

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

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70,000 people live in informal settlements along railway lines in Nairobi. How can they be relocated? See Kim Mullard's article on page 11

ON TO VANCOUVER!

After a hugely successful CAP World Congress in Kuala Lumpur in July, CAP is now actively working to make a significant impact at the World Urban Forum that will be held in Vancouver in 2006. CAP was prominently represented at the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona in September. CAP is working closely with the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Royal Town Planning Institute to ensure that in Vancouver there will be a strong focus on the contribution that planning can make to sustainable settlements and progress towards the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

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Commonwealth Foundation backs CAP's Plans for 2005

The Commonwealth Foundation has given CAP a vote of confidence by awarding significant grants to support CAP's planned programme of activities for 2005. CAP can expect to receive £14,800 from the Foundation for the year ahead. The money is earmarked for a number of major regional events:

- a Regional needs assessment workshop in Nigeria;
- a similar event in Sri Lanka;
- a meeting in Bangladesh where Women and Planning will be a key theme;
- an Americas meeting in Trinidad and Tobago

Some of the money will also be used to reach out to involve students more in CAP activity. Part of the money is to cover the costs of CAP's Secretariat.

Annette O'Donnell who put together CAP's application to the Commonwealth Foundation said that she was very pleased with the outcome. "The Commonwealth Foundation introduced a new and more demanding system for applications this year. We had to make sure that CAP complied with all the criteria, and demonstrated that it is an active and efficient organisation that embraces Commonwealth values and is contributing to the achievement of UN Millennium Development Goals," said Annette.

In addition CAP is in discussion with the Uganda Institute of Physical Planners who are hoping to put on a "Stakeholders Conference" late in 2005 or early 2006. CAP will also seek to have a presence at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta towards the end of next year.

It adds up to a full and challenging programme. The member institutes hosting these events will be busy in the months ahead. CAP's aim is that the activities in 2005, as well as meeting important needs nationally and regionally, should also feed into CAP's contribution to the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006. "We need to demonstrate how planners can contribute to Millennium Development Goals, and identify what more needs to be done to ensure that in each Commonwealth country there are enough planners with the right know-how to make a difference," said CAP President Cliff Hague.

CAP's New Executive

A well-attended business meeting in Kuala Lumpur elected a new Executive to oversee CAP's activity until the next

CAP World Congress in Vancouver in June 2006. The office holders are as follows:

President/Chief Executive – Cliff Hague (RTPI - UK)

Secretary General / Vice-President (Europe) - John Anderson (RTPI – UK)

Vice-President (Americas) – Ron Shishido (CIP - Canada)

Vice President (East Africa) – Bosire Ogero (KIP – Kenya)

Vice President (Southern Africa) – To be appointed (Bosire Ogero, Acting Co-ordinator)

Vice President (West Africa) – Chijioke Odumuko (NITP – Nigeria)

Vice-President (SW Asia) – Abdul Sattar Sikander (PATCP – Pakistan)

Vice-President (SE Asia) – Thalha Alithamby (MIP – Malaysia)

Co-ordinator, CAP Women in Planning Network – Roxana Hafiz (BIP – Bangladesh).

Roger Brewster (PIA – Australia) continues to lead CAP's activities in the Pacific and Australasia. The Secretariat will continue to be located in Edinburgh at the office of the Royal Town Planning Institute there. Annette O'Donnell will continue to undertake the administration for CAP.

Thanks are due to the RTPI for their continuing support through the arrangements for the Secretariat, and to those persons who have served on the Executive but are not on the new one. These are:

Dumiso Moyo (ZIRUP – Zimbabwe)

Tan Kah Hoe (SIP – Singapore)

Golam Rahman (BIP – Bangladesh)

Subscriptions rise

The Business Meeting in KL also agreed to increase the subscriptions for CAP. Nobody at the meeting could remember the last time CAP raised its subscriptions: they have been held at the same level for at least 12 years, and some even thought that the 70 pence per member had been the original fee when CAP was founded in 1971.

The meeting agreed that the charge to member institutes should be 80 pence (UK) per member for 2005 and then 90

pence per member for 2006. By giving notice of the increase CAP is seeking to ease the transition for its members and to provide certainty over the two-year period.

Why does CAP need an increase? There are a number of reasons. Above all, CAP is doing much more than it has ever done in the past. There are expectations that it should do more still. We have reached the point where lack of income is constraining activity. Costs, of course, have risen hugely since CAP set its 70 pence per head levy.

The Commonwealth Foundation grants have been of great benefit to CAP since 2001, but we have to raise our own funds as well. Success in winning grants from the Foundation makes CAP extremely good value for money for its members. In crude terms, the Foundation grants have enabled CAP to double the money it gets from subscriptions, so that in practice each £1 of subscription results in £2 of CAP action.

There is no individual membership of CAP. The full members are the professional Planning institutes in Commonwealth countries. However there is also affiliate membership open (at the same per capita rate) for any planning organisation within the Commonwealth. This is particularly appropriate for places where there are not enough planners to form an institute. Ministries, consultancies and planning schools are all eligible to join as affiliate members. Contact Annette O'Donnell for details.

RTPI's new "fast track" degrees off to a flying start

From this year the RTPI is accrediting one-year full-time / two-year part-time Masters courses. This cuts a year off the previous length of such courses. The early signs are that the 12 universities whose course have been accredited have been overwhelmed with good quality applicants seeking to enter the planning profession through this new "fast-track" route. Entry numbers appear to have doubled and the number of entrants with First Class degrees is also up.

Another key feature of the new system that is now operating is that the accreditation process involves a "lighter touch". Instead of the inquisition over a period of 2-3 days by an Accreditation Board every 5 years, the new system relies on an annual meeting of, and report from a Partnership Board. A Partnership Board is made up of nominees from the University, including practising planners and employers, and representatives from the RTPI. In principle this looks like a system that could be more accessible to universities in other Commonwealth countries than the old system, though it still comes with a number of barriers about costs and commitment by the School to help guide their graduates towards full RTPI membership. Once the system is properly

up and running CAP aims to have formal discussion with the RTPI about the needs of Commonwealth planning schools, especially those from nations where there is no real scope at present to access international accreditation.

Role play workshop in Maputo

A role play workshop has been run in Maputo, capital of Mozambique, to focus decision-making on key city management issues. The exercise was part of an Italian Urban Aid programme to Mozambique. Prof. Paolo Scattoni of La Sapienza University Rome, and Juliet and David Higdon, a British planner who taught at Newcastle University, ran the workshop at Eduardo Mondlane University's Faculty of Arquitectura e Planeamento Fisico Maputo, Mozambique.

David Higdon explained, "We created a fictitious African country Azuri and its national capital Mbandwe, a composite of the African cities we have lived and worked in, representing a bundle of generalities about contemporary issues in city management. We also devised representative character identities that workshop participants could adopt in the role play."

The success in using this method in Maputo suggests that it could be transferable to other Commonwealth countries in Africa. A publication is being prepared in Portuguese and English documenting the workshop, the aim being to provide enough information to enable anyone interested in such techniques to try for themselves. It will include a section by Scattoni on the application of role-play to urban decision making. We hope to carry more on this when the publication becomes available. If you cannot wait that long, you can contact David Higdon at dhigdon@freenet.co.uk.

Head of UN-Habitat praises work of CAP

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, praised the work of CAP during a University degree ceremony in July. Dr. Tibaijuka, the most senior woman in the UN and a tireless campaigner for women and the poor, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. In the course of her address to the audience of over 2000 students and parents she praised the work that CAP has been doing, noting that CAP's president is a professor at the university.

State of the World's Cities Report

The second State of the World's Cities Report has been published. It is produced by UN-Habitat and published by

Earthscan. It details the effects of globalisation on cities. While many of the trends will be familiar to the readers of CAP News, the last chapter on the culture of different planning systems will be of particular interest.

Commission for Africa

The Commission for Africa was established earlier this year by the UK Prime Minister. Its brief is to find innovative solutions to the problems of African development. The UK is then committed to using its position as Chair of the next session of the G8, to bring the ideas to the table of the 2005 G8 and to press for action. Amongst the Commissioners are a number of prominent Africans, including Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. More details of the Commission can be found at www.commissionforafrica.org.

CAP urges members in Africa to submit evidence and ideas to the Commission. In particular, we should be pressing the importance of urbanisation and urban poverty, and arguing for the need for strategic spatial planning to be part of solutions. There is a need to look at Africa as a whole and to identify development opportunities, new gateways and missing infrastructure links, while always ensuring its invaluable natural assets are conserved. The Commission for Africa gives us an opportunity to apply planning thinking and methods to development issues at a continental scale. CAP is making a submission to the Commission – watch for it on our website.

President's Piece

The last few months have been a very exciting stage in the development of CAP. Four years ago CAP met in Belfast in one small room, to try to breathe life into the organisation. In July 2004 around 1,000 people were at the opening ceremony of the CAP World Congress in Kuala Lumpur. During the main part of the congress there were over 300 present. Part of the reason why there were so many at the opening was because it was addressed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi. I have never before been to a planning conference that has been opened by a Prime Minister, and I felt greatly honoured to be on the platform, representing CAP and inviting him to open our congress.

CAP is immensely indebted to our colleagues in the Malaysian Institute of Planners, and their helpers from the Singapore Institute of Planners, who did all the hard work that resulted in a quite outstanding conference. In particular they delivered several very senior speakers from Malaysia whose presence and contributions enhanced the whole event.

We were fortunate to hear speeches not only from the Prime Minister himself, but also from the Minister for Housing, the Deputy Minister for Housing, the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and the Chairman of the Petronas oil company and head of the Putrajaya Development Corporation, and many others. A range of site visits and parallel workshops provided rich experience about how planning works in Malaysia and what it has achieved.

The KL congress took CAP across a threshold and into new territory in terms of the scale of the event, the quality of speakers and the expectations that it has set about what a CAP world meeting is. I felt great sympathy for our Vice President, Ron Shishido, who in closing the conference by presenting the Canadians' plans for the next CAP congress in Vancouver in 2006, observed ruefully that this one had set the "gold standard" that it would be hard for any subsequent congress to match. However, Vancouver promises to be something else again, as CAP's own event will link into a planned World Planners Congress, which in turn will feed directly into the Third UN World Urban Forum. Literally, there has been nothing quite like that before!

In September I was honoured to be invited by UN Habitat to represent CAP on a panel of distinguished speakers in a session at the Second World Urban Forum, on the theme of "Urban Planning Revisited". Firstly, it was good to see that planning was considered sufficiently important to have been given a place in the programme by UN-Habitat. As planners we might take it for granted that planning has an important part to play in any discussion of the future of cities, improving the lives of slum dwellers, making progress on water and sanitation issues etc. However, over the last generation planning has been seen by the international development community as marginal to such issues. So for planning to be on the agenda, and for CAP to be invited to be one of the leaders of the discussions was, like the KL conference, the crossing of a threshold. In fact CAP was well represented at the World Urban Forum. Our Americas Vice-President, Ron Shishido, was an active and prominent member of the large Canadian delegation, which also included Michel Frojmovic, the driver of the Canadian Institute of Planners' international work. In addition, Professor Rahman, who until July was CAP Vice-President for South West Asia, was there as part of the Bangladeshi delegation. Last but not least, RTPI Vice-President Clive Harridge, who also attended the CAP Congress in KL, was there. Clive will be RTPI President in 2006 and the international dimension will certainly feature in his presidency.

It is easy to dismiss events like the WUF as talking shops, even "jaunts". However, in my experience, you work about 16 hours a day when you are at them, and they provide invaluable opportunities for networking. E-mail may carry activities forwards, but I find that the initial contact and the

gestation of ideas come from the face-to-face exchanges that these events make possible. I also believe it is crucial that the planning profession in general, and CAP in particular, is present at Habitat meetings. If we are not there, nobody else will put our case for us.

That said, the next threshold that CAP must cross is to move from talk to action. We have been very successful at engaging a core of people across the Commonwealth who now know about CAP, read CAP News and support its events when they can. We have some visibility and credibility with some international agencies – the support of AusAID for initiatives from our team in Brisbane is perhaps the best example (see CAP News 11, for example). However, we need to start delivering practical benefits that directly impact on the practice of planning. This is a matter that I hope we can explore and progress in 2005.

Finally, I want to thank the delegates to the CAP Business meeting in KL who re-elected me as President for another two-year term. As I indicated at that meeting, I don't think Presidents should stick around forever, as that weakens rather than strengthens an organisation. I hope that we can identify a successor during 2005 who can then be installed at Vancouver in 2006. However, whatever happens after 2006, I believe that CAP needs to retain some kind of representation in the UK. There are a lot of benefits in having visibility through being seen at meetings in London, and in maintaining an effective liaison with the RTPI, CAP's largest member institute. Indeed links with all member institutes are important: unless CAP can continue to be seen by those institutes to be doing useful work it will fall back and dwindle. So please read CAP News, send us news and stories, use the CAP web site and spread the word among your own institute that CAP is making a difference.

CAP in KL: “Place Making and Sustainable Communities in Urban Development” Conference Report

The last issue of CAP News was produced on the cusp of the CAP Conference in Kuala Lumpur. Over 300 copies were distributed to those participating in what was a landmark event in CAP's recent history. On any criterion - the venue, the hospitality of our hosts, the support of senior politicians, the numbers attending, or the quality of the discussions – the conference was an outstanding success. It reflected the 21st century Commonwealth at its best – multi-ethnic, linking North and South, people coming together in friendship and with shared values to learn from each other and to confront the global challenges posed by urbanisation. The key themes around which the conference was structured were Urban Poverty and Affordable Housing; Solutions towards

Sustainable Development; Place-making and Community Development; and, Heritage and Culture. The Commonwealth countries represented were Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Canada, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The conference also drew in people from some non-Commonwealth countries including South Korea.

The event was officially opened by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia. This ensured substantial coverage in the media and set the tone for the whole event. What was impressive was the extent to which the Prime Minister and other Ministers who addressed the conference really engaged with the themes of our gathering. Sometimes the speeches by politicians at such events can be anodyne, as they read through a prepared script. That was not the case here; in particular there were sections when Ministers departed from their paper to elaborate or emphasise a point, especially if it had currency in Malaysia.

The opening took place in Putrajaya, a state of the art new city. In the late 1980s the Malaysian government decided to relocate ministries and civil servants from jostling, congested Kuala Lumpur to a 5,000 hectare forest site about half way between the capital and the international airport. The centrepiece of the masterplan for this city of 350,000 is a 650 hectare artificial lake. Dramatic bridges sweep across the water- which was added after the bridges had been built. The central commercial area is growing either side of a 4.2 kilometre boulevard, with the Prime Minister's Office and the Convention Centre sitting on the rises at either end of this Haussman-esque axis. The escorted tour of Putrajaya and of the Multimedia Super Corridor, one of the world's leading ICT projects, was one of many highlights in a packed programme. By packaging a range of e-government initiatives into the spatial form of a 50-kilometre growth corridor, Malaysia plans to transform the country into a knowledge society, and a developed country, by 2020. The Corridor runs from the business core of Kuala Lumpur to the International Airport. These tours gave all delegates a chance to see how strategic, infrastructure-led planning can contribute to a country's international competitiveness.

The urbanisation of poverty and its implications for planning practice was a theme that ran through many of the conference sessions. The issue had been raised at the outset by the Prime Minister, who succinctly observed: “People migrate to cities to seek employment and to pursue a better life. However, as the flow of humanity increases, pressures are brought to bear on the social conditions, public amenities and the environment, infrastructure becomes antiquated and inadequate. Tensions emerge between migrants and long-term residents. Social ills become commonplace. These problems cannot be left unchecked.”

The arguments were taken further by the Honourable Dato' Seri Ong Ka Ting, Minister of Housing and Local Government, who posed the question "How do we make cities liveable?" He stressed the need for innovative solutions and for cross-sectoral approaches. He pointed to the UN's Millennium Development Goals as yardsticks against which progress should be measured. The Minister told the congress that per capita incomes in Malaysia had risen from US\$300 a year in 1970 to \$3,600 in 2002. The same period had also seen significant reductions in poverty and improvements in the literacy rate. However, the Minister noted that "despite the rapid economic growth in the cities of Asia, urban poverty is still widespread and large sections of the urban population lack employment, earn very low incomes and have inadequate access to proper housing, infrastructure and services."

The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaid bin Mohd Taufek spelled out what the general trends meant in our host city. People are moving out of KL to escape congestion and to access better housing at lower costs. Within the city poverty is increasing. The 2020 Structure Plan seeks to recreate the city to sustain the desired quality of life. The vision is of KL as an international business city, but also as a place that looks after the poor, the old and the handicapped. An International Business Zone is planned, complete with houses, schools and other facilities. An integrated transport system is a key part of the plan. Another part of the strategy is to encourage the development of cheap, easy to construct buildings that can cater for young households.

Singapore has set standards of what can be achieved by positive, inclusive planning. Mr. Lim Eng Hwee is the Director (Physical Planning) of Singapore's urban Redevelopment Authority. He made the fundamental point that "Successful urban communities do not happen by chance – they are the products of planning". He told how planning had led the development of Singapore from its problems in the 1960s to its leading role today.

Mr. Hwee pointed to three key lessons. Firstly, there needs to be long-term planning, providing sufficient land for the people, for economic growth and for a good living environment. The plans in Singapore have been reviewed every ten years and are sufficiently flexible to adjust to change. In particular Singapore has used a Concept Plan to focus on major long-term infrastructure. The second lesson is that an integrated approach is needed; a comprehensive plan that is a collaborative effort by a number of government agencies. The result is that any development by any one of these departments needs the approval of them all. Last, but not least, Singapore shows the need to plan with implementation in mind. A development plan should be a transparent guide for the operation of development control. Phasing has to be built into plans and proposals.

The result in Singapore has been a form of development strongly linked to principles of sustainable development. Overall densities are high but not uniform and there is a mix of house forms also. In a city-state with a very finite land supply, attention is now turning to the need to make better use of underground space. Public transit, walkways and shops can all be accommodated below the ground, while at surface level the emphasis is on infill and brown field development instead of the urbanisation of green space. In addition there are 67 urban conservation areas. The plan is to ensure that there is high density development around the subway stations, the key nodes in the transport system. The essence of planning in Singapore then is that it is focused on the design of a total living environment, maximising access to all key facilities, by clustering units around commercial centres and the transit system.

Despite being so urbanised (4.1M people on 697 square kilometres), natural heritage conservation areas account for 4% of the land area of Singapore. Nature areas are used as parks and there is rich biodiversity.

The theme of community participation ran through this and many of the other presentations. For example, Sandy Vigar, a past President of the Planning Institute of Australia, and now a partner in ERM Australia, gave a workshop paper on "Consulting to Achieve Sustainability". In this she focused on two case studies from Queensland, one a plan-making exercise, and the other an eco-tourism project. A particularly valuable part of Sandy's presentation was her discussion of how to evaluate consultation. She provided a checklist of questions to ask:

- What happened? Did consultation make a difference?
- Who should have been consulted, was affected or had a stake?
- Were the techniques appropriate?
- Was the timing and implementation appropriate and effective?
- What was the degree of involvement? If it was low, why?
- Was there satisfaction with the fairness of the decision and the process?
- Would you do it again? Would you do it differently?
- What lessons have been learned?

The Shankari Bazar at the heart of old Dhaka, is a very different environment than coastal Queensland, but a paper by Dr Roxana Hafiz, Nabila Haque and Sabera Sultana, all from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology made similar points about the importance of working with communities. The Shankari bazaar is an inner city slum inhabited by a poor section of the Hindu community. They live in stuffy and unhygienic conditions, at high density and with poor civic services. This paper focused on the possibilities of conserving the craft community, as part of

the heritage and culture of the city of Dhaka. At the same time it argued for community participation. The authors concluded that “grass roots planning with the participation of the local people will not only change the fate of the people and site itself, but also generate other benefits.”

The upgrading of informal settlements in Tanzania presents different problems again, but Dr. Alphonse Kyessi from the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies at Dar es Salaam also stressed the important of working with local residents. His paper described the upgrading plans for Ibungilo and Isamilo settlements as a product of a participatory urban planning and management process that began in 1998 in Mwanza city. Mwanza is a city of about 370,000, where three in every four people live in informal settlements, where basic infrastructure is inadequate, and most households survive on less than US\$1 a day. The policy advocates participatory upgrading of existing informal settlements as a measure toward attainment of its goal of sustainable human settlements, and adequate and affordable shelter for all. The planners worked closely with the residents, providing technical support, but the key players were the residents themselves, who contributed key information and also land for community facilities and infrastructure to facilitate the regularisation process.

CAP president Cliff Hague returned to the theme of participatory planning in his keynote address on the closing morning. He argued that the issues of urbanisation were interconnected across the Commonwealth: “In the rich countries the spread of cities and the associated energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions impact on global climate. Patterns of land use and transport in these countries are an important contributor to sea level rise and the incidence of the extreme weather conditions, which impact most severely on small island states and vulnerable countries such as Bangladesh. We share one planet, but everywhere and at every scale it is the poor who live in the most hazardous locations.”

He argued for “Pro-poor planning” that would be “strategic, integrated, participatory, inclusive, creative and equitable.” After outlining what these concepts might imply for planning practice, he wound up with the words “A profession that came into being to tackle the slums of Europe and North America took 150 years to achieve that, and now faces a world where one person in six lives in a slum. On present trends the figure will be one in three by 2033. Pro-poor planning is urgently needed right across the Commonwealth.”

Papers and PowerPoint presentations from the Congress can be found on the CAP website, www.commonwealth-planners.org.

The Second World Urban Forum, Barcelona, September 2004

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the world’s development platform. The first one was held in Nairobi in 2002 and attracted 1,100 people. There were over 4,000 participants in the Second WUF. The WUF is part of the UN system and allows for dialogues and exchanges between the UN, governments (central and local) and NGOs, including professional associations such as CAP. Officially it is “a non-legislative technical forum in which experts can exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the UN Settlements programme does not meet” and is advisory to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The next WUF will be held in Vancouver, 19-23 June 2006.

The overarching theme of the meeting in Barcelona was “Urban Cultures”, and UN Habitat Executive Director Dr. Anna Tibaijuka made the point that despite some outstanding examples of cultural pluralism in cities, cultural differences are all too often used to maintain economic and social advantages.

Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the USSR, in a speech to the opening session, put the focus squarely on the UN’s Millennium Development Goals. “Four years ago when the MDGs were adopted, the world recognised the urgency of these problems unanimously. Now, all are concerned that there is not enough political will to address these Goals and achieve their targets,” he told the audience. He welcomed the decision of Kofi Annan to review the MDGs. “We need a new global *glasnost* as an important lever to realise the MDGs. We cannot allow the MDGs to suffer the same fate as the commitments made in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro.”

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger2. Achieve universal primary education3. Promote gender equality and empower women4. Reduce child mortality5. Improve maternal health6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases7. Ensure environmental sustainability8. Develop a global partnership for development |
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The Millennium Development Goals

The MDGs’ were central to many of the discussion in the WUF. Each goal comes attached with targets. While many of the targets are inter-dependent, the ones that are specially relevant to planners concern Goal 7, “Ensure environmental sustainability”, where the targets are:

Target 9 – Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.

Target 10 – Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Target 11 – Achieve significant improvements in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

From a Commonwealth point of view, Target 14 under Goal 8 is also important, as it says “Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.”

As discussed at the WUF demonstrated, Goal 7, Target 11 needs upgrading because of the pace at which slums are developing. On present trends the number of people living in slums and informal settlements will rise from 1 billion today to 1.6 billion by 2020. This is why Target 11 is so inadequate – while its achievement would be interpreted as a success, in reality the scale of the slum problem will have got worse. This is not just a matter of semantics, but rather something that is very important in terms of the role of planning and planners in tackling this global catastrophe. Given present trends, the best way to reduce slums by 2020 is to stop new slums forming. This is not to denigrate efforts to improve the lives of existing slum dwellers. But unless we take a planning approach, understanding the dynamics of urban change, and not being deluded by a false impression that things are static, we will simply compound the problems. Planning adequate supplies of land for housing in safe and accessible locations, and removing legal and financial barriers that exclude the poor, is the most critical element of a strategy to beat the slums.

Urban Planning Revisited

Later in the week CAP featured prominently in a workshop organised by UN-Habitat on the theme of “Urban Planning Revisited”. Cliff Hague was invited to be the lead speaker who was then followed by four other platform speakers who included Rod Hackney, a prominent community architect from the UK, Dr. Akin Mabogunje a distinguished urban academic from the Development Research Centre, Nigeria, Gert Ledeking from the UN-Habitat office in Kosovo and Andrew Boraine of the South African Cities Network. Shortened versions of the papers of all the speakers will appear in the next issue of UN-Habitat’s magazine *Habitat Debates* (for more details go to www.unhabitat.org/).

The audience for the event was around 100 at any one time and there was a very positive discussion of the role that planning can play. However the need to change the culture of planning was widely recognised, not least in a range of informed comments and interventions from the audience. For example, Clive Harridge, RTPI Vice-President, explained how the UK government has gone about changing the culture of planning in England to make it more spatial,

better integrated with other fields of policy, and more participatory.

Andrew Boraine explained the way that the South African government has developed planning at a metropolitan scale and has sought integration at a local authority level through the system of Integrated Development Plans. Cliff Hague, as well as setting out CAP’s view that “There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and no sustainable urbanisation without effective urban planning”, referred to work done by Heriot-Watt University for the UK’s Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This includes a report on international experience of participatory planning, and also a project to produce a good practice guideline on planning for diversity.

There was a lot of consensus in the workshop that planning was changing and that it is an important tool in attempts to make settlements more sustainable and inclusive.

A Global Planners’ Network and Congress

Michel Frojmovic

At the World Urban Forum in Barcelona, the Canadian Institute of Planners organised a networking event as a first step towards planning a World Planners’ Forum in Vancouver as a lead into the 2006 WUF that will be held there. It relied on presentations and a facilitated discussion to:

- share practical experiences in the application of urban planning tools to the management of urban development;
- advance the concept of a global urban planners network; and,
- introduce and share ideas regarding the 2006 World Planners’ Congress, to be delivered in conjunction with the Vancouver 2006 World Urban Forum.

The event was divided into two parts. The first part began with a welcome and overview of “the Road from Barcelona to Vancouver” by the President of the Canadian Institute of Planners. This was followed by presentations under the theme of “Who we are, What we do, What we want.” Representatives of the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP), American Planning Association (APA), Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners (TTSP), and Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) shared their organisation’s roles and mandate, key trends in planning for urban sustainability, examples of best practices/projects in urban sustainability and perspectives on the role and relevance of a global planners/planning network.

The event's second part included a facilitated discussion regarding the related topics of a Global Network of Planners and a World Planners Congress, scheduled for June 2006 in Vancouver. The discussion was preceded by an update of a workplan for a Global Planners Network. The ensuing discussion involved approximately 75 participants and addressed three questions:

- Is a Global Planners Network a good idea?
- What should be the priorities of a Global Network?
- What steps should be taken in relation to the road to Vancouver 2006?

A. Is a Global Planners Network a good idea?

Participants were in agreement that urban planners and the associations representing them require opportunities to come together in order to support change in the planning community. The planned June 2006 World Planners Congress in Vancouver, Canada is a unique opportunity in this regard.

Participants identified several objectives for such a global network:

At one level, the network and Congress should allow participants to share examples of planning practice. Within this context, some comments emphasised the importance of addressing issues that were global, supra-national or regional in scope, such as migration, climate change, or transport. In this sense, the network is seen as a mechanism for grappling with issues that cannot be resolved strictly at the local level. Such a broader framework would also be relevant to supporting the implementation of regional agreements such as NEPAD - The New Partnership for African Development.

Another perspective was that of a Global Network and World Planners Congress serving to build and strengthen the political constituency of the profession by bringing together practitioners, politicians and citizen planners. This combination of stakeholders was seen as ensuring a dialogue that raises interesting and important questions.

There was strong agreement regarding the concept of a "Network of Networks". Rather than create a new "super" network, participants pointed to the importance of more effectively connecting existing networks and avoid a scenario of competing networks. In effect, preparations for the 2006 World Planners' Congress and the 2006 World Urban Forum (WUF) should be used to engage existing and complementary networks of practitioners, academics, elected officials and citizen planners.

The notion of a World Planners Congress reflected the interest in opportunities for face-to-face contact. While participants emphasised that a web-based network is useful and practical, direct contact between professionals is also essential.

B. What should be the priorities of a Global Network?

Much of the discussion raised issues of relevance to the day-to-day work of planning professionals in different parts of the world. Participants were of the view that a global planners network and a World Planners Congress would provide opportunities to address these issues and themes in greater depth, as well as build momentum towards action in support of their resolution.

These issues are summarised as follows:

Relevance to Global Development Goals

The work of planners should be explicitly linked to meeting the Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations. This will require actions in several areas:

- Institutional arrangements
- Planning policies
- Sharing interventions that are working in different parts of the world

Strengthening Planning Capacity

There is a continuous need to build and strengthen the capacity of planning institutions, by harnessing the contribution of professionals, citizen planners and politicians. Bangladesh was offered as an example, where a very small number of professionals – a total of 140 planners - are responsible for planning the development of a large and rapidly urbanizing population.

There is also a need for associations to offer educational opportunities as well as accreditation in support of training for individual professionals. Continuing Professional Development offers an important vehicle for strengthening planning capacity. Continuing education also permits greater portability across national boundaries.

Inclusive Planning: Equitable Access to Land and Affordable Housing

Access to land and affordable housing is a critical issue facing all countries in the North and South. The rising cost of urban land means that developers – including the public sector – are less able to acquire strategically situated land to build affordable housing. There is a vital need to avoid divisions of cities into areas for the rich and areas for the poor.

Planning needs to provide assistance and leadership to maintain access to affordable land that is located near employment bases. These actions need to be inserted into planning legislation. There is a need for municipalities to include in their plans housing development for all within neighbourhoods and subdivisions, including housing for those in the bottom third of the income scale. A related challenge is to develop mechanisms for reallocating revenues from higher value land development into lower-income areas.

Regulatory Frameworks

Current regulatory frameworks for planning in many countries do not allow planners to achieve their intended outcomes, such as affordable housing. There is a related challenge associated with the inadequate enforcement of planning laws and regulations. In some instances, the system is defined by an excess of legislation and over-dependency on regulation. In these cases, there is a need to move towards building a “culture of planning” and towards de-regulation.

Planning and Economic Development

One comment suggested that planners do not adequately consider economic forces and trends in their analyses. Planning must be concerned about the direction of economies, along with issues such as housing and urban management.

Making the profession more accessible to non-planners

The ability of elected officials to make use of the profession requires that planning tools and methodologies are more easily understood by decision-makers.

A related point was the need to more clearly explain the intended outcomes of the planning processes and decisions. Possible measures of planning outcomes could include a certain level of GDP, or broader quality of life measures connected to affordability and inclusivity.

Development of appropriate methodologies and technologies

City plans cannot be developed from a blank slate. Technologies are needed for supporting change in cities relevant to the particular context of development.

Urban-Rural Interface

Many developing countries are still predominantly rural in character. For example, 70% of housing in Bangladesh is still built in rural areas. In these cases, discussions regarding urbanization must also address the interface with rural areas.

Replicability of Approaches to Community Sustainability

Participants were interested to hear more about practices in support of urban sustainability in the UK, the US and Canada, but questioned the accessibility and relevance of these practices to developing countries. While planners in developing countries are interested in the application of these practices, they face at least two challenges: Access to information on particular tools, methodologies and experiences; and obstacles to implementation due to very rapid population growth and inadequate financial and human resources.

C. What steps should be taken in relation to the road to Vancouver 2006?

A third question addressed by participants in the networking session related to concrete actions to be taken in the 20 months leading to the World Planners Congress. In general, the message delivered by participants was to “invite the world of planning organisations to Vancouver”.

A key step is to initiate a networking process well in advance of the Vancouver event, including better connecting existing networks during the coming months. For example, the academic planning community has an extensive and functioning network which meets and interacts on a regular basis. Organisers of the World Planners Congress must make efforts to communicate with and better coordinate these existing networks.

Participants identified a number of existing networks to be engaged:

- *WACHE- Women's Advisory Committee on Housing and Environment* involves over 2000 women and men participating in more than 200 municipalities, each of which has its own advisory committee. The group emphasises the need to train women to engage in the decision making process.
- *ACOPHE - African Council for Planning, Housing and Environment* (www.acophe.org) held its founding conference in 1991. A resolution was adopted during its most recent conference, calling for a permanent forum for professional planners and related practitioners in Africa. Its goal is to create a regional network with national chapters and individual members open to other professional organisations and elected officials.
- APA and the American Collegiate Schools of Planning are meeting for the first time in October 2004 in Portland.

At the same time, there is a need to identify gaps in the existing networks, which may not accommodate the interests of places such as small island states. In addition, South-South linkages and South-North linkages are of particular interest, and not necessarily reflected in the current activities of these networks.

There was also a clear need expressed for broadening the types of networks to be engaged. For example, the current proposal for the 2006 World Planners Congress does not address the importance of engaging the business community. There should be an opportunity to engage the business community – in its different forms – to respond to the various themes of the Congress.

It is equally important to invite politicians. For example, Nairobi City Council has no current long-term development plan, despite continued in-migration of rural residents and resulting pressures on services and infrastructure. One way to ensure that planning can make an effective contribution to

work for sustainable urbanization is to involve elected officials in discussions and dialogue.

As a first step, participants suggested establishing a committee involving the mix of organisations represented by existing networks.

A second set of suggestions related to the structure of the World Planners Congress. These are listed as follows:

- Include a discussion on how to build a planning network using available technologies in order to develop real interactive communication within the planning community, and to ensure the dialogue is sustained beyond the conference.
- Ensure that mobile workshops are an integral part of the Congress
- Integrate community-oriented *pro bono* work as part of the program, with interventions designed in advance of the Congress intended to produce tangible results and illustrate the effectiveness of planning.
- Include problem-based planning & development charrettes. As an example, work with a particular city which presents its challenge to participants, who in-turn collaborate on solutions. One variation on this idea is to conduct these sessions using web technology, and engaging an on-line audience in the problem-solving.

D. Concluding Remarks

A strongly articulated concluding observation was that the process leading up to and including both the World Planners Congress and the WUF 2006 offers a once in a generation opportunity for planners. Planners have spent the last generation putting the overwhelming majority of their effort into regulations and control. There is now an imperative to become relevant to rapid urbanization, widespread urban poverty, inequitable access to land and resources and play a part in institutions like the Commission for Africa, and determining how planning can contribute to the Millennium Development Goals. Planners have a key role in identifying practical and long-term solutions to complex challenges of urban sustainability.

Michel Frojmovic, International Program Manager, CIP

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) is a national association representing 5,800 urban and regional planners. As reflected in its Statement of Values, CIP is an advocate for securing, as a benefit to all generations, the creation of healthy, sustainable and liveable communities and natural environments through effective planning and the advancement of the planning profession.

ComHabitat – Commonwealth Action for Human Settlements

Kim Mullard

During UN's World Urban Forum, held in Barcelona in September 2004, people from all over the Commonwealth came together to discuss human settlements and planning for urban development at two important meetings. The first was an informal meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) - the intergovernmental group made up of Ministers responsible for human settlements – held to review the ComHabitat work plan for the next two years.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General established the CCGHS in 1998, building on earlier work by the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC). At its first meeting, the CCGHS adopted a Commonwealth goal of: *“Demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”*. It later produced a comprehensive input to the discussions at the UN's Istanbul plus 5 meeting.

ComHabitat consists of the CCGHS supported in practical ways by agencies from government, local government, civil society and the private sector. Currently, the key partners are the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, CHEC, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Homeless International, and the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID). ComHabitat aims to develop a Network to facilitate a broader engagement by many more organisations and individuals in the CCGHS process, including organisations such as the Commonwealth Association of Planners.

The second meeting was a side event in the World Urban Forum's programme, open to all conference participants. It aimed to showcase an example of how two Commonwealth cities have shared their experience to tackle a key urban planning problem – that of railway side slums and their impact on the transport system of the city as a whole. Multi-sectoral teams from Nairobi and Mumbai presented their experiences of moving from a situation of confrontational evictions of railway-side slum dwellers, to negotiations with slum dwellers' federations resulting in mass voluntary resettlement. Speakers from Mumbai were: Dr. Joshi, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority; Mr. Garud, Chief Engineer with Indian Railways; Jockin Arpurtham, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation; and Sheela Patel, Director of the NGO SPARC. From Nairobi, the speakers were: Mrs Edith Jenkins, Estate Manager, Kenya Railways; Ezekiel Rema and Joseph Muturi of Muungano wa Wanavijiji (the Kenyan slum dwellers federation); and Jane Weru, Director of the NGO Pamoja Trust.

Mumbai

More than 60,000 people were resettled in less than two years, making way for improvements in Mumbai's railway system. This resettlement programme – undertaken through the World Bank funded Mumbai Urban Transport Project – was underpinned by strong levels of community organisation among the population affected. Mumbai is one of the world's mega-cities with around 6 ½ million people living in slums, yet the government's aim is to make Mumbai slum-free within 10 years. This will involve improving or replacing more than 1 million homes. The Metropolitan Commissioner, Dr Joshi, emphasised that this gigantic task can only be achieved by working together in partnerships, as in the railway resettlement programme.

Railway-side slums – many of which had been in existence for more than 20 years – were affecting both existing services and work to develop the railways. A series of rulings by the Commissioner of Railway Safety had reduced the operating speed from 80 kph to just 10 kph, severely affecting efficiency on an already overcrowded system. The geography of Mumbai – a narrow peninsula with the central business district at the Southern tip – means that a large proportion of the city's commuters depend on three North-South railway lines to get to work.

Indian Railways worked together with the other agencies to support a community-led survey of the slums, which found that 25,000 families were living within the 30-metre railway safety zone. It was agreed to clear a minimum 10-metre safety zone, involving moving 12,000 families. As a result of this resettlement, trains are now operating at 80 kph, and a typical commuter journey of 1 hour 20 minutes now takes 55 minutes.

Communities led the resettlement process, from surveying and mapping those to be moved through to allocating the new homes. Jockin Arpurtham, President of the National Slum Dwellers Federation, described how *“for 20 years everybody said nothing is possible, these trains will not improve, the people will not move”*, yet by working together with slum dwellers mass resettlement has been achieved. The government and the National Slum Dwellers Federation are now working together to resettle tens of thousands more households under the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project, a scheme that will see city roads widened and improved. Again, both slum dwellers and the city will benefit: the transport system will be improved and slum dwellers will move to safe, secure housing.

Nairobi

Around 70,000 people live alongside the railway lines in Nairobi and, unlike Mumbai, most of the structures immediately adjacent to the lines are commercial. In February 2004, there were evictions along the railway lines. Through their links to the Shack/Slum Dwellers International network, Muungano wa Wanavijiji and Pamoja

Trust facilitated an international exchange visit by representatives of the Kenyan Railways and Ministry of Lands to Mumbai, to see how negotiated resettlement for slum dwellers living alongside railway lines had worked there. An immediate result was traders moving back to clear a 15-metre safety zone. The organisations are now working together to plan more permanent resettlement from a 30-metre zone. Mrs Jenkins said that *“most important was the shift of the government's thinking away from the policies that we had before into a policy where we now embrace the slum community.”*

The case studies sparked a debate amongst the participants in the meeting - including Government Ministers and senior civil servants - many of whom saw parallels with the situation in their own country. Discussion focused on how these experiences could be replicated and what had catalysed the complex negotiations necessary for voluntary resettlement on such a scale.

ComHabitat network

ComHabitat aims to develop its network to enable experiences such as these resettlement programmes to be widely shared throughout the Commonwealth, not only through future events, but also through its web site and an email newsletter. Further information about the Mumbai and Nairobi case studies can be found on ComHabitat's web site (www.comhabitat.org). Over the next 6 months ComHabitat plans to redesign its web site to become a useful reference on human settlements issues in the Commonwealth. If you would like to be on ComHabitat's mailing list, or if you have ideas about the web site, please contact:

Kim Mullard, ComHabitat Programme Co-ordinator
kim@comhabitat.org

Post-script by the editor

CAP has written to ComHabitat formally welcoming their plans and expressing the wish to work closely with them. The CAP statement reviews CAP's own activities and identifies possible areas for joint working. It also draws attention to a research gap: *“There is very little research on the contribution of planning to the Millennium Development Goals and none on the Commonwealth dimension of that planning.”*

Progress Report: Pacific Planning Aid Projects

Roger Brewster

Since the 2004 CAP Forum, the Planning Institute of Australia Queensland Division (PIA) has been actively engaged in progressing the needs assessment in the Commonwealth Pacific nations and arranging various forms

of planning assistance. The Pacific Network of Planners established at the 2003 Regional Forum is now a reality as the medium, through which the PIA CAP secretariat maintains contact with those participants. Two programs may be of special interest to readers.

AYAD Programme

The Australian Government supports a programme of Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD), in which young people (18-30 years) are offered assignments with a range of experiences from trade-based opportunities to using their professional skills for 3 – 12 months in assistance projects in developing countries in the Asia Pacific region. A feature of the programme is that Australian Partner Organisations, in cooperation with host agencies, may propose specific projects with nominated candidates. This is applicable to the PIA planning assistance projects.

A fortunate coincidence occurred in September 2004 when the Australian Prime Minister John Howard attending the AsiaLink Leadership Forum, announced increased funding to the AYAD Program by around AU\$24 million between now and 2006 and more emphasis on the Pacific area. The current round for assignments starting in March 2005 was extended for submission of applications until 29 October 2004. This created the opportunity to propose two projects in Fiji and Vanuatu.

The United Nations Humans Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) recently established an office in Suva, Fiji to support the Pacific Region in strengthening cooperation with Pacific Island Countries, and supporting Pacific Island Governments in achieving their commitment to environmental sustainability and improving the living conditions of the urban poor under the Millennium Development Goal 7, targets 10 and 11 (the water and sanitation, and “cities without slums” indicators). The Habitat Programme Coordinator Ms Sue Le Mesurier requested an ambassador to assist in the development of a Local Level Urban Governance Campaign for Fiji. We were able to propose a candidate from within our CAP team to fulfil this assignment.

A second opportunity arose in Vanuatu with a request by the Director of Lands for planning assistance. The Department of Lands is responsible for planning and land use for Vanuatu. It is currently developing a systematic lands policy, in view of the large scale leasing and subdivision of customary land which is occurring on Efate and other islands. A Land Management Planning committee to recommend the optimum form of land development for each major island, and a steering committee to review the first committee's recommendations, are expected to formulate a national lands policy for the country, by establishment of a new Land Use Commission. This is the first time that a fully inclusive and holistic approach has been adopted

towards formulating a national lands policy. The staff resources are limited and inexperienced in such an integrated approach.

The AYAD ambassador would assist in the review of existing land tenure in Vanuatu, particularly in Port Vila and Luganville, for input into new zoning plans. Secondary outcomes would be capacity building in the junior – middle level technical staff in relation to land use management.

Community Visioning

As a complementary project in Vanuatu, the CAP secretariat is applying to AusAID for funding to provide assistance for a proposed “Community Visioning” Project for Port Vila. The project will be informed by an initial zoning workshop held on 9-11 August 2004 and by a second zoning workshop and National Summit, held in early October.

A community visioning project is simply a process by which a community envisions the future it wants and plans how to achieve it. It brings people together to develop for themselves a shared image of what they want their community to become in a timeframe of 15-25 years. The Australian team will facilitate the four step process. Each step focuses on a driving question:

- Where are we now? – the community profile [addressed in the zoning workshops]
- Where are we going? - the likely trends if no positive intervention is made to change the future.
- Where do we want to be? - the development of a vision for the future.
- How do we get there? – this will become the Port Vila planning project – the action plan.

The process is concentrated in time and space to focus attention quickly and generate the outputs, encouraging lateral thinking and “dreaming” to articulate a community vision. A vision statement encompasses values, expectations and dreams to make a realistic and achievable preferred scenario with goals for implementation. The outcomes of this process should form the basis of the Port Vila planning project, rather than simply adjusting the existing zones. It will become a reference and a foundation for managing changing land uses.

The visioning workshop is intended to be conducted by a facilitation team of five planners from Australia in cooperation with the Vanuatu Lands Department, Port Vila Municipal Council, other relevant government departments. It will involve in an inclusive process a wide cross section of stakeholders, community leaders, Port Vila based NGOs and the community, including people of all ages and status.

It is therefore human resource intensive with many participants (200+) and facilitated by a necessarily large

team of five people, who are unbiased as to the outcomes – with no presumptions or conflicts of interest. The team members will liaise with National, Provincial and Municipal officials; landholders and business groups; NGOs, community and educational groups before the workshop.

These specific assistance projects are made possible only by the dedication of a voluntary group of mainly young women planners in the CAP team, who have given generously of their time and talents to assist our neighbour nations in the Pacific. The skills of other members have also been invaluable in providing more policy oriented advice to Samoa and elsewhere on planning issues.

As with any worthwhile cause, the satisfaction is in the striving and giving to love our neighbours – we are inspired by a wise saying that *hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible*.

Roger Brewster is CAP's Co-ordinator for the South West Pacific region, and a practising planner based on Queensland's Gold Coast.

Solomon Islands Update

Jon Talbot

CAP members may recall the training held for planners in the Solomon Islands in July 2003, led by Jon Talbot. Jon's visit coincided with the arrival of the Australian backed Regional Intervention Mission the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) designed in the first instance to restore law and order in the Solomons, and in the longer term, institute good government. The training was successful but it became apparent that beyond that, the planning system itself is in great need of reform and if good governance is on the agenda, planning should form a part of that process. As a result, Jon revisited the Solomons this year (August 2004) to gather support for a bid to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, to begin the process of creating a planning system relevant to the needs of the Solomon Islands. In this respect, he was successful and Mr Donald Kudu, the Permanent Secretary with responsibility for land issues and himself a trained planner, has agreed to become part of a team to oversee the creation of a new system. At time of writing, the partners in the process are Mr Kudu, representing the government of the Solomon Islands, Buddley Ronnie, representing the planning profession and CAP. Invitations have also been extended to a member of the UN Habitat programme and the Pacific Network of Planners to become involved.

In the first instance a bid will be submitted for an experienced person to undertake a review of the planning system and how a reformed system should operate. The

current system, like many in the Commonwealth, is based on a modified version of the UK 1932 Town and Country Planning Act, whose principal purpose was to prevent suburban sprawl in the British countryside. The Act was first modified for use elsewhere in Trinidad and Tobago and versions of this legislation are now in use in many Commonwealth countries, including many Pacific nations. The review will not seek off the peg systems from elsewhere but begin with an appraisal of what planning in its broadest sense can achieve in a country like the Solomons. It will therefore have to consider issues such as the scope of planning, perhaps moving away from the narrow land use only approach inherent in British planning, planning on customary land, including villages, National Park legislation, instituting greater emphasis on plan making (there is no development plans at the moment), and enabling citizen participation.

If the bid is successful, it is intended to submit a further bid to ensure resources are in place to draft new legislation. A revised system must also, unlike in the past, have suitable secondary legislation, to make the system understandable and be written in English and Pidgin, the language most people speak. A third phase will involve training for the new system for all stakeholders, not just planners themselves. Ideally, a further bid will involve a review of the new system and identify ongoing training needs. In all, it is anticipated that reform of the planning system in the Solomons will take place over a number of years.

Beyond that, it is recognised that many of the issues surrounding planning in the Solomons are not unique. In the Pacific and elsewhere, planning has not really delivered all that it should, in part at least, because of the inappropriate systems set up in the post colonial era. The effectiveness of such systems has received rather less attention than it should have done. The Solomon Islands is a very poor country, which up until last year had reached rock bottom. The RAMSI intervention has rooted out corruption and this year, the economy has grown over 5%, after several years of negative growth. Good planning is an essential element of good government and the time is right to create a modern, appropriate planning system there. CAP itself spent a number of years in relative decline. Now the organisation is there, it is time for CAP to start to make a difference

Report on Women in Planning

Alicia Yon

The Women in Planning (WiP) initiative evolved through CAP a few years ago due to an increasing realisation of a lack of gender awareness in planning. This is by no means another "women's thing". It is a way to gain a female perspective on the planning profession across the

Commonwealth as this is now a very popular field in the professional workforce for women to enter. WiP is still embryonic, but with growing interest and an emerging force of enthusiastic young female planners coming into the profession, is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with. We see this as an opportunity to harness this emerging energy and enthusiasm. Moreover, it is a potent method of stimulating dialogue between fellow professionals on women's issues such as gender equity, efficiency, etc and to introduce that female perspective to planning, development and capacity building.

Up until now WiP has mainly rested with Dr Olusola Olufemi who resigned earlier this year. Dr Roxana Hafiz from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology has now taken over the reigns and is assisted by regional coordinators (as agreed at the recent CAP Malaysia Business Meeting on 4 July 2004) - Pamela Ayebare for East Africa Region, Dr Carol Archer for Caribbean Region and Alicia Yon for Australia/Pacific Regions.



The Planning Institute of Australia Queensland Division 2003 Annual State Planning Conference could not have come at a more opportune time and helped WiP's growth through awareness raising, and encouraged younger planners to get involved. The diverse conference program included a session on women in planning.

Several speakers covered a range of topics and included Mary Maher, Dr Olusola Olufemi, Dr Ivana Milojevic and Brisbane City Councillor Judy Magub.

They all come from a strong social planning background and generated a dynamic and passionate session. Unfortunately, the women's session was poorly attended, emphasising the fact that the majority of the planning fraternity is still very focused on the physical land use planning dimension that neglects the human dimension, rather than focusing on what it is actually about - the people. Specifically, planning lacks

awareness regarding issues related to gender, children, the physically challenged and the aged. These deficiencies are reported to be more prominent in planning in the developing countries, such as Bangladesh, where for example women are elected to the city councils, but are only back-benchers without any power to carry out the promises they had made before election.

However, in the Australian context there seems to be some softening to planning with a critical mass adding that important female dimension to policy development, governance and community building, but there is still some way to go as women in leadership positions within the planning profession in Australia are few and far between.

The general theme of the women in planning session at the Queensland 2003 State Conference was premised on the inclusive, participatory nature of planning (or lack thereof) as a profession. Mary's paper focused on how inclusive of women is the planning profession, and how planning plays an instrumental role in the delivery of greater inclusiveness in our society. Olusola's paper focused on the manifestation of inequality in the planning profession and how women are affected, as well as progress made so far to address gender inequality focusing on the role of CAP and women's inertia. Ivana explored the relationship between gender sensitive issues and alternative futures for cities, and how to envision viable, happy and healthy cities. Judy provided a refreshing perspective and drew from her practical experience as a City Councillor to give a broader perspective of how women can truly make a difference through leadership and governance in society. Please contact the author of this article for full versions of any of these papers.

Networking is an essential life skill. The importance of networks cannot be underestimated as they can be effective lobbying and campaigning mechanisms. Through WiP, under the auspices of CAP, we have so much more bargaining power and influence to assist and enable people unable to help themselves.

Without the activity of women's groups at the local, national, and international levels, pressure for *refocusing* and in some instances *change* would be much less effective. There is a need to speak and act as a unified voice, and how better to do that than through a group that shares the same values and ideals.

A recent capacity building project proposed for my home country Namibia was called "*Oku Okondopaleka Oomeme*"- Empowerment of Women. And that is mainly what WiP is all about, not just for women's sake, but to enrich the lives of all people through our involvement, leadership and governance in society. We place great importance on providing support, including professional information sharing and exchange. So let's start building those

relationships and connect like-minded people to build a better future for all!

For anyone interested in joining, or for more information on the WiP network, please contact Roxana Hafiz at rhafiz@urp.buet.ac.bd or Alicia Yon at alicia.yon@gmail.com

Heritage Conservation in Bombay

Shyam Chainani (Honorary Secretary, Bombay Environmental Action Group)

Until the mid-1950s Bombay (or parts of it) could still be described as a beautiful city. With fine buildings, broad streets, leafy roads, infrastructure that worked and a generally civilised atmosphere it was the envy of most. However, since then there has been a huge amount of construction and destruction of heritage and environment. The bungalows, heritage structures, trees and gardens which gave a special character to Malabar Hill, Cumballa Hill, Bandra and many other beautiful areas were almost totally demolished and replaced by high rise concrete jungles, lacking open space and characterised by traffic congestion and pollution. All this happened without a whimper of protest from the citizens. Sadly, a similar situation occurred in many other Indian cities.

Mercifully, however, the historic core of Bombay – the Fort and its environs – got off relatively lightly. This was not because there was great concern for its conservation, rather it was due to purely accidental factors. For example, rent control limited the ability of property owners to get tenants out and demolish the building. Planning control also helped: most, if not all the buildings in the Fort area already exceeded the permitted Floor Space Index of 2.45. This meant that any redevelopment would have to be at lower site density, a highly uneconomic proposition. A further disincentive came in 1997 when the Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authority tightened the FSI regime and prohibited construction or reconstruction of offices and commercial establishments in the island core of Bombay, an area that included the Fort.

Public ownership of many of the buildings, combined with the conservatism (and lack of funds) of Government agencies also slowed the demolition of publicly-owned heritage buildings. Nevertheless there were some significant losses. Around 1970 a large portion of the Central Telegraph Office (CTO) Building (an integral part of a long line of period buildings – now listed Grade I or Grade IIA) was demolished. The Queen's Statue, a popular landmark next to the CTO Building was removed. To add insult to injury the canopy of the statue was removed, not to the museum that kept other British statues, but rather it was

acquired by an industrialist. It now stands on the handkerchief-sized lawn in front of his high rise building on the traffic jammed Warden Road.

A high-rise tower that replaced a number of quaint single and double storied structures overshadows the Old Governor's House – a Grade IIA building dating from 1787. Similarly the old Town Hall of 1830, now listed as Grade I, escaped threatened renovation, though a skyscraper block built in the late 1970s by the Reserve Bank of India looms over it.

NGOs lead the fight for conservation

In 1977, I was shocked when I saw foundations being laid in the rear lawn of the Old Yacht Club building (owned by the Department of Atomic Energy). Not only was a new building planned for the lawn, but the Old Yacht Club building itself was to be demolished. It is a fine historic building. I took up the matter with the Save Bombay Committee, and then through the Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG). We campaigned through the press, elected representatives and others. The building was a British building, which Indians had never been allowed to enter, except as servants. In the end a new building was constructed on the rear lawn, but our campaign, which included delegations to Prime Minister Desai, saved the heritage structure. The Old Yacht Club still stands, is being restored and is now protected under the heritage regulations of Bombay.

The second case that triggered today's heritage conservation movement in Bombay was the New Custom House, dating from 1901. It is now listed as a grade IIA building and as part of the Ballard Estate precinct, one of the finest surviving neo-classical Edwardian precincts in the world. However, in 1977 demolition work commenced. I was able to use a network of contacts that allowed me to raise the matter directly with the then Finance Minister HM Patel. At the meeting, in early 1978, the most senior officer in the Customs Department was visibly upset, presumably because he had been called by the Finance Minister to answer to two young environmentalists! The Finance Minister himself was non-committal. We were using the same interview to discuss the relocation of a proposed massive fertiliser and petrochemical complex so could not press the case for the New Custom House too forcefully. Nevertheless, the result was a kind of compromise. The annex of the New Customs House, that had already been demolished, was built upon, but the main structure was saved from demolition.

The response

The publicity and public concern generated by these two cases prompted action from the Municipal Commissioner. Firstly, he made provision in the budget for funds to maintain or otherwise look after "old historical and monumental buildings in Bombay". At this stage there was no mention of precincts or other aspects of heritage.

Secondly, and much more important, he called a meeting of concerned citizens. This led to a Committee being formed, the Bombay Municipal Committee, which was to have long-term impacts. It was this committee that widened the scope of its work to take in precincts. Three cells were set up – for listing historical buildings, for listing buildings of architectural and aesthetic importance and for legal action.

Listing was the first priority: looking back, I think we were wrong. The first (or simultaneous) priority should always be enactment of enabling legislation or regulations to provide statutory backing to the lists. It makes little sense having beautiful lists (as we have in so many towns) if the buildings themselves do not have statutory protection. The Committee started with a list of only 90 buildings (and no precincts). Lacking statutory protection, these listed buildings were put on a watch list by the Municipal Corporation, who would put informal pressure on a builder who wanted to significantly alter or demolish one of these heritage buildings. Much depended on the Municipal Commissioners, and there were occasions on which a building was lost. However, the public and the press have overwhelmingly supported heritage conservation.

A breakthrough came in 1988. An Urban Conservation Sub-Committee was formed by the Government of Maharashtra to advise on heritage conservation in the Greater Bombay area. A new chapter on conservation was also added to the Development Plan for Bombay, and development control was also re-oriented to take more account of conservation. Thus powers were strengthened, even to the extent of considering whole areas not just individual buildings, and a concern for conservation was extended beyond Bombay itself.

In 1990 the Maharashtra Government agreed to establish a Heritage Committee for Bombay. This was a vital precedent since we were able to persuade the same government to establish a similar committee for Pune six months later. Indeed, following our advocacy, the Government of India wrote to all the State Governments, urging them to take similar action “to identify and conserve the precious heritage of your state”. A key factor in driving the whole project forward was the decisive support of a senior civil servant, D.T. Joseph. Thus a preliminary (and necessarily incomplete) heritage list for Greater Bombay was submitted by the Heritage Committee to the State Government in 1990, for use in arriving at decisions on planning applications. In this way, for the first time, heritage (other than archaeological features) gained some vital statutory backing.

Thus in 1991 the Government of Maharashtra published the draft Bombay Heritage Regulations and, separately but on the same day, the draft Heritage List for Greater Bombay. The Regulations and the List are therefore quite separate; the List does not form part of the Regulations.

Problems

Nevertheless there were still some problems. The State Government Guest House, formerly the Chief Minister’s official residence, had been placed on the heritage list. However, the Chief Minister had taken a decision that the building was to be demolished and replaced. The Indian Heritage Society (Bombay Chapter) planned to file a writ challenging the demolition. In 1991, threats were conveyed through senior government officers, that if the IHS went ahead, the Chief Minister would scrap the entire heritage list! Since the list was still in draft form and there were many public objections, this was no empty threat. After much debate and heart-searching, IHS reluctantly decided not to proceed to litigation.

The next problem was the Jain Temple at Pydhoni. The Temple Trustees claimed it was dilapidated and wished to demolish it and rebuild on the site. The Heritage Advisory Committee, which was advising the Municipal Commissioner, recommended against permitting the demolition. A structural engineering survey concluded that the building could be rehabilitated. However, in a rare case, the Municipal Commissioner over-ruled the Advisory Committee and sanctioned demolition.

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural heritage and the Indian Heritage Society took out a writ. Towards the end of 1993 a threat was conveyed that if the writ petition was not withdrawn, then all religious buildings would be deleted from the heritage list. Religious sensitivities being what they are, this threat also had to be taken seriously. However, it was decided not to withdraw the petition, and religious buildings were not removed from the list!

There is no doubt that these two cases delayed the final sanction of the Heritage Regulations and List for Bombay. Similar measures for other cities were also delayed. Eventually, the Regulations and List were approved in 1995. There had been over 900 objections, each of which was called to a hearing. Many objectors said that heritage was a great idea – but suggested that their building should be removed from the list. The architects and their professional association by and large opposed the regulations and the list.

Listing – An NGO effort

The listing was almost entirely an NGO effort. During the period of consideration of objections, additions of various buildings and precincts to the list were suggested. However, government and the NGOs feared that additions at this stage would result in further delays, so the suggestions were not included. Furthermore the hearing of objections resulted in the down-grading of a large number of buildings from Grade II to Grade III, and several deletions from the list.

Government responded. They restored some deletions, and directed the heritage Conservation Committee to consider all the other deletions. Government also reversed most of the down-gradings, and asked the Heritage Conservation

Committee to consider suggestions for adding buildings and precincts to the list. The Committee responded positively and the number of delineated precincts now exceeds thirty, containing several thousand buildings. Many of the most expensive areas of India now enjoy heritage protection.

One especially important NGO initiative was the listing of the Fort precinct, the largest in Bombay, an area of over 800 acres, that contains 14 sub-precincts. The Fort is where Bombay's history could be said to have begun over 400 years ago. Rahul Mehrotra of the Urban Design Research Institute prepared detailed proposals for designation of the Fort Precinct, and took them to the government. Thus the conservation of this extremely important historic area has been secured almost entirely by the effort of NGOs.

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WeKerle Garden Suburb

Kispest Budapest

A planning icon of the Garden City movement

John Anderson

Following the principles of Ebenezer Howard, Wekerle Garden Suburb, south east of Budapest, was designed in 1909 and completed in 1926. It is named after Sándor Wekerle a former Hungarian Prime Minister and Finance Officer, and was originally designed for 'industrial and white collar workers'. Today it accommodates some 14,000 people with shops, schools and churches, all designed in the Trans-Sylvanian style; it is a unique icon, essentially unchanged but, with privatisation, needing appropriate planning policies to ensure that its interesting architectural style continues undiluted by inappropriate additions for the future.

In 1908 the Hungarian Government made a decision to build 10,000 workers flats on a new site at the edge of the city ultimately to become 'Kispest'. Following careful research in other European countries they decided to adopt the principles of the 'Garden City' as set out in 'Tomorrow, a peaceful path to real reform' published by Howard in 1903 and the example built by Parker and Unwin at their Hampstead Garden Suburb. Tendering in 1909 led to a modified, compromise solution promoting quicker construction. In order to speed the works bricks were made

on site from the local clay, this decision is now causing problems as the quality was poor.

In the unique basic plan, a central square 200 metres by 200 metres is surrounded by a diagonal grid layout. This square is laid out as a public park. Sizes of surrounding houses and flats were designed in accordance with the importance of the streets. Planting had priority of implementation. Radiating streets were set out with poplar trees and main thoroughfares lined with plane trees. Now the streets are arched-over by these early plantings and demonstrate the effectiveness of considering landscaping before realising buildings.

Further problems necessitated a rethink and the project was put out to competition. The architect Kós Károly won, keeping the centre park but surrounding it by a 'wall' of buildings. This concept was visually strengthened by bridging over incoming streets on two sides (see photograph). The road followed the perimeter of the square leaving the park for pedestrians.



Following Kós's theme a small team, designed Wekerle's 44 domestic building types. All the building types follow the traditional Trans-Sylvanian style of the square with flowing curves and steeply pitched roofs. Visual balance as on each side of the central bridges is reciprocal rather than a mirror image, although roof heights, window detail and bay projections maintain the scale. There is general harmonic consistency of cornices, decorative plasterwork, string-courses, and gables. Schools, shops, churches and the police

station all are a part of the same concept. The last has a fine decorative frieze of figures set out in a similar manner to an Eric Gill sculpture.

A diagonal plan is not sympathetic to through traffic and consequently only essential vehicles enter the estate. It enjoys a 20kph speed limit on all roads. Most of the time this is respected. As the diagonal intersections are often based on five streets there is no direct crossing, and feature buildings at the end of the street vistas, with corner turrets, small domes and enhanced gable details, focus visual interest. Wider streets are lined with three-storey flats with balcony access from rear gardens; smaller streets have two-storey, four-flat blocks externally resembling British semi-detached units.

Under new privatisation laws planning controls are essential to maintain character following the removal of landlord control by the Kispest Council and, with the co-operation of the Wekerle Society, ground rules have been established. A new working group is formulating development policy for the estate following the Council's acceptance of its initial report. This includes a special input into schools with lectures by the planning staff to the children on the appreciation of their surroundings. Pump-priming action is planned such as the replacement of standard Eastern European concrete lamp-posts by traditional cast metal ones. There is an active policy of tree maintenance and replacement. Little money is immediately available but sponsorship potential is promising particularly for lamp-posts.

There is pressure on green spaces and gardens for building extensions. The recommendation is to augment internally by combining flats to producing larger units rather than allowing additions. Using roof space can achieve some expansion controlling new dormer windows to maintain scale. Because all the plans are available for the 44 house types a set of 'approved' modifications for each type has been produced in booklet form.

A major problem has been to find accommodation for the motor car. Obviously the Wekerle was designed without considering this addition to most households. A scheme has been produced using land at the rear of the housing blocks to form garage areas. This was originally set out rather harshly in linear form but the revised design now is softer with spaces for trees between buildings. In any changes proposed for the Wekerle, we have had to stress that the main theme must always be to maintain a *garden* suburb.

The Wekerle is unique because it was built over a relatively short period of time to the design principles of one man, Kós Károly. Full records of these designs are on file at Kispest City Hall. No changes were made from its completion until privatisation a few years ago, and with the general expansion of greater Budapest it has become completely

surrounded by development, so it remains with strong boundaries as one of the best monuments to the Garden City movement. In the UK we have places like Saltaire and Bournville but they are smaller. Welwyn has been re-developed and is not so rigid in its form, and it is not the product of one design team down to the window details. Abroad, I know of Belleville and Strathclyde in Barbados, both 'garden suburbs' and interesting in their own right but they have not the consistency of design or the richness of planting compared to the Wekerle. The Hungarians are looking at applying for World Heritage Site status for this superb example of Ebenezer Howard's ideas and it is to be hoped that it becomes so scheduled.

*John Anderson: Secretary General CAP
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Conferences

London Women and Planning Forum ESRC Seminar Series Nov 2004 – June 2006 Capital Designs: Women and Planning in Contemporary London

Further information available from Dr Alison Blunt, Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London Email: A.Blunt@qmul.ac.uk

6th International Cities, Town Centres & Communities (ICTC) Conference

31 May – 3 June 2005 at Rydges Capricorn Convention Centre, Yeppoon, Queensland, Australia
Further details available at www.ictcsociety.org

Royal Town Planning Institute Planning Convention London 2005

Planning Makes it Happen – Developing people, processes and purpose to make spatial planning work in the UK.
30 June – 1 July 2005 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London
Further details available on the RTPI website at www.rtpi.org.uk/resources/conferences/index.html

Canadian Institute of Planners Frontiers in Planning and Design

The annual conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Calgary, Alberta from 17-20 July 2005.
Further details available on the CIP website at www.cip-icu.ca/

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