultural base through processing industries and other manufacturing to its current position as a highly developed global society. Planning of major infrastructure had played a crucial part in creating development and enhancing living standards. Malaysia's multi-ethnic society had been integrated and focused on development in the national interest, with very successful results.

All the CAP workshops were interactive and many members contributed their ideas and experience. This was especially true of the session on Women in Planning. It was opened by Esther Breitenbach from the UK's Cabinet Office who outlined the way that gender issues were being addressed through mainstream policies of the government. Then Dory Reeves from the RTPI and Sola Olufemi, Co-ordinator of CAP's Women in Planning Network did an exercise in which the audience was invited to identify actions that CAP's Network could take. This brainstorming session produced a number of good ideas that will be followed up, as CAP attempts to give the gender issue higher profile in its activities.

The situation of planning in Cyprus, one of the many small island states in the Commonwealth, was covered by Anna Caramondani. Cyprus is one of a number of countries hoping to join the EU soon, and Anna's talk explained the ways that the EU is beginning to influence planning in Cyprus. Accession to the EU means that legislation must be brought in line with EU norms on matters like environmental protection, for example. Thus the Environment Law published in Cyprus in 2001 requires an Environmental Impact Assessment for major development projects. One of her key conclusions is that currently Cyprus lacks the research and data to address local conditions properly.

CAP Flies the Flag

CAP displayed the flags from its many members at the meeting in Manchester. This was much appreciated by those attending the main RTPI Conference, as it brought colour and an international flavour to the event. Pride of place went to CAP's very own flag which was displayed for the first time. The green and white flag has the CAP name and logo on it and is sufficiently large for these to be legible. Thanks are due to CAP Secretary General John Anderson for finding a flag maker and managing the project. The aim now is to have the CAP flag on display at all CAP supported events.



Alicia Yon (Australia), Roger Brewster (Australia)
Cliff Hague, President CAP

Earth Summit News

The Road to Johannesburg

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will begin in Johannesburg on 26 August and run until 4 September. Sites to visit are www.johannesburgsummit.org and www.earthsummit2002.org. As with all Summits the actual meeting is the final piece in a jigsaw that has been pieced together over a long preparatory period. This means that we pretty much know already the likely shape of the outputs that will follow. In general the Non-Governmental Organisations are rather frustrated and despondent about what seems likely to happen. The fourth and final "PrepCom" (i.e. Preparatory Committee which drafts the text that the main event will then work through) was held in Bali a few weeks ago. The result was that over 70% of the text has been agreed, but of course, the really important bits are those that have not been agreed and that deal with commitments to action.

It looks like the need for sustainable development will be reiterated (not surprisingly!) by the governments of the world. The key questions are what real difference this will make. There are likely to be timetabled goals and targets and an emphasis on monitoring and indicators. The issue of poverty in the developing world will have a central place in the discussions, and to this end five key issues have been identified by Kofi Annan and adopted - water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. The challenge now is to create practical actions that make real progress on these issues in a sustainable way. Much will depend on the willingness of the USA to endorse new targets and to commit resources.

It is important that planners think through the contribution that good planning can make to creating sustainable and equitable approaches in these priority issues. These are areas where planners need to work alongside low income communities and other professionals to develop and implement new and practical solutions. The origins of planning were closely linked to the public health movement, but in many countries that link has withered. The need to plan for healthy cities - with sustainable transport and safe pedestrian routes, for example, is the kind of connection that planners can make. Above all the message from planners should be about the need to plan and integrate actions, instead of acting in a narrow single-sector way. Without integration there will not be sustainability.

The Global Alliance for Building Sustainability

CAP will be at the Earth Summit as a member of the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability (GABS). This is a broad coalition mainly made up of professional associations that is being co-ordinated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Foundation. As reported in the last Newsletter, this seemed to be the most effective means for representing CAP at the Summit.

The Summit will agree a number of government to government or pan-government action, which in the jargon of the UN are called "Type 1". However there are also Type 2 Actions, involving other partners, and GABS is in the process of being accepted by the UN as a Type 2 partnership. GABS will address the sustainable development agenda within land, property, construction and development. At the time of writing over 20 organisations and professional bodies are committed to the GABS event, and discussions are on-going with another 20.

GABS will be formally launched in Johannesburg at a meeting on 29 and 30 August. However the focus of the event has been shifted from that originally intended, which was reported in our last issue. Advice from the UN has been to move from a conference to a workshop that will operate by invitation to Presidents and Chief Executives of the member organisations. The aim then is to work on a plan for future partnership and action, and thereby to draw GABS more closely into the UN process. To this end the event will be attended by Dr. Klaus Töpfer, who is Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme and Under Secretary General of the UN, Dr. Allen White (Chief Executive of the Global Reporting Initiative) and government representatives from a number of countries. Thereafter GABS plans a series of events around the world.

CAP will be represented by Cliff Hague as President and CEO. We are also pressing for the inclusion of a project from Zimbabwe as a good practice illustration, but at the time of writing this has still to be confirmed. The next Newsletter will carry reports from the Summit and further news on GABS. Meanwhile the RICS Foundation has just produced a report *Red Man, Green Man* that is about performance indicators for urban sustainability. For details see <http://www.rics-foundation.org>.

Surveyors' Seminar in Pretoria

Another event linked to the WSSD is a 2 day conference organised by the Commonwealth Association of Surveyors and Land Economists. The theme is "The Commonwealth's Values and Assets", and the meeting will be held at the University of Pretoria. The programme covers:

- The Habitat Agenda, security of land tenure and its role in poverty alleviation;
- Information sources for sustainable development;
- Planning and design (Cliff Hague is one of the speakers in this session);
- Construction and international contracting;
- Management of resources and assets;
- Surveying education and training.

For details fax Susan Spedding on +44 - 117-975-0440 or contact her at sspedding@rics.org.uk.

There is also a chance for readers under 40 to enter an essay competition. The title of papers is to be "Initiatives for Sustainable Development". The winner gets to present the paper at the Pretoria meeting. The competition is open to planners and others involved in the field of land and the built environment. For full details see the notice at the back of this newsletter.

Without wishing to encourage plagiarism, those interested in sustainable development might want to look at a new booklet produced by the European Council of Town Planners. It is called "Try it This Way – Sustainable Development at the Local Level Checklist". It can be viewed online at <http://www.ceuctp.org/en1/discuss/index.html>.

Help Needed

Solomon Islands Seeks Surplus Books

The Solomon Islands suffered almost two years of civil war. Part of the reconstruction is the newly renovated National Library, which is being run by an NGO called the Grassroots Network for Good Governance. They have approach CAP with a request for surplus publications of all kinds, some of which they will also distribute around the 56 public schools throughout the country. CAP itself does not have a stock of publications, but it may be that readers or their organisations will have items that they could donate. The address to send these to is:

Grassroots Network for Good Governance
P.O. Box 113
Honiara
Solomon Islands

Their reference number for CAP is 024260

Kenyan Academic Seeks Base for Sabbatical

Dr Abraham Ndung'u from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at Kenyatta University in Nairobi is searching for an organisation or institution that could host him during a period of sabbatical leave next year. He would need a paid position. His PhD was in Citizen Participation and was awarded by Tongji University, China's leading planning school. He has been a Lecturer at Kenyatta University since 1996 and also has consultancy experience mainly in the area of community-based projects/programmes linked to the environment and poverty alleviation. He can be contacted at andungu2@yahoo.com.

Other News

The Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy Announces Two New Publications

Built Environment Professionals and the Habitat Agenda

This is the report from research into the range and type of information generally available on projects undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa and India, which appear to satisfy some sustainable development criteria, and aspects of the Habitat Agenda. The work was initiated by the President of CASLE, Professor Alan Spedding of the University of West of England (UWE) and was supported by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Foundation, UWE, and CASLE.

The research sought out reports and case studies of projects which appeared to have utilised generic skills of built environment professionals*, with a view to encouraging the wider application of such skills in sustainable development projects in future. The research, which was planned as a pilot study, was approached from the point of view of an individual wishing to know more about what has been done

elsewhere, and explores the main sources of information generally available in early 2002.

The report will be presented at WSSD in Johannesburg in August, and at the CASLE seminar 'The Commonwealth's values and assets' at the University of Pretoria on September 2. It is also to be made available on the RICS Foundation website.

*The term 'Built environment professions' (BEPs) covers the professions of Architecture, Civil Engineering Surveying, and Town and Country Planning.

An Introduction to Building Maintenance Management

CASLE is updating some of its manuals which have previously been used as a basis for continuing education seminars for professionals, and which have also been shown to be useful for education purposes in colleges. At an international workshop in New Delhi, organised by the Institution of Surveyors, India and CASLE Asia region, Professor Alan Spedding, who was reporting on his consultancy work in Hong Kong and India, was asked to write a new manual on building maintenance management.

The manual discusses the significance of maintenance in relation to the national stock of built assets, and strategic property planning. It introduces terminology, concepts of component life and life cycle costing, noting typical problems of maintaining the building stock. The essentials of a budgetary and financial control system are related to coding and the use of computers, the process of undertaking condition surveys for non-housing stock is described, and an outline of procurement of maintenance work is given. A section on the application of some of these processes in relation to housing stock is contributed by Duncan Marshall, a specialist at the University of the West of England.

Hard copies of the above, price £7.50 inc. postage, are available from the CASLE office, c/o Faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England, Bristol BS16 1QY. Email: ah.spedding@uew.ac.uk

GETTING TOGETHER

Experienced Volunteers Offer Planning Advice

Robin Thompson

An outsider's opinion is usually valuable. Sometimes it can offer a different way of looking at a planning problem – one that might not be obvious to local planners who are "close" to the issues. Sometimes there are simply not enough resources or expertise around to tackle the enormous scale of the problems faced by many Commonwealth countries. BESO (British Executive Service Overseas) exists to support developing countries in need of the expert advice of very experienced Volunteers. It has undertaken 7,000 assignments in its 30 years of existence. This has included work in the fields of planning, urban design, regional development, environmental management and transport. BESO has done a great deal of work in Commonwealth countries and it can offer valuable assistance in the planning field. I set out here my own recent experience as an example of what BESO can offer.

Earlier this year I spent three and a half weeks with two other BESO Volunteers in the city of Zhenjiang in eastern China at the invitation of the local authority. Our hosts paid for flights, meals and accommodation, but our services were provided free. We were very conscious that we were giving advice in a different culture to our own, and doing so in a relatively condensed time period. Nevertheless three professionals, each with over 30 years experience across the fields of planning, design and transport, were able to offer the city their advice.

Zhenjiang faces a formidable challenge. Like many cities around the eastern seaboard of China, it faces enormous pressures of urbanization. A city of nearly 700,000 people, Zhenjiang is likely to double in size in the next 20-30 years. Our brief was to draw up a strategy for this period and beyond. We worked closely with the local planners and spent intensive time meeting local politicians and decision-makers and looking at issues on the ground. At the end we presented some radical recommendations that certainly introduced new thinking about the city's future.

For example, Zhenjiang is on the mighty Yangtse River, but like many Chinese cities has turned its back on the water. The local authority has approval to create a large lake into the river as a water control and environmental measure. We proposed that large scale housing, commercial and leisure development should be built around the new infrastructure forming the lake, so that the city is re-united with the river, maximum use is made of this wonderful natural asset and much needed development land is exploited. This was a pleasing example of outside advice building upon an excellent local initiative.

Similarly, the city will have a station on the high speed Beijing to Shanghai railway, which is currently being planned. The intention was to construct a parkway station south of the city. We suggested that the line should come into the central railway station instead. This would provide a major boost to inner city regeneration. We also recommended that the city should continue its linear form of development and that this should be integrated with the introduction of a rapid transit system. This would help to mitigate the potentially destructive effects of the inevitable expansion of car usage. One of our team had many years' experience in installing rapid transit systems and was able to give the most knowledgeable of advice.

Another benefit of the linear model of expansion is that Zhenjiang has, as a complement to the Yangtse in the north, beautiful countryside immediately to the south. We were concerned that this environment and agricultural heritage should not be eroded. Indeed we saw Zhenjiang's future as a "green city" able to offer an alternative to the major metropolitan areas of Shanghai and Nanjing that lie to its east and west.

Some of our proposals may be accepted by the city and some may not. This is, of course for them to decide. We remained very sensitive to the differences in culture, politics and the like and did our best to ensure that our recommendations were realistic and took into account their context. Indeed, one of our contributions was to indicate where planning has gone wrong in Britain and Europe and what lessons our hosts might learn from this. I should add that we, too, learnt a lot.

BESO tailors its assignments to the specific needs of the hosts. It draws from a selected list of highly experienced professionals. The visits can range from two weeks to three months and, exceptionally, longer. The range of services is substantial. I note that in recent months, for example, advice has been given, amongst others, on furniture making in St. Vincent, crop production in Ethiopia, mother and child healthcare in Romania, tax audit training in Grenada and museum advice in Guatemala.

Robin Thompson

The BESO website is www.beso.org. Readers from developing countries in the Commonwealth potentially interested in seeking BESO's help should contact BESO itself or get in touch with me on email: robin.thompson@aol.com.

The Establishment of a Planning Aid Service for Victoria, Australia

Bonnie Rosen

In May this year, the Planning Institute of Australia held a meeting with the Victorian Planning Minister to discuss the establishment of a state wide Planning Aid Service. The State of Victoria, which boasts a highly diversified economy, also has a substantial migrant population and a large proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Planning professionals and politicians have noted that if certain communities are marginalised, the benefits derived from a multi-cultural population and varied skills base cannot be used to full advantage.

National and international experience has highlighted the role that a Planning Aid Service can play in redressing inequalities resulting from a complex planning system which inadvertently precludes a large sector of the community from participating fully in the planning process. The availability of independent professional advice to all sectors of the community minimises difficulties caused by the use of planning jargon, language barriers, lack of adequate information and a general lack of awareness of the opportunity to play an active and positive role in the planning process.

In addition to the empowerment of communities, Planning Aid is intended to support and complement other Planning Institute initiatives such as planner education and promoting the planning profession. Through positive and constructive involvement in the planning process, the community forms a more positive attitude to planning, an indirect benefit of which is more young people likely to be attracted to planning as a career.

Following from this discussion, the Institute proposes to initiate the preparation of a detailed feasibility study into the funding, management and operation of a Planning Aid service. This feasibility study will draw on the experiences of the previous pro bono planning advisory service that operated in Melbourne during the late 70's and 80's, and Planning Aid services currently operating in other States in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This review will result in a series of recommendations that will guide the establishment of an operational model based on the specifics of the Victorian planning system and the needs of the local community.

Bonnie Rosen

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Team Leader, Planning Aid and Planning Education
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News from Planning Schools

Regenerating Valletta: UCL Postgraduate Project May 2002

Jon Talbot

Every year students from the MSc Course in Building and Urban Design in Development from University College London (UCL) undertake a three week project abroad designed to assist a community to achieve a better planned environment. Many such projects have taken place giving course director Babar Mumtaz unrivalled experience of not only undertaking educational projects of this nature but delivering a form of planning aid to communities around the world. In most cases, the client is a community group but for this year's project, the client was the city of Valletta in Malta. Despite being a World Heritage site, the city has fallen into a steep decline in the last forty years and is in need of regeneration. My own involvement began following a meeting organised by the RTPI and CAP on International Planning Aid that was held at UCL. We both presented papers and then I sort of tagged along on the trip.

Malta has a highly developed planning system, closely modelled on that in the UK but it has relatively little experience of regeneration. It simply has not experienced the process of de industrialisation, which has been the trigger for so much regeneration practice in the UK. Similarly, until the last decade, little value has been placed upon architectural heritage and so conservation planning is also relatively undeveloped. The challenge in this case was to apply the collective wisdom and experience of the students and their tutors to provide the basis for a strategy to regenerate Valletta.

Valletta was laid out after the Knights of St John repelled Turkish invaders from the island in 1565. The Pope and the crowned heads of Europe were grateful for Suleyman's defeat, so the Knights were not short of funds to build their city, which was largely complete by 1570. Over the next century or so the city was remodelled in a more relaxed Baroque style and the city as it appears today is largely the product of that rebuilding. It is magnificently located on a peninsula about a kilometre long by about 600 metres wide with extensive views of the sea on all sides. Unusually for a city of its time, it is laid out on a grid, has a cathedral and twenty-four churches, other public and private buildings for the Knights and many substantial private residences. Despite heavy bombing in 1941 and a policy of building social housing in the last 30 years, it is remarkably well preserved. It remains the political and administrative centre of Malta but it is no longer the commercial and intellectual capital. The University of Malta moved away in the 1960s and today many large offices are located elsewhere, as increasingly, are major new retail outlets. The greatest

decline has been in the physical condition of the buildings-approximately a third are unoccupied and two-thirds in a poor state of repair. Many of the properties are rented out but rents have been frozen since 1939, giving landlords little incentive to invest. With such low rents you might imagine that people flock to live there but a baroque city, unadapted for the motor car, with flatted accommodation, simply fails to meet the needs and aspirations of contemporary Maltese. Valletta has therefore experienced major population decline, the 9,000 or so living there representing half of the number in the 1960s.

Malta is a small country and highly politicised with an MP for every 6,000 people. The presentation of the results of the Project to the Mayor was swiftly followed by a presentation to the Minister for Home Affairs. As might be expected, most of the proposals were not wholly original but the project did have the effect of linking together a number of issues which had been considered only in isolation previously and the main proposals - the creation of a single agency/revolving fund were well nigh identical to suggestions by Sir Peter Hall, made a few months previously. The similarity with Peter Hall's proposals were not known until the final night when we saw them in the Minister's office.

As with all such projects, the learning process went both ways. Our hosts and newly acquired friends undoubtedly learned some new ideas and were able to make fresh connections between issues. The students all learned a lot and I learned, not just about the intricacies of revolving funds but a lot about Mannerism and Roccoco, as well as harmonic proportion. Anyone who has seen the Cathedral of St Johns may believe it to be a simple building but its proportions are extremely sophisticated. So a successful trip for all concerned.

John Talbot

Conferences

International Cities and Town Centres Conference

“Visions into Reality – Creating Liveable Cities”
18 – 21 August 2002
Caloundra Cultural Centre, Caloundra, Queensland
www.caloundra.qld.gov.au/ictc

2003 Adelaide Planning Congress

The 2003 Congress of the Planning Institute of Australia will be held in Adelaide from 31 March – 2 April. Details of key speakers and the Call for Papers (Abstracts by August) can be found at
www.planning.sa.gov.au/congress

Earth Summit

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
26 August – 4 September Johannesburg
<http://www.worldsummit2002.org>

Planning Africa Conference

The KwaZulu – Natal Branch of the South African Planning Institution has undertaken to convene a major international planning conference, the “Planning Africa Conference”, at the International Convention Centre in Durban, from 17 – 20 September 2002.

E – Mail Vivienne@precisionconferences.co.za
Website www.saplanners.org.za

CASLE Seminar with Workshops

“The Commonwealth’s Values and Assets”
2 and 3 September 2002 (also serving as a side event to the World Summit on Sustainable Development)
University of Pretoria

2002 CASLE Lecture Prize

Invitation to compete for the 2002 CASLE Lecture Prize

Competition open to undergraduates, graduates, post graduates and young professionals.

The Title of submitted papers is to be:
Initiatives for Sustainable Development

The winner will be required to present the paper at the CASLE seminar on Monday 2 September 2002 at the University of Pretoria.

This competition is open to those involved in surveying, land economy, planning, architecture, construction and related aspects. Entrants must be under 40 years of age as at 2.9.02.

The value of the prize is R1500. It is sponsored by The Aubrey Barker Fund which was set up in 1972 in memory of the first CASLE president-elect who played a leading role in the establishment of the Association.

Any paper submitted must be an original work that has not been previously published. It must be in English, using 12pt typeface with clear margins of 25mm (top and sides) and 30mm (bottom) of each page. The length is to be not more than 4,000 words or more than 10 A4 pages inclusive of illustrations and diagrams. Papers may be submitted either in electronic format or as hard copy.

Personal data about the author should be provided, and certified by a head of a college or university department or by an employer, at the time of submission. Selection of the successful paper will be made by a small committee appointed by CASLE.

Closing Date for Entries

To Be Received No Later Than 10 August 2002

*At the CASLE office addressed to
Mrs S Spedding, Room 3Q70, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England,
Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QY or sent by email to
sspedding@rics.org.uk*

CAP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2002

Invoices for this year's subscriptions were sent out in January. Thank you to all the CAP members who have paid their subscriptions.

Reminder to everyone who has not yet paid

CAP needs your support. Please pay your subscriptions so as soon as possible.

Please note that the copy date for the next issue will be 30 September 2002. Please send in your News items, articles, book reviews, letters etc. and also give us your email address to ensure direct delivery of the Newsletter.

Special Supplement

The Commonwealth Lecture 2002 (Thursday 6 June 2002) Text of Lecture by Mary Robinson United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human Rights in the Shadow of 11 September

Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last week we watched a simple, poignant ceremony at Ground Zero in New York. The completion of the physical clear up after the outrage of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center was marked by the removal of the last piece of steel draped in a black cloth. For those relatives who had no body to bury it was intended to provide a form of closure, a ceremony seeking to help in the painful healing process.

It is time, also, to take stock of the impact of those attacks and their aftermath on human rights. Writing last February, Michael Ignatieff put it starkly: "The question after September 11 is whether the era of human rights has come and gone."

Not gone, is my response, but we are challenged in new ways to respond to profound concerns over human security in our world today. My own sense is that there is an enormous responsibility to uphold rigorously international human rights standards, recognising that they, too, are the object of terrorist attacks. At the same time, I believe there must be more commitment to the implementation of those standards in practice through strong support for human rights capacity-building at national level.

I was very pleased, therefore, to accept the invitation of the Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, and the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Colin Ball, to give this fifth Commonwealth Lecture. It is an opportunity I value, to bring my own thoughts together and to benefit from your comments, reactions and questions.

The Commonwealth is committed to developing solidarity between the peoples of developed and developing states through economic, social, cultural and humanitarian co-operation. It is committed to conflict resolution on the basis of shared values and principles of human rights and democracy as laid out in the Harare Declaration. Continuing membership is dependent on acceptance of those values and principles. Those whose membership is withdrawn or temporarily suspended, are actively encouraged to come

back in. It is literally an organisation in which common values and common principles are promoted for the commonwealth or the common good.

My office works closely with you on national capacity-building in some of the smallest and poorest member countries in the Caribbean, the South Pacific and Southern Africa. I have some other suggestions for co-operation to which I will return. And I should add that I have a similar wish for continued practical co-operation with La Francophonie!

The theme of my lecture is straightforward. We, meaning "We the Peoples of the United Nations", must renew, in the aftermath of 11 September, our belief in the vision of the founders set out in the Charter of 1945. The vision is of a world in which the scourge of war and terrorism is banished and in which universal peace is achieved through our collective commitment to the purposes of the Charter.

Those purposes can be summarised as four: international peace and security, economic and social development, the promotion and protection of human rights, and strengthening the rule of international law. No alternative model of world order has emerged to supersede that of the UN Charter. Indeed its principles were reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration of September 2000, at the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

We need no reminding today of the urgency of implementing these interconnected ideals and goals, as two Commonwealth members India and Pakistan stand poised for open conflict, or if we think of the continuing conflict in the Middle East or, less often referred to, the devastating conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo involving six other African countries and in which it is estimated over 3 million people have been killed since 1990. Such complex and deadly disputes divert vital resources and attention from development, and cause immense human suffering and violation of human rights.

A crime against humanity

Language is vital in shaping our reaction to a critical event. The words we use to characterise the event may determine the nature of the response. In the immediate aftermath of 11 September, I described the attacks on the World Trade Center as constituting a crime against humanity. It is worth recalling why that description is appropriate. First of all, the 11 September attacks were mainly aimed at civilians. They were ruthlessly planned and their execution timed to achieve the greatest loss of life. Their scale and systematic nature qualify them as crimes against humanity within existing international jurisprudence.

There are other characteristics of the attacks that should be noted. They were carried out by individuals, not by the security forces of any state. The attacks were as I have said, aimed primarily at civilians, but they were aimed also at the open democratic society that is the United States. Their purpose was to destabilise the society through terrorising its people, a purpose that thankfully was not achieved. Those who carried out the attacks were non-nationals and in that sense what occurred was international. Although at the international level agreement has not yet been reached on a precise definition, the attacks made by members of Al-Qa'eda undoubtedly fall within any conceivable definition of terrorism.

There is a duty on the entire world community of states to find and punish those who plan and facilitate such crimes. One positive institutional development we should note is the coming into force of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is the first instrument to codify the elements of a crime against humanity. It establishes individual criminal responsibility for such crimes whether these are state sanctioned or the acts of groups. The universal ratification of the Statute is an important goal for the world community. Seventeen Commonwealth states have ratified and 21 more have signed the International Criminal Court Statute. I join the call made by the Commonwealth Heads of Government for all member states to ratify. We must equip ourselves with the means to deal with crimes such as those of 11 September in the future.

International co-operation and resolve are vital in combating those who plan acts of terrorism. The United Nations Security Council has taken important steps in this direction. In Resolution 1373 of 28 September, it imposed a new international legal obligation on states to co-operate against terrorism, taking language from existing international conventions. All states are required to take a wide range of legislative, procedural, economic and other measures on preventing, prohibiting and criminalising terrorist acts. These measures are designed to deny space, money, support and haven to terrorists, to establish a network of information-sharing and co-operative action, and to end the impunity of perpetrators of terrorist acts. As you will know, the Commonwealth leaders issued a statement pledging support for the implementation by its members of Resolution 1373 on 25 October last.

The Security Council noted with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organised crime, such as illicit drugs, money laundering, illegal arms trafficking and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials. These criminal activities also include illegal trade in precious metals and minerals, in people smuggling and trafficking in women and children. Criminal networks prey on weak states and their activities induce conflict, corruption and misery in many developed and developing countries. They bring out a human rights challenge that has yet to be

fully faced, that of accountability of the non-state actor. Confronting and defeating these threats will require deeper and more sustained international co-operation.

To oversee implementation of Resolution 1373, a Counter-Terrorism Committee, chaired by UK Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock, was established. As of the beginning of May, 144 states had reported to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the actions they have taken. This month states will begin a second round of reporting to the Committee on their ongoing efforts to implement the resolution.

The war against terrorism

Despite efforts to frame the response to terrorism within the framework of crimes under national and international law, an alternative language has emerged post-11 September. That language, which has shaped to a much larger extent the response at all levels, has spoken of a war on terrorism. As such, it has brought a subtle change in emphasis in many parts of the world; order and security have become the overriding priorities. In the past, the world has learned that emphasis on national order and security often involved curtailment of democracy and human rights. As a result a shadow has been cast.

This shadow can be seen in official reactions that at times have seemed to subordinate the principles of human rights to other more 'robust' action in the war against terrorism. There has been a tendency to ride roughshod over – or at least to set on one side – established principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. There has been confusion on what is and what is not subject to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. There have been suggestions that the terrorist acts of 11 September and their aftermath in the conflict in Afghanistan demonstrated that the Geneva Conventions were out of date.

Evidence has been gathered by human rights NGOs, most recently by Amnesty International's Report 2002, that post-11 September, certain non-violent activities have been considered as terrorism in some countries and excessive measures have been taken to suppress or restrict individual rights including privacy rights, fair trial, political participation, freedom of expression and peaceful association. Regulations controlling surveillance are being lifted and the right to asylum is being severely restricted.

NGOs have been consistent in asserting that human rights are not in opposition to security but, on the contrary, one of its aspects. They have reminded states that there is no logic in discarding the very values that – in principle – they are fighting to ensure. Yet, our Office is flooded with calls from human rights defenders around the world, drawing attention to new restrictions and oppressive measures.

It is essential that the actions taken by states to combat terrorism be in conformity with international human rights standards. This duty was powerfully expressed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his statement to the Security Council on 18 January this year.

“We should all be clear that there is no trade-off between effective action against terrorism and the protection of human rights. On the contrary, I believe that in the long term we shall find that human rights, along with democracy and social justice, are one of the best prophylactics against terrorism. ...while we certainly need vigilance to prevent acts of terrorism, and firmness in condemning and punishing them, it will be self-defeating if we sacrifice other key priorities – such as human rights in the process”.

Strong statements in support of this view were also heard at this year’s session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. But there were troubling signs as well. The Commission chose not to take specific action or undertake any new initiatives to monitor the impact of anti-terrorism measures on human rights. Currently, there is no international institution with a clear mandate to assess whether measures taken and justified by a state as necessary to combat terrorism are in violation of human rights standards which that state has accepted, or which would require that a derogation be made. The Counter-Terrorism Committee does not believe this to be part of its mandate.

My office has been consulting with regional human rights organisations such as the Council of Europe, the ODIHR Unit of the OSCE, the OAS and the OAU to share information and enhance our capacity to monitor the human rights dimensions of actions taken to combat terrorism. We also encourage UN human rights mechanisms such as Special Rapporteurs to deal vigorously with the issues that fall within their mandates.

In August of last year, the Human Rights Committee, which monitors state compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted its General Comment 29 on Article 4, on derogations and human rights in states of emergency. The Committee marked the boundaries between legitimate balancing of rights and security, and impermissible or excessive limitation of rights. It offers very useful guidance in the current context.

Although abuses of emergency powers occurred before 11 September, they were clearly criticised as impermissible measures. The great concern now is that where mature democracies blur the lines or set a bad example, undemocratic regimes consider they are given a green light to pursue repressive policies, secure in the belief that any excesses will be ignored. It thus becomes more difficult to secure conformity with basic standards and safeguards against abuse of power.

These very standards were set in place to respond to brutal conflicts and violations of human rights. Hard work over fifty years by states, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organisations, has developed a sophisticated system comprising human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law with which to curb abuses of power. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that these normative frameworks are not only implemented, but linked closely so that they support each other.

It is of particular concern that the post-11 September environment is reinforcing a fortress mentality within Europe. As controls are tightened, there is a coarsening of debate and of language used in speaking of asylum seekers and immigrants in Europe. This, together with the resurgence of anti-Semitism and the rise of Islamophobia, are challenges which must be faced by European leaders and citizens alike.

The declaration and action agenda from last year’s Durban World Conference against Racism affirmed that human diversity must be recognised as an asset not a liability; that xenophobia must be rejected in all its forms; and that in a world which hopes to reap the benefits of globalisation, a commitment to multicultural societies must be embraced.

Building comprehensive human security

If the immediate challenge for the human rights movement is to maintain the integrity of international human rights and humanitarian law norms in the light of heightened security tensions, there is also a long term agenda. That is to build a world of true human security. One positive result of the tragedy of 11 September should be that we gear ourselves to respond to the call of the UN Secretary-General when he urges us to make this century the age of prevention, rather than reaction.

It is important that there be more recognition of the links between development, human rights and democracy, and their necessary connection to security. The very real security fears of New Yorkers and others in the developed world are matched by the different – but equally immediate – insecurity of persons in the developing world. The 1994 UN Human Development Report reminded us that “human security is not a concern with weapons – it is a concern with human life and dignity”, and it identified seven specific human security components – economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

This approach not only gives security a human face and puts the emphasis back on the protection of individual human beings – it also supports the principle of the indivisibility of rights. Furthermore, it underlies the original vision of the UN Charter, powerfully and influentially restated in the 1997 Carnegie Commission Report ‘Preventing Deadly Conflict’. Its basic conclusion is that conflict, human rights violations, underdevelopment and poverty cannot be

decoupled. Security requires a comprehensive strategy that seeks to address root causes. Violent conflict is best prevented, as the Report notes:

“by creating capable states with representative governance based on the rule of law, with widely available economic opportunity, social safety nets, protection of fundamental human rights, and robust civil societies”.

Another recent authoritative study on the point – the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, titled ‘The Responsibility to Protect’, reminds us of the

“growing and widespread recognition that armed conflicts cannot be understood without reference to such root causes as poverty, political repression, and uneven distribution of resources. ‘Every step taken towards reducing poverty and achieving broad-based economic growth’, the Secretary-General has stated in his recent report, ‘is a step toward conflict prevention’. Preventive strategies must therefore work ‘to promote human rights, to protect minority rights and to institute political arrangements in which all groups are represented’. Ignoring these underlying factors amounts to addressing the symptoms rather than the causes of deadly conflict”. (Paragraph 3.18)

The need for practical capacity-building implied by this approach spans the full range of human rights concerns – from civil liberties and democratic institution-building, to action on concerns such as environmental degradation, poverty, underdevelopment, and infectious disease.

We are witnessing real breakthroughs in some of these areas: in the funding necessary to combat HIV/AIDS, and in increased funds to meet the millennium goals on education and health, stimulated by the welcome involvement of the private sector. A similar approach is needed in capacity-building to strengthen the administration of justice, rule of law and adherence to human rights standards in developing countries. The best antidotes to extremism are the right to freedom of expression and opinion and an independent media.

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative report of last year on Human Rights and Poverty Eradication, provides a range of practical measures to instil a human rights based approach in poverty eradication efforts. I strongly commend them and urge member states to implement them.

The Commonwealth, with its large African membership, has an important role to play in working with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, the Africa owned and led regional economic and social plan of action. That role was recognised at the Heads of Government Meeting in

Australia when all Commonwealth institutions were called upon to assist with implementation. For the United Nations, too, NEPAD presents a concrete opportunity to contribute. The goals of NEPAD are in large part those agreed in the Millennium Declaration.

The implementation of NEPAD provides an historic opportunity for African states and peoples to reinforce the protection and promotion of human rights, making this a fundamental principle for sustainable development, human security, social justice, and adherence to good governance and the rule of law.

Our Office is discussing with the NEPAD Secretariat a partnership role. We hope to assist in resource mobilisation, and project sponsorship. We also seek a role in implementation work: on democracy and good governance, rule of law, human rights, poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS and peace and security. We would be keen to involve the Commonwealth in this partnership in appropriate countries.

Concluding remarks

In conclusion, I want to reiterate that despite worrying challenges, we have the possibility of positive change. I believe there is an opportunity to develop a new and deeper realisation of the links between human rights, democracy and development in our world, and to move from the rhetoric of prevention to real action.

We now understand in a more profound way that no nation can isolate or exclude itself from the effects of global problems of endemic poverty and conflict. In essence, the tragedy of 11 September must spur renewed action on all these fronts. Deprivation and denial of rights in the world can no longer be viewed simply as holding a moral claim on us all – they must now be seen as crucial battlefields for the security of all. If it is to succeed in its goal of ensuring greater human security, combating terror must also be a war on disadvantage, discrimination and despair.

There has been much debate on the physical form of a memorial to the victims of 11 September, who died when an outrageous attack was made on their lives and on the values of an open and democratic state. There is perhaps no more fitting memorial, no more lasting testament to those who lost their lives, than for world leaders to commit to the implementation of a broader vision of security through justice and equality.

To take inspiration from the words of Seamus Heaney, we have the opportunity, coming out of this terrible shadow, to make good on the vision of the founding fathers of the United Nations.

*“Once in a lifetime”, writes Heaney,
“the longed-for tidal wave
of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.”*