

# CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of Planners

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## New CAP President



**Christine Platt**, a planning consultant from Durban, is the new President of CAP. She is the first person from Africa and the first woman to hold this post. She works as a Planning Consultant in Durban. Christine is strongly committed to the “Re-inventing planning” agenda that CAP has led in recent years, and also to strengthening CAP’s activity in the regions.

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# **WORLD PLANNERS’ CONGRESS AND URBAN FORUM SPECIAL**

In June 2006 two seminal meetings were held in Vancouver. The World Planners’ Congress was organised by the Canadian Institute of Planners and subsumed the biennial CAP World Congress. The World Urban Forum was organised by UN-Habitat, for a wider audience than just planners. CAP was intimately involved in these two events and in forging a synergy between them. Here we report on some of the highlights.

## **UN sees “crucial role” for planning**

“Unless the North buys into the need to address poverty, there is a danger that many in the South will remain indifferent to the potentially catastrophic environmental change that threatens to engulf us all. We all have to accept that poverty is the biggest polluter. Urban planning is a crucial element in this jigsaw, and planning professionals have a key role to play.” This is what Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the most senior woman official in the UN, told the 1300 planners at the World Planners’ Congress last June.

Dr. Tibaijuka argued that many nations and development agencies are still in denial about the escalation and

significance of urban poverty and believe that their objective ought to be to stem the trend of urbanisation rather than plan for it. While this attitude is changing, it is changing too slowly. “The active support of the planning profession is essential in promoting a change of this antediluvian attitude”, she said.

“Local governments and city authorities provide many of the basic services such as water, sanitation and other infrastructure that are essential to achieving the MDGs. Urban planning undertaken by city governments, that responds to the needs and priorities of their citizens, is an essential means by which to provide these facilities.

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In a key section of her speech Dr. Tibaijuka focused on ways in which planning is too often used by “politicians, journalists or other opinion-formers” as a spurious justification for actions that are exclusionary and oppress the urban poor.

“The poor are untidy, their settlements are unplanned and their houses are often vectors of disease, and, it is often claimed, are harbours of criminality. The poor are not good citizens. The ‘Planned City’ requires that the poor should at best be hidden, or at worst, swept away.”

She referred to the situation in Nairobi, “where the poor are hidden, some 80% of the population lives on 5% of the land, and that in the most marginal locations, crammed at high densities into river flood plains, alongside railway tracks, by garbage dumps, in toxic industrial wasteland.”

**How often do we see planning requirements for minimum house plot sizes that are absolutely unattainable for the poor?**

The Executive Director spoke powerfully of Zimbabwe’s Operation Murambatsvina, or “drive out the trash”. The government evicted 700,000 urban dwellers and demolished their homes. This operation was justified by the so-called need for “proper planning”, yet the evictees are homeless today. She stressed that sadly, this was not an isolated incident. “The corrupted vision of the planned city, where the poor have no place, continues to be used as a justification of such actions.”

“In many countries we find planning standards applied that are simply not relevant to the poor or actively discriminate against them.”

Dr. Tibaijuka set out a list of challenges for planners. She called on them to produce and promote clear statements about planning and its underlying values. “These will remove at least one important prop for these at worst repressive, at best neglectful, approaches.” She said that these values must stress the importance of a vision and philosophy of urban planning that is pro-poor and inclusive. They also need

to balance environmental sustainability on the one hand with social and economic dimensions – the anti-poverty agenda on the other. Such principles need to command “active support of urban planning practitioners the world over”.

In a clear endorsement of CAP’s work, Dr. Tibaijuka said that planning practitioners and their associations need a strategy of internationalisation. “Stronger and more financially viable planning associations need to reach out in solidarity and good will to their fellow professionals in weaker associations. And all associations can learn from the practices of others no matter variations in levels of institutional development.”

**Cities such as Nairobi are doubling in size every 10 years. Lagos will become the largest city in the world by 2020 with over 20 million people. Growth of this magnitude imposes a planning and management burden on overstretched city administrations that has never been witnessed before in world history. Already over 1 billion people are living in slums.**

The head of UN-Habitat said that planning must be fit for purpose. “In the past it has been found wanting in dealing with the problems of the poor. It has been regarded as too slow in producing results and unresponsive to the needs of the poor. The role of planning should be so as to provide more livelihood as well as housing choices for the poor.”

She went on to commend ‘New Urban Planning’, a concept CAP has played a key role in developing and promoting. In Dr. Tibaijuka’s words this is planning which “is strategic, stakeholder responsive and market-savvy, and linked to city budgets, can guide investments, both private and public, to where they are needed most and have the maximum impact.”

While stressing that there is still a lot of work to be done to implant New Urban Planning as the mainstream practice across many countries, Dr. Tibaijuka commended the way that planning professionals had engineered a “renaissance” for planning. “UN-HABITAT, fully endorses the evolution you are fostering in the planning profession at this time of rapid change, and would like to give its support to you in whatever way it can.”

For a full copy of Dr. Tibaijuka’s speech contact [Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk), or write to her at CAP, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HL, Scotland.

## **World Urban Forum endorses “Re-inventing planning”**

At the UN’s World Urban Forum (WUF) in Vancouver in June there was a strong focus on the need to re-invent planning to make it relevant to conditions of rapid urbanisation and the urbanisation of poverty.

The outcome, in the words of the official UN report, was that “The Forum placed a strong emphasis on planning as a tool for urban development and

environmental management, and as a means of preventing future slum growth. This view was accepted not just by government officials and urban planners themselves, but also by civil society groups that wanted planning to be more inclusive, transparent and ethical.”

This was one of only four key items identified by the Forum as a key focus for the period from now until World Urban Forum IV which will be held in China in October 2008.

The focus on planning emerged from one of the formal “Dialogue” sessions of the Forum. These are huge meetings of over 1,000 people, in which keynote speakers are interleaved with interventions from the highly knowledgeable audience. The then CAP President, Cliff Hague was an invited keynote speaker and his successor, Christine Platt was invited to speak also, to carry into the Dialogue the messages from the Planning Africa meeting held in Cape Town in March 2006, and reported in the last issue of CAP News.

Cliff’s input concentrated on the “Re-inventing Planning” paper which he had co-authored. He summarised its calls for New Urban Planning, as a practice that is proactive and focused on sustainability. As a result of inputs from the floor at the Dialogue, and from the CAP Networking Event at the WUF (see below) the 10 key principles in “Re-inventing planning” were amended slightly.

- Sustainability
- Integrated planning and budgeting
- Planning with partners
- Transparent, accountable planning
- Subsidiarity
- Market responsiveness

- Access to Land
- Appropriate tools
- Pro-poor and inclusive
- Sensitive to cultural variations

### Ten principles of New Urban Planning

The following stand out among the conclusions officially minuted from this Dialogue session:

- Planning is not about technique alone: it needs a strong ethical base.
- Planners need to see themselves as agents of change.
- Values such as a pro-poor orientation, inclusion, transparency, environmental sustainability must form the backbone of new forms of planning, and the role of young people, especially young planners, in setting these values is critical. This also warrants a **change in planning education and training.**
- Urban planning and design can be powerful mechanisms in cities, to resolve conflicts at different scales. Balancing the interests of private sector and the community at the same time requires strong local government and good governance, of which planning is an integral component.
- Associations and networks are invited to contribute to the discussions to **further develop the new agenda for planning.** It is essential that **other stakeholders** – civil society, private sector, indigenous groups and others – participate in this process.

The full “Re-inventing Planning” paper can be seen at:

[www.globalplanningnetwork.org](http://www.globalplanningnetwork.org).

For a printed copy please write to Annette O’Donnell, at CAP, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HL, Scotland.

## CAP Packs ‘em in

The Networking Event that CAP put on at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver was “standing room only”, with the doors being closed and people turned away 15 minutes before the scheduled start. This indicates how interested the international human settlements community now is in the work that CAP is doing. Those who managed to squeeze in were uncomfortable, but not disappointed.

The theme of the 2 hour meeting was “Planning Practice in an urbanising world”. While the Commonwealth was well represented in the large audience, there were also planners and non-planners from many other countries present also.

Cliff Hague opened the session by reminding people about the scale of new slum formation and the importance of the legacy of planning as a profession brought into being by the need to improve urban living conditions for the benefit of the mass of the people.

He stressed the need for planners to plan for urban growth, and to show that planning is not just about consumption, but also has an important role to play in creating economic opportunity and boosting livelihoods.

CAP’s Vice-President for West Africa, Chijioke Lawrence, from Nigeria, reported on the CAP workshop that he had chaired in his region in the run-up to the WUF (see report in the last issue of CAP News). He stressed the scale and significance of rapid urbanisation in West Africa and the steps that the Nigerians and their Commonwealth

colleagues from Ghana have taken to better prepare planners for these challenges.

The third speaker was Roger Brewster from the Planning Institute of Australia, who has been a key figure in translating ideas about international co-operation and planning assistance into practical reality. Roger spoke about the project that he helped institute that involves Australian planners working with their colleagues from Sri Lanka on post-tsunami reconstruction. For details again see the last issue of CAP News.

New CAP President Christine Platt was also able to bring important messages from the meeting of African Planners that was held in Cape Town in March 2006. Thus the strategy that CAP developed during 2005, of holding regional events that could feed experiences and needs into the WUF in 2006, worked.

A wide ranging discussion followed. Key points put forward included the need for planners to oppose the use of planning as a rationale for forced evictions. Furthermore, it was argued that too often planning systems were slow and bureaucratic when faced with the need to enable community-based slum upgrading.

There was also a perception that planning was changing in rich countries too. A shift away from planning as a means of micro-managing land use change, and towards more strategic spatial planning was reported from the UK. Important questions were also raised about the capacity and adequacy of planning education systems, and about the need for life long learning.

## **CAP members lead the way in signing the Vancouver Declaration**

One important outcome of the World Planners' Congress convened by the Canadian Institute of Planners last June was the signing of the Vancouver Declaration. This is a short statement in which professional planning bodies from many very different countries have committed themselves to work together to tackle the challenges of:

- rapid urbanisation,
- the urbanisation of poverty, and
- the hazards posed by climate change and natural disasters.

CAP played a central role in drafting the Declaration. It has now been signed by representatives of the following CAP member institutes:

Bangladesh Institute of Planners  
Barbados Town & Country Planning Society  
Canadian Institute of Planners  
Ghana Institute of Planners  
Malaysian Institute of Planners  
Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka  
Jamaican Institute of Planners  
Kenya Institute of Planners  
Nigerian Institute of Town Planners  
Planning Institute of Australia  
Royal Town Planning Institute  
Singapore Institute of Planners  
South African Planning Institute  
Uganda Institute of Physical Planners

The Declaration echoes CAP's dictum that "There can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation, and no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning".

It depicts planning as an inclusive process that is a fundamental part of good governance.

CAP encourages ALL its member organisations to support the Vancouver Declaration. This involves putting their name and logo to it (contact [Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk) for information about how to do this). However, it also means acting in accord with the principles in the Declaration and putting them into practical effect.

## **Making Planning Work – CAP book is a hit at WUF**

A book endorsed by CAP and which CAP played a key role in producing was launched at the World Urban Forum by UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, who also wrote the Foreword.

*Making Planning Work: A guide to approaches and skills* is short and easy to read. It uses over 20 case studies, many supported by colour photos, to show that planning is indeed being “re-invented” in many very different contexts.

The book stresses the need for generic skills that are not unique to the planning profession, but are increasingly important in managing urban change. These include analytical and cognitive skills; skills of communication, negotiation and mediation; management skills; skills for strategic planning, and for monitoring and learning.

There will not be unanimity on the future of planning, nor should there be. It is my sincere hope, however, that this publication and the continuing debate will further enrich the range of norms, tools, instruments and skills that are making new urban planning an increasingly relevant contribution to achieving more equitable, just and sustainable cities and communities worldwide.

**Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka**

*Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director*

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

CAP is urging Commonwealth governments to buy bulk copies of the book and distribute them to staff in ministries, local authorities etc. We urge all member institutes to contact their Ministry and support this idea.

*Making Planning Work: A guide to approaches and skills*, by Cliff Hague, Patrick Wakely, Julie Crespín and Chris Jasko is published by ITDG Publishing (also known as “Practical Action”). CAP members can order copies at a special discounted price of GB£12 (including postage and packing) from CAP, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HL. Cheques should be made out to Commonwealth Association of Planners.

## **Feedback from CAP Sponsored Delegates**

**Doreen Prendergast**

**President, Jamaican Institute of Planners**

The events provided a platform for showcasing works and opinions of 1150 delegates from 47 countries. There was a wide range of activities and my work

in housing influenced the sessions I attended.

I participated in a field trip to look at urban agricultural land uses. We visited a cranberry farm, a co-generation plant and tomato greenhouse, an urban edge planting project and a vineyard and winery. Day two was equally interesting. The address by keynote speaker Paul Farmer on “Sustainability – Planning’s New Holy Grail” reintroduced us to the issue of smart growth. Cliff Hague also addressed the session on “New Urban Planning”. These presentations underscored the need for integrated planning and for rethinking the conventional planning methods and embracing approaches that are more flexible.

On day three the session addressed the issues of planning tools for urban disaster resilience and how communities mitigate against hazards. An interesting presentation “The Ethical Planner” examined issues pertaining to the moral, procedural and substantive responsibilities of planners. It underscored the need to facilitate democratic partnerships, questioned the values that planners should exercise in decision-making and emphasized the ethical responsibility of planners to future generations regarding environmental sustainability. It spoke to the need to integrate nature and culture with professional responsibility. Another presentation “Towards Social Sustainability – Building the Bridge Between Health and Housing” emphasized the importance of housing to social sustainability, looked at issues pertaining to vulnerable groups such as the aged; identified the roles of cities

and examined the tools needed to facilitate.

The keynote speaker on day four was Dr. Dennis Mileti, the Author of “Disaster by Design”. He spoke on Natural Hazards and Sustainable Development and reiterated the need for an integrated approach to be adopted to address natural disasters, so as to ensure resiliency, as well as to build local capacity. The need for public education was also emphasized. I participated in the session entitled, Density, Design and Doom. Emerging issues included the unprecedented urbanization and the need for ecological footprint analysis; the need to reconfigure how we live and curtail the export of middle class lifestyle that supports a wastage of space and design diverse building types to support different lifestyles.

The closing Keynote Speaker, Mr. Stephen Lewis, extensively challenged planners to re-evaluate the way in which we undertake our work. Mr. Lewis, though not a planner, used his address to share with participants the role he envisions for planners in this changing world impacted by HIV/AIDS. He examined this in the context of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 which speaks to ensuring environmental sustainability and in particular target 11 “Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020”. He placed the planner, in a position akin to that of a ship’s rudder, in the fight against HIV/Aids.

I participated in a plenary on Social Inclusion and Cohesion, which saw Jockin Arthuptham of the National Slum Dwellers Federation of India making a

very powerful presentation. Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Housing South Africa, also addressed the gathering. There were calls for poverty to be brought back to the centre of the debate, and a need for collaboration between governments and civil society.

Another plenary addressed the issue of Urban Growth and Environment. Enrique Penalosa from Colombia spoke to the need for greater public pedestrian space; and to place restrictions on car use, so as to make resources available for other social good. Prof. John Friedmann spoke on “The Role of Cities in Creating Environmental Sustainability”. Osamam Saleem spoke to the expansion of the security footprints of cities and Tasneem Essop spoke to the issue of wealth setting the agenda and the need for governments to act in the interest of the public good, while seeking to ignite the responsiveness of the private sector.

The closing plenary of the World Urban Forum addressed the role of civil society, women, the private and the youth in addressing the challenges of the world.

In concluding it must be said that the juxtapositioning of the World Planners Congress and the World Urban Forum provided the ideal platform for information exchange and networking. The topics discussed at the plenary and the parallel sessions were interesting and the subsequent interchange and discourse were meaningful. The off-site field trips provided a double benefit of affording us an opportunity of seeing Vancouver and at the same time providing an opportunity to see planning at work on the ground.

There were many planned social activities to satisfy the desires of the diverse participants. The free bus passes given at the World Urban Forum also afforded us the opportunity to see more of Vancouver than would otherwise be possible as we rode on the city’s buses and sea train. The entertainment packages at the World Urban Forum were exceptional. The performance of the Masai Sisters from Kenya was remarkable and stood out for me. The literature and cultural displays were also extensive and showcased the offerings of the participating countries.

Special commendation to CAP for sponsoring my participation in the fora and in particular Annette O’Donnell for being so responsive to my needs thus making my stay enjoyable and meaningful. I returned to Jamaica much more educated and aware of existing and emerging planning issues around the world. With the added responsibility of being selected as the women in planning representative for the Americas at the CAP Business Meeting, I now look forward to the challenges to come and hope to continue to make a meaningful contribution.

**Augustine K. Masinde**  
**Honorary Secretary**  
**Kenya Institute of Planners**

The challenges associated with the planning for city and county in the Kenyan development dynamics are numerous. They range from lack of adequate capacity in public institutions entrusted with the responsibility to plan and implement approved plans, lack of political will to mobilise resources required for plan preparation and implementation and lack of effective

partnership between the public, private sector agencies and the communities in tackling problems faced by the majority of citizens.

It is now clear that unless drastic measures are put in place the consequences that come with these problems will become increasingly difficult to handle.

This is why the theme of the WUF III: “**From ideas to action**” comes in. In the Kenyan context there is urgent need to radically change both the approaches and the planning environment to focus on tackling the issues of debilitating urban and rural poverty, lack of pro-poor urban governance and efficient and equitable use of resources including land. The way to go about this is to come up with strategies that aim at:

- Linking the urban and regional plan preparation and implementation process to the budgetary processes of both national and local government authorities to provide the requisite financial resources for planning and implementation;
- Re-engineering the planning process from the usual participatory approach to effective partnership. In this case partnership should entail empowering communities and the private sector through education, sensitization and development of local structures that enables them to undertake and exercise shared responsibility and benefits with public sector agencies;
- Land reform programmes that focus on engendering the land rights of the urban poor, women and the disadvantaged should be embedded in the overall urban and regional planning and development programmes;
- Enhancement of the capacity of the local government authorities as foundations for good urban governance;
- Refocusing slum up-grading schemes to take on a more integrated approach in dealing with issues of shelter provision, urban planning and management, land tenure reforms and governance. The current slum up-grading approach that emphasises only shelter provision is bound to fail unless it is addressed in tandem with the other elements that go with it;
- Utilization of planning aid as a tool for meeting the acute shortfall in the availability of trained and qualified planners in the local government authorities. Indeed the proposal to establish the “Planners without Frontiers” would be most useful in the Kenyan context given the level of inadequacy of qualified planners both in public and private sector establishment.

The conferences were enriching in expounding on both procedural and substantive issues that underline the planning profession. The challenges for planners in Kenya is to systematically start turning these ideas into action.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **CAP Business Meeting ups subs' and renews commitments**

CAP agreed to raise its membership subscription to GB£1 per corporate member per year for the years 2007 and 2008. This reflects a recognition that the increasing level of CAP activity and profile, and the rising expectations of CAP members mean that extra resources are needed. In real terms the price of membership remains below what it was in the 1970s, when the rate charged was GB£0.70 per corporate member. There is no individual membership of CAP – individuals are members through their own professional institute. Other groupings of planners, e.g. in countries where there is no professional planning institute are welcome to join as Affiliate Members (see page 24).

A new Executive was elected. It is as follows:

President: Christine Platt (South Africa)  
Regional Vice-Presidents:  
Americas – Richard Gill (Barbados)  
Europe – Clive Harridge (UK)  
East Africa – Bosire Ogero (Kenya)  
West Africa – Chi Odimuko (Nigeria)  
SE Asia – Belinda Yuen (Singapore)  
SW Asia – K. D. Fernando (Sri Lanka)  
Secretary General: Cliff Hague (UK)  
Convenor, Women in Planning Network:  
Alicia Yon (Namibia / Australia)

The meeting conferred the title of Honorary Vice-President onto John Anderson for life, in recognition of his services to CAP over a long period,

including his work as Secretary General from 2000 until 2006.

The offer from the South African Planning Institute to host the next CAP global conference and business meeting in Johannesburg was accepted. The dates are 14-16 April 2008. Get them in your diaries!

### **CAP going to Nairobi**

CAP has been invited to take part in the UN-Habitat Governing Council meeting which will take place in Nairobi 16-20 April 2007. CAP will be represented there by the President and the Secretary-general and by Bosire Ogero, CAP's Vice-President for East Africa.

A meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) will be held during the week in Nairobi. CAP will have a seat in this meeting, which will include ministers and senior officials from a number of Commonwealth countries. It is anticipated that there will be an opportunity to present CAP's ideas on how to take forward ideas about New Urban Planning from the World Urban Forum.

### **CAP's Commonwealth Day message**

Monday 12 March was Commonwealth Day. CAP issued the following message:

This year the theme of Commonwealth Day is "Respect and Understanding". It is a theme that reflects the core of New Urban Planning as a paradigm for good urban governance. Effective planning of

human settlements and regions is only possible if there is respect and understanding for all the diverse groups of people who live in any settlement, and especially in the metropolitan areas that are growing so rapidly across the Commonwealth. Planners need to understand different cultures and needs, particularly those of the urban poor, slum dwellers and the homeless. Outreach needs to be mainstreamed into planning practices. Plans need to be negotiated not imposed.

There are plenty of good examples of planners across the Commonwealth practising planning based on respect and understanding of environments, peoples and markets. Urban growth is a process in which conflicts abound. That is why we need to modernise planning systems across the Commonwealth so that they can serve as effective, transparent mechanisms to steer the surge of urban growth that will be so dramatic in this generation.

## **CAP's World Town Planning Day statement**

The Commonwealth Foundation and CAP joined together on World Town Planning Day (8 November) to remind governments that planning is an essential way to build sustainable urban settlements that are vital to poverty alleviation and slowing the rate of global warming.

The joint statement stressed that the Commonwealth Foundation currently holds habitat issues high on its programme agenda and partners with civil society to implement the UN-Habitat agenda which sets a global plan of action that includes working towards

achieving sustainable human settlements.

The statement made reference to the Stern report on the costs of climate change. That report demonstrates just how important it is to plan and manage urban development globally. "Every day there are another 60,000 people living in towns and cities in the Commonwealth. Unless this surge of development can be accomplished equitably and in an environmentally responsible manner, the dire predictions in the Stern report will become reality. The impacts of climate change are already evident in many low-lying Commonwealth countries that are vulnerable to sea level rise and extreme weather conditions".

The Press Release also quoted the Foundation's Deputy Director Vijay Krishnarayan, himself a town planner by background. "With 80% of the Commonwealth population living in urban centres, the planning of town and cities is an extremely important issue affecting people's households. Decisions on how and where essential services are provided must include the perspectives of those it affects. Planning has long been an area for public participation and can provide good examples to other sectors in promoting participation between governments and civil society."

CAP President Christine Platt was also quoted as saying that "The Commonwealth Association of Planners serves as an important conduit for communication between member associations throughout the Commonwealth, as well as between its members and other global players in the planning field, including UN-Habitat. It

plays the leading role in developing planning and planners throughout the countries of the Commonwealth and a priority in this regard is the strengthening of the Association's regions."

## **FOCUS ON CAPACITY BUILDING**

Capacity-building and life-long learning are vital if planning is to become a more effective means of managing urban change in sustainable ways. Here are two short articles which show what needs to be done, and what might be done.

### **Message from Malawi**

The Malawi Institute of Physical Planners (MIPP) is four years old. It has 26 Corporate members, though Associates and Students take its total membership up to 70.

Planning legislation has closely followed British legislation. Following Independence planning was administered centrally. Land invasions and informality have accelerated after the 1990s. Urban poverty, like national poverty, is widespread, though there is a lack of data on urban poverty.

In 1998 new legislation ushered in a decentralisation policy for land management and planning. In 2002 the Land Policy was approved emphasising decentralisation of land management, planning and development. In particular

the whole country shall now be a planning area!

This decentralisation triggered the revival of MIPP. The need to bring professionalism into the delivery of planning and land management services has been recognised. However, the decentralisation has created 40 Assemblies, all of which need professional planning support. Malawi's 26 professional planners cannot cover 40 Assemblies! Quite simply there are not enough qualified people available to do the job.

The MIPP has identified the following areas in which it needs assistance.

#### **(a) Education**

MIPP had been instrumental in getting three new courses started. These are in Mzuzu University (BSc Land Management with specialisation in planning, estates management and land surveying); Blantyre (BSc planning, surveying, architecture) and Zomba Polytechnic. These provided the opportunity to specialise in planning or land management. They will provide a local resource, focused on local situations, thus avoiding the use of courses abroad. However, support from abroad is needed for materials - either to the Institute directly for a resource centre and/or to the three university colleges above or other support (including seconding lecturers to the Mzuzu and the Polytechnic and planning advocacy).

#### **(b) Publications**

MIPP has the ambition to produce an annual publication. An initial publication had been produced. The aim was to influence policy and act as a forum for practitioners/researchers and

students. MIPP would like support for ongoing publications. A research and publication committee and editorial team are already in place.

### **(c) Research**

Malawi is urbanising more rapidly than anywhere else in a rapidly urbanising world. The rate is over 6.4% per year. MIPP needs help to support financially or professionally work in the following areas:

- HIV/AIDS and urbanisation etc.
- Squatters and informality
- Water quality, especially in low income areas
- Waste Management
- Urban agriculture
- Appropriate construction materials – today fire burnt bricks are the norm, but they take a heavy toll on forests.
- Transportation Policy and Management (following a rapid increase in vehicle numbers)

The list could be extended! Until now, all the above have been thought of in the context of a predominantly rural society. A major strategy was support for secondary centres to divert pressure on the main towns. Rapid urbanisation poses entirely new challenges.

**(d) Support to the MIPP secretariat** with books and facilities like computer hardware etc. The secretariat is presently also used by members as stop over offices when they have short term consultancies. This is contributing greatly to furthering networking among practitioners.

Planning and Land Management Professionals in Malawi are anxious to demonstrate support from fellow

professionals in maintaining proper systems in the context of the challenges coming from politicians.

This note was prepared by Mike Cuddy based on a meeting with MIPP President Mike Moyo, Hon. Sec. Mtafu Manda, Planning Commissioner Felix Tukula, and his Deputy, Lloyd Longwe.

## **Can we develop tools for distance learning in planning?**

Distance learning allows busy practitioners to learn on the job. Persons who are prevented from attending conventional courses, e.g. because they are tied to home by caring for children or relatives, can also keep up to date or gain new skills by accessing distance learning materials. Such materials can take many different forms, from printed manuals, through CDs, interactive and web-based learning, telephone or email tutorials etc.

The Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) is the main specifically Commonwealth institution that receives funding to assist in developing distance learning materials. CAP recently held a meeting in London with a representative of the CoL to explore whether they might be able to assist in capacity building amongst planners. The answer was “yes, in principle, but we would need paying and it is not currently in our plan”.

I attended the Fourth Pan Commonwealth Conference on Open and Distance Learning, which was held in Jamaica in November 2006, and hosted by the CoL. Over 500 delegates attended from 63 countries. Planning

education was not on the agenda. I was probably the only participant who thought about planning at all during the week long conference.

I am professionally engaged in distance, work-based learning at the University of Chester and was looking for partner institutions who are interested in adapting our programmes and using our virtual learning environment (VLE). We are aiming to put together a consortium for funding and wider dissemination of the things we have to offer. We are not anticipating making money out of this. Our incentive is to disseminate resources we already have and develop a track record in international partnership and delivery.

**There is a distance programme for those doing youth work, facilitated through the Commonwealth and delivered in 21 countries. Why cannot we do something like this in planning education?**

This conference is the largest international distance learning event in the world. Many Commonwealth universities are enthusiastically developing low cost, distance programmes, especially where distance is great and resources few. Notable exponents are the Universities of the West Indies and South Pacific. But there are also active Open Universities in countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Namibia, to name a few. In addition, the Commonwealth is committed to creating a Virtual University for Small Commonwealth States.

At the conference many issues were discussed. Much of CoL's work has focussed on basic educational provision and associated programmes such as teacher training. Discussion of education and training for professionals and para-professionals, such as planning technicians, was a notable omission from the programme.

There is a distance programme for those doing youth work, facilitated through the Commonwealth and delivered in 21 countries. Why cannot we do something like this in planning education? There is a huge unmet demand for low cost, professional planning education, delivered to where people live and work. There is now, courtesy of the internet, CD ROMs, radio, TV, satellite and mobile phones, the technological means to deliver cheaply wherever people are. There is also a growing educational expertise in facilitating learning using these methods. All stakeholders recognise that we are on the brink of a genuine revolution in the way education is delivered and used.

Crucially, universities and other bodies (not just in the developed world) have enormous intellectual resources, which in many cases they can freely share and still derive benefits. If we are ever to see the delivery of at least some of the HABITAT agenda, we are going to have to develop the human capital to do it. Traditional models of educational delivery, because they are so expensive are never going to allow it. We have much to learn from those few professions (such as teachers and youth workers) who have embraced distance learning methods.

On a personal note, I feel very strongly that the debate about facilitating open, distance and work based planning education is one we urgently need in CAP and more widely. We have resources we can share and there are plenty of agencies who can assist. I know CAP has begun to think about this area but to my mind, it should be top of the agenda. Without improved capacity, planning will never deliver its potential.

**Jon Talbot**

## **Women in Planning Network Update**

Thirty years on the Third Session of the UN World Urban Forum (WUF3) once again was back in the city of its birth, Vancouver. Just as the First UN World Urban Forum in 1976 placed local community concerns high on the international agenda and emphasised the critical importance of inclusiveness, the WUF3 lived up to its promise of moving ideas into action.



The Forum once again highlighted inclusiveness. There was representation

from every corner of the world and from every gender and walk of life. It was truly heart-warming and encouraging to see and experience the unified voice of women through the Huairou Commission that was in force and ever more present at the WUF3.

The Huairou Commission was established through the GROOTS (Grassroots Organisations Operating in Sisterhood) global coalition of networks and partnerships working to advance the work of grassroots women. It was the official women's group at the event. This marked a historical moment as it was for the first time ever that so many women fully participated in such a strong way at a UN-Habitat event. There was an astounding 48% female participation.

The Huairou Commission brought to the event a welcome breath of fresh air, bringing actionable ideas that are tried and tested at the local community level. For me some of the most intriguing actionable ideas emerging from the WUF3 came from those women's groups who are faced daily, and have to cope with, the problems of inadequate housing, poverty, disease, poor sanitation, etc., all of which are common in many urban centres of the world.

Numerous women's grassroots groups spoke in one strong voice that women's full participation in decision-making is fundamental to the development of sustainable communities. Grassroots women may very well be the strongest allies that the Millennium Development Goals have. Many of these groups have long focused on similar targets through their community work.

*“... grassroots women have been working on the Millennium Development Goals for about a millennium...they are the ones with the powerful traditional responsibility for making the lives of (their) families and neighbours healthier and more productive.”*

Huairou Blog

The WUF3 ended on a positive note with a promise to move away from the typical ‘talkfest’ conferencing that has become the norm and turn ideas into action in order to really make a difference and facilitate the changing landscape of tomorrow’s cities.

A turning point for me, and many other planners, was the closing address by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa, at the World Planners Congress (WPC), which coincided with the WUF3. Stephen openly challenged all planners to make a difference by helping those less fortunate in Third World countries.

Following the WPC, a group of female town planners who were moved by Stephen’s speech met and discussed what they could do in taking up this challenge. During the WPC, the Global Planners Network (GPN) was launched, which provides any future international initiative(s) a platform and mandate to operate from - see the WPC Declaration and information about the GPN at [www.globalplannersnetwork.org/](http://www.globalplannersnetwork.org/).

Stephen Lewis’ challenge resulted in an email dialogue amongst several interested parties, including the CAP Women in Planning Network (WiPN). Discussion focused on establishing an outreach initiative to provide assistance

to grassroots women’s groups tailored to their specific needs.

This could potentially be a partnering initiative linking in with and supporting organisations sharing similar objectives in providing support for women in planning and women in planning providing support to others. This could take the form of providing either under the auspices of the CAP WiPN or GPN a combination of direct and indirect assistance through leadership and capacity building on a range of community development issues. Such initiative could perhaps involve voluntary consulting groups providing on the ground assistance to grassroots women’s groups. We have already formally approached the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Royal Town Planning Institute and the American Planning Association asking for their support in this venture. Plans are on the way to also approach the Planning Institute of Australia to this effect.

For me the echo of the WUF3 was that of actionable ideas. We are now trying to do exactly just that. The challenge now is to be local change agents working towards better outcomes not only for women, but ultimately for everyone in our respective communities.

I urge you all to take up the challenge and turn those ideas into realities. I welcome and encourage you to make suggestions on how the proposed outreach initiative could be made relevant to your work or country by contacting me via email at [alicia.yon@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.yon@gmail.com).

**Alicia Yon**  
CAP WiPN Coordinator

## President's Piece

### *Christine Platt*



This is an historic day – and an honour for me - as this is the first newsletter message which I am writing to you in my capacity as President of CAP, and the first such message from Africa. Becoming President of CAP was unexpected but a great honour for many different reasons, and I look forward to making my contribution to strengthening CAP throughout the Commonwealth.

At the outset I must reiterate the points which I have made now on a number of occasions, regarding the exceptional role which Cliff Hague has played in bringing CAP to the position it now enjoys, both within the Commonwealth, as well as on the world stage. His contribution over the past 6 years is of incalculable value. He has strengthened CAP to the point where it now enjoys the status of an established and credible global institution in planning. He has done this through his leadership and commitment, and by establishing a strong and efficient administration, and we are appreciative of the support of the RTPI, and the hard work of John Anderson and Annette O'Donnell, in

supporting Cliff in getting CAP to this position. John stepped down as Secretary-General at the CAP meeting in Vancouver, and we are grateful to him for his contribution to building CAP into the strong global association it now is. John has served CAP well, and we are fortunate that Cliff agreed to take on the position of Secretary-General vacated by John.

CAP not only serves as an important conduit for communication and the dissemination of information between member associations, but also provides a critical connection to other global players in the planning and development field, including those within the Commonwealth and the United Nations. There is also undoubtedly a growing realisation that we are all part of one world, and that issues impact widely. CAP provides the institutional framework for global relationships between planners, and these in turn facilitate the development of bilateral relationships. These global connections allow a level of knowledge sharing and debate which makes an association such as CAP of particular relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The challenge now is to strengthen the regions within CAP to ensure that we, as a significant part of the global planning family, can interact meaningfully, and make credible contributions to addressing global planning issues.

The regions of CAP are already doing very important work. The Institute of Town Planners Sri Lanka and the Planning Institute of Australia, have worked together on post-disaster planning in Sri Lanka following the tsunami of 2004. CAP has been able to

facilitate a presentation on this joint initiative at the Adaptive Strategies for Climate Change and Disaster in the Commonwealth conference convened by the Commonwealth Foundation in the Seychelles in October 2006. The CAP Pacific members are also engaged around convening a Pacific Planners Forum in May 2007 to support the exchange of knowledge and experience between land use planning professionals from the different Pacific Islands. The objectives of this event include building on the outcomes of the Pacific Urban Agenda 2 Workshop and to launch a Pacific Planning Association (PPA).

The East African region will be playing a crucial role in the preparation for CHOGM in Kampala next year, and CAP will be working closely with the Ugandan and Kenyan members in this regard. The Caribbean members, under the leadership of Barbados, are proposing an Americas workshop in June 2007 on "Re-shaping the Planning Agenda; Experiences of Small Island States." Closer to home, the African members have worked together, with the South African Planning Institute as convenors, to form an African Planning Association to bring the planners of every African nation together. Finally, the list of important work would be incomplete without mention of the exceptional work done by the Canadian Institute of Planners, in working with the American Planning Association, the RTPI and CAP, in delivering the World Planners Congress and the critical input made out of that event into the World Urban Forum in June this year. CAP clearly serves as a useful and important connection to facilitate this type of initiative. CAP will endeavour to support all of these regional initiatives,

to the extent that our resources allow. It is all about maintaining cohesion and sustaining momentum at the global scale.

None of this would be possible however without the support of the Commonwealth Foundation. We are indebted to the Commonwealth Foundation for their support of CAP. We will continue to work with the Commonwealth Foundation, especially in the period leading up to CHOGM. It is pleasing to note that the Commonwealth Foundation issued a press statement on World Town Planning Day on 8 November, which stressed the importance of planning, and acknowledged the connection with CAP. This is perhaps indicative of the good relationship which appears to have developed between CAP and the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Secretariat, which was strengthened during October when Cliff and I were able to attend a meeting in London at which directors of both the Foundation and Secretariat were present.

Much has been written about the World Urban Forum. I need not repeat any of it here, except to acknowledge that the positive outcomes of WUF have given us a window of opportunity to show that we can respond to the recognition given to us, and the challenges laid at our door. The dialogue session on "The Shape of Cities : Urban Planning and Management" at the World Urban Forum attracted a full house, and the delegates heard presentations on "New Urban Planning" as set out in the "Reinventing Planning" paper and as contained in the Vancouver Declaration. This session took place on Thursday 22 June, and the video can be viewed on the

WUF website. It makes for interesting viewing.

We need now to take the messages coming out of WUF to grassroots, to encourage the planners of the Commonwealth in their work. What we are doing in our day-to-day work is important, and that importance is now acknowledged at the highest level. We must now respond by showing that our relevance justifies this recognition, and that we can be agents of change for better, more sustainable settlements.

CAP will do everything it can to help you in responding to the challenges which lie ahead. Cliff and I have already discussed the CAP work programme for the next two years, and how we can seek additional funding for those activities which we feel are important if we are to take full advantage of the opportunity which has presented itself, to develop planning within the Commonwealth in accordance with the reforming global planning agenda. During October we attended a series of meetings in London with Commonwealth related associations and structures, and discussions centred around CAP's role in CHOGM in Kampala next year, and CAP's participation at other events including the Governing Council meeting of UN-Habitat in Nairobi in April 2007. I then attended a series of meetings in Brussels with UN-Habitat, to discuss the role CAP can and should be playing in empowering a critical and significant part of the global planning family, to make their contribution to addressing the challenges of planning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As I have already said, it is an honour for me to have been given the responsibility of leading CAP, especially while so much crucial work is done. High expectations are now placed upon CAP. These are exciting times for planning, and I am sure that all of us, as individuals in our workplaces, through our national Institutes and Associations, and through our global linkages in CAP, will respond.

## **Commonwealth Games Inspired *Planning Action***

Well it's all over. A global family of 71 nations – the Commonwealth – gathered in Melbourne to celebrate sport in the *Friendly Games*. Our common British heritage is still evident in the flags of many nations, including Australia and New Zealand. And in the independent Republics there is a kinship that binds us together “for the good of humanity and the peace of the world”.

Australians excelled in every aspect of organisation, inspiration, motivation, performance, hospitality and goodwill, under the Games theme *Together we are one*. And so did the smallest nations in our global family, to the level of their own abilities and resources.

If the Games were “fired by the hopes of those who wanted to make a difference”, then we the planners of the stronger nations of the Commonwealth can also be inspired by these slogans to take such ideals out of the sporting arena into the field of *planning assistance* to the other nations of our global family. In the words of the Visa commercial “when I can't do it alone, *support can make a difference*”.

Australia's dominance in sport is paralleled in many other areas and we are perceived as a powerful nation of the Commonwealth, along with the UK, Canada, New Zealand and India. Amidst all the diversity of the 71 nations in this family, smaller ones naturally look to the stronger for leadership. That is not to detract from many small nations that perform way above their weight, like Kenya and Jamaica did on the track, and they all deserve our respect.

You may feel somewhat sceptical about your ability to offer any assistance to the developing nations of the Commonwealth, or others we have adopted such as East Timor, yet it is in all of us to be generous with our time, talents and resources.

We should all be aware of the urgent need to tackle the challenges of rapid urbanization, poverty, adequate shelter; the hazards posed by climate change and natural disasters; and adaptation to oil depletion. So how can we do it?

Many of the Games images touched our hearts "united by the moments". Those images were the culmination of dedication, hard work and perseverance over many years of preparation for this event, even the courage of trying and failing. A similar effort may be needed to realise the vision of creating a system to provide planning assistance. Let's call it *Commonwealth Planning Action* as an interim name. It will take organisation and funding support. But most importantly it will depend upon willing people, who have a heart of compassion to help others.

The *Commonwealth Planning Action* concept can operate on at least four levels:

- At an individual level, CPA could respond to requests for specific planning assistance with a semi-voluntary commitment of time and effort by experienced planners, graduates and even under-graduates (and across multi-disciplines) through the Australian Youth Ambassadors for development and Volunteering for International Development programs by AusAID. This takes "entry level" funding and resources to provide such a service and is already happening through PIA in the Pacific region.
- At a corporate Institute level, the PIA-led Indian Ocean tsunami recovery planning assistance is a model for a corporate team approach in response to serious planning issues and calamities. This requires a partnership with AusAID and NGOs and agencies in the development assistance field.
- At a governmental level, the ad-hoc *Sister City* program could be expanded in a more systematic way for local government authorities in developed countries to be twinned with those in developing nations, to provide ongoing planning and development assistance. This requires LGA commitment.
- In a wider context, professional exchange and intern programs, modelled on the Canadian Institute of Planners system, to sensitize planners to the global issues and to learn from each other.

At all these levels planners could work together to tackle the challenges out there in the spirit of the proposed 2006 World Urban Forum *Declaration of Principles and Best Practices for Sustainable Urbanization*, for realization of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

This initiative would become part of a larger international effort to save our fragile planet, which is delicately poised on the verge of irreversible environmental and human catastrophe.

We are all connected and together we are one. Like the Melbourne Games - let us be *simply the best*.

**“With great power comes even greater responsibility” – are we up to the challenge?**

**Roger Brewster**

PIA CAP Representative

[roger.brewster@gmail.com](mailto:roger.brewster@gmail.com)

## **Book Review**

Dr Belinda Yuen, National University of Singapore reviews

**D R Witty, Canadian Institute of Planners, no date, 197pp**  
***Professional Practice Manual: Code of Professional Conduct***

This professional practice manual is written for Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) members, present and future. It is produced by CIP. This is a highly commendable effort. Where possible, this effort should be encouraged and replicated by other professional planning institutions. In this regard, perhaps the Commonwealth

Association of Planners could explore the publication of a similar volume for its members.

The CIP manual comprises 5 parts. The aim is “to provide a source on planning practice and support to practitioners and students of planning” (p8). It has amply delivered this and, as the author anticipated, its reading should not be limited to CIP members. Even though drawn on the Canadian situation, its content holds relevance for planners and students of planning in general, who are interested in

“...the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic and social efficiency, health and well-being of urban and regional communities.” (p14)

Part 1, Introduction, defines the profession and activity of planning, providing useful statistics and overview on the tasks, specializations, collaborations and general tools of planners in Canada. It is a quick source of information on the past, present and future trends of the Canadian planning profession. Part 2 (98pp), Elements of Practice, is the major chapter in the manual, detailing the various elements of the practice, from public to private sector planning, interdisciplinary areas of practice, roles and expectations, identifying and choosing the appropriate methods, initiating planning projects, report/proposal writing and management of the planning project and its people. In these pages, new and existing planners alike can find useful lessons and suggestions to “hone their skills, expand their tool kit and enrich their repertoire of responses” (p37), from the routine to

the unexpected. Lessons are grounded with the help of case studies.

Planning students and new graduates seeking to start a planning career can also find useful lessons and step-by-step survival suggestions on how to prepare their résumé, getting through the job interview, and building support relationships on the job in Part 3, On the Front Line. This chapter provides many tips to help planners build a successful career, whether in research, consulting or public sector.

Part 4, Ethics and Standards, sets out and discusses the values, ethical principles, code of professional conduct and “when to say no”. The discussion is based on the CIP code of conduct, a copy of which is included in the Appendix. The final chapter, Part 5, Conclusion, is a brief one-pager, reminding planners of the varied and dynamic nature of their tasks and exhorting,

“We must create a dynamic professional body in CIP and work with others to foster a new age of planning through dynamic ethically based practice and continued theoretical exploration!” (p189)

Compared to the other chapters in the manual, this is a relatively thin writing that does little to its articulated aim: “provides the author’s views of planning practice as it addresses the emerging issues of the 21st century.” (p9). The manual does not however suffer from this distraction. There is certainly a wealth of easy-to-follow ideas in this compact volume for all to explore and apply. Perhaps future editions of this manual could include some sharing of these ideas applications, and elaborating

the theoretical explorations alluded to in the concluding chapter. It will also be helpful to include some kind of quick-find index to facilitate search.

## **Conferences in 2007**

### **When Creative Industries Crossover with Cities**

The **Hong Kong Institute of Planners** (HKIP and the **Urban Planning Society of China** (UPSC) have joined together to organise the above event which will be held on 2 -3 April 2007 at the Langham Place Hotel, Mongkok, Hong Kong. For further details contact the Conference Secretariat, Ms Evita Au (email: [evita@creativegp.com](mailto:evita@creativegp.com))

### **The 2007 Planning Convention – Planning Centre Stage**

13 – 15 June 2007 QEII Conference Centre, London

The RTPI’s Planning Convention is the seminal event in Planning. The Convention is an intense, yet enjoyable three days of learning, sharing and networking, through a mixture of study tours, drinks receptions, plenary debates and workshops. Where better to ask the hard questions, to hear a range of informed opinion in response and to join in the debate? For full programme details please visit [www.theplanningconvention.co.uk](http://www.theplanningconvention.co.uk)

### **Re-shaping the Planning Agenda: Experiences of Small Island States**

The Barbados Town and Country Planning Society is organising a CAP Regional Conference and Workshop to be held in Barbados 25 - 27 June 2007.

#### **Aims**

This meeting will add a new dimension to the sustainable urbanization theme of the Vancouver conference of 2006 when it addresses a range of challenges in small island states in which small scale can be an advantage and a disadvantage. Participants will be able to share their experiences in planning in the context of governance, public participation, resource needs and implementation as well as making best use of economic and people resources. This is an opportunity to influence the process and get involved in a revitalised approach to planning processes. Participants can then return to their territories better equipped to improve on existing approaches, to put new ideas into practice and influence their colleagues.

#### **Themes**

- Housing for the disadvantaged
- Climate change & disaster management
- Women in planning
- Resource management
- Social impacts of urban redevelopment
- Tourism impacts on local communities
- Politics and planning
- Transport management

#### **Submissions**

An invitation is extended to interested persons for papers related to the above themes. The deadline for submission of papers is 28 May 2007. An **extract** of the papers should be sent as an email attachment in Microsoft Word (or in hard copy) to:

Mr Richard Gill, President  
Barbados Town & Country Planning Society  
Prior Park House  
St James BB23017, Barbados  
Fax + 246 421 7638  
Email: [rgal@caribsurf.com](mailto:rgal@caribsurf.com)

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on KNOWLEDGE CITIES Future of Cities in the Knowledge Economy**

The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) and the Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP) in collaboration with Shah Alam City Council, and the Municipality of Al-Medina Al-Munawarah, are organising the above symposium. It will be held in Shah Alam city – Malaysia from 9 – 11 July 2007.

Further information is available at [www.araburban.org/AUDI/uploads/GFW-E.pdf](http://www.araburban.org/AUDI/uploads/GFW-E.pdf)

Call for Papers information is available at

[www.araburban.org/AUDI/uploads/Call4Papers-E.pdf](http://www.araburban.org/AUDI/uploads/Call4Papers-E.pdf)

## **CAP Membership**

There are 2 classes of membership.

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

- activities in national, regional and local planning; and
- (ii) organisations from Commonwealth countries involved in planning education and research.

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