

CAP NEWS

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Newsletter Editors: Cliff Hague and Annette O'Donnell

Secretariat

c/o Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland, 57 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HL, United Kingdom
Tel +44 131 226 1959 Fax +44 131 226 1909 E-mail annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

PRESIDENT'S PIECE – Cliff Hague

In a short space of time we need to establish CAP as a forceful voice for planners within the Commonwealth. CAP needs to deliver real benefits to its member organisations. These are the imperatives that must drive my period as your President.

I do not underestimate the difficulties of trying to operate a global organisation that largely runs on the voluntary efforts of its members. It is a daunting task, but a challenge that CAP must now meet. Despite a lot of good intentions, CAP had a low profile through the 1990's. I believe that now needs to change, and that with the support of the new secretariat and of the member organisations we can change it.

We need to change CAP for two reasons. First there is the global significance of urbanisation; second is the need to support member organisations and the planners who belong to them.

The world's cities are increasing in population by over 60M a year. The UN is predicting that between now and 2025, the world's urban population will double, and that 6 out of every 10 inhabitants of the planet will be city dwellers. The growth rates of some of the Commonwealth's mega cities are the highest in the world - the UN predicts that Dacca will grow from 7.8M in 1995 to 18.9M in 2015; Lahore from 5M to 10.7M; Karachi from 9.8M to 20.6M, Bombay from 15M to 27.3M; Lagos from 10.2M to 24.4M. The numbing scale of these figures mean that it is easy to forget that the growth rates in the smaller and medium sized urban settlements are often greater still, and that in African countries in particular GDP per capita and life expectancy has fallen.

Governments and aid agencies were slow to appreciate the significance of the urban dimension to change. Quite simply, if poverty alleviation and the Habitat II target of adequate shelter for all are to be achieved, then we have to find effective means of urban management. Knowledge networks are vital. CAP can help through promoting dialogues and exchange of experience - within global regions, between planners and other professions, planners and communities and between North and South. The Commonwealth links North and South, and the issue of sustainable urban development is one which binds the rich and poor countries together.

I believe that professional planners have an important role to play, but that they need to rethink the scope and nature of their practice. Rapid urbanisation has rendered obsolete the techniques, policies and instruments of much traditional town planning. Planners have been slow to recognise the imperatives of poverty alleviation, community empowerment, and to create opportunities for women in development. Nor has planning practice been sufficiently involved in the knowledge economy and informed by research. CAP by itself cannot deliver a transformation, but it should be a focus for ideas, innovations and mutual learning.

I believe that CAP also needs to reach out through its member organisations to benefit and involve individual planners. In the twenty first century the starting point has to be a web-site, which allows individual members who can access the internet to keep in touch with what CAP is doing. I hope that we can also trigger active groups of members with shared interests to meet regionally and/or to contact each other in cyberspace. To start this process we are setting up a Women in Planning network, details of which are given in this Newsletter. Small islands has been suggested as an other for interchanges between CAP members. I am also keen to develop a Commonwealth Planning Schools Network, within which we might develop partnerships and exchanges between “twinned” schools. I hope that we can make this operational at the World Planning Schools Congress in Shanghai in July 2001.

Not everything can be done at once, and I appeal to all member organisations to be patient and supportive. We have to set priorities. We have to get in subscriptions and to set budgets before we can operate effectively. The RTPI has shown its support by taking on the administration of CAP. We are also grateful to the UK’s Department for International Development for the assistance they gave to bring planners from CAP countries to the conference in Belfast. For my own part, I am honoured to have been elected President of CAP, and I promise to do my best to lead CAP to new levels of activity.

NEW CAP PRESIDENT

Professor Cliff Hague was elected CAP President in June 2000. For those of you who don’t know Cliff, he was RTPI President in 1996 and is well known to RTPI members for his monthly column in *Planning*. He is Professor in the School of Planning and Housing at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Between 1992 and 1994 he did three spells of teaching at the planning school at the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore. He represented the RTPI at the Habitat II conference in Istanbul and has been a CAP Vice-President since 1996. In 1995 he gave the keynote address at a major conference in South Africa concerned with adapting the planning profession after the end of apartheid. He has also visited planners and planning schools in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore. He is also well known in Europe, and was recently awarded a commemorative medal by the Technical University of Brno as part of that University’s centenary celebrations. He is Series Editor for the new RTPI Library Series of books that are being published by Taylor and Francis.

NEW CHALLENGES FOR TOWN PLANNERS IN AFRICA

Although the principles and techniques of town planning may be universal it is important to note that challenges in Africa do, to a significant degree differ from those of the developed world. For example although most large cities throughout the world are faced with problems of pollution, housing, traffic congestion, public transport and urban governance and management, these problems are more deeply rooted in Africa.

But why are these problems deeply rooted in Africa? Among a long list of reasons the following come to mind:

- **Poverty** is deep rooted in African hence the majority of the urban population cannot afford the cost of basic infrastructure services.
- Despite the AIDS problem, **population growth** in Africa far exceeds real economic growth; hence the African population is getting poorer.
- Planning in Africa has over a long period of time been characterised by **first world solutions to third world cities**. There is growing **need to adapt** the principles and practice of town planning to attack the unique African problem.
- There has been more planning in Africa than the **benefits** obtained from such planning leading to certain institutions questioning the **legitimacy of planning**.
- Economic, Social, Political and Environmental **trends have changed** at a much faster rate than planning practice perceives.
- The Planning **mindset** in Africa is at crossroads with the REAL African needs hence the need to train town planners to handle the African crisis.
- **Urban Governance** structures in Africa have in general not appreciated the role of the Planning profession to society. In Africa, Planning is fast being identified to being “the problem” rather than the solution.
- In some instances, **corruption** and political pressures have taken the lead in determining “planning” decisions.
- In Africa the planning profession is **not accountable** for planning decisions.
- African problems far exceed the **resources** required to solve the problems hence Africa is in a trap together with the available planning tools and techniques.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive at all but is the start of the debate to the uniqueness of the regional and urban planning problems in Africa. I am inviting contributions on this topic either through this Newsletter or sent to me through e-mail at dumisom@oldmutual.co.zw

Dumiso Moyo
CAP Vice-President (East and Southern Africa)

CAP IN BELFAST

Planning for sustainable development in urban communities was the theme of the CAP one day conference in Belfast in June. The event was supported by the UK's Department for International Development, which made it possible to bring together over 20 people from some of the poorer countries within the Commonwealth to share experiences and to discuss best practice. The conference was run in partnership with Homeless International, the first time that CAP had collaborated with an organisation involved in the issue of Homelessness.

Ruth McLeod, director of Homeless International, stressed the importance of planners working with and listening to the homeless and other marginalised groups. Then Anna Muller from Namibia Housing Action Group and Fransicka Geises from Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia explained how homeless groups in South Africa had been able to tackle their housing problems by developing savings schemes and co-operating in self-build projects. Anna explained how a network had developed between groups in India and South Africa who had then shared ideas and approaches.

Tony Gibson ran a "Planning for Real" exercise. This involves creating informal discussions amongst members of communities about problems and actions needed for their area. The details of this are described in more detail elsewhere in this Newsletter.

During the conference there was substantial discussion about how planners should address the issue of informal settlements. In south west Asia the view seemed to be that they could make an essential contribution to tackling housing problems and planners needed to be sensitive to the needs and capabilities of the residents. However, it is clear that in Malaysia and Singapore, there is a more traditional "planned" approach to housing provision in which governments play a more directive role.

Cliff Hague had opened the day by welcoming the increasing recognition of the importance of the urban agenda. He referred to the "*Strategy for meeting the urban challenge: inclusive development for poor people*" recently produced by the UK's Department for International Development. The priorities this identifies are:

- Increasing the levels of security of tenure for poor people, which is seen as a pre-requisite to getting them to invest in improving their own shelter and services.
- Increasing the level of participation by the poor in decision-making.
- Increasing the capacity of urban local authorities and municipalities so that they can better manage urban environments to the benefit of all, but especially the poor.

These issues are highly relevant to planners and CAP needs to focus upon them.

Cliff Hague

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Martin Drake and **Robert Taylor** attended the CAP business meeting after the conference in Belfast. Martin was representing the South African Planning Institute and the South African Council of Chartered Town and Regional Planners. Robert was not formally representing an organisation. They give their impressions of the meeting.

The major decision taken by CAP was to set up an office, with administrative support, in Edinburgh. It will be part of the RTPI's office in Scotland, but provides CAP with a contact point and professional administrative back-up. Previously CAP's office has rotated around, but, as one delegate put it, "by the time all the files are sent to the new centre it was time to relocate the office". There appears to be a good case for the CAP office to remain in Edinburgh for sufficient time for CAP to really establish itself.

In the past it may have been common for the President of a member institution to automatically be that institution's representative on CAP. Notwithstanding the qualities of the individuals, this system has added to problems of lack of continuity and restricted CAP contacts with its members. A case can be made for the member institution to select a suitable representative who has a particular interest in CAP's objectives, and who could be involved for more than a busy Presidential year. From a South African perspective, we are proposing that Martin Drake should fulfil such a role.

Accreditation and exchanges

Another important issue raised in Belfast, which is clearly of concern to several countries, is professional accreditation. Can CAP help to develop and deliver some internationally recognised planning qualification that would then be a benchmark and help planners to gain experience of work in different countries? The meeting agreed to explore this question, and a report is expected in the next Newsletter.

A marker was also put down about the possibility of CAP providing a network to facilitate short-term exchange of professional planning staff between different Commonwealth countries. Recently an RTPI member came to work on a major project in Soweto. It proved beneficial all round. (*See the story on this by Jon Talbot elsewhere in the newsletter – ed.*) There are several obstacles that need to be overcome to make such schemes more available, mainly relating to funding and disparities in salaries. There is also scope for CAP to establish teams of people concerned with aspects of planning of importance to member countries. An example might be policies for unauthorised settlements, or ways to improve the involvement of low income groups in the planning process. Such groups could be useful but would need effective co-ordination and enthusiastic support from individuals.

We currently find ourselves in a paradoxical situation. Though the world is becoming smaller it seems that developing countries are becoming more and more marginalised. We were therefore very encouraged by CAP's commitment to maintain and build on existing linkages and to make our profession more international and outward-looking. We need to seize the advantages offered by globalisation while controlling the potential problems that it creates.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has a roster of experts willing to volunteer their services for technical assistance assignments in developing Commonwealth countries. It is called the Commonwealth Service Abroad Programme. Volunteers should have at least 5 years relevant experience. Placements can be from one week to three months or more. Volunteers receive a daily living allowance at UN rates and return economy class air fares. For further information see the Commonwealth Secretariat's web site: www.thecommonwealth.org or e-mail csap@commonwealth.int or fax to +44 (0)20-7747-6515.

CAP IN DURBAN FOR THE 1999 CHOGM

Moving from a top down and bureaucratic approach to plan making and towards involving a range of stakeholders was a key theme of CAP's meeting in Durban in November 1999. The South African Association of Chartered Town Planners organised a one day conference at which CAP members from different continents reviewed trends and issues. It was one of the "fringe events" of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that was being held in the city.

Asad Mohammed outlined contentious issues in Trinidad. Planning has been seen as not relevant to the needs of the poor. After independence in 1955 a planning system was established based on the British 1947 Act. It was very centralised and an instant anachronism. The result, over a long period of time, has been that the process of gaining planning approvals has been slow and cumbersome. There was widespread non-compliance both by the poor and by the very rich. After 1995 attempts were made to update the legislation, but the Bill to effect such changes had still not been passed. The aim must now be to create an efficient and credible planning system which has the support of the various stakeholders. An Interim Planning Commission has been set up to achieve this. Asad is the chair of the Commission and is working hard to achieve progress.

A changing agenda for planning was also the central theme of the address given by Professor John Muller from the University of Witwatersrand. "The planning profession here is jettisoning the dead weight of apartheid, but the past is the parent to the present", he told the audience of about 100, most of whom were South Africans. Planning had two faces in South Africa - it had been permissive towards white development and top down in respect of black people.

It was clear through the conference that South African planners increasingly identify with the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. That means using their professional skills (and developing new skills) to address the challenges of development, poverty alleviation and the AIDS crisis. Collaboration through CAP with planners in other countries within the region is seen as a way ahead. Other speakers at the conference were Bill Robertson from New Zealand, Barrie Mellotte (representing the Royal Australian Planning Institute), Surath Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka), and Cliff Hague and John Anderson from the Royal Town Planning Institute.

CAP members also attended an event organised by the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council which included the launch of a teaching toolkit on the world wide web so that schools can access key information about sustainable development and the built environment. This has been a joint effort of the Built Environment Professions in the Commonwealth (in which CAP is represented) and is being piloted in South Africa.

Cliff Hague

NOTICE - REVIEW OF THE CONSITUTION

It was agreed at the CAP Conference in Belfast that the CAP Constitution should be reviewed. The representative of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners accepted responsibility for leading the review process. Submissions have already been received from the RTPI and other member organisations of CAP are invited to make their own submissions by e-mail to ttsp25@hotmail.com for the attention of Christine Toppin-Allahar.

Among the items that the review will cover are: -

- Should there be scope for people to become CAP members as individuals? At present it is only the professional institutes who are members.
- Should CAP's Regions be changed? In particular is it appropriate to link India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and should there be a distinct Southern African region?

This is **your** chance to put forward your views. Contact Christine Toppin-Allahar before 1st December or you will have missed the opportunity.

GRASS ROOTS PLANNING

BBC TV called *Planning for Real*® ‘a scheme which at a stroke of almost childlike brilliance puts reality into the lazy jargon of community participation’. In the 23 years since the first trial in Dalmarnock, eastern Glasgow, communities and community-minded planners have taken it up in some hundreds of neighbourhoods in the UK and abroad, winning major national awards from the Times/RIBA and the German Bundestag.

Its success derives from the recognition that traditional meetings too often favour fluent talkers, whilst those with local knowledge, common sense, intuitive understanding of the way things really work on the ground, can’t get a word in edgeways, and in any case have doubts about the professionals’ capacity to understand local priorities, and make effective use of local resources, human and material.

Local residents put together a big 3D model, scale 1:300, of their own locality and arrange and re-arrange scores of cut-outs on it representing every kind of practicable innovation. Invited professionals join residents around the model, *on tap but not on top*, to help sort out what is practicable on an adjoining Now Soon Later chart. It shows what We (the residents) can do ‘on our own / with a little money / with money and expert advice / or jointly with an outside body such as the local authority’.

The physical relationships around the big model and the charts – *eyes down, hands on, rubbing shoulders* helps reduce personality clashes – the eye-lines are on the subject matter, not each other’s faces – and everyone can **show** exactly what they mean without submerging practicalities in endless talk.

The *Community Power Toolkit* and the Millennium edition of the *Fact Bank* extend the decision-making and information-gathering process in words which users find immediately relevant, and fun to read.

Anyone interested in cultural adaptation for their own use overseas could contact Dr Tony Gibson on marion.olusoga@cableinet.co.uk

Tony Gibson
Planning for Real

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING IN SOUTH AFRICA – Finding a role for professionals

South Africa's housing programme has emerged as a "star performer" in terms of meeting delivery targets in the first five years of implementation. (See www.cde.org.za/focus/housing.htm and www.housing.gov.za for further information.)

To date, just over one million new housing units have been constructed as a result of the housing subsidy scheme. In addition, the housing budget should fund the construction of approximately 200,000 units per year for at least the next three years.

The housing programme has been criticised in some quarters for neglecting aspects of quality in the headlong rush to meet delivery targets. There are however, some very positive initiatives aimed at improving the quality and sustainability of the new settlements which are being created.

One programme in particular, the Sustainable Homes Initiative (SHI), has succeeded in mobilising the efforts of development professionals towards promoting environmentally sound practices in the housing sector.

The Sustainable Homes Initiative (SHI) is a multi-faceted programme, which is managed by the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC–Africa). Its overarching aim is to promote energy-efficiency within the South African housing programme. In practice this means:

- improving the passive thermal design of new housing units (specifically no-cost interventions such as correct solar orientation);
- promoting the use of insulation in new housing units; and
- promoting the use of technologies which are energy-efficient (such as solar water heating systems and energy-saving lighting).

The SHI has a strategic focus on specific components including training, networking and awareness-raising, and technical assistance. It is specifically in the technical assistance component where development professionals have found their place. One of the deliverables within this component is the 'Green Professionals Programme'.

The 'Green Professionals Programme' has funding available to cover the fees of professionals with 'green' interests and experience (including town and regional planners, architects, engineers, project managers and environmentalists). These professionals provide a pool of expertise which can be accessed (at no cost) by specific housing projects or communities. The intention being that the 'green' professionals will provide appropriate professional guidance at a critical juncture in the housing development process in order to facilitate more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable house design and construction.

To date the 'Green Professionals Programme' has influenced 7 large housing projects, accounting for just over 10,000 housing units. This means that motivated professionals with the environment at heart have had a significant and positive impact on the development of more sustainable human settlements in South Africa.

For more information on the Sustainable Homes Initiative and the 'Green Professionals Programme' contact Christelle Beyers, IIEC Africa, Tel: +27 11 482 5990 E-mail: CBeyers@iafrica.com

Sharon Lewis
South Africa

The photograph on the following page shows a row of energy-efficient houses developed by PEER Africa in Kutlwanong, Kimberley, South Africa.



CURRENT INITIATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

- The **South African Qualifications Authority** has recently been established. It will set standards and curricula for all planning schools in South Africa. SAQA will be using the RTPI education guidelines as the basis for the curriculum, while also ensuring that there are specialisations to meet South African conditions and needs, e.g. history, tribal law etc. The Association of Chartered Town Planners in South Africa (ACTPSA) has a representative on the authority. SAQA will liaise with CAP about establishing Commonwealth educational standards and syllabi for town planning.
- The African National Congress in Johannesburg has embarked on a radical plan to “change the way this city is run”. **The Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council plans to restructure Jo’burg into a megacity.** Functions and assets will be privatised and utility companies will be created to deliver services. Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) have been formulated to set priorities, and are being presented to stakeholders to get their comments. In the megacity plan, the current metropolitan council and four local councils will be replaced by one single administration. The challenge for planning will be to be strategic without being remote from communities.
- A significant amount of new legislation has been promulgated or proposed, but there is a **serious lack of capacity to implement and deliver the changes.** The migration abroad of some skilled and qualified planners is exacerbating the problem. Municipal elections will soon be held. The entire country has now been re-demarcated from a region to a district to a metropolitan to a ward level. This has been a monumental task, especially as it had to be fast tracked.
- The ACTPSA hosted a **dinner for RTPI President Kevin Murray** at the WITS Club, University of Witwatersrand, on 14 July. Though unfortunately not attired in his kilt (! *ed.*), Mr. Murray gave an inspiring address.

Julienne Brown

PLANNING FOR SOWETO: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

One of the outcomes of the budgetary crisis in South African local government in recent years has been a recruitment freeze. This has coincided with the loss of many experienced planners and as a consequence, a city like Johannesburg, with up to 4 million people, has been serviced by fewer than 20 professional planners, the majority of whom have been engaged in development control.

In desperation, one authority, Southern Metropolitan Local Council, advertised in 1998 for VSO volunteers for 6-12 months. I rang Diana Mayne, the head of planning and said I could not give up my job but could do a shorter placement. Myself and others went over during 1999, to help prepare the new Integrated Development Plans. The skills which were lacking included understanding of economic development issues, in which I was able to help. During August/September 99 I worked on an Enterprise Zone scheme for the Golden Highway Triangle outside Soweto and a Tourism strategy for Soweto. A return visit in January 2000 saw me prepare the basis for an economic development strategy for Soweto. During these visits I paid my airfare but accommodation was provided. I have not gone back this summer, as I would have liked to because of the upheaval in local government in Johannesburg, where a new unitary authority is being created.

My short-term visits have been very successful, both for myself and the hosts. I have learned new skills in a challenging environment while my hosts have benefited from my 20 years or so experience at minimal cost.

So successful has been the experience that I am keen to repeat it. I have found some money to attend the ISOCARP conference in Mexico this year, where I am giving a presentation on Planning Aid. As part of my trip, I will spend a month in Belize City, south of the Mexican border, where I have been asked to devise a Development Control code for the City.

Attending the recent CAP conference in Belfast, Cliff Hague raised the idea of International Planning Aid. I have been a Planning Aid volunteer for 20 years but until now I have never thought of it in international terms but this is, in effect, what I have been doing. I am now writing a position paper on the subject and would be interested to hear from others with ideas and experiences of this type of activity.

Jon Talbot
North East Wales Institute (NEWI)

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: A CONCEPTUAL VIEW OF WOMEN'S EFFORTS TOWARDS THEIR EMANCIPATION IN THE EMERGING WORLD

INTRODUCTION

This article presents women's concerted efforts through organised groupings in the emerging world. The emerging world is characterised by: Globalisation; challenging economic environment; Societal democratisation/governance; Competition; breakdown of the barrier between men and women dominated work and rebound of cultural awareness; Changing role of women in the household and information and communication technology.

Women's movement is viewed as the purposeful grouping of women with specific objectives to make impacts in the areas of environment, education, culture, economy, health and housing. It is about women taking their rightful place in the contemporary society.

The Momentum

The outcome of women's world conference in Beijing gave the impetus to women's active and aggressive pursuit of their emancipation. The outcome of the fourth women's world conference in 1995 was the commitment of 189 Governments to apply gender mainstreaming methodology to address the areas of concern (e.g. poverty, education, health, violence against women, economy, power and decision making, media, environment and support for girl child), which they identified as being the main avenues to gender equality and the advancement of women. Beijing+5 would assess the achievements or progress that have been made in these areas.

Subsequent to Beijing 1995, women in South Africa have also directed their energy through concerted efforts towards playing meaningful roles in each of the above areas that characterised the emerging world:

- Globalisation- increased involvement and participation of women in issues of international significance e.g. children in armed conflicts, peace-making.
- Media- the emergence of more women's programmes on the national television.
- Challenging economic environment- more women's groups have been formed to enhance their economic survival.
- Societal democratisation/governance- by the results of the 1999 elections in South Africa, 34% of women in the national assembly and a quarter of provincial Legislatures are female.
- Competition- women now successfully compete in all spheres of life - business, education, development etc.
- The barrier between men and women dominated work is breaking down- more women accountants, lawyers, Chief Executive Officers, architects, Planners etc.

- Rebound of cultural awareness- women's groupings in support of various socio-cultural and community projects are now on the increase.
- The changing role of women in the household- 30 years back in the African society, South Africa inclusive, reproductive roles of women within the household was more dominant. Now in addition to their reproductive roles, women are significantly involved in income generation for the sustenance of the households.

WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has a population of 40.58 million (SSA, 1996), out of which 51.9% are women (21.06 million). The women of South Africa have lived under three forms of oppression: race, class and gender. Over 40% of African households are female-headed, African women constitute 75% of workers in the informal sector(CGE, annual report 1999) and majority of these women are in domestic work and other piece jobs. The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and a justifiable Charter of Fundamental Human Rights created a new context for gender equality of South African women. (1994 Country Report on the status of South African Women).

The 1996 Constitution stipulates the prohibition of racial, gender and all forms of discrimination, and shall promote gender equality and national unity (Constitutional Principle III).

Non-racialism and non-sexism..... (section 1 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of South Africa, 1996- Act 108 of 1996).

South African women organised the historic march of 20,000 to the Union Buildings on the 9 August 1956 saying, "Prime Minister Strijdom, you have struck the women, you have struck a rock". The women left bundles of petitions containing more than 100,000 signatures. Women's month was celebrated for the first time in August 2000 while the 9th of August of every year is women's day and a national holiday in South Africa.

The 1980's saw the development of strong women's organisations such as the United Women's Congress, Natal Organisation of Women, Federation of Transvaal Women etc as well as women's formations in trade unions (1994 Country report).

Since the 1994 democratic elections in South Africa, gender equality and women's movements have gained prominence. The Women's National Coalition launched its charter for effective equality on National Women's Day, August 1994. The Commission for Gender Equality was established as one of the "six state institutions supporting constitutional democracy" called for in the 1996 Constitution. The aim of the Commission is to promote gender equality and to advise and make recommendations to Parliament on any laws or proposed legislation, which affect gender equality and the status of women (Habitat Agenda, 2000). The Commission for Gender Equality recently launched a framework for transforming gender relations in South Africa (The Star, 2000:14).

Women's organisations in South Africa include: National Council of Women of South Africa, Rural Women's Movement, Women's Health Project, Women'sNet, Women's Institute for Leadership, Development and Democracy, National Council of African Women Office on the Status of women, National Women's Resource and Service centre, Women for Peace, Women's National Coalition, Agenda, Black Sash) as well as a number of centres for Gender and Women's studies in the academic institutions.

Women in Housing: taking the bull by the horn

The increasing equalisation of genders and the improved status of women is expected to lower the population growth rate and have beneficial effects on human settlements development (Country Report 2000). With more women being able to access finance, more are now happy homeowners placing them in comfortable position within their communities. Empowering women through the People's Housing Partnership to build their own homes will improve the quality of settlements in South African cities on a sustainable basis.

The National Department of Housing has also set up a Reference Group for Women's roles and access to housing to determine the impact of policies and programmes and their implementation on women.

Section 2 (1) (e) of the Housing Act of 1997, subscribes to the constitution and it places an obligation on government to promote measures to prohibit unfair discrimination on the ground of gender and, especially to promote the housing needs of marginalised women disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

The National Housing Policy and National Housing Programmes, such as the Housing subsidy schemes provide women with equal access to housing benefits and opportunities. 39% of housing subsidies have been allocated to women-headed households. Gender balance is even more significant in some provinces. The People's Housing Process was designed, particularly with women in mind in recognition of the prominent role that women have played traditionally and increasingly continue to play, in providing homes for their families through savings and sweat equity (Department of Housing, 1999).

Women have always played a role in housing in South Africa. Women dominate the population of the informal settlements. The housing in these areas is worse than in the formal areas and it is women who suffer disproportionately. But groups such as the South African Homeless Peoples Federation (SAHPF) started by People's Dialogue (NGO) in 1991 have created a difference. The SAHPF is a nationwide peoples housing movement and it consists of about 100,000 households with more than 1200 savings collectives and over 1000 homeless communities. 85% of its members are women with average monthly household incomes of R700 have taken a giant step.

SAHPF has taken up the task to build and produce raw materials like blocks through their building and information centres (BIT). They have also taken a further step in engaging in commercial or income generating activities by converting containers into shops where people in the informal settlements could purchase daily essentials etc.

Other women's groups involved in housing and community development projects and programmes include: (South African Women in Construction (SAWIC) was registered as a rural focused business trust in 1999; Khupkhuka Community Development project (Cato Manor, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa) aiming at raising women's economic status by providing them with skills necessary in building and manufacturing so that they can increase the income generating opportunities (women are involved in plumbing, water reticulation, carpentry block making labour intensive road construction); Women's Savings groups (Utshani Fund, Letsema National Women's Group, Victoria Mxenge Housing Savings Scheme etc); Micro-Lending schemes; National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency (NURCHA) established to facilitate finance for low-income housing projects of which women are the main beneficiaries; NURCHA also played a role by ensuring that emerging contractors, particularly women developers enter the market and realise their potentials. NURCHA offers women the chance of running managerial and technical assistance workshops as well as courses on how to run and manage business.

TOWARDS WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

Friedman (1992:40) came up with four correlates:

- “Historical subjugation has created among women a subaltern culture, negative self images and a mindset that often accepts what in fact is a social product of male domination. Emancipation requires freeing up, a liberation of consciousness, both of men and women.
- Emancipatory processes require the empowerment – psychological and political - of women situated in their specific life situations.
- Women's emancipation needs to be informed by an alternative vision of the 'good society' from which the power to dominate others is absent, and in which difference and equality can co-exist.
- For emancipation to succeed, male habits of power must be broken, leading to new house holding arrangements, a degendering of the division of labour and social arrangements which acknowledge for both men and women a life of their own without, at the same time sacrificing that which they hold in common between them: life in family, community and nation”.

Friedman's correlates could be appropriated in the context of what is actually happening with women in the emerging world.

“When women participate, they become empowered, their empowerment emancipates them and gives them autonomy. Emancipation and autonomy gives women dignity, makes them more self-reliant and liberates women from poverty, unemployment and dependency” (Olufemi, 1997:205)

CONCLUSION

My understanding is that women's movements would continue to echo the relevance of their emancipation in the society. “An emancipatory planning calls for recognition of difference but within the context of an abiding hope for rationality” (Fainstein, 1992:27-31).

This article indicates that women's movement for some time to come would be used as a powerful means of achieving their emancipation in the emerging world. According to former President Mandela, he said, "the long walk is not yet over. The prize of a better life has yet to be won" (Parliament Opening address, 1999). This is very pertinent to the sustenance of women's efforts in the emerging world. There is a need to continually employ strategies that fit into the emerging world environment and the mainstream gender issues in order to promote women's ultimate goal to be *a world without boundaries/barriers for emancipation*.

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Olusola Olufemi

Town and Regional Planning Department
University of the Witwatersrand

CAP wants to set up a CAP Women in Planning Network using the Internet. If you are interested please contact Annette O'Donnell (e-mail: annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk)
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DIARY DATES

CAP Conference in Brisbane

CAP will be holding a conference linked to the next CHOGM. It will be in Brisbane, Australia, on Friday 6 October. Full details will be given in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI)

To coincide with the Centenary of Federation of Australia as a nation, the 2001 Congress will be held in the national capital, Canberra on 28 – 31 October 2001.

Coming Soon CAP Website

CAP is actively developing a website. Full details will follow in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Issue No 2

Copy date for Issue 2 is 15th January 2001. Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Secretariat at the address on the front page.

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