

# CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

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## NEWS

### Queensland Launches International Planning Aid

The Planning Institute of Australia, Queensland Division, is developing an exciting range of initiatives in International Planning Aid. These are aimed at working with and assisting East Timor and Commonwealth nations in the Pacific. They will focus especially on developing regional initiatives for small island developing states targeted by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the UN Conference on Financing for development and the South Pacific Forum.

Roger Brewster was appointed CAP Representative by the planners in Queensland and will act as Director of International Planning Aid on behalf of the Division. Roger's commitment to CAP's outreach and development work was the key factor in the very successful meeting that CAP had on Queensland Gold Coast in 2001. He told CAP News, "This is a challenging responsibility and I am grateful to be supported in the CAP Secretariat here by volunteers Chris Buckley, Professor Phil Heywood, Noel Grummitt and Alicia Yon. (Continued on page 2)

*"There is an urgent need for planning education in the Commonwealth to be more contextually responsive at the same time that it draws strength from its historical roots. Any system of international accreditation for Planning Schools should recognise and support the evolving nature of planning in a post-colonial Commonwealth."*

**This issue includes a special feature on Education and Training, led by a major article by Professor Phil Harrison on International Accreditation of Planning Education and Qualifications. (See page 5)**

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Initially the objectives of Queensland's initiative are to:

- Develop contacts with Commonwealth planners in the Asia/Pacific region and other areas, to identify planning assistance needs and opportunities.
- Conduct a CAP Regional Forum in conjunction with the Queensland Division Conference in late 2003.
- Encourage planners of Pacific nations to join the PIA, NZPI or other professional bodies where appropriate.
- Establish a Directorate of International Planning Aid, possibly in co-operation with New Zealand Planning Institute to:
  - continue support of East Timor, PNG and the Solomon Islands;
  - extend assistance to the other Pacific Island nations and elsewhere.
- Liaise with the CAP on joint initiatives, such as the Women in Planning Network being promoted by Olusola Olufemi and assisted by Alicia Yon.
- Establish an Internet based planning information service similar to the UK based Planning Exchange Information Service as a resource for planners in the region.
- Facilitate planners and graduates to work and/or provide voluntary assistance in short and longer term overseas projects, on invitation from the recipient nations.
- Seek AusAID NGO accreditation for the PIA to obtain recurring planning aid funding.
- Pursue access to appropriate funding sources for international planning aid from the corporate sector as well as from government sources such as AusAID and international funding agencies.

"The CAP Regional Forum will be the highlight of the first year of action," says Roger. "We hope to attract planners from the Asia-Pacific region to Brisbane in late October-November to find out their needs and learn from them." Roger also recognises the risks that lie ahead. "Our objectives are fairly ambitious and we need to pace ourselves to prevent volunteer burnout" he says, "However we have a strong team and the fuel of enthusiasm to drive us forward."

## **Two New Projects Planned for the Caribbean**

The Americas Section of CAP has worked up two ideas for two new projects that could have major benefits for the lives of some of the poorest people in Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean. One is for a Disaster Management training programme, and the other is for District Planning Capacity Building. These seek to build on and extend work done at the Regional Workshop held in Trinidad in November 2002 (see CAP News 8).

The Caribbean is vulnerable to a range of natural hazards – hurricanes, flooding, landslips and seismic activity. Often the major victims are very poor people living in areas that are most at risk. The proposed project would provide a training programme for planners in Disaster Management. This CAP initiative is being spearheaded by the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners and the University of the West Indies. A formal approach has been made to the Caribbean Development Bank for support for the programme.

The second proposal is for a capacity-building project that will focus on building planning skills for work at a community level. This would be an action-project based on East Port of Spain, an area where there is already some experience of working with communities in planning and regeneration. The proposal has been submitted to the Canadian International Development Agency. The partners in this case are the same as in the Disaster Management initiative, but they are joined by the Ministry of Planning of the Government of Trinidad and also the City of Port of Spain.

## **East African Meeting**

As this edition of CAP News was being prepared a 3-day meeting was being held in Nairobi to build the new East African region of CAP. Bosire Ogero, CAP's Vice-President for East Africa had succeeded in bringing together the Presidents of the Uganda Institute of Planners and the Tanzanian Association of Town Planners as well as the Kenyan Institute of Planners. The meeting was expected to attract about 60 participants. Speakers included the Honourable Amos Kimunya, who is Kenya's Minister of Lands and Settlement, and a representative of the UK's Department for International Development.

The aim of the meeting was to prepare an action plan promoting capacity-building and pro-poor planning in the region. There will be a report in the next issue of CAP News.

## **Canadian Planners Invited To Play Key Role In Habitat 2006**

The UN summit on settlements held in Istanbul in 1996 led to the adoption of the Habitat Agenda and led the way in forging new partnerships between governments and NGOs. It raised global awareness of just how important urbanisation is to the sustainable development agenda. In 2006 the next World Urban Forum will be held in Vancouver, and it promises again to bring together the nations of the world to reflect on what has been learned, what works and what needs to be done.

The Canadian Institute of Planners has been invited by the Canadian government to be involved in the planning of this major event. This is excellent news, not only because it means that planners' voices will be heard where it matters, but also because CIP have been excellent in their support of CAP, and so CAP too has a link into this process. CIP are holding some important preliminary international meetings at their conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the start of July, at which CAP will be represented. CAP will need to plan its activities over the next 3 years to focus on Vancouver 2006. Our next business meeting in Malaysia in 2004 now becomes an important stepping stone towards the 2006 event in Vancouver. Watch for updates in the next issues of CAP News.

## **African Planning Association Begins to Build**

The African Planning Association, formed with CAP support at the Planning Africa Congress in Durban last year (see CAP News 8), has been formally endorsed by UN Habitat and admitted as a member of the UN Habitat Professional Forum. Christine Platt, who as President of the South African Planning Institute was a key figure in developing the vision of an African Planning Institute, attended a professional Forum Steering Committee in Copenhagen back in December. She told CAP News "The member countries of the APA have been asked to start playing a role as members of the Forum". One of the first things the APA has done is co-ordinated some comments and inputs to drafts of papers that were ultimately presented at the Habitat Council meeting in Nairobi in May. (Bosire Ogero's report on the Nairobi meeting, and the APA comments are published in a later section of this issue of CAP News.)

## **Jim Amos (1924 – 2003)**

CAP was saddened to hear of the death on 23 May of Jim Amos. Jim was arguably the leading British planner of his generation. He worked in Harlow New Town (1951-53) and then in the London County Council during a period when it was at the forefront of planning in Britain. He was the City Planning Officer of Liverpool 1966-73 and then Chief Executive of Birmingham. He moved out of local government in 1977 and became increasingly active as an advisor to governments and local authorities in developing countries. He was particularly fond of India and did valuable work in Bombay. He was a member of RTPI Council from 1964 until his death, and was a high profile reforming President in 1971-2.

## **Nobel Prize For Sustainable Development?**

Boris van der Ham, a Member of Parliament in The Netherlands, is campaigning for there to be a Nobel Prize for Sustainable Development. So far individuals and organisations from over 85 countries have signed the initiative. These include WWF International, The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, former Ministers, and many members of Parliament.

The signatories to the campaign state: "In our view one of the most important conditions to guarantee the quality of life is sustainable development meaning: a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. According to a widely accepted approach this means:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources;
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment"

The petition goes on to quote the Johannesburg declaration: "The rapid integration of markets, mobility of capital and significant increases in investment flows around the world have opened new challenges and opportunities for the pursuit of sustainable development. But the benefits and costs of globalisation are unevenly distributed, with developing countries facing special difficulties in meeting this challenge"

You can give your support by signing the petition on [www.sustainable-prize.net](http://www.sustainable-prize.net).

## **Cyprus – A Love-Hate Relationship With Planning**

People in Cyprus, one of the Commonwealth countries in the Mediterranean, love and hate planning, says George Phedonos, a leading planning consultant on the island. "Some see it as an instrument that restricts their laissez-faire life styles, or their ambitions for speculation, but most are thankful for planning because it has curbed development excesses." Cyprus is a major venue for tourism and has seen substantial levels of tourist related development over the last generation, posing significant challenges to the island's small planning community.

"Everyone admits that the planning legislation needs drastic revision" says Mr. Phedonos. There is huge pressure for development of holiday and second homes to meet the demands of people from the European continent who seek Cyprus' sunshine. "At times these developments seem to threaten every wooded hill, valley and, of course, the coastal areas," he adds. Revision of the legislation is expected to begin later this year.

Currently about 80% of Cypriots live in areas covered by statutory Local Plans. Revised Local Plans for the main urban areas of Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos and Polis were published in March. These are the third 5-year reviews of previous plans, and largely follow similar policies. Significantly though they have strengthened policies restricting scattered residential development. The rest of the island not covered by local plans has Countryside Policies and Zonings that many consider quite restrictive.

Local Plans for Paralimni and Ayia Napa, the 'must be there' venue for the global nightclub generation, are expected to be published towards the end of 2002. Perhaps "Have you seen the Ayia Napa Draft Local Plan?" will be the chat-up line on the dance floor in the coming weeks.

### **On The Move (1)**

Congratulations to Sharon Robinson, formerly of the Commonwealth Foundation, who has been appointed to the position of Civil Society Liaison Officer, a position co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation. Sharon was immensely helpful to CAP when we were getting on our feet, and gave lots of supportive advice. Her new job involves facilitating closer cooperation between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation and their work with civil society. Sharon will be responsible for project activities currently shared by Comsec and the Foundation such as meetings and communications with civil society, arrangements for civil society participation in ministerial meetings and CHOGM, so we will make sure we keep in touch with her!

She will also be responsible for implementing the new civil society accreditation mechanisms (to be announced soon, and something CAP will be following up) and continue to be responsible for processing Commonwealth Foundation grants to pan-Commonwealth organisations. She will be based in the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

### **On The Move (2)**

Graham Smith, who was working with Scott Wilson Malawi as the Project Leader for the DANIDA funded Urban Environmental Management Project has taken up a new post. He is now the Project Manager for the Mtwara Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), funded by the South African Department of Trade and Industry with assistance from the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The Mtwara SDI, or the Mtwara Development Corridor (MtDC) as it is also known, is a trans-national project. It is framed by a political agreement between four of the poorest countries in central and east Africa, namely Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. The broad geographic focus of the SDI

includes southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique, northern Malawi and north-eastern Zambia.

An SDI is a short, sharp program of strategic activities, with specific milestones and activities, aimed at the development of plans to facilitate investment led growth. It represents a new form of trans-national strategic planning that is strongly orientated to growth and generating economic opportunities. The office for the project is based in Dar-es-Salaam.

## **International Urban Planning Organisation**

The International Urban Planning Organisation (IUPO) is inviting planners to join its global planning society. It aims to create a barrier free global platform for planners. It can be reached at [www.iupo.org](http://www.iupo.org). IUPO msn group is completely free, for experience sharing, planning problem discussion and planners chat about different aspects. This can be accessed on <http://groups.msn.com/InternationalUrbanPlanningOrganization>.

## **Institute of Sri Lanka Elections**

The Institute of Sri Lanka held its Annual General Meeting on 29 March 2003. The following Office Bearers and Members of the Council were elected for the year 2003/2004.

### **Office Bearers**

Mr W.A. Siriwardena, President  
Mr K.D. Fernando, President Elect  
Mr J.M.L. Jayasekera, Immediate Past President  
Mr K.A. Jayarathne, Vice President  
Mr D. Daluwatta, Secretary  
Mr A.F. Shuhaib, Asst. Secretary  
Mr H.P. Susiiripaala, Treasurer  
Mr Lalith Mirihagalle, Asst. Treasurer

### **Council Members**

Mr L.H. Indrasiri  
Ms Nirmala Herath  
Mr H.M. Dayananda  
Ms P.S. Attygalle  
Mr B.M.J. Piyal Silva  
Mr L.D. Dickman  
Mr S.L.F. Wijayapala  
Mr Hemantha K. Jayasundara

## President's Piece

This edition gives particular emphasis to planning education, accreditation and training. While most CAP members and most CAP News readers are practising planners, this is not an issue directed at a 'niche market' of academics and students. Education is crucial to sustaining and enhancing the planning profession and to changing the culture of planning across the Commonwealth.

From a Commonwealth perspective we need planning education to:

- Attract a new generation into planning, with a better balance in terms of gender, ethnicity and country of origin than was the case in the last generation;
- Develop knowledge, skills and professional ethics amongst those entering the profession;
- Provide critical insights and new knowledge, skills and understanding into planning practice;
- Sustain a process of life long learning and professional updates;
- Assist in the dissemination of knowledge and skills from planning to other related professions and disciplines; and, last but not least
- Be a resource for empowering community organisations and politicians through helping them to learn about planning.

The distribution of the planning education infrastructure of the Commonwealth is skewed towards the richer countries, and to those students able to afford full-time education. It is situated in the universities locked in libraries, classrooms and studios. It is built on the past, rather than engaged with the future. It has sought to erect walls around the discipline of planning rather than build stepladders to help others enter. What is exciting about the Commonwealth as a multi-cultural global community rooted in civil society is that its diversity is corrosive of all monopolies – including those of professions and universities. CAP now needs to find ways to insert and foster networks that transcend territories and professional exclusiveness, and connect in new ways – North and South, practitioner and researcher, planner and water engineer, university and NGO.

The Newsletter, CAP Papers and the rest of the web-site provide a very basic but very accessible resource. They are the first building block. As this issue makes clear we now need to look at ways to develop international systems of accreditation and to provide support to Schools that are going through a development process. Much more can be done if we can mobilise CAP members to think Commonwealth and think education. There are huge assets that already exist in planning education across the Commonwealth, but so far they have not seen CAP as a means to help them to achieve their aims. As we begin to

work on education in the run-up to the 2004 CAP conference in Kuala Lumpur that is something we need to change.

## Education and Training

### **Towards the International Accreditation of Education in Planning**

*Professor Philip Harrison*

*Chair of Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*

One of the gaps in planning education is the lack of an effective global system of evaluation and accreditation. We are lagging behind fields such as engineering where considerable progress is being made in this regard. There are many reasons why international accreditation is desirable. Firstly, international accreditation, with its process of continuous self-assessment and peer evaluation, would promote an improvement in planning education in places where there is no adequate national system for this purpose. Secondly, international accreditation would facilitate the global movement of professionals (and students) by providing some form of quality assurance to employers or clients of graduates from planning schools across a national boundary. Thirdly, many university planning schools (my own included) need to demonstrate the international standing and recognition of their education to attract students who are increasingly concerned with the transferability of their degrees.

*There is a need for a far wider multi-lateral agreement for the mutual recognition of educational and training processes, and the registration of planning professionals.*

Cross-border accreditation and recognition in the Commonwealth is currently limited to the agreements between the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and professional bodies in countries including Canada and Australia. There is a need for a far wider multi-lateral agreement for the mutual recognition of educational and training processes, and the registration of planning professionals.

#### **Two Models**

In broad terms, there are two models of international accreditation. First, a nationally based institute or association may extend recognition to planners and planning schools outside its boundaries. In the case of planning there are only three professional bodies of this nature that are sufficiently large to be of major significance in this regard, namely the American Planning Association (APA), the

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). Within particular regions of the world smaller professional bodies, including those in South Africa, Canada and Australia, might extend recognition to planning schools and planners in neighbouring countries. Recognition by prestigious bodies such as the RTPI is still eagerly sought after, although there are clear problems with this form of bi-lateral recognition, including a perceived continuance of the core-periphery relationships associated with colonialism, and a (perhaps subtle) influence to bias planning education towards the concerns of countries of the North.

A second model is for an international agency to take responsibility for an accreditation process. In planning there is no body that is truly global in reach but there are organisations that extend regionally or multi-regionally, such as the Commonwealth Association of Planners. The idea has been floated before that CAP might take a lead in developing some form of international accreditation (on its own or in association with various regional bodies).

#### **How might international accreditation work?**

Other professions are operating international accreditation. The way they do it is that an international accrediting board/council is set up by a professional association, or through a partnership of professional associations and educational bodies. The accreditation model for planning in the USA might provide a model for an international equivalent. Here a Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) has been set up as a co-operative undertaking jointly sponsored by three organisations: the APA, the AICP, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). The recent formation of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) - with membership from regional associations in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Australasia and East Asia - may assist in providing an institutional network to support global accreditation.

However, whilst the multi-lateral partnership model, sketched above, may be more appropriate than the first model under ideal circumstances, there is a serious practical consideration - the large national bodies such as the RTPI have a long track record in evaluation and accreditation and have far greater coherence and resources than international bodies which are extremely difficult to manage and co-ordinate, and tend to be loose federations of diverse associations with little wherewithal at the 'centre'.

There is a model that lies somewhere between the two. Starting perhaps in the Commonwealth, where there is a level of commonality in terms of history and language, a Commonwealth Accreditation Board (CAB?) could be set up as a partnership between the RTPI, CAP, other national associations (e.g. in Australia, South Africa, Canada, India), and the regional associations of planning schools that operate within the area of the Commonwealth. This board

could establish the standards for accreditation, and respond to voluntary requests for accreditation by organising processes of self-evaluation and visits to the schools.

The involvement of both an internationally networked body such as CAP and a well-resourced association of planners such as the RTPI is likely to be critical to the success of such a venture. The RTPI's *New Vision for Planning* and its Education Commission Report provides some clues as to the direction the RTPI may take in terms of its international relations. The *New Vision* sets a positive tone by referring to the establishment of new associations of interest with other countries. The Education Commission has acknowledged that planning is a 'globalising profession' and that routes need to be established that would allow professional planners qualifying outside the UK to become members of the RTPI. The mechanism envisaged by the Education Commission to move such planners into RTPI membership was outlined in Section 7.80 of the report:

*7.80 We think that the RTPI should advocate and recognise 'conversion' courses offered by universities or other providers which would be based around the same key elements –*

*\* The applicant should be a member of a constituent member of either ECTP or CAP, or a member of AICP.*

*\* The conversion could should comprise two modules - (a) an understanding of spatial planning and (b) local law and practice*

*\* The candidate should undertake two years structured work experience, but starting from their acceptance onto the course.*

*\* They should be subject to the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) like other practitioners.*

Although further clarification is required, this recommendation does offer individuals an entry into the RTPI, and does provide some form of recognition to education outside the UK (although the recognition is given to courses not Schools). However, there are limitations in terms of international accreditation. The proposal represents recognition of courses (not Schools) by the British institute rather than providing for the multi-lateral recognition and accreditation of planning schools on a truly international basis. While this provision in the Education Commission Report should be welcomed, there is still a need for CAP and other agencies to take the matter further, together with the RTPI and other national institutes and associations.

#### **Barriers**

Whilst I have argued that global accreditation would be very positive for planning, there are dangers that need to be addressed. These relate primarily to the enormous inequalities in resources available to planning schools across the globe, the huge differences in context, and the fears that 'first world standards' will be applied with punitive consequences to planning schools in poorly resourced

countries. Whilst most countries in the Commonwealth have derived many of their planning laws, procedures and systems from the UK, most Commonwealth countries in the South (especially in African and the Caribbean) face challenges related to accelerated urbanisation, poverty, informality, institutional weakness, and skewed patterns of land ownership that are very different to those faced in countries such as the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. There is an urgent need for planning education in the Commonwealth to be more contextually responsive at the same time that it draws strength from its historical roots. Any system of international accreditation for Planning Schools should recognise and support the evolving nature of planning in a post-colonial Commonwealth.

The resource constraints and inequalities mean that any system of international evaluation and accreditation would have to be simple and cost effective, but also that accreditation should be accompanied by a developmental programme that would support and guide planning schools as they move towards achieving the standards required for accreditation. This support may happen in areas such as curricula development, staff training, the development of administrative procedures, and the equipping of schools with library material and computer hardware and software. CAP may well be a very useful vehicle for such a programme. Unless a system is established which twins accreditation with development, existing divides will merely be reinforced.

## RTPI Education Commission

*Cliff Hague*

*Member of RTPI Education Commission*

The RTPI's Education Commission has produced a landmark report of international significance. While both the establishment of the Commission and its outcomes were driven by British imperatives, and there has been a flurry of activity in UK planning schools in response to the report, this is a report that planners, and planning educators, throughout the Commonwealth could usefully read. The full contents can be downloaded from the RTPI's web-site ([www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)).

### **Redefining Planning**

The work of the Commission is part of the process of redefining the nature of planning and of the professional concerns of planners. The RTPI has a *New Vision for Planning*, in which "Critical thinking about space and place as the basis for action or intervention" is seen as the essence of planning. What this means, and what the Commission report states explicitly, is that there is more to planning than statutory planning practice within the UK. The RTPI is promoting the idea of 'spatial planning', and distancing the profession from words like 'town planning' that are stamped

into a world of musty town halls, ration books, ink wells and new towns, a world no 'cool' 17 year old has any desire to enter for a career. But this is more than a marketing stunt, important as marketing is. The basic point is that the welfare state, in which local councils could imagine that they were able to command through a plan, was dismantled long ago, and the on-going crises in planning stem from this. Spatial planning means building plans with other stakeholders, so as to achieve real integration in the location and inter-connection of investments, and therefore added value. Key words are sustainable, inclusive, and interactive. The RTPI defines the corporate identity of the planning profession as 'making of place, mediation of space'.

The challenge to reinterpret planning is one that other Commonwealth countries have faced and are facing, and it is perhaps significant that the section on "Identifying the disciplinary field – the notion of spatial planning" in the Commission report follows immediately from one headed "International perspective". In particular the report recognises that "in sub-Saharan Africa the role of planning is being reviewed rapidly, recognising that the need to manage processes of intense informal urbanisation cannot depend on the type of regulatory frameworks used in more developed countries" (para.4.11).

The conclusion is consistent with the stance CAP has taken in recent years: you don't have to be a government to do planning, nor do you have to have legislation to be able to plan. While the RTPI in London may still be some way short of fully embracing the informality of Africa, it is sending a very clear message to the global planning education community that you don't need to be training your students to work in British local government to achieve RTPI accreditation.

*Professions are not priesthoods – knowledge is more widely available and claims of authority are up for challenge; and disciplinary boundaries are generally more porous, knowledge sets will overlap, and it is increasingly difficult for a profession to define the uniqueness of its knowledge. Para 4.8.*

### **"Fewer barriers to entry; higher standards of qualification and achievement"**

The Commission has tried to walk a tightrope. Its whole report could be summed up in what it terms its 'general principle' - fewer barriers to entry; higher standards of qualification and achievement. In practical terms this has been translated into a number of important propositions.

- There should be three parts to planning education -
  - ❑ an understanding of what spatial planning is, and the skills which underpin it
  - ❑ an in-depth understanding of an area of specialism within spatial planning

- an assessment of professional competence, i.e. 'fitness to practice' (para.7.2)
- The RTPI should provide indicative guidance rather than prescriptive course content criteria for Schools seeking accreditation, with the emphasis shifting to the qualities required for RTPI membership, not the curriculum and length of experience. (para.7.3 and 7.4)
- Individual schools should have the freedom to develop and justify their own approaches in line with their own articulated philosophy; their definition of the learning outcomes sought; and a clear idea of 'the type of planner' that the course will help to develop. (paras. 7.5, 7.7, 7.8)
- The RTPI should continue to make it clear that the need to relate spatial planning to legal frameworks does not require a grounding in or specific reference to any of the British systems. **Accreditation from the RTPI need not and should not carry connotations of educating for practice only in Britain or Ireland. (7.10)**
- The RTPI should adopt a new scheme for 'Assessment of Professional Competence' (APC), as a form of transition between education and corporate membership. It would be mainly managed by education providers, based on a programme of two years' worth of structured experience, including a programme of lifelong learning/continuing professional development, guided by a mentor. This process of guiding graduates through their APC would be "an integral part of the RTPI accreditation procedures". (para.7.14)
- The RTPI should initiate a fundamental shift in its approach to accreditation, building on the strength of the relationships that the RTPI has developed with universities to make the accreditation process less regulatory and more constructive. (7.37)
- The basis of accreditation in future should be agreements or contracts for partnerships, involving the universities (or other forms of provider), the RTPI and representatives of employers. (7.38)

### Putting the ideas into practice

The Commission did not go into detail on many important questions, rather it sought to point the RTPI into a direction. Work is going on at present within the RTPI to work through how the changed system might operate. At the time of writing it appears that courses will be categorised into three types. These are:

- Spatial planning programmes (3 years undergraduate or one year post-graduate).
- Specialist planning programmes (one year post-graduate) – e.g. MSc in Environmental Management or in Urban Regeneration etc.

- Combined planning programmes. (4 years undergraduate or one calendar year post-graduate) – covering both spatial planning and some specialism.

All the timings are minima and would have part-time equivalents.

What this means is that there would be more flexibility at post-graduate level in particular for students to do two separate one year courses (spatial planning and specialist planning, not necessarily in that order) or to do a 12 month 'combined' programme. In effect a 'fast track' post-graduate entry has been created.

### What might it mean for international accreditation?

Could this system be the basis for the kind of international accreditation discussed by Phil Harrison in his article in this issue of CAP News? In principle the answer must be "yes", though there are many unresolved issues that would need further work. The RTPI already offers accreditation to courses outside the UK and Ireland. The University of Hong Kong has had accreditation for over a decade and the most recent accreditation visit took place after the return to China. However, there have been two main problems for other Schools in the Commonwealth who were interested in accessing RTPI accreditation. Firstly there was a feeling that the whole system was predicated on UK planning practice, with accreditation board members insufficiently experienced in other planning or university systems, and so insensitive to local needs. Secondly, the system required the non-British School seeking accreditation to meet the costs of the visit. Hong Kong could afford this – others could not.

The new system should go a long way to sorting out the first problem. Of course any School seeking accreditation would have to bend its structures and concepts to fit into the RTPI pattern. It would have to start talking about its '3-year spatial planning programme', for example, produce its 'statement of educational philosophy', and identify their 'specialism'. Help might be needed if the language games get a bit bewildering, but, if the ambition is there, these should not be insuperable. More importantly the School would have to show that the graduates had achieved a range of learning outcomes – that they can do a range of generic things a planner does. The good news is that they can be doing these things within their local context, not preparing UK style plans or looking to UK policy.

As with UK Schools there would be a 'partnership agreement' between the School and the RTPI, and a 'partnership board' (which could be made up of locals rather than UK persons) meeting at least once a year and reporting to the RTPI. The partnership board would have power to accredit new programmes. There would also be provision for courses to be accredited before a partnership is in place, but the expectation is of movement to partnership and that

operation of the APC would be undertaken by the School in the partnership.

So in principle it looks as though the system would be more flexible internationally than the previous one. While it still imposes some quite heavy demands on a School, these are generally with a developmental intent and in a spirit of partnership. The big barrier that is not removed by the Commission is the issue of costs of operating an international accreditation system.

### **What should CAP do?**

Firstly, we would like to hear from our members – especially (but not only) those in planning education. Please read the Education Commission report (the CAP office will mail copies to you if you cannot download them) and please let Annette O'Donnell know whether you think this new system would be of interest to the education providers in your country. Is it something that CAP should seek to work with – or does it carry the whiff of neo-colonialism, and should CAP look elsewhere for solutions to the problem of international accreditation?

Meantime, and without prejudice to the views that we hope will be coming in, CAP will open a dialogue with RTPI. The aim will be to clarify some of the blurred areas, and to seek assurance that the new system could operate using persons experienced in and sensitive to local situations (possibly persons based in the country, or CAP nominees) as members of accreditation boards and partnership boards. Furthermore CAP will see if anything can be done to remove the affordability barrier. Also discussion should test the idea advanced by Phil Harrison in his article, for a Commonwealth Accreditation Board, networking between the major planning accreditors, of which the RTPI is clearly one.

CAP's target is to take solid proposals about international accreditation to its next business meeting that will be held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2004. It is therefore important that we get views from Commonwealth planning schools in the months ahead.

## **Surveyors Call for Revamp of Built Environment Education to Serve Habitat Agenda**

Built environment professions have a key role to play if the world is to achieve the Habitat Agenda aim of sustainable urbanisation. However, their role is not widely recognised, and an 'information revolution' is needed to achieve physical improvements on the ground. These are the key findings from a research study recently completed by our friends in the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy.

"Habitat: the role of professionals" is based on an extensive review of available sources of support for built environment professions, and on case studies of successful projects. It found that:

- Although built environment professionals are often the principal managers of the built environment, their role in implementing the Habitat Agenda (the global plan of action for managing human settlements, agreed at the UN summit in 1996) is not widely recognised, even by many built environment professionals themselves.
- More emphasis is needed on developing new professional skills amongst built environment professionals in sub-Saharan Africa and India to complement existing ones. The new skills are in things like consultation, enabling approaches, and gender-inclusive techniques. Professional skills need to be applied in very different and challenging contexts.
- Up-dating of the education of built environment professionals is needed, with carefully targeted continuing professional development to enhance the contribution of professional practice to the Habitat Agenda.
- Much more focused information needs to be made available about the roles and skills of built environment professionals.

Some of the comments made about education are particularly appropriate to this edition of CAP News. "Criticism has been levelled at existing syllabuses in sub-Saharan Africa and India, and particularly the outdated and sometimes inappropriately Euro-centric nature of some taught material. The current education system does not adequately equip many built environment professionals in sub-Saharan Africa and India with the skills needed to meet the challenges of the Habitat Agenda."

The key skills identified for further development are:

- The ability to take generic professional or technical skills and adapt them to a variety of very different socio-economic, political, cultural, climatic and environmental contexts and respond to context-specific problems.
- Awareness that one method or technique may not be appropriate to all situations.
- The need for education, professional skills and competences to be integrated with knowledge of indigenous cultures.
- Better knowledge and application of available local materials and building techniques, and consideration of life cycles and skills to design the built environment to incorporate local cultural preferences.

- Consultation and more participatory and enabling professional practices so that community concerns are adequately accounted for and there is a sense of community ownership of projects and plans.
- More skills to tackle environmental degradation.

The report calls for “improved education at all levels of professional practice”. It notes that much work is done within the academic community but it is not disseminated in a form accessible to a professional audience. It also comments that “Existing professional organisations perform a key role in disseminating information to their members, but many are constrained by lack of resources.”

The report is available from CASLE via [sspedding@rics.org.uk](mailto:sspedding@rics.org.uk) or phone/fax +44 117 975 0440, CASLE’s web-site is [www.casle.org](http://www.casle.org). For more information on RICS Foundation research see [www.rics-foundation.org](http://www.rics-foundation.org).

## **Commonwealth Retired Academics Database to Act as ‘Matchmaker’**

The Association of Commonwealth Universities is developing a Retired Academics Database (RAD). It will be a register of academics from all around the world and covering many different disciplines and professional subjects. The ACU say “We know from our work with member universities that many institutions in developing countries find it hard to fill key posts. We also know that academics are often keen to continue working after retirement.” The intention of the scheme is to match academics to vacancies that universities have particular difficulty filling. The idea is that these will be short-term placements of between three months and two years, buying the university time to find a suitable permanent member of staff.

Participating universities will be drawn primarily from universities in Botswana, Malawi, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, the West Indies and Zimbabwe. A minimum of two years experience of teaching at a higher education institution is required to go on the database. The scheme is not confined to those who have retired, but will also accept academics at an earlier stage of their careers who are willing to take on these short-term placements. Local salaries and return airfares are paid, and some universities are likely to offer free accommodation. The project is supported by the Nuffield Foundation. For further details fax +44 20 7387 2655 or see [www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/rad](http://www.acu.ac.uk/adverts/rad) or email [rad@acu.ac.uk](mailto:rad@acu.ac.uk)

## **New Urban Management Unit in Zambia**

A new Urban Management Unit has been launched at the Copperbelt University of Zambia, which is looking for potential international partners for Capacity Building and policy development in Urban Management and the local government sector through institutional/bilateral co-operation. For more information, contact Daniel Phiri at: [DPhiri@cbu.ac.zm](mailto:DPhiri@cbu.ac.zm)

## **UN Habitat Training Project**

The UN Habitat Training and Capacity Building Branch has begun the implementation of a global project entitled: Strengthening National Training Capabilities for Better Local Governance and Urban Development Project (2002-2006), which is funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The project aims to enhance the role and contribution of local authorities and their partners in the fight against poverty and in the realisation of improved local governance and sustainable human settlements, by strengthening the response capacities of over 30 national Training and Capacity Building institutions over the next four years. For details see

<http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/tcbb/>

## **Urban and City Management Programme**

The new Urban and City Management Program offered at the World Bank Institute provides city officials with a platform with which to learn and explore in great detail key aspects of urban management. The program consists of core courses targeting city managers, local level policymakers, urban planners and directors of training institutes. The objectives are to advance their knowledge and understanding of the broad range of urban issues and to present the tools they need to plan, manage and govern their cities. See <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/urban/index.htm>

## **Teaching Disaster Reduction – The Rules of the Game**

Learning through play is something that career-hardened professionals tend to overlook, but any teacher of young children knows the value of this method of teaching. Perhaps planners can learn from the way the children learn. A board game has been produced to teach 8-12 years olds about natural hazards and disaster reduction. “Riskland” has been put together by UNICEF and the UN’s International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It aims to teach its young players about practices that can reduce the impacts of disasters but also about actions that might increase risks. It comes with a booklet of basic information about disasters.

It is available in English or Spanish – tell them which you want – from [eird@eird.org](mailto:eird@eird.org). It could be that birthday present you were looking for, or maybe the thing to make the office party go with a swing!

One website where you can learn more about planning in areas of natural hazards is the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, [www.isdr.org](http://www.isdr.org). It includes the publication Highlights that is downloadable, and 'Living at Risk' is likely to be particularly interesting for planners.

## Postgraduate Programs in Planning and Development at University of Queensland

The School of Geography, Planning and Architecture at the University of Queensland offers a suite of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the fields of planning and development oriented at, both, developed as well as developing countries. The programmes listed below have been designed and structured to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners and researchers in these fields.

Academic staff bring to these programmes highly relevant expertise on developing countries, having been involved in consultancies and research in the areas of Poverty Alleviation, Low-income Human Settlement Rehabilitation, Urban Management and Governance, Tourism Development and Planning and Integrated Natural Resources Management in several countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The **Development Planning** programme has been established in response to the growing demand for courses that address the needs of development planners, managers and administrators from developing countries to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing and globalizing environment. The programme is considered unique due to the fact that the development theories, concepts, philosophies, techniques and methods taught in the program focus on and are applied to the very situation existing in developing countries.

The postgraduate programme in **Urban and Regional Planning** includes courses in planning development, urban and regional analysis, local planning, planning law and practice, Geographic information systems and environmental management. The programme has Planning Institute of Australia accreditation.

**Regional Development** is an interdisciplinary programme spanning geography, economics, sociology, agriculture and other departments to teach the theory, techniques and policies involved in developing regions.

**Geographical Information Sciences** - A program that provides basic and advanced computing skills especially in geographical information systems software, various GIS and remote sensing operations, implementation and management of geographic information system projects and applications of GIS and remote sensing technologies to various areas.

The **Project Management** programme includes courses in generic project management and includes the ability to develop various project management specialisations. The programme has Australian Institute of Project Management accreditation up to level 6 (the highest possible) and on completion students have the ability to become Registered Project Managers.

**Environmental Management** is a multi disciplinary programme designed to enhance the skills of professional engineers and scientists working in all facets of the environment arena. It builds on the technical expertise of graduates to produce highly skilled environmental managers.

**Property Studies** includes courses in property development, finance and investment and strategic asset and facilities management. It has Australian Property Institute accreditation.

For more information contact: [office@geosp.uq.edu](mailto:office@geosp.uq.edu).

## Other Reports

### The United Nations Human Settlements Programme UN-Habitat Governing Council, 19<sup>th</sup> Session, Nairobi 5-9 May

*Bosire Ogero*

*CAP Vice President East Africa*

#### Introduction

The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council took place after all, amidst the SARS virus scare. Days before the workshop kicked off there were fears that the Kenya Government would decline hosting the event in the light of its weak preparedness and capacity to handle any negative publicity. Nonetheless the government agreed to clear the conference which kicked off on 5 May 2003 with an official opening done by the Kenya Vice President Hon Wamalwa Kijana, MP. No SARS case was reported!

This article gives highlights of discussions held at the governing council meeting and a special coverage of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) parallel event that was held in the course of the week.

## Topics Covered

I represented CAP in the five-day event, which was the first since the Commission on Human Settlements was transformed into the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The following topics were discussed: -

- Progress report of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements programme UN-Habitat.
- Report on the work of committee of permanent representatives to the UN-Habitat during the intercessional period.
- Follow-up to the special session of the UN General Assembly in 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.
- Urban development and shelter strategies in favour of the urban poor.
- The rural dimensions of sustainable urban development.
- Dialogue on effective decentralisation and strengthening of local authorities.
- Proposed work programme of the United National Human Settlements programme for the biennium 2004-2005.
- Proposed budget of the United Nations and Human Settlements Foundation for biennium 2004-2005.
- Proposed medium term plan of the United Nations Human Settlements programme for the period 2006-2009.
- Joint progress report of the executive directors of UN-Habitat and UNEP.
- Co-ordination matters: co-operation with agencies and organisations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organisations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organisations.
- Themes for the 20<sup>th</sup> and future sessions of the governing council.

## The Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS)

I participated in a parallel event that discussed issues related to the CCGHS, which was formed in May 1999 to champion issues related to the Habitat Agenda within the commonwealth. The Goal of CCGHS, also referred to as COM-Habitat is *“Demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”*.

In the meeting a report of activities undertaken by CCGHS since 1999 were outlined. It was agreed that for CCGHS to be more effective in achieving its stated goal, it has to be

reorganised. Consequently a two-tier system was agreed as follows: -

- i) A COM Habitat (CCGHS) Council, which will meet once a year to make policy and agree on strategic direction. This would comprise of the ministerial group, funding organisations, local government, CSOs, NGOs, and the private sector.
- ii) A COM Habitat (CCGHS) management. This would deal with the day-to-day management issues and support implementation of strategic direction agreed to by the COM Habitat Council. This would comprise of the programme manager supported by the following: Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), Commonwealth Secretariat (CS), Commonwealth Foundation (CF), Commonwealth Local Government Foundation (CLGF), Built Environment Professionals in the Commonwealth (BEPiC) and a representative of the chair. All these bodies would have representation in the UK and should therefore support the programme manager in implementing the CCGHS agenda and attend regular meetings.

CAP as an integral part of BEPiC should play a key role in the COM Habitat management as has been demonstrated through its recognisable previous active participation in the CHEC support group since 1999 and during the Nairobi meeting that agreed a new structure of CCGHS. It should also continue attending the annual COM Habitat council meetings.

The African Planning Association (see CAP News 8) were able to respond to an invitation to comment on the draft UN Habitat policy statements before they were discussed at Nairobi in May. Christine Platt of the South African Planning Institute and Phil Harrison from the University of Witwatersrand were able to consult, collect comments and send them in. Amongst the points they made were:

- Development agencies do not have a proper understanding of the shelter needs of the poor, and this is a cause of on-going failures.
- For participatory strategies to work there has to be a strong civil society. There are many situations where civil society is weak and fragmented and this must be understood by those engaged in development.
- Governments have an important role to play, a point too often glossed over by neo-liberal policies.
- It is very important to link shelter to livelihood and job creation.
- Statements on international actions should include debt relief and favourable terms of trade for poor countries.

For more information contact: [bosire.ogero@matrix.or.ke](mailto:bosire.ogero@matrix.or.ke) or UN-Habitat Website: [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

## Follow Up To Nairobi

*John Anderson*

*CAP Secretary General*

Zena Daysh Executive Vice Chair of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) met Bosire Ogero in Nairobi and took on board the plans for starting a national record on land tenure. She arranged a meeting with the Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon at which the following were present: -

### Kenya

- Hon Amos Kimunya Minister of Lands & Settlement
- Ms Judith Okungu Commissioner of Lands Kenya
- H E Ms Nancy Kirui Kenya High Commissioner, London
- Mr John Umah Director Dept L and HS Nairobi
- Ms Anne Kirima CASLE member, Kenya

### London

Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House

- Ms Janet Strachan Sustainable Development Officer CASLE (Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy)

- Dr Clifford Dann Non Treasurer

CHEC (Commonwealth Human Ecology Council)

- Mrs Zena Daysh Founder CHEC International and Executive Vice Chair
- Professor Ian Douglas Chair, Governing Board CHEC
- Dr David W Hall Science Co-ordinator and Editorial CAP (Commonwealth Association of Planners)
- Mr John Anderson Secretary General

CAP's connections with CHEC ensured that the debate went wider than just a review of land ownership. Development Control records were also to be included and land use – leading to the provision of new land for development and local plans/services which could even develop over national cross border sites at a later date.

Don McKinnon expressed great interest in the project and promised his backing to help in 3 pilot projects in Kenya.

This shows how CAP works co-ordinating ideas starting at regional level and obtaining through personal contacts such as CHEC and BEPIC (Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth) continuing to keep Government Ministers interested in promoting and exchanging ideas in good planning and environmental management.

Following the meeting the ministerial party departed with CASLE who were organising inspections to Geographical Information Systems in practice in Scotland and England.

## New Indian Paper on CAP Website

CAP continues to welcome contributions of papers in electronic version dealing with issues of interest to CAP members that are too long to fit into the Newsletter. We post these on the CAP website as CAP papers and they can be downloaded from there. The latest paper is by Dr. Alka Bharat from the Department of Architecture and Planning in Bhopal and Ms Chandan Chawla. Under the title of 'Urban Governance for Sustainable Development' it looks at the important changes that have been taking place in India in recent years, where planners have been part of the movement to create 'healthy cities'. While India remains largely rural it is urbanising on an almost unimaginable scale – with an urban population that already reaches 285 million. It also has three of the world's largest cities – Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta – and it is the cities that provide the backbone for the economic growth that India has been able to achieve.

The paper sees a need for 're-engineering' as a goal of good urban governance, and for improved local governance that 'reinvents a city as an inclusive city' through 'inclusive decision-making'. Under legislation from 1993, more emphasis was given to community participation as part of strengthened and decentralised local government. The paper ends by a call for grassroots involvement as a way towards sustainable development.

## Conferences

### CAP Conference 2004

#### Revised Dates

In the previous issue of the Newsletter we advised that the 2004 CAP Conference would be hosted jointly by Malaysia and Singapore at the beginning of June 2004. Please note that the date for this has now been brought forward to April 2004. Further details will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

### Conferences General

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Network for Housing Research (APNHR) Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

CONFERENCE: 1 – 5 July 2003

Venue: University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

CALL FOR PAPERS

For more information email: [sen\\_razali@um.edu.my](mailto:sen_razali@um.edu.my)

## **Canadian Institute of Planners**

The Canadian Institute of Planners Annual Conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia 6 – 9 July 2003.

## **2003 International Healthy Cities Conference**

The Power of Local Action: 2003 International Healthy Cities Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK 19-22 October 2003.

The call of abstracts and more information on the Conference can be found on the website ([www.healthycitiesbelfast2003.com](http://www.healthycitiesbelfast2003.com))

## **Queensland Division of the Planning Institute of Australia**

The State conference will be held on 29-31 October 2003. For further information, contact Roger Brewster (email: [info@landplanaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@landplanaustralia.com.au))

## **National Planning Aid Conference**

The 2003 National Planning Aid Conference will take place on Monday 10 November at the Banqueting Suite, the Council House, Birmingham, UK. Lord Rooker has agreed to be the keynote speaker.

Further details will be circulated in due course.

## **Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE)**

‘Alleviation of Poverty; the role of surveyors, land economists and related professions’

CASLE is holding a Seminar followed by a CASLE General Meeting 21 – 25 April 2004 at Danbury Park Conference Centre, The Polytechnic University of East Anglia, Chelmsford, Essex UK.

For further information, contact Susan Spedding (email: [sspedding@rics.org.uk](mailto:sspedding@rics.org.uk))

## **International Housing Conference**

Adequate and Affordable Housing For All  
Research, Policy, Practice

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto is hosting the International Housing Conference at the Campus of the University of Toronto 26-29 June 2004.

To receive further information about the conference, email: [housing.conference@toronto.ca](mailto:housing.conference@toronto.ca)

## **Membership**

There are now 2 classes of membership.

- (a) Full membership of the Association is open to: -
- (i) national organisations of professional planners in Commonwealth countries; and
  - (ii) international organisations of individual professional planners in Commonwealth countries where no national organisation of professional planners exists.
- (b) Affiliate membership of the Association is open to: -
- (i) organisations from Commonwealth countries involved in professional activities in national, regional and local planning; and
  - (ii) organisations from Commonwealth countries involved in planning education and research.

For further information contact:

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## CAP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2003

**Reminder to all members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2003. Your subscriptions are now overdue and should be paid immediately.**

**Please note that under the new Constitution your continued membership of CAP may be at risk if your subscriptions remain unpaid.**

The copy date for the next issue is 1 September 2003.

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.

### Preliminary Notification

The next CAP business meeting will be held in Malaysia in April 2004, by kind invitation of the Malaysian Institute of Planners. Under the constitution any notices of changes to the constitution need to be sent to Annette O'Donnell three months before the meeting.