

CAP NEWS

**The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of
Planners**

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Slumurbanisation, Climate Change and Economic Recovery – Time to re-invent urban planning.

In this issue:

**State of the Commonwealth Cities
Planning and Climate Change
Planning education survey
Gender and Planning**

..and lots more.



President's Piece *Christine Platt*



So what was a group of Commonwealth Planners doing huddled together in a bus shelter in Rotterdam? You may well ask. The answers (for there are a few) include: trying to get out of the freezing wind, and waiting for a tram (note the green cred' here) to take us to Erasmus University for a workshop on Climate Change and Urban Planning as part of UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

CAP was honoured to be invited to partner the IHS at Erasmus University and UN-Habitat in convening a three day workshop attended by a maximum of 20 planning practitioners and 20 educators from around the world to discuss the issue of climate change and urban planning. The purpose was to interrogate this issue with a view to refining the

terms of reference for a project to develop tools for planning educators to use. CAP was fortunate to have representatives from North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and the Pacific invited to attend.

This event was important for CAP for a number of reasons - notwithstanding the subject matter. Rotterdam was evidence of a strengthening partnership with our other global partners, in this case UN-Habitat and the IHS. Secondly, and probably more importantly, it was a reflection of the credibility we now enjoy. In one of the welcoming addresses, CAP was thanked for lending the credibility of the organisation to the event, but the event was even more momentous when tribute was paid later to the exceptional talent which CAP had been able to bring to the event.

The contributions made by the planners from the Commonwealth were outstanding and reflected the high levels of ability and commitment which exist in our organisation. Marni Cappe, Ashraf Adams, James Armstrong and Richard Summers (Jude Kohlhase had to send his apologies) exemplified all that is good about CAP and what we stand for. Highly skilled professionals, with high levels of awareness and an ability to think globally, planners in touch with the reality of what we are dealing with in the 21st Century, an ability to think "out of the box" about issues and fearless in interrogating new ways of dealing with them, typify the contribution this group made.

I am confident that our little group of Commonwealth planners left Rotterdam having significantly enhanced the

credibility our organisation enjoys. Just for the record, we have since made input into the revision of the Terms of Reference. There was consensus that the tools we need already exist, but what is desperately needed is a support mechanism / awareness campaign / development of capacity to tackle climate change as an issue within the planning process. This includes demystifying the science of climate change to enable local solutions to be found which are relevant to context.

In the President's piece in January I wrote "And now we look forward to what 2009 has to offer. We have another exciting year in prospect ...". Rotterdam is just one of the events we have contributed to since then and 2009 is certainly living up to expectations for all of us in CAP.

During the UN-Habitat Governing Council 22 meeting in April, the Inter-Ministerial Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (CCGHS) had its biennial meeting. Arguably the most important item on the agenda of that meeting was the CAP-led State of the Commonwealth Cities project which is reported on further in this newsletter. This report which covered the first phase scoping stage of the project was received with great interest by the ministers and their senior advisors, not least due to the startling conclusions it contains.

The outcomes of this work will now be reported on at the CPF sessions in Trinidad and will feed through to CHOGM later the same week at the end of November. This project is evidence of a growing partnership with our Commonwealth partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, the

Commonwealth Foundation, and our other ComHabitat partners, particularly CLGF.

Our Commonwealth partnerships have grown to include starting work on our Capacity Building programme, with the first phase of this being a State of the Commonwealth Planning Education project which has been funded through the Commonwealth and which is being undertaken by the Development Planning Unit at University College London. CAP invited expressions of interest from researchers in our member institutes and it is pleasing to report that we had responses from all regions of the Commonwealth, with some very positive partnerships between educators from different countries. Selected respondents were then invited to tender for the work and again we had a very positive response.

A noteworthy aspect of the DPU proposal was the establishment of a Reference Group consisting of a group of leading planners and planning educators from all regions of the Commonwealth. The use of our project work to strengthen linkages between people working at grassroots in the regions of the Commonwealth is to be welcomed and we currently await the first draft of their report with great interest. We hope to use the successful completion of this first work package to provide the evidence to enable us to seek funding for subsequent work packages.

In July a Commonwealth Organisations Roundtable on Zimbabwe was convened in Johannesburg. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how the various organisations could assist the people of Zimbabwe in planning and development

for the future. CAP was able to make a contribution regarding possible support for our colleagues in ZIRUP, the Zimbabwe Institute of Regional and Urban Planning. We will however have to wait until circumstances permit further engagement on a significant scale.

Our Commonwealth links had another very happy outcome when we were asked to nominate a representative of younger than 30 to represent us at the Commonwealth 60th Anniversary celebrations at Buckingham Palace. We were well represented by Charlie Collins, the RTPI Young Planners representative who had a fantastic time and did us proud.

We now look forward to CHOGM in Trinidad in November, where CAP will be reporting on the State of the Commonwealth Cities project – the first report to CHOGM following the call we made in Kampala for a report on the State of the Commonwealth Cities to be produced for every CHOGM from now on. James Armstrong CAP Americas VP and his Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners are hard at work preparing for the CAP Americas workshop which will immediately precede CHOGM.

Our partnerships have also seen us working closely with UN-Habitat during Governing Council 22 in April when as CAP President I was again asked to chair the Plenary Dialogue session of GC 22. The theme of this session was “Promoting affordable housing finance systems in an urbanising world in the face of the global financial crisis and climate change”. As you can imagine, the outcomes were complex but the conclusions were clear. Time is not on

our side, we need a global response to this issue, partnerships and global networks are critical, we need better public information and awareness, better sharing of information and knowledge, improved capacity and research, the diversion of resources for better investment in infrastructure, and government must be encouraged to take concerted and co-coordinated action to place cities at the centre of adaptation and mitigation strategies. As a Norwegian delegate put it “The Cities are the source of climate change, the victims of climate change and the hope for the future”.

At the time of GC 22 CAP also attended a Habitat Professionals Forum meeting. The HPF consists only of global professional bodies and is being revived in the light of UN-Habitat’s acknowledgement of the importance of partnerships. You will no doubt be pleased to know that as planners in the Commonwealth you will benefit from this direct linkage. A second meeting of the HPF was held in October in Barcelona.

In August I was asked, in my capacity as President of CAP, to facilitate a Symposium on “Climate Change Education and Sustainable Cities” as part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together a small group of experts to identify needs and demands at the City level and existing and possible UN agency responses to facilitate education and training as well as innovative approaches to planning and city governance. It was a privilege to be part of this high level discussion, and we

await further information on the outcomes. I must also add that it is always thrilling to walk into these international events and to see the “Commonwealth Association of Planners” name emblazoned on a name plate on the platform.

These partnerships and the credibility we seem to enjoy are important but count for nothing if we are not able to communicate messages to and from the planners working at grassroots. That is why our members, the institutes, remain of paramount importance. Communication with our members, facilitated by our Vice Presidents, remains very important and so the Secretary-General and I will be happy to elaborate on any of the issues which we can only touch upon in communications such as this newsletter.

Our regional and member events remain a high priority for CAP as it is at these events that we can have direct engagement concerning all of the issues which we need to address. I am therefore very pleased to confirm that CAP events are planned for West Africa and in Trinidad in November. Both of these events will be reported on fully in future editions of the newsletter, but please do not hesitate to contact CAP for further information about them.

CAP is more than just a network of Planners in the Commonwealth. It is an association which by virtue of its connections into the Commonwealth structures gives us a direct link to government. Our voice is being heard at events such as CCGHS held earlier this year and our messages about sustainable urbanisation and planning are being delivered. The most important challenge

of the year however still lies ahead – formulating and delivering our messages as the planners of the Commonwealth to our Heads of Government. The contributions made by many of you through the research projects, meetings, workshops and events over the last two years will inform CAP’s contribution to the Civil Society Statement to be delivered in Trinidad.

Finally, it is my duty to inform you of the sad passing of the President of the Nigerian Institute of Planners, Chief Napoleon Osayande. CAP has sent condolences to Chief Osayande’s family, the Nigerian Institute and its members on behalf of all of Chief Osayande’s planning colleagues in the Commonwealth.

Kind regards,
Christine



Christine Platt and Dr. James Armstrong (CAP Vice-President, Americas) take a break during the climate change meeting in Rotterdam.

Rapid growth of urban areas and slums is revealed by CAP research

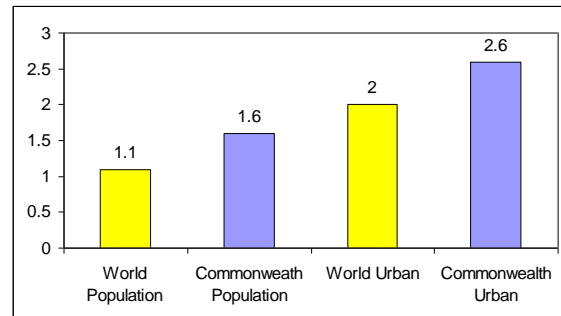


Each year the urban population of the Commonwealth is growing by over 23 million. However, almost half of the increase – 10 million more people every year – live in slums. These key findings emerge from research done by CAP that will be presented to the Commonwealth People’s Forum and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Port of Spain at the end of November.

In 1999 the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements (the ministers and senior officials responsible for housing and planning) set a goal. The goal was to achieve “*Demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015*”. CAP’s research shows that ten years on, this goal is not being achieved. High rates of urban growth combined with the urbanisation of poverty mean that the number of Commonwealth citizens who lack secure tenure and

access to essential services is increasing, not diminishing.

Cliff Hague, one of the authors of the report, along with Will French from the Royal Town Planning Institute, told *CAP News*, “The Commonwealth is urbanising more rapidly than the world as a whole. This reflects its youthful age structure, especially in urban areas, but also rural to urban migration”.



The report reveals that there are now roughly 410 million Commonwealth citizens living in slums – 90 million more than in 2001. In cities like Pune in India, almost half the people live in slums, but the slum dwellers occupy only 10% of the land area.

Whereas 76 Commonwealth cities in 2000 had a population of over 1 million, UN-Habitat expects 124 to top that figure by 2025. Mumbai with 24 million people will remain the largest Commonwealth city overall, but it will be closely challenged by Delhi and Dhaka both with more than 22 million inhabitants. Thirty-two of these ‘million-plus cities’ are expected to more than double in size over the period with Abuja, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Mombassa and Klang, all growing by more than 160%.

Staggering as the growth of the mega-cities is, the research shows that the

main growth in this generation will be in the smaller cities. Urban growth rates in some of the small island countries between 2000 and 2025 are mind-boggling: over 200% in the Maldives, 180% in the Solomon Islands and 175% in Vanuatu. Many of these countries are struggling to accommodate other threats – particularly that of sea level rise, which in some cases threatens their very existence.

Climate change

'The link between climate change, cities and their suburbs is inextricable. While changes in farming, land-use practices and deforestation clearly impact climate dynamics, the concentration of economic production and households associated with cities, and their growing demand for products and resources, has caused most of the greenhouse gas emissions in the last half century.' (Hoorweg and Bhada, 2009)

The report also emphasises the links between urban growth and climate change. It says "Quite simply cities have to change. Economic and infrastructure decisions now need to address the climate change agenda". It notes that "buildings are the cause of more CO2 emissions than cars, and that Building Standard regulations are an area that could yield great savings in CO2 emissions linked to energy use". It continues, "part of the answer is a return to some basic principles of building design, not least in relation to orientation of new buildings in relation to solar exposure, and use of natural ventilation to reduce reliance on air conditioning. Incorporation of roof gardens on high rise buildings can also reduce heat gain

and facilitate the harvesting of rain water".

The report commends Singapore for its positive approach to urban planning and its success in integrating public transport with activity hubs. While cities contribute the most numerically to emissions, they can actually be more energy efficient than other forms of settlement. It needs urban planning.

Adaptation to climate change must also involve reducing the vulnerability of the urban poor. Poverty reduction needs to be built into strategies to tackle climate change.

Cities and economic development

Despite the multitude of problems that Commonwealth urban areas are experiencing, the researchers are clear that planners should not attempt to impose some ceiling on urban growth. Such approaches have been tried and have failed. Prof. Hague says "A key theme of our study is that cities are vital for the livelihoods of the poor and for the success of national economies. Lagos has 70% of Nigeria's industries. Mumbai is one-sixth of India's economy. There are good economic reasons why cities spawn new firms and attract rural migrants. The challenge for planners is to understand these dynamics and ensure that there is an economic development dimension to their plans".

The idea of "re-inventing planning" a key CAP theme that was endorsed by the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum in 2006 and supported by CAP member institutes who signed the Vancouver Declaration, is given prominence in the report. It is one area where the report calls for

further action-research. Others are the collection of data for, and monitoring of, the Commonwealth goal; cities and climate change; and metropolitan governance and management.

An interim version of the report was endorsed by the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements when they met in Nairobi in April 2009.

The full report will be published on the web by the Commonwealth Foundation. The Commonwealth Secretariat are to publish a shortened version as a Discussion Paper. The Commonwealth Foundation are publishing a paper based on the study for the Commonwealth People's Forum.

The research was funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation. It was done by Will French and Lucy Natarajan of the RTPi with Cliff Hague from CAP. It is part of the work of ComHabitat, of which CAP is a partner.

Watch the CAP website, www.commonwealth-planners.org for further news on these imminent publications.

Planning Education Survey

CAP has been a strong advocate of the need for capacity-building in planning across the Commonwealth. The number of planners at least needs to keep pace with the increasing rate of urbanisation. Some of the countries with the highest

rates of urbanisation have very few planners. Everywhere, the 21st century challenges of making urban development more equitable and sustainable and a force for economic recovery mean that planners need new skills. The case for and scope of such skills were set out in CAP's flagship book, *Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills*, which has been reprinted after all the original copies sold out.

CAP has now received funding from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and Development to undertake a key task in capacity building. That is to research what planning education provision actually exists and where it exists.

CAP sub-contracted this work. Expressions of interest were received from teams of researchers from many different Commonwealth countries: UK (3), South Africa (3), Australia (3); Canada (2), plus one each from Bangladesh, Botswana, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Trinidad and Tobago.

After tendering and evaluation of the tenders, the contract was awarded to the Development Planning Unit of University College, London, who have immense experience in providing training in planning for situations of rapid urban development, and also have a global network of contacts. The work will be completed in December.

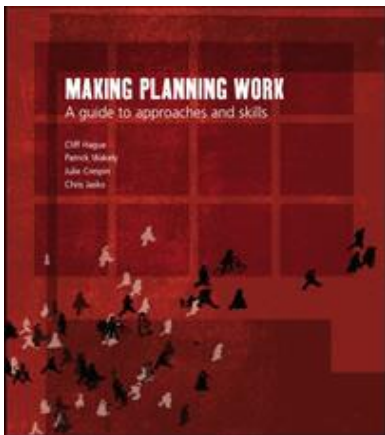
The DPU research team is led by Prof. Caren Levy, the Director of the Unit. They are building a database of planning schools across the Commonwealth. This includes their websites and notes on the

programmes and the research strengths. There are notes on staff and student numbers and accreditation status and contact email addresses.

The researchers are also using a set of regional experts, experienced planners and planning educators, to provide a check and commentary on the findings. There is a focus on mid-career needs too and a consideration of the extent to which the principles of “Re-inventing Planning” and the skills set out in *Making Planning Work* are being delivered through planning education.

The findings will be reported in the next issue of CAP News,

Buy “Making Planning Work” from CAP for only £10 - £5 off normal price!



Making Planning Work draws on case studies from some 20 different countries, it shows how imagination and skills can make a practical difference in planning urban and rural development.

To get your copy email Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk

Gender – time for action says CAP report

Although many guidelines have been issued about how to ensure that planning practice is gender-sensitive, too often delivery of the planning service fails to follow the principles. This is the main message from a study of good practice on gender and planning in the Commonwealth. The research was done by Professor Alison Todes from University of Witwatersrand and her colleagues Nqobile Malaza and Amanda Williamson.

The Commonwealth has a strong commitment to gender equality. Points four and nine of the 1991 Harare Commonwealth Declaration make specific reference to gender equality and development, as well as to the need to provide the facilities, services and infrastructure to make that possible. The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 argues for gender mainstreaming in policy making, planning, programme implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The Commonwealth Principles on Good Practice for Local Democracy and Good Governance (the Aberdeen Agenda) also emphasise inclusiveness and equitable service delivery, with a particular focus on gender.

Professor Todes and her colleagues reviewed the recent literature on gender in planning. In particular they highlighted the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit. This shows how to incorporate a consideration of gender into planning. It is based on a series of questions and can be used at any stage of the plan-making process. In summary, these are:

- Who are the planners?
- Who forms the policy team?
- Which sorts of people are perceived to be planned?
- How are statistics gathered and who do they include?
- What are the key values, priorities and objectives of the plan?
- Who is consulted and who is involved in participation?
- How are the planning proposals evaluated? By whom?
- How is the policy implemented, monitored and managed?
- Is gender mainstreaming fully integrated into all policy areas?

Thus, in the planning process, the implementation of gender mainstreaming usually entails the following elements: gender analysis; sex-disaggregated data; gender-sensitive indicators; institutional mechanisms; gender-responsive resource allocation; and gender partnerships and networks.

The research team reviewed a number of case studies. They concluded that:

“From the evidence available, successful processes give particular attention to increasing local involvement in decision-making and resource allocation, as well as specifically targeting and empowering the capacity of women to become actively involved.”

They added, “Gender mainstreaming (proofing, auditing) provides an excellent way in which to demonstrate the gendered implications of every aspect of planning in the urban context. By adopting a gender perspective, the issues of different groups of men and women can be identified, and planning

can become far more responsive to actual needs and circumstances”.

The plan is that the Commonwealth Foundation will publish the full report and the Commonwealth Secretariat will publish a Discussion Paper based on it. Watch the CAP website, www.commonwealth-planners.org for further news on these imminent publications.

Zimbabwe Reconstruction and Development

CAP was represented by President Christine Platt at a Roundtable of Commonwealth Organisations on Zimbabwe, which was held in Johannesburg 7-9 July 2009. The event brought together Zimbabwe civil society, local government, parliamentarians from the region and other partners, and those from the Southern African region, with representatives of Commonwealth Associations and Organisations. The aim was to:

- Review the needs of Zimbabwe during a period of transition;
- Identify priorities for practical help and support; and
- Develop and strengthen programmes of action.

The Roundtable recognised the need to restore the country’s essential infrastructure such as roads, communications, safe water and sanitation, low cost housing and other key services.

Through CAP's contacts, planners from Zimbabwe were able to take part in this landmark gathering. Discussions at the Roundtable centred on key areas including governance, democracy and the citizen; social protection and human resource development; humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation of infrastructure; economic stabilisation, reconstruction and development.

Commonwealth organisations reaffirmed the commitment expressed in the Kampala Civil Society Statement "Realising People's Potential" from 2007 to engage with the people of Zimbabwe and commit resources to planning and development for the future. Commonwealth organisations, regional and Zimbabwean partners identified the areas where support was required.

One of the key agreements reached in the Roundtable was that "support for human resource capacity development is required in many professions throughout Zimbabwe. Commonwealth organisations will increase their commitment to secure resources to address the issue. Skills and experience within the Diaspora need to be harnessed and further developed".

The Roundtable also formally recognised the need to restore the country's essential infrastructure such as roads, communications, safe water and sanitation, low cost housing and other key services. It noted how local government throughout the Commonwealth can provide relevant technical expertise and other support including through city-to-city partnerships.

The Roundtable recognised the scale of the challenges facing the Government of National Unity and its need for regional, Commonwealth and international support to address these. A Special Programme for Zimbabwe will be developed by Commonwealth organisations with Zimbabwean and regional partners, drawing on the strengths of the Commonwealth's unique networks across more than 50 countries and responding to requests for advice, training and practical support.

UN-Habitat / CAP Workshop on Climate Change and Urban Planning

CAP worked with UN-Habitat and the Institute of Housing & Urban Development Studies (IHS) at Erasmus University in Rotterdam to put on a workshop in Rotterdam in May 2009 on the theme of climate change and urban planning.

The preamble for the event read as follows:

There has been a renewed interest in the potential **role of urban planning** since the environmental impact of the accelerating urbanisation became a key subject of global and local debate in the 1990s. This is receiving a renewed impetus with the global understanding that the way our cities grow is both a key driver of climate change and at the same time makes the urban population very vulnerable to Climate Change impacts. The predominant planning practices seem not to offer sufficient answers to

this double challenge which was acknowledged at the time of the World Urban Forum III (WUF3, 2006) where a major initiative to reform the global planning agenda was presented in a paper entitled “Reinventing Planning”. There is growing consensus that appropriate urban planning approaches and related urban growth models are key in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The growing number of extreme weather events of the last years, and their dramatic impact on the fragile urban infrastructures and on settlements in risk-prone areas, illustrate the urgency of reducing the risk through better planning practices.

There is growing consensus that appropriate urban planning approaches and related urban growth models are key in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Better planned cities would be more energy efficient, in particular when combined with a push for green buildings and related building codes, sustainable transport, energy and waste management and the greening of cities. Urban planning and urban design have the potential to reduce the vulnerability to the different climate change related hazards like floods, sea-level rise, and landslides and to build in resilience for further climate change.

New planning practices can help mainstream climate change considerations into urban development processes. For new urban planning and design practices to be efficient, they will need to find a way of incorporating the current urban realities of informal urban growth and slum development, while

pursuing a pro-poor approach in a global context of financial crisis and food insecurity.

It is the general feeling that in the face of climate change the urban planning toolbox, including the principles presented at WUF3 need to be re-visited and where necessary adapted. This is especially so for cities in developing contexts where financial and human resource capacity is limited. There is a call for a more integrated approach whereby urban design, planning and building codes, infrastructure development, taxation systems, zoning regulations, and transport systems are all tuned towards mitigating and adapting to climate change while maintaining the key role of cities as engines for economic growth and as places that offer people equal opportunities for a better life.

Richard Summers, Royal Town Planning Institute Junior Vice President, comments on the workshop.

The Rotterdam Workshop on Climate Change and Urban Planning proved to be a vitally important step forward in coordinating ideas and action to tackle the challenge of climate change as part of sustainable development across the world.

It brought together a balanced mix of about 40 planners and academics from countries representing a cross-section of developed and developing countries.

The workshop revealed a variety of developing practice ranging from situations where climate change is already a serious risk to urban

development and natural ecosystems (e.g. rising sea levels and increasing rainfall in Ho Chi Minh City) to other situations where the threat is less imminent but nonetheless serious (e.g. carbon reduction and water management in Rotterdam). The planner and academic representatives from CAP member countries and other academics from elsewhere gave fascinating presentations of their current work on various urban planning and climate change challenges in some very different contexts.

The break-out sessions amongst the planners suggested a variety of support mechanisms and resources to help equip planners world-wide to tackle the urgent challenge of climate change. Experience in the Philippines, for example, has shown that awareness raising and strategic policies are just as important as specific tools and action projects in tackling natural disasters. The break-out sessions amongst the university representatives suggested the scope of a tertiary education syllabus for planners on tackling climate change which could later be adapted for other forms of learning and continuing professional development.



Rotterdam has used striking bridge design to open up areas for urban regeneration.

The workshop succeeded in drawing on the experience and expertise of spatial planners and academics from across the

world. It explored possibilities for developing a so-called “tool-kit” for urban planners linked to a programme of education and continuing professional development to support practice, research and teaching particularly in developing countries. UN-Habitat has identified a seed corn budget of \$300,000 for the first two years and is seeking collaboration with “planning associations” (including the RTPI) across the Commonwealth and in other countries (including the American Planning Association).

These developments have come at the right time for the RTPI which has launched seven commitments to action on climate change. The RTPI has recently developed its work on “Planning to Live with Climate Change” through a process of member engagement and a major debate at its General Assembly. There is now an opportunity to develop linkages between this initiative and the work of CAP, UN-Habitat and the Global Planners’ Network (GPN) to support policies and programmes to tackle the challenge of climate change through the RTPI’s international activities.

Canadian Institute of Planners: Mainstreaming Climate Change

Marni Cappe, CIP President

During the past three years, the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) has been working with the federal government on initiatives linking climate change science to planning tools. CIP and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

are in a unique position as natural partners to assist Canadian communities in planning for climate change. NRCan has a wealth of scientific data that is continually updated to provide valuable information for communities. CIP can transfer this information to professional planners across Canada, who are directly involved in decision-making and advising politicians at the community level. The principal focus of the work is on *adaptation to climate change*, in recognition of the fact that planning strategies to *mitigate* climate change have been more carefully considered during the past two decades, while strategies to *adapt* have not.

Phase 1 of the project is now complete, including among other accomplishments, the adoption of CIP's policy on climate change. CIP is the first national professional organization in Canada to have a substantive policy on this critical global issue.

The climate change initiative has become the flagship domestic program for CIP. Central to its success will be evidence that planners are following CIP's climate change policy; in other words, that planners across Canada are using tools and resources to create resilient communities able to adapt to climate change. A key element of the policy comes in Part 4, Policy Directives, in which CIP commits to a series of eight actions to support their members as they tackle climate change planning in their own communities.

In order to give effect to the policy, CIP has developed several communication and educational tools to reach as many members as possible. During the Fall of 2009, we have been leading a series of

two-and-a-half hour workshops at our Affiliate planning conferences across the country. This short course aims to convey basic information about the science of climate change and the types of planning responses needed to address community impacts. The emphasis on *adaptation* mechanisms is meant to stimulate planners into a new way of thinking about land use and development processes. In addition, CIP is building a two-day learning module on climate change to support planners who want more intensive and detailed information on planning for climate change. At the same time, CIP and its university partners are developing university courses to "mainstream" climate change education into the curriculum of accredited planning programs.

Together, the initiatives that have been undertaken, or are underway, in the professional and academic communities will help CIP meet its commitment to "empower its members to tackle the effects of climate change".

For more information, including a list of national and international resources, please check out our website: www.planningforclimatechange.ca.

CAP meeting with other Built Environment professionals in London

Architects, planners, surveyors and engineers from around the globe came together in April to urge Commonwealth countries to take a lead in tackling natural and man-made disasters and problems caused by rapid urbanisation.

“In the next generation there will be 2 billion more people on this earth and half of those people will be living in slums unless we do something about it,” said Vincent Goodstadt, former president of the UK’s Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

The Built Environment Professionals in the Commonwealth (BEPIC) is made up of CAP, the Commonwealth Association of Architects, the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy, and the Commonwealth Engineers Council. The meeting in London was attended by 80 professionals from these organizations.

Delegates from organisations as diverse as the International Red Cross, Engineers Without Borders and construction firm Balfour Beatty, as well as Trinidad and Tobago Minister Counsellor Gail Guy, heard how policy-makers and professionals must work together to combat issues made only more urgent by the pace of climate change.

Mr. Goodstadt, chairing a panel discussion, argued that architects and planners, among others, should be seen as “part of the solution” to major crises, adding that Commonwealth leaders had the “ability to lead that international, global debate”.

The scale of urban spread that the Commonwealth is experiencing threatens agricultural land, food security and the living standards of the poorest, in addition to forest areas vital for absorbing damaging CO₂ emissions.

Forum delegates were asked to suggest issues to take forward to Trinidad and

Tobago – including presenting exemplar sustainability projects to leaders and examining whether Western-style development models can be integrated in developing countries.

Tony Godwin, executive director of the Commonwealth Association of Architects, expressed the hope that CHOGM would address issues of disaster management, climate change and making buildings and urban settings more environmentally friendly.

“Cities [within the Commonwealth] are some of the largest in the world, and you find the majority of countries fall within tropical parts which have more than their fair share of natural disasters. That is why Commonwealth countries should take a lead,” he said.

“If we can work with BEPIC to raise awareness of the input that architects as well as other built environment professionals can bring to the urban planning process, that would be wonderful.”

During a series of presentations, delegates heard how planning policy across the Commonwealth has developed over the last 60 years, with cases studies on India and Nigeria. Speakers also looked at issues of corruption and the affordability of sustainability.

Tony Lloyd-Jones, director of the Max Lock Centre for international development at Westminster University in London, used the event to launch a new guide for humanitarian agencies dealing with crisis preparation and reconstruction.

The 'Built Environment Professions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response' publication, designed with the help of BEPIC member organisations including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, was produced in the wake of lessons learned after the Asian tsunami of 2004. Disaster Risk Reduction and Response guide. This is available at: www.rics.org/dmguide

"It was felt that at that time there was a gap between the emphasis on relief after disasters and longer-term reconstruction," said Mr. Lloyd-Jones.

Priority Areas for Planning Training

Will French and Lucy Natarajan (RTPI)

In 2008, CAP worked with the RTPI, as partners in the Global Planners' Network, to undertake a study of how planners across the globe perceived their skills and training needs. This report summarises the findings of the on-line "Self Diagnostic Tool" which was completed by around 1500 planners from over 100 different countries. The Self Diagnostic Tool and information about it is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/2gbffk>.

The Self Diagnostic Tool asked respondents about what the priority areas for training were in their countries. The responses revealed that there are many barriers getting necessary skills. The barriers relating to human resources, information, culture of educators, finances, bureaucracy and politics.

The theme of low training capacity acting as a barrier was very dominant. Planners from every continent talked about the lack of people with the appropriate experience and knowledge to teach the skills for these priorities. Some areas were struggling to find enough planners at all and felt isolated. Others were unable to prioritise the 'priority areas' due to high work pressure or other pressing needs! As a planner from Malawi noted "There are very few fully trained urban planners in my country".

Low levels of information, teaching materials, books and media are problematic. Access to information is also a barrier, including language which 'blocks' some teaching materials. Out of date information also causes problems as these priorities particularly benefit from current innovations and techniques, for example real and current statistical data and forecasting methods.

Some respondents said the very nature of the planning education in their country acts as a barrier to skill development. By separating out the elements across disciplines, or by generalising the skills to a 'standard' format, or creating an educational 'elite' of specialists, they effectively cut off students from 'holistic' teaching which could cover areas that they themselves identify as priorities.

The newness of many subjects means there is a natural hurdle to getting them onto the curricula. The problem is accentuated when establishments are dedicated to traditional subject matters, or are new themselves. Short courses can also be a barrier in that they

discourage full exploration of some subjects.

There were however, some positives. For example, there was a comment from a planner in Barbados that *“The two planning schools in the Caribbean...both put emphasis on skills for dealing with poor and marginalised groups”*.

Overall respondents called for more and better training provision for traditional skills and for the newer skill sets associated with CAP’s work on Re-inventing Planning and *Making Planning Work*. They wanted more on core technical skills like GIS, urban design and transport planning, but also more on management and implementation.

Planning Needed, says CAP, as it welcomes new UN Report

CAP welcomed the recent UN-Habitat Global report on Human Settlements. The theme of the report is “Planning our Urban Future”. In a press release for World Habitat Day, which was used as the lead story on the Commonwealth Secretariat’s web site, CAP said “Urban spread is the common denominator that links the problems that have to be solved in the first half of this century. We need the economic dynamism of the burgeoning cities to be able to lift people out of poverty. We need the open and tolerant culture of cities to liberate people and stimulate innovation. But we also need cities to grow in smart ways, or they will destroy farmland and forests, drink dry the reservoirs, pollute the waterways, and impose unacceptable

costs in energy use and carbon emissions”.

“The UN-Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements 2009 emphasises the key role of urban planning in national and international responses to these challenges. However, few Commonwealth countries have sufficient professional planners with the right skills to make a difference. Mega-cities are developing without up-to-date plans to steer growth into sustainable directions. At the other extreme, there are small island states where there are no huge cities, but very high rates of urbanisation, and high vulnerability to climate shocks. The Maldives is a typical case, and literally can only call on a handful of professional planners in a situation where expertise in urban development and environmental management is sorely needed.”

The release noted that India, the Commonwealth’s most populous country, still has a low level of urbanisation, about 30%: This will increase to over 55% in the next 40 years. Urban growth rates of 4% a year, such as are found in Kenya, Gambia, or the Solomon Islands, to cite just some examples, equate to almost a doubling in urban numbers by 2025.

It quoted CAP’s Secretary-General as saying “We have had ‘anti-urban’ policies, such as attempts to contain urban growth and resist new development. They fail business and they fail the urban poor. We have had ‘non-plan’ policies with utopian dreams of privatisation and unregulated market forces: these paved the way to the global financial crisis. It’s time we adopted evidence-based, pro-urban, planning

policies, that identify economic opportunities, unlock the potential of land but also recognise the need for equity and to manage carbon emissions.”

“There is still time to make a difference, but each year that slips by makes it harder to rectify the diseconomies of urban growth, such as traffic congestion, car-dependent sprawl or slums lacking basic services. Planning – preventative urban medicine – is urgently needed. Strategic urban planning is essential. It can reduce uncertainty, facilitate efficient infrastructure provision, and provide transparency in the development process.”

The full statement is also on the What’s New section of the CAP website.

CAP at Gender Equality expert group

Margaret Ng’ayu, Kenya Institute of Planners, represented CAP at an expert group meeting in Nairobi earlier this year.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the draft Gender Equality Action Plan that would guide UN-Habitat work until 2013; to contribute to the design of success indicators; and to share experiences in the design and implementation of gender equality action plans/programs. The meeting brought together gender experts – professionals, NGOs, local government and academicians - from all over the world, with deep insights and experiences to the issues of gender.

The meeting reviewed the overall framework of the plan. It identified

priority areas for action for UN-Habitat and partners. The meeting agreed upon five broad areas for action:

- Advocacy, Monitoring and Partnerships;
- Participatory Urban Planning Management and Governance;
- Land and Housing Policy;
- Environmentally sound basic urban services;
- Financing Housing Development.

Key points in relation to gender and planning were:

- Planners need to be aware of the gender dimension of business. In low income settlements in particular, women have to combine household chores and income generation activities. Home-based or local business opportunities are thus very important.
- The planning schools should review their curriculum to incorporate gender perspectives to planning. Gender awareness should be a part of a planner’s training or mid-career updating.
- Criteria and standards of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the urban planning processes are needed; e.g. land matters, allocation of spaces.
- Empowerment on access to women-owned spaces - market, recreation, etc.
- Provide support for networking and exchange between poor women and professionals, Governments and experts.

The gender officer from the World Bank provided highlights of the bank's gender policy. These are readily available on their website. They could be a point of reference for us as planners.

It is upon CAP, CAP's regions and member organisations, and of course the CAP Women in Planning network to identify our entry points. Given our unique planning experiences we have the potential to work with Habitat's Gender Equality Action Plan.

Flag Raising Celebrates 60 years of the Commonwealth

Clive Harridge

An extremely wet and miserable Monday morning last April did not dampen the high spirits and excitement of those attending the splendid Marlborough House in London. The occasion was a flag raising ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the London Declaration. It was on the 26 April 1949 that the London Declaration was issued and the modern Commonwealth was born. The origins of the Commonwealth date back further than 60 years, but 1949 marks the point at which the Commonwealth was transformed into a partnership based on equality, choice and consensus.

The flag raising event was opened by the new Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma, followed by a reading of the London Declaration and a performance of a specially commissioned piece of music composed by Paul Carroll and sung by South African singer Steven Leas.

The London Declaration

In April 1949, leaders from Australia, Britain, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Canada met in London, and after 6 days deliberation produced the London Declaration. The Declaration recognised King George VI as Head of the Commonwealth. It emphasised the freedom and equality of its members and declared a free association of independent nations pursuing peace, liberty and progress.

The main event was the raising of flags of all the Commonwealth member countries accompanied by drums and loud cheers as individual countries were announced. Each flag was carried by a young person in national costume. The inclement weather led to the whole event being held indoors, and whilst several hundred people in two rooms was rather a squash it all added to the atmosphere.

It was a highly colourful, vibrant and noisy occasion, but above all it was joyous and reflected the true spirit of the Commonwealth by bringing together peoples from around the world in a spirit of friendship.

Unfortunately after the event it was out into London's rain and back to the office ... but I was thrilled with thoughts of what a great organisation the Commonwealth is.

Clive Harridge is CAP's Vice-President (Europe) and represented CAP at the ceremony. He works as a planning consultant in London.

New Vice-President



Sonia Kirby has replaced Sue Holliday as Vice-President for Australasia and the Pacific. Sonia is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia, and played a key role in organising the meeting in Fiji in 2007 that led to the setting up of the Pacific Islands Planning Association.

Mauritius Joins CAP

CAP is delighted to welcome the Town Planning Association of Mauritius into full membership. They are a welcome addition to the CAP family.

Any other Commonwealth countries seeking to form an independent professional planning institute are welcome to approach CAP for advice and support. Similarly, existing institutes that are still outside CAP – and there are

one or two – are invited to apply for membership. For further details contact Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk.

Tanzania Association of Planners

The May 2009 issue of the Newsletter of the Tanzanian Association of Planners is on the CAP website (on the page for members' newsletters). This is an excellent issue and its production shows just what a vital role a committed professional planning institute can play.

There are articles on:

- Urban transport reforms;
- Formalising land property rights in unplanned settlements;
- A success story of the eradication of unplanned areas in Dar es Salaam;
- The role of town planning in urban safety;
- Strategic issues for urban development in Tanzania; and
- The roles of planners in water sector reforms in the country.

There is also a pithy note on the role of civil societies in combating corruption and a report on postgraduate Housing studies at Ardhi University.

Tanzania is urbanising at a rate of 8% a year. In 1967 just one in 20 lived in urban areas, today it is about one in four. Between 40 and 70% of them live in unplanned settlements. Two-thirds of Dar es Salaam's 3 million residents are in informal settlements.

Coastal Development Pressures in Trinidad and Tobago

The April issue of the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners is on the CAP web site. It gives a strong flavour of the kind of issues that planners there are grappling with – a taster ahead of the CAP Regional Workshop that will be held in Port of Spain on 19-20 November, and the Commonwealth People’s Forum that will follow.

The Planning Letter (a regular feature) looks at pressures on the coast. On the west coast of Trinidad up to 35% of development since 1970 has been unauthorised. The problem is not all the result of private sector activity: the state agency responsible for issuing land reclamation licences is alleged to have been remiss in many aspects.

The fishing village as a traditional settlement form in the islands is under threat from today’s development. There are also problems offshore where ageing “seabed-ridden” infrastructure is becoming a marine pollution threat. The letter calls for a coastal policy with “buy-in” from stakeholders and the backing of regulations and enforcement. It points to Barbados, another Commonwealth Caribbean country, as a place where Trinidad could learn some coastal planning lessons. Barbados planning was showcased at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing last year.

Another fascinating project that TTSP has invested in is the building of an archive of interviews with experienced planners. In this issue the interview featured is with Carole Smart, the

Former Director of the Town and Country Planning Division of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Robert Upton

Robert Upton has left his post as Secretary-General of the Royal Town Planning Institute. He has moved to the Infrastructure Planning Commission, of which he is now one of two Deputy Chairs. The IPC has been set up by the UK Government to try to expedite the process of taking decisions on major infrastructure projects.

Robert took up his post at the RTPI in 1996. He led the RTPI through a major restructuring of its governance structures, education policy and overall vision. Crucially, he was immensely supportive of the international dimension of the RTPI.

CAP owes Robert Upton a huge amount. If it had not been for Robert’s vision and support, CAP might well have ceased to exist ten years ago. In 1999 CAP did not collect subscriptions, had no grant from the Commonwealth Foundation, no programme of activity, no website, no newsletter. It had not met at all, anywhere, since 1996. There were plenty of voices in RTPI calling for the Institute to implement threats made earlier in the decade to withdraw from CAP membership unless there were signs of life in the Association.

Robert took a different stance. He helped to conjure money from the UK’s Department for International Development that enabled CAP to meet

again in Belfast. He also offered the RTPI's services to provide administrative support to CAP for 6 years (it is now 9 years). Part of that offer was to give CAP a base within the RTPI's office in Scotland. Since then CAP has been able to benefit immeasurably from this facility, where Annette O'Donnell services CAP for the equivalent of one day a week (but is in the office full-time, working the rest of her time for RTPI Scotland).

Robert maintained a keen interest in CAP in the years that followed. In particular, he developed and championed the Self-Diagnostic Tool project that was run jointly by RTPI and CAP in 2008, with funding from the RTPI and the Lincoln Foundation.

Robert Upton made a huge contribution to the development and modernisation of the RTPI. He will be hard to replace; from CAP's point of view he might even be irreplaceable. CAP News wishes him well and says a heartfelt "thank you".

Young Planner's Success

CAP successfully nominated Owetu Pantshwa, a part time student doing a planning degree at the University of the Free State, South Africa, for a Young Commonwealth Professionals Study Tour to Chennai. He works in Ingquza Hill, a rural municipality in the Eastern Cape, where he is a Senior Strategic Planner. It is an area that under apartheid was in the Transkei.

CAP was also invited to send a young planner to a royal reception at

Buckingham Palace. Charlie Collins, who represents the Young Planners' Network in the RTPI went along to Buckingham Palace and found it a great experience.

New CAP Papers

Two new papers have been added to the Papers page of the CAP website since the last issue of CAP News. One is by Dr. Alka Bharat and Arti Jaiswal from Bhopal, India. Their paper is entitled "An overview for promoting sustainable development in India". It argues that the high rates of urbanisation occurring in Asia mean that an integrated approach is needed to sustainable development. It highlights the importance of city strategies and local governance to this process.

The authors say "Strengthening local governance, and a shift from purely regulatory roles to enabling roles is necessary". In respect of public-private partnerships for environmental matters such as solid waste management, Bharat and Jaiswal note that there needs to be transparency and accountability. Furthermore capacity is important: "Local governments have to have adequate, competent professional staff and a degree of autonomy so as to negotiate long term agreements that can bring new efficiency".

The authors also review and make recommendations for a range of planning policies from an environmental perspective. They point out that regulations are only useful if they are enforced, and that enforcement is more important than creating new standards.

The second paper is a paper that appears in the journal *Town Planning Review*. It is by Cliff Hague, and is entitled "Planning in the Commonwealth". It opens with CAP's mantra: "No sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation, and no sustainable urban planning without effective planning". The paper goes on to review the work of CAP during this decade. It concludes by arguing that CAP shows how the diversity of the modern Commonwealth can be used to advance ideas about planning internationally.

Both papers are in PDF format and can be downloaded for free. In all there are now 24 CAP Papers on the Papers section of the CAP website.

Next Business Meeting

Our next business meeting will be held in Montreal 2-5 October 2010, in the wings of the Canadian Institute of Planners / Global Planners' Network conference which is on the theme of Climate Change. Our business meetings are where we elect our Executive, review our Constitution, set fee levels etc. Each full and affiliate member is entitled to one vote at that meeting, and should notify me of the name of their delegate at least two weeks in advance. Furthermore any member organisation proposing an amendment to CAP's Articles of Association must give notice to the Secretary-General not less than three months prior to the Business Meeting. Thus any proposed change to the CAP Constitution must be lodged with me by 1 July 2010.

Audited Accounts

CAP's Accounts for the year that ended 31 December 2008 have now been signed off by our auditors. They show a total income during the year of £53,119 and total expenditure of £55,858. Only £27,371 of the income came from subscriptions. CAP is particularly grateful to the Commonwealth Foundation for its support through its grants programme.

The main areas of expenditure were on conference travel and accommodation (£41,393), management and administration costs that we pay to RTPi (£12,050) for support through their Edinburgh office, and the audit fee (£2,415).

CAP subscriptions for 2010 are due on 1 January 2010. The subscription rate remains unchanged - £1 per corporate member of the member institute.

Organisations such as planning schools or ministries or other planning agencies can join CAP as affiliate members. The rate is again £1 per person.

CAP does not have individual membership but welcomes donations of £20 a year from Friends of CAP.

CAP News is produced by Cliff Hague and Annette O'Donnell at CAP's headquarters, 57 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7HL, Scotland. To contact CAP email Annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk.