

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of
Planners

Issue no.20

January 2009



Photo: Courtesy of Lucy Natarajan

**“No sustainable
development without
sustainable urbanisation”
Prince Charles tells WUF**
Full story inside

**CAP acknowledges the support of the
Commonwealth Foundation, whose
core grant contributes to the
preparation and dissemination of
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President's Piece

Christine Platt



First of all, my very best wishes to all of you for a very happy and successful 2009. It will be a difficult year given the current economic climate, but this is perhaps a golden opportunity to take stock on where planning needs to go once this lull is over. The slackening of development pressure is a perfect time to nurture new ideas for the future.

There is no shortage of thinking about how planning needs to be reinvented fit for purpose in the 21st Century, and now is maybe the chance to engage in serious thought about what this means for our work in the years ahead.

In the May 2008 issue of *CAP News* I mentioned that CAP had three milestones in the offing. I am pleased to report that the first of these, CAP's extensive involvement in the World Urban Forum in China in November,

was successfully achieved. I believe that it was right that UN Habitat took WUF to China at this time to discuss and debate issues of sustainable and harmonious urbanisation, as there is probably no other place on earth where the impacts of rapid urbanisation and the resulting social and economic change are as profound. Merrill Lynch has estimated that something like 45 to 50 million workers in China have moved out of agriculture and into urban areas.

The experience of seeing the impacts of this massive migration of people was overwhelming, and has left all of us with many questions to ponder. On the one hand, the scale of new development is impressive, but on the other, one wonders what the consequences are for local identity, sense of place and community?

I heard concern voiced about the rapid pace of government-led urbanisation resulting in Chinese cities increasingly looking the same and losing their historic fabric, identity and uniqueness. The challenge is how to retain at least some vestiges of these when the rate and scale of new development are so overwhelming.

The social change resulting from the rapid economic growth is also evident. On the way into the very impressive, modern, glittering glass shopping centres full of Cartier, Levis and Chanel; we passed farming families carrying panniers of fruit to sell in the street. There are still bicycles in Nanjing, but 9 million bicycles in Beijing have disappeared, and in their place are 9 million cars – or so it seems. It will be interesting to see what happens to the Gini Coefficient in China – the

juxtaposition of extreme wealth and abject poverty was hard to miss.

It was also hard to miss the areas being completely cleared for new development, again on a scale which requires exceptional co-ordination. One of the challenges we face in dealing with rapid urbanisation is preparing the receiving environment for those who are migrating to the City. China appears to have approached this in an impressive manner, with planning and the installation of infrastructure leading development, for example in the area around the new WUF venue in Nanjing. Regrettably I did not have the opportunity to discuss with anybody from Nanjing how the social aspects of this are dealt with and how community participation is handled on this scale and in such tight time frames.

In Nanjing it appears that there has been impressive success in environmental rehabilitation, particularly along the rivers and watercourses. There has been a vast amount of infrastructure upgrading, particularly transport, and Nanjing boasts an excellent new Metro. Questions remain however about issues such as air quality. Interestingly, Nanjing was very foggy and it was only on the third day that I could work out which way my 47th storey hotel room faced. The high rise across the street remained a ghostly outline for the first two days.

Being at WUF was not only about opportunities to experience China's urban growth. WUF is an important opportunity to network, gather information and to debate ways of better addressing the challenges that the settlements of the world now face. It is a

United Nations event, the time when governments at all levels and civil society come together. Planners and CAP were well represented in a number of events which are reported on in this issue of *CAP News*.

Crucially CAP was given a prominent role in the first Dialogue session, which was on "Territorial balance in urban development". Both I as the CAP President and Richard Gill, the President of the Barbados Town and Country Planning Society, were invited speakers. A copy of my address is available on the CAP website, and the video of the Dialogue sessions will be available on the UN-Habitat website in due course.

I was able to tell this large audience of leading politicians, officials and NGOs that the planners of the Commonwealth have clearly responded to calls at WUF 3 to reinvent planning, and this has taken us across new thresholds. I concluded by calling on the Dialogue to reaffirm the commitment of the WUF of 2006 to the importance of planners acting as agents of change; to welcome the signs that planning is being reinvented, but also to recognise the call which has been repeated throughout the world that with political support and greater capacity planning could deliver much more.

Importantly, this is picked up in the final report on WUF which states the following: "Members of professional associations also engaged fully at the World Urban Forum. This was especially so for planners who recognized the enormous challenge of helping cities plan for and manage rapid urbanization, combat poverty and address climate change. They (the planners) reiterated the call for all

spheres of governments to address capacity gaps in planning”.

Richard spoke about the work being done in Barbados on the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and the planning response to these. Our congratulations go to Richard and his colleagues on the recognition given to their work and for being invited to showcase their success at WUF.

In my capacity as CAP President I co-chaired the Gender Roundtable with the Vice-Mayor of Nanjing. A number of our CAP Women in Planning (WiP) national representatives, nominated by your Institutes, made contributions to this very successful event, and we were able to report CAP’s research project, “Good Practice in Planning with Gender in the Commonwealth”. Alison Todes and her co-researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand must be congratulated on an excellent piece of research, done in very tight time and financial constraints. Their report will be completed and published in the next few months. Watch the CAP website and the next issue of *CAP News* for details.

I must record my thanks to Alicia Yon for her outstanding contribution to the Roundtable event in her capacity as Co-ordinator of the CAP WiP. The Gender Roundtable is reported on in this newsletter.

The CAP Networking event held in partnership with the Société Française des Urbanistes, the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, the Royal Town Planning Institute and the South African Planning Institute was also very well attended. The session dealt with the response of planners since the 2006

WUF, with an emphasis on the developing world.

We used CAP’s Networking Event to also report on the Diagnostic Tool project done by the RTPI in partnership with CAP. The session concluded with some interesting observations about what we have achieved over the past two years and where we need to go from here. Capacity building in the fullest sense of the term yet again became a noteworthy issue.

Another sign of the profile that CAP now has is that I was asked to serve on the WUF Advisory Board. This was another example of us as a professional body interacting directly with government Ministers and leaders, as well as an important opportunity for the voice of planners, particularly in the Commonwealth, to be heard.

2009 will be another exciting year for CAP with the State of the Commonwealth Cities project now underway, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad next November. Your Institute will have been contacted by the CAP Secretary – General requesting input into the State of the Commonwealth Cities project and we look forward to getting your responses. CAP will be reporting on the preliminary phase of this project at the Inter-Ministerial Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements meeting in Nairobi in April.

Work continues on the Women in Planning initiative, starting with the drafting of a Commonwealth position paper on Gender and Planning – again your Institute’s representative in WiP will be asked to give input into this very

important outcome of the Gender and Planning Research Project and WUF. We will also continue to try to find ways to launch a CAP Capacity Building project. We anticipate that the first stage of this will be an investigation into planning education in the Commonwealth.

We are planning CAP events in Europe, South West Asia, West Africa and of course the CAP Americas region as part of the CHOGM. I look forward to getting from you the messages you want CAP to take to our Commonwealth Heads of Government in Trinidad.

By promoting planning across the Commonwealth, CAP is promoting planning in each and every one of the 53 Commonwealth countries, many of which have no planning institutes to do that job. I promise that our efforts will be maintained throughout 2009.

With my very best wishes,
Christine



WORLD URBAN FORUM SPECIAL REPORTS



Kelvin Macdonald reports on CAP in China

One of the lasting memories of the World Urban Forum held in Nanjing was to see a giant video relay of the UK's Prince Charles asserting that "there can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation". These words, CAP's strapline, form part of the Vancouver Declaration, the commitment to co-operate in using planning to fight poverty and to achieve sustainable urbanisation that was produced for the third World Urban Forum held in Canada in 2006.



The 2006 World Urban Forum saw the long sought for recognition of the centrality of planning with the final communiqué from that conference stating that, "the Forum stressed the important role of planners as agents of change and underlined the importance of sustainability as the backbone of new forms of planning".

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WUF 4 Final Communiqué.

Four events make me believe that, following WUF4, the role that planning can play is even better recognised and that the global network of planners is even stronger. Firstly, planning had a much higher profile on the conference programme itself – largely thanks to CAP members. CAP President, Christine Platt, and Richard Gill from Barbados, spoke at the main hall sessions on ‘Territorial Balance in Urban Development’. CAP also joined forces with the Women in Planning Network and the Nanjing Women’s Federation to run a Roundtable on Women and Harmonious Cities at which Christine and Alison Todes spoke. CAP ran a Networking Event on ‘Planning Post-Vancouver: Challenges and Responses’.

The second indicator of the strength of planning and of a growing network came in presentation at WUF of the results of work that has been undertaken jointly by the Royal Town Planning Institute and CAP, funded by the Lincoln Foundation and the RTPI Trust. The on-line self-assessment of planning capacity had, at the time of WUF4, been filled in by over 1250 people in over 100 countries. Early analysis showed a global community of planners who already saw the fight against poverty as being one of their key aims but who were facing, in many cases, lack of political support, inadequate access to information and the

need for support in developing their skills.

The desire for support by planners across the world was reinforced in the very well attended Global Planners Network (GPN) seminar at WUF where delegates from a wide range of countries agreed to sign the Vancouver Declaration and support the GPN. The sense of joint commitment and shared concerns was palpable – increased only when Barack Obama’s victory in the US Presidential election was announced during the seminar!

“Urban planners are the key if all we have talked about happening in the next twenty years is going to come about.”

Keshav Varma, Sector Director at the World Bank

The final moment of realisation that planning was seen to be part of the solution rather than the problem came when Keshav Varma, Sector Director at the World Bank, stated that “urban planners are the key if all we have talked about happening in the next twenty years is going to come about”. Such a statement from the World Bank is to be cherished – and acted upon.

None of this is a cause for complacency. The second Global Planners Network Conference (GPN) was held in Zhenjiang, just before the WUF. The GPN is the network of planners and planning institutions. CAP members were central to the formation of the GPN in 2005 and in 2008 the CAP was again at the heart of the GPN’s conference. It was there that UN-Habitat Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka challenged the

GPN on four grounds. First, she said, the GPN needs to develop its membership to embrace more countries in the developing world. Secondly it



needs to use its voice on important issues and in other forums. Thirdly, it also needs to establish a dialogue leading to win-win situations with the developed and developing worlds learning from each other. Finally, the GPN needs to boost the image of planning which, she stated, “continues to be perceived as expensive, cumbersome and slow”.

Any one of these challenges constitutes a major task. The four of them together both show the need for further development of the GPN – and for the radical thinking and action that this demands - but also demonstrates the faith being put into international action on planning by UN-Habitat.

CAP members have been a driving force behind the movement to demonstrate to governments, funding organisations and communities worldwide that planning need not be not the statist, top-down bureaucratic activity that many believe it is but, instead, is a prime tool to support actions on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and fighting global poverty.

The next session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Rio de Janeiro in

the first half of 2010. Thus we have little more than twelve months to demonstrate that the faith that the UN is now putting in planning is justified.

Kelvin MacDonald is a consultant and an Affiliated Lecturer at Cambridge University. He attended the GPN and WUF conferences on behalf of the RTPI. You can find out about the Global Planners Network and the self-assessment initiative at www.globalplannersnetwork.org



CAP’s work on gender is presented on the world stage *Alicia Yon reports*

The World Urban Forum was a momentous event. The sheer numbers involved are testament to its success. But the significance of WUF4 goes beyond the numbers and the spectacular opening ceremony. The four days featured many events and networking opportunities. One of the highlights for CAP was the Gender Roundtable in

which CAP featured prominently as a key partner of UN-Habitat's Gender Mainstreaming Unit in its role as a co-host to the Gender Roundtable, along with the Nanjing Women's Federation.

The Roundtable provided a platform for partners concerned with gender and women's empowerment to debate ways to address gender and women's concerns in planning policy and practice. The panel comprised of a "who's who" of gender experts, ranging from grassroots women's representation to practitioners and academics.

The first session was chaired by CAP President, Christine Platt. Setting the tone in her opening statement, Christine commented that harmonious urban development could not be achieved in the context of inequities and exclusion, the implication being that inclusiveness was a central axis for fostering harmonious urban development.

Dr Alison Todes presented her findings from the recent CAP survey on gender-aware planning in Commonwealth countries and concluded that although there are numerous examples of such interventions, there are fewer examples of actual implementation.

Expert presentations were wide-ranging and varied from the right to adequate housing, to safety issues and grassroots involvement in disaster preparedness. Everyone spoke with conviction. Inevitably, each expert reiterated that for cities to be truly harmonious priority needs to be given to mainstreaming gender and women's issues at all levels.

Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, argued that

women's equality concerns need to be viewed in the context of the human rights framework.

The second session was chaired by Wang Yonghong, Vice-Mayor of the City of Nanjing, and featured several practitioners and grassroots speakers, who all spoke eloquently and shared the same belief that women's direct and meaningful involvement is integral to deliberations in development processes.

The session successfully identified some key gender and women's issues, including recognition that households comprise more than just traditional family structures. Several recommendations were made including securing inheritance and property ownership rights for women in countries where they have none.

An encouraging outcome was an assurance by Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, that the Roundtable recommendations would inform UN-Habitat's Gender Equality Action Plan currently being developed by a range of experts in Nairobi, including CAP's Women in Planning representative from Kenya, Margaret Ngayu.

What makes the session relevant to all of us is the common goal of gender-aware planning policy and practice. Dr Clara Greed from the UK summed it up so well; those who have been campaigning for gender in planning for so long, remain optimistic for a better future with the knowledge that their work is not in vain and that it is being carried forward, albeit slowly. She mentioned the Gendersite designed by the Women's Design Service (www.wds.org.uk) that

provides an online archive of relevant material for those working in the built environment and gender. It is a way of sharing and learning to ensure that our future work reflects the needs and aspirations of women.

Some of the most intriguing contributions and interventions emerging from the Roundtable came from the grassroots, people who cope with the problems of squalor, poor sanitation, unsafe environments, and inadequate housing on a daily basis. This alone demonstrates the value of the World Urban Forum model of bringing representatives of civil society together with government officials to debate important social, economic and environmental issues.

WUF4 was able to make the event more inclusive by engaging people from all corners of the globe and from every walk of life – a true innovation in participatory democracy. Together, WUF4 and partners represent a model of inclusiveness that other agencies within the family of the United Nations may wish to emulate. Certainly, CAP will be working closely with the organizers of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum scheduled for Brazil in 2010, UN-Habitat and other key stakeholders, to ensure that the momentum of the dialogue continues.

The WUF engages people from all corners of the globe and from every walk of life – a true innovation in participatory democracy.

The journey ahead leads to Brazil where we hope to join with many others exploring, learning and searching for

solutions to the problems of rapid urbanization and women’s equality, to make a difference in the lives of all urban dwellers. Hopefully, the next WUF will provide opportunities for practical follow-up to make WUF4 a turning point in our combined efforts to make cities everywhere better places in which to live.

Urban sustainability is about every human being in the city being treated as equal - it is high time that women are treated as key players in urban development.

Urban sustainability and harmonious development is much more than protecting the physical environment of cities, or constructing energy efficient buildings, or providing new civic infrastructure, or keeping the city clean. These are important, but there are other fundamental matters to be considered as well. Urban sustainability is also about engaging those most affected by life in the city, in the process of deciding their own futures. It is about every human being in the city being treated as equal - it is high time that women are treated as key players in urban development and not just beneficiaries, nothing more and nothing less.

In terms of the way forward for CAP, there is a need to look at ways to document successes and progresses made in the development of gender-aware planning and publicize these widely. We also need to look at ways we as planners can work more closely with the wider grassroots community, for example through the Huairou Commission, in the lead-up to the next WUF and in building professional

partnerships in the future as it is through speaking with a unified voice that we will be able to make real inroads for women.

Note: UN-Habitat's Gender Mainstreaming Unit is currently drafting a detailed report on the Gender Roundtable, soon to be published on the CAP website.



Alicia Yon is Convenor of CAP's Women in Planning network, and works as a planner on Queensland's Gold Coast.

CAP subscriptions are due on 1 January each year. Planning institutes in the Commonwealth pay £1 per corporate member per year. Individuals can become "Friends of CAP" for only £20 a year. Contact

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President takes message from grass roots planners to the world's leaders

Planning is being re-invented across the Commonwealth - from the grass roots, CAP President Christine Platt told the World Urban Forum. Opening the Dialogue on "territorial balance in urban development", Mrs. Platt said "Responses from grass-roots planners have been heard in a series of CAP events around the world over the past two years, including the Pacific Islands, Australia, the Caribbean, Canada, the Great Lakes area of East Africa and Cameroon". She reported the messages coming from CAP delegates who met in Johannesburg in April 2008. "The messages were clear and consistent:

- Governments need to grasp how spatial planning which is strategic, integrated and participatory can help.
- Governance issues, including insufficient funding, lack of political will and political instability are affecting the delivery of planning.
- There is a skills shortage in ALL regions of the world and in all areas of planning and planning decision making.
- We need cross boundary thinking if we are to effectively deal with the big issues such as climate change, deepening poverty, increasing slums and the food and energy crisis.
- Globalisation and its impact on new migrations, densities, heritage and changing sense of place cannot be ignored.
- Last but not least, we need to reinvent planning education and to support the "Barefoot Planners" who are working hard to serve communities in rural areas and small

island states, with few opportunities to access new knowledge and skills.”

Mrs. Platt gave examples of the ways in which practising planners in the Commonwealth are making planning work. “Women planners in Malaysia are preparing practical guidance on planning residential areas from a woman’s perspective. Governments in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have recognised the strategic role which planning can play. Innovative legislation and planning systems are being established. In Malawi recognition is now given to the importance of informal trading for the livelihoods of the urban poor.”

The President acknowledged that during the last decades of the 20th Century planning had been in decline. She acknowledged that there were grounds for criticism of this period of planning. “Too often technocratic masterplans and attempts at micro-managing land use failed the poor, yet still lacked the powers or political will to protect vital assets of land and environmental resources. Planners had become increasingly uncertain of their contribution, and too often had become mired in systems of planning which were never designed to cope with the demands being placed on them, or were too narrowly focussed.”

Today, however, there is a new spirit of global solidarity, and a recognition that “We cannot talk about sustainable development without talking about sustainable urbanisation, and we cannot talk about sustainable urbanisation without talking about planning”.

The full text of the speech is on the CAP website on the CAP Papers pages.

OTHER NEWS

Work starts on the State of Commonwealth Cities

The Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat have come forward with the funding to enable a Scoping Study to be done on the State of Commonwealth Cities. The idea for a report on the State of Commonwealth Cities came from CAP. It was endorsed by other civil society organisations at the Commonwealth People’s Forum in November 2007 (see *CAP News* no. 18).

The idea was further developed during 2008 in meetings between CAP representatives and those from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. In November it was agreed that a scoping study was needed. This is intended to pave the way to a more substantial, long-term project that could become a mainstay for monitoring conditions in the cities and exchanging good practices in planning and urban policy.

The scoping study comes under the aegis of ComHabitat, the umbrella body on which CAP is represented. However, the funding for the work is to come to CAP, who in turn has been able to use it to pay for the services of two researchers. Their brief is to get a report out so that it can go to High Commissions in March and be discussed by Housing and Urban Development ministers and their senior advisors at a meeting in April in Nairobi.

The scoping study has three main aims. These are:

1. To provide an evidence base about the situation of human settlements across the Commonwealth countries, particularly in relation to the 2001 Commonwealth goal of “demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”.
2. To explore the scope to establish a Commonwealth Network of Inclusive Cities as a policy and practice exchange between a representative group of local authorities, with scope also to involve civil society organisations from these cities.
3. To scope the form that an ongoing State of the Commonwealth Cities study could take.

The first task is to establish what data about Commonwealth cities is already available, and to build a country-by-country picture. CAP has been promised co-operation from UN-Habitat’s Global Urban Observatory in extracting relevant Commonwealth data. There are also important national urban databases, e.g. in South Africa, as well as work on Asian cities. However, there has never been a Commonwealth-specific urban database, a gap that reflects the low profile that issues of settlements and urban planning have traditionally had in international affairs.

Some preliminary ideas have been developed through discussions with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum about possible cities for a pilot

Network of Inclusive Cities. Clearly there needs to be representation from different Commonwealth regions and a balance of different types of cities. Equally important, the cities themselves need to want to get involved, and, of course, they should have stories to tell about how they go about inclusive approaches to urban planning and policy making. Ahmedabad, Birmingham, Kuala Lumpur, Brisbane, Metro Vancouver, Port of Spain, Dar-es-Salaam, Durban or Johannesburg and Freetown have been mentioned, and there is a strong interest in finding a suitable city from the Pacific too.

CAP’s Secretary-General, Cliff Hague, told *CAP News*, “The Scoping Study is the biggest piece of work that CAP has ever undertaken, and potentially the most significant. It is an essential first step to raising the profile of human settlements and their planning in the Commonwealth. More importantly, it opens up the possibilities for better evidence-informed policy-making and monitoring. It should lead to a fertile exchange of ideas and practices about creative approaches to re-inventing planning as a key aspect of urban governance”.

Professor Hague added that all CAP member institutes are being approached for information on national urban policies and for suggestions on cities that might be suitable for the Inclusive Cities Network.

The researchers who have agreed to do the work are Will French and Lucy Natarajan. They also did the recent “Self-diagnostic tool” study of planning systems and capacity for CAP, the Royal

Town Planning Institute and the Lincoln Foundation.

CAP signs Co-operation Agreement with Prince's Foundation

CAP and the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment have signed a Memorandum of Co-operation. The Foundation is engaged in educational work in the field of urbanism and thus shares with CAP a concern to enhance skills in this field. In addition the Foundation has undertaken several planning and design projects in which it uses participatory techniques, notably a method known as Enquiry by Design. For more information, go to its website www.princes-foundation.org.

The memorandum identifies the main aims of the co-operation as being to raise awareness across the Commonwealth and beyond, about sustainable approaches to planning and urban development; and to develop leadership and skills in such approaches. Each year an Action Plan will be agreed between the two organisations focusing on shared activities. The memorandum was signed in July 2008 and will last for four years.

Young professionals gather to discuss ways to meet the Millennium Goals

It was an interesting and diverse group of young people who gathered for the third International Young Professionals Summit (IYPS). Engineers, architects, economists, political scientists,

sociologists, gender experts and various other professionals from about 25 countries came together between 19-23 August, in Manchester as well as online through the virtual summit. The theme of the Summit was – “How young professionals can help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals?” CAP was represented by Shipra Narang-Suri, a planner from India, who is a former UN-Habitat staff member and currently a PhD researcher at the University of York.

The opening keynote by Professor Tony Ridley, President of the Commonwealth Engineers' Council (CEC) and patron of the International Young Professionals Foundation (IYPF), set the tone for the discussions, inspiring young professionals to take steps to make their voice heard to global policy-makers.

The messages were reinforced by the distinguished economist Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who addressed the Summit virtually over the internet. He also highlighted the challenges faced by the global community in meeting the MDGs. In his hard-hitting speech, Prof. Sachs laid the blame squarely at the door of rich countries such as his own (the United States), who have failed to meet the aid target of 0.7% GDP which was agreed to be set aside for meeting the MDGs. At the same time, he spoke about new initiatives such as the Millennium Villages programme, and suggested that young people could work at different levels – from operational to policy - to help achieve the MDGs.

With Professor Sachs' address having fired the interest and imagination of the group, the discussions were animated

and enthusiastic. This was despite the fact that many of the young people participating in the summit had never heard of the MDGs before, or knew about them only vaguely. Most had not given much thought to the relevance of the goals to their own professional contexts, particularly in the global North. Presentations from a number of experienced professionals who had worked on the different Goals, however, went a long way towards enhancing their understanding of issues of poverty, environmental sustainability, gender and HIV/AIDS.



Shipra Narang-Suri, CAP's representative at the IYPS makes some notes before her speech.

In her presentation for CAP, Shipra emphasised the importance of focusing on urban areas for achieving the MDGs. Discussing various dimensions of sustainable development, especially its link to poverty and natural disasters caused by climate change, she went on to discuss the role of urban planning in meeting these challenges. She also spoke about CAP's objective of "Reinventing Planning", and the various activities being undertaken as part of this effort. Earlier in the day Shipra and Neil Bailey of the CEC jointly facilitated a thematic workshop on "Water, energy, infrastructure and sustainable consumption".

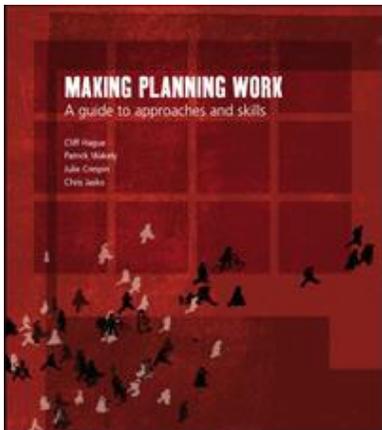
There was a lot of interest from the group, in the plenary sessions as well as thematic workshops, on issues of poverty and environmental sustainability. A number of participants, especially those from the UK, spoke about what they had learned from the Summit and how they hoped to apply their knowledge to their own work and living environments. Engineers and architects working with private development companies, for instance, promised that they would go back to their respective senior managers armed with new and powerful arguments for greater investment in sustainable development and better planning. Others spoke about how they could engage with a broader group of professionals and stakeholders while implementing projects, making them more participatory and responsive.

The International Young Professionals Summit was organised by the International Young Professionals' Foundation (IYPF), which is a new and vibrant organisation with the vision of

creating “a global community of young professionals creating a better world for current and future generations through local and global action”. The wide-ranging discussion on MDGs at the Summit has given the IYPF a concrete agenda for the future. Most participants emphasised the importance of reconvening every two years or so, to discuss the progress made and the new initiatives launched across the world, on these themes.

Special offer to CAP members

Buy “Making Planning Work” for only £10 – save £5 on the normal price!



Making Planning Work was launched at the 2006 World Urban Forum. Drawing 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.

“It captures the essence of many innovations” Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-Habitat.

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Cross-professional Seminar on Cities and the Climate Change Challenge

Jenny Crawford reports

A multi-disciplinary seminar, on how cities can respond to the challenges which arise from climate change, organised by the Commonwealth Associations of Architects (CAA), Planners (CAP), Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) and the Commonwealth Engineers’ Council, was hosted by the Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment in London on 29 July.

Chaired by Clifford Dann of CASLE, the presentations and discussions focused to a large extent on the mismatch between the availability of technical solutions and the political, institutional, cultural and social capacity to use such solutions. Globally, we possess technical capabilities for sustainable water and transport infrastructure and large-scale decoupling of economic growth from carbon emissions. However, markets, nations and cities are a long way from implementing these technologies to meet either the challenges of climate change or the poverty and basic inequities which it can be expected to exacerbate.

Hooper Brooks, Director of International Programmes at the Prince’s Foundation, described how they are using the *Enquiry by Design* process to identify urban development solutions which are responsive to local needs and opportunities. Examples include Upton in Northamptonshire (England) incorporating an extensive sustainable urban drainage system and high energy

efficiency standards, and development in Plymouth which will meet 50% of its own energy needs through on-site renewable energy sources. They are also using *Enquiry by Design* in urban projects in Sierra Leone, China, Saudi Arabia and Jamaica.

Pablo Lazo, of Ove Arup, set out to add the dimension of ecological design to the discussion. He sketched out an urban design approach using integrated resource management software that links design solutions to a broad range of development outcomes, such as job creation, waste generation, carbon emissions and urban-rural linkages. Examples of the application of this approach, illustrating the technical capacity to transform urban functioning, include Stratford City in London, Dong Tan, on the outskirts of Shanghai, and Jeddah Central District.

Clive Harridge brought the planning perspective on behalf of CAP and the Global Planners' Network. He emphasised that urban development is being driven by unprecedented scales of population growth and poverty to which the planning agenda must respond. This raises the challenge of integrating design and technical information processes with public engagement and political accountability.

Clive suggested that, in the absence of clear statements of professional values, urban planning and development processes can be appropriated by political agendas that run counter to either social justice or environmental sustainability. The Global Planners Network is an attempt to develop institutional, professional and community-level capacity to plan on the

basis of a clear commitment to principles of equity and meeting fundamental human needs through urban development.

Duncan Preston, of the Cambridge International Land Institute, scoped out the role of developers and regulators in the transition to a sustainable commercial building stock, which forms a major element in the economic strategies behind city development. However Preston admitted that he had not factored planners in to the 'circle of blame' through which commercial occupiers, developers, constructors and investors assert that they would support sustainable buildings if only the others would support them. He presented impressive results from Australian research into the economic impact of meeting high sustainability standards, with a three year payback and a very substantial uplift in value added to commercial buildings. This appears to be an urgent area for further urban development research.

Finally, Adrian Cooper, of Atkins Global, argued that climate change is the outcome of deeply flawed human resource use and management systems and, for these to be transformed, the built environment professions must urgently engage with the role of the public realm in shaping how people interact and use resources. Urban areas are dysfunctional where they alienate people from their 'resource context' and the capacity to be directly responsible for their environmental and social impacts.

His main message was that all stakeholders in development must be fully engaged in its design and that the

built environment professions have a direct responsibility to ensure this.

The plenary discussion focused on professional and social capacity for development. This will require professionals to not only engage with stakeholders but also to develop robust, independent and influential relationships with governments at all levels. Among the issues identified for Commonwealth Heads of Government, in particular, was supporting cross-disciplinary education in the built environment professions, investment in transferable knowledge and modelling systems, the appreciation of cultural and place-specific diversity in assessing and responding to development potentials, clear national strategies for transforming water and flood management infrastructure and transfer of community-level tools for planning, design and decision-making.

News from the Pacific Islands Planners Association

Land management and recycling in the Marshall Islands, Environmental Impact Assessment in Samoa, and urban policy action plan in Fiji and squatters in Suva, Fiji's main city, are featured in the first issue of *PIPA News*. The Pacific Islands Planners Association (PIPA) was formed after CAP and the Planning Institute of Australia co-operated to facilitate a meeting for planners in the Pacific in 2007. PIPA aims to promote effective integrated planning across the Pacific nations. Jude Kohlhase, PIPA's President, says the publication of the first Newsletter is an important step forward for planning in the Pacific. In a

region where planners are thin on the ground – and separated by vast expanses of ocean, *PIPA News* can be an important channel for sharing of experiences.

The article by Roger Cooper about the Majuro landfill and recycling centre concisely communicates the challenges in this region. Majuro Atoll has a population of 26,000 (that is increasing) on only 6.5 square kilometres of land. Not surprisingly solid waste management has become a major problem. In response the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Public Works has set up a Waste Company for the atoll, with responsibility for collection, recycling and disposal of solid waste.

The Waste Company has quickly made improvements to the existing land fill site. However, it is also embarking on a programme of raising public awareness and modernising the waste collection system, as well as significantly expanding the scope of recycling collections.

Environmental concerns are also growing in response to urban development pressures in Samoa. Fiona Sapatu, a planner working for the government of Samoa tells of how the Planning and Urban Management Agency is working with a range of stakeholders to improve the environmental assessment process. However, Fiona also points out that to deliver such improvements the planners have had to increase their own knowledge and skills. This has involved internal training and also overseas training. However, there remains a lack of strategic planning policy, and so the

“development control and environmental assessment systems must be increasingly thorough and comprehensive”.

The two articles on Fiji focus directly on the challenges of rapid urbanisation. Sara Hobbs, a volunteer planner working in the Department of Town and Country Planning, unpicks some of the underlying dynamics. In particular she connects the increasing rates of rural to urban migration to the recent expiration of agricultural leases. This has resulted in evictions of a mainly Indo-Fijian population from their sugar cane farms. They move to urban areas to try to make a livelihood.



There is very little freehold land in Fiji and most of that is unaffordable to the poor. It is a recipe for making squatter settlements. Since 2004 Fiji has had an Urban Policy Action Plan. Decentralisation to local government and capacity building are key strategies in the Plan for addressing the problems.

“Squatters are now a normal part of urban life in some of the urban centres of our small island nations”, writes Asenaca Nawalqalevu, a planner with Suva City Council. There are 23 squatter settlements in Suva, which are home to around 11% of the city’s 87,000

residents. The city council is working with other agencies to try to provide more affordable housing.

Sara Hobbs captures the dilemmas that will strike a familiar ring in many Commonwealth countries. She writes “Fiji is urgently in need of qualified Town and Country planners. Currently, degrees in Planning must be obtained from overseas and there are but a handful of planners in the entire country. As such, the national planning authority is tied up with assessing applications rather than concentrating on advocating strategic national planning directions”.

T&T Planners launch Newsletter

The Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners launched a Newsletter last October and have now produced a second issue. These can be downloaded from the CAP website, under the section on Members Newsletters.

The Newsletters have been thoughtfully constructed. They will be of interest to planners throughout the Commonwealth, and especially to those in small island states.

“The Planning Letter” is to be a regular feature. It is a provocative think-piece about a local development issue. Thus in the October Newsletter the letter argued for the need for a plan for the Queens Park Savannah, arguably the greatest urban park in the Caribbean, and certainly, as the letter says the “soul of Port of Spain and its people”. In the

January 2009 issue, the Letter addresses the problems of urban transport in Trinidad and Tobago. It argues for more attention to be paid to the needs of pedestrians, and a more holistic approach to the problems, instead of the narrow focus on vehicles and routes that is embedded in the institutional structures and methodologies.

Another interesting feature is an in-depth interview with a planner. In the October issue this was Ken Snaggs, a seminal figure in the development of planning in the country, with a distinguished career covering senior-level work in both the public and the private sectors. In January, Tracy Wilson was the focus of the piece. It is gripping reading, since his career took in a spell in Liberia where, during a military coup in 1980, he survived the beach execution of the then Planning Minister “Tracy’s mentor and the person to whom he reported”. Who said that planning is a dull, bureaucratic job?

The Newsletters also give space to planning education. As the writer notes, we all remember the studio projects from our student days. However, how many planners have had the challenge of making a plan for the “Trinidad Carnival: a street festival that so far has resisted every attempt to organise it”? This was the focus for the work of students on the MSc programme at the University of the West Indies planning school this session.

The Newsletter even has a sting in its tail. It ends with a piece called “one and One”, which means a picture and 100 words. The result is as follows:



Flooding remains a natural disaster that is ubiquitous in the Trinidad landscape. Whether the result of weak infrastructure, indiscriminate development, poor maintenance, climate change or misguided politics: the effects of flooding continue to slow production and promote loss. Theory suggests that natural disasters are the mathematical product of the scale of the event and the degree of vulnerability of an environment to that event. Planning can do little to effect event scale but much about vulnerability: A large percentage of the items on the list of potential causes of flooding can be associated with the latter. When then will we start planning?

Cities on a knife edge – CAP’s message on Habitat Day

CAP issued a statement on World Habitat Day, October 6th, 2008. The statement drew attention to the implications of the global financial crisis for cities and local governments. It stressed how financial practices like short selling and the wheeling and dealing in intangible assets through the financial system eventually affect everyday life through investment in urban development and infrastructure.

CAP’s President, Christine Platt, was quoted as saying, “The theme for World Habitat Day is ‘Harmonious cities’. Adequate shelter and access to basic services are a critical stepping stone towards making that vision a reality. At a time when people all over the Commonwealth are worried about how the global financial panic will hit them, it is important to remember that investment in basic urban services is

necessary, equitable and will deliver not only an economic dividend but also a social one through reducing illness and mortality”.

The release also drew attention to the Commonwealth goal, adopted in 2001, of “demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015”. However, CAP noted that half way along the track, there has been no systematic reporting on what is happening in Commonwealth cities, and no concerted mobilisation of urban policy makers and NGOs across the Commonwealth for action on human settlements. This is despite the scale and pace of urbanisation that this generation will create, the urbanisation of poverty and the environmental significance of urban growth.

Again Mrs. Platt was quoted: “We need analytical and comparative information on urban conditions and assessment and sharing of policies to make the current aid regime work. When the world begins to reconstruct its financial systems – as it will have to do once the immediate crisis is past – multi-lateral agencies will need to rediscover the basic importance of investing in urban public services and strengthening local governments”.

The Price for Neglecting Planning

On World Town Planning Day, 8 November, CAP called on governments across the Commonwealth to recall the fundamental reasons why cities need

planning. Town planning democratises the development process and makes it transparent. Through planning legislation we assert the right of all citizens to decent living conditions. The essence of town planning is the idea that the rights of land owners to maximise their private interests should not override collective interests and long-term needs.

“Too often, land piracy by vested interests, corruption and political manipulation has been allowed to subvert planning. The ideology of deregulation damaged planning as it has now damaged the banking system. Land and natural resources have been ripped off to build a sub-prime future” said CAP Secretary-General Cliff Hague.

The 2008 State of the World’s Cities report by UN-Habitat shows just how sick and divided many cities now are after a prolonged period during which basic planning principles have been neglected or ignored. Professor Hague noted that the Commonwealth has some of the world’s biggest slums. “Mumbai is probably the world’s slum capital with 10-12 million squatters and tenement dwellers. Lagos is not far behind. Almost half of Karachi’s people live in the Orangi slum. In a world where the planet takes 14 months to regenerate the resources we consume in a single year, the sprawl of car-dependent settlements in some of the Commonwealth’s richer countries is literally costing us the earth – earth that is needed to grow food, nurture trees and provide natural habitats.”

CAP’s statement highlighted the potential of planning backed by effective regulation to contribute to a better future. This is because cities are

massive consumers of energy, and buildings and transport are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. CAP pointed out that the Commonwealth has some outstanding examples of strategic planning, national parks, historic conservation and outreach and public involvement. However, “With the total urban population of the developing world now expected to grow from 2.3 billion in 2005 to 5.3 billion by 2050 we are going to need all the expertise of town planners and then some more”.

Professor Hague added, “Modern planning systems, properly funded and supported by governments are not a luxury – they are indispensable if we are to escape from the consequences of destructive and inequitable forms of urban development”.

Zimbabwe

CAP has taken part in discussions with some other leading Commonwealth bodies about the situation in Zimbabwe. As the cholera outbreak sadly demonstrates there has been a significant breakdown in basic urban infrastructure. It is clear that once a political settlement can be reached there will need to be a major reconstruction effort, and that good planning will be essential to the recovery process.

Celebrate the Commonwealth’s 60th Birthday in 2009

2009 is the Diamond Anniversary of the formation of the Modern Commonwealth. At the end of April it will be 60 years since the British Commonwealth came to an end and the Modern Commonwealth was created.

Today there are 53 countries in the Commonwealth. That’s a quarter of the world’s countries and a third of its population.

Nearly one billion Commonwealth citizens today are under 25 years of age – almost half of the total.

A quarter of the people in the Commonwealth have been born in the last 5 years.

That’s why the theme for the year is “thecommonwealth@60 - serving a new generation”.

“Serving a new generation” could also be the motto of the planning profession. What the Commonwealth’s planners do in 2009 will influence the lives of the millions of children in the Commonwealth today.

The best birthday present you can give the Commonwealth this year is cities and regions that are better planned, more equitable and inclusive places to live, and more environmentally sustainable.

FEATURE ARTICLE

A short, incomplete history of CAP

Cliff Hague

The UK accession into membership of what was then the European Economic Community in the early 1970s prompted a general reconsideration of the nature and role of the Commonwealth. A number of Commonwealth Associations were formed around that time, including CAP.

There was an inaugural meeting at the Town Planning Institute in London, 21-24 September 1970, which was attended by delegates from 17 Commonwealth countries. There were also observers there from the Commonwealth Foundation, the Commonwealth Association of Architects, and the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy. "A draft constitution was discussed and it was unanimously resolved that the Commonwealth Association of Planners be formed in September 1971, provided that a majority of the organizations in each member country shall have ratified the constitution and agreed to join" (Essam, 1970).

Philip Rathbone, the TPI's long-serving Secretary, was appointed interim Secretary for the fledgling Association. The various countries were grouped on a regional basis and a representative for each region was elected. A Commonwealth Foundation grant made the meeting possible.

In 1970 the Town Planning Institute had branches in Malaysia, Central Africa (Rhodesia and Malawi), Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as in Ireland and the UK regions. The Royal Australian Planning Institute; the Institute of Town Planners, India; the South African Institute of Town Planners and the Town and Country Planning Institute (New Zealand) were also affiliated to the Town Planning Institute.

CAP's Interim Executive held a meeting in Accra 17-22 October 1971 with ten members attending, from Australia, Singapore, Ghana, India, Jamaica and the UK. It was at this meeting that CAP was formally established. A further meeting of the Executive was held in Jaipur immediately before the first Conference in New Delhi, which was held 11-17 March 1973.

Arthur Ling – CAP's first President

CAP's first President was Arthur Ling who had been RTPI president in 1968 and named as interim President at CAP's inaugural meeting. Ling had been Professor and Head of the School of Architecture at the University of Nottingham during the 1960s and also worked as a consultant. His firm's best known project was probably the master plan for Runcorn New Town in England that was published in 1967. Ling had made his name as a leading member of the iconic planning team at the London County Council after World War II. In the mid-1950s he had moved to Coventry where he headed the planning of the redevelopment of the bomb-damaged city. Ling served for two terms as CAP President (1970-73 and then 1973-76). His successor was A. Ligale from Kenya who held office until the next meeting which was in 1980.

Early years

Plenary conferences were held in New Delhi (1973), Auckland (1976) and then Uxbridge (UK) in 1980. At the New Delhi meeting there were delegates and observers from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Fiji, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, Tanzania, UK and Zambia. The conference was opened by the Indian Minister for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Bhola Paswan Shastri. The conference focused on professional practice; planning education; planning in the machinery of government; and planning in developing countries. There was also consideration of CAP regional activities and of the “Formation of Small National Societies”. The CAP Secretary was R. J. Harvey whose office address was 18 Northumberland Avenue, London. Chua Peng Chye, regional representative for South East Asia was elected as the Vice-President, while George Franklin became the Hon. Treasurer.

The driving figure in the early 1980s was George Franklin who worked in the UK’s Overseas Development Administration. Franklin had been Europe’s Representative on the CAP Executive from the foundation of CAP, and went on to be President 1980-84. However, it appears that differences developed between Franklin and the RTPI after the 1984 meeting in St. John’s, Newfoundland. At that meeting the Presidency had passed to Dr. Peter Pun (Hong Kong Institute of Planners), but Franklin had become Secretary-General, displacing the sitting Secretary-General from the RTPI, R. Shaw who had done the job at least since 1976, maybe longer. David Fryer, the RTPI Secretary-General was the representative

of Europe on the CAP Executive 1984-88. The RTPI withheld its subscriptions for a couple of years, resuming payment in 1986, when a meeting was held in Colombo.

During the period up to 1988 CAP held a number of meetings as well as their Plenary Conferences. Box 1 provides details.

Box 1: CAP meetings 1974-89

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| 1974 Nairobi, Kenya, “Rural-Urban Drift” |
| 1974 Barbados, “Professional Collaboration” |
| 1977 Liverpool, UK, “Education for Planning” |
| 1980 Comilla, Bangladesh, “Integrated Rural Development” |
| 1981 Hong Kong, “Planning in Asia – Present and Future” |
| 1982 Nicosia, Cyprus, “Planning Legislation” |
| 1984 Jamaica, “Caribbean Conference of Physical Planners” |
| 1986 Arusha, Tanzania, “Urban and Rural Development” |
| 1986 Colombo, Sri Lanka, “Urban Planning and The Provision of Shelter” |
| 1988 Honiara, Solomon Islands, “Planning and Development in the Pacific” |
| 1989 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, “Planning for the Disadvantaged” |

Source: Bill Robertson

Turbulent times

In 1988 CAP met in Hong Kong. Bill Robertson from New Zealand became the new President, and Franklin continued as Secretary-General. This proved quite a seminal meeting. The terminology was changed so that what had been regional representatives on the

Executive now became Vice-Presidents. Furthermore, according to Bill Robertson, Franklin wanted to move the administration of CAP to outside the UK. The Canadian Institute of Planners took it on, and David Sherwood became Secretary-General. A newsletter was produced by a university in Canada (Waterloo?), but problems quickly followed. The regional Vice-President from Canada, Peter Martin, died. Sherwood became ill. Money was lost and CIP wanted to draw back from the situation. A Plenary Conference was held in Trinidad in 1991 at which Jacqui daCosta from Jamaica, who had been Vice-President for the Americas, became CAP's first woman President and the Jamaicans also provided the Secretariat.

The 1990s were a difficult period for CAP. The association struggled to recover from its financial and administrative problems. Little or no activity took place after the Trinidad meeting, and in early 1996 David Fryer, as Secretary-General of RTPI, the largest member, invited the CAP President and a few other CAP stalwarts to a meeting in London to review the situation. Sadly, Fryer died on 27 February 1996, a couple of weeks before the meeting was held on 14-15 March in a Holiday Inn. The RTPI were represented by Cliff Hague (its then President), Michael Welbank and John Anderson (both Past-Presidents with international interests), Judith Eversley (International Officer) and Mike Breakwell, an RTPI member with international interests who taught at Oxford Brookes University also attended. For CAP there was their President, and also Prof. Satar Sikander from Lahore (V-P for SW Asia); Surath Wickramasinghe of Sri Lanka; Leonard St. Hill and Richard Gill (Barbados); and

C. Christdoulou (Cyprus and V-P Europe). The outcome of the meeting was an offer from New Zealand to host a Plenary Conference later in the year and for the existing office holders to remain in post meantime.

The NZ meeting was held 4-7 September 1996 in the wings of the EAROPH conference in Auckland. Representatives from several countries were able to attend, including, Pakistan, Australia, NZ, Nigeria, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. The conference of delegates elected Bill Robertson President for a second time (Bill had been President 1988-91), and the NZPI also provided the Secretariat with Robert Schofield becoming Secretary-General. A meeting was planned for Sri Lanka in 1998 or 1999, but nothing happened and CAP was still unable to generate momentum.

CAP had got into a spiral in which it had no funds so undertook no activities, so could not collect subscriptions, and so had no funds, and so could not undertake activities... Relations with the Commonwealth Foundation had broken down. Meanwhile, the UN-Habitat II conference had been held in 1996 and had raised the profile of human settlements issues globally (though not of planning). The Habitat Agenda had been adopted by governments.

Following RTPI prompting, a CAP meeting was held in Durban on 9-11 November 1999 in the wings of the Commonwealth People's Forum ahead of the CHOGM. The route to this was somewhat tortuous. The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council were holding an event in the People's Forum, and Built Environment Professions in the

Commonwealth (BEPIC) had a foothold within that and CAP potentially had a foothold in BEPIC. John Anderson was able to tie these various strings together. The Association of Chartered Town Planners in South Africa, effectively a grouping of RTPI members in SA, was able to help with local arrangements, provided that it could also deliver a worthwhile international event for planners in SA. RTPI had "a modest budget for support of overseas planning associations, and would be glad to use it to share with CAP the "above-the-line" costs of holding these two meetings at the M. L. Sultan Technicon in Durban, that is to say, room and equipment hire plus catering". (CH file note from the time). In effect then an opportunity was created for CAP's office holders to meet and discuss what could be done. RTPI put a proposition to them. It would only continue to support CAP if CAP had a Secretary-General and a President in which the RTPI had confidence, and furthermore the RTPI would be willing to offer to provide the administrative base for CAP for 6 years if CAP wanted that, and RTPI would also be willing to nominate a President.

The Durban meeting was also marked by the withdrawal of the Indian Town Planning Institute from membership – over concerns about fees and the Vice-Presidency for their region.

Into the new Millennium

The RTPI's proposals were accepted and RTPI set about planning to hold a CAP Plenary meeting in the wings of the RTPI Annual Conference which would be held in Belfast in June 2000. The RTPI Secretary-General and Cliff Hague had a lunch with Michael Mutter who was Head of Urbanisation and

Architecture at the UK's Department for International Development. The strategy for CAP was pitched to him – revival based around the Habitat Agenda. Mutter agreed to provide £30,000 towards the costs of getting people to Belfast. He also helped with some of the speakers. DFID had also put together significant support for a ComHabitat organization with the Commonwealth Foundation.

At the meeting in Belfast Cliff Hague was elected President, John Anderson Secretary-General and the RTPI provided the services of Annette O'Donnell one day a week for administrative support from the RTPI's still fairly new office in Edinburgh. In the Belfast meeting Cliff also trailed some ideas for changes to the CAP constitution. In the remaining months of 2000 CAP set up a website through the RTPI, and produced the first issue of CAP News. The President and Secretary-General also held a meeting with Colin Ball, the then Director of the Commonwealth Foundation. They set out their ambitions for the future and Ball agreed to back CAP by providing a one-off special grant of £5,000 to get the website started. Contacts were also made with previous CAP members to try to persuade them to rejoin. There were no reserves to be passed on, since what money CAP still had had been spent on the Durban meeting. The hand-back of Hong Kong to China in 1997 had also diminished CAP's membership.

An offer came from the Queensland Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute to host a CAP event on the back of their annual meeting. This was triggered by plans to hold the CHOGM in Brisbane in October 2001,

but the CHOGM was postponed in the aftermath of the attacks on the USA on 9 September. However, the CPF still went ahead as planned, and so did CAP's meeting at the start of October 2001 in Surfers' Paradise. CAP was able to bid successfully for Commonwealth Foundation grants to support this. A draft list of possible Constitutional amendments were presented to the business meeting by the President and the representatives from Trinidad and Tobago volunteered to work these up in time for the next meeting which was held in Manchester, UK in the wings of the 2002 RTPI conference. Changes made in Manchester included the insertion of concerns for "more sustainable settlements and adequate shelter for all" which echoed the Habitat Agenda. A CAP Women in Planning network was set up convened by Olusola Olufemi from South Africa.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002 CAP networked with the Royal Incorporation of Chartered Surveyors through a body called the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability (GABS) and contributed speakers to the GABS event.

On the back of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, CAP was also able to play a significant role at the first Planning Africa conference in Durban that same month, by supporting the participation of representatives from other Commonwealth African countries. A regional meeting was also held in Port of Spain in December 2002.

The constitutional changes in Manchester also allowed for affiliate membership. The Planning Institute of

Australia's Queensland Division immediately became the first affiliate member. This was because PIA had resigned early in 2002 (though they soon rejoined). Roger Brewster played a crucial role at this time in not only maintaining contact between PIA Queensland and CAP, but driving it forward and deepening it.

Thus in 2003 CAP held another meeting in Queensland – this time in Brisbane - in November 2003, which with AusAID help was able to bring in planners from the Pacific Islands. The Malaysian Institute of Planners had already offered to host the 2004 Plenary meeting and they were represented in Brisbane as part of the preparations. During 2003 a successful meeting for East Africa was held in Nairobi through the hard work of Bosire Ogero (Vice-President for East Africa) and his colleagues.

The meeting in Kuala Lumpur in July 2004 drew an audience of around 400 and did much to consolidate the progress that CAP had made. It was opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and had other ministerial speakers. At this meeting Roxana Hafiz from Bangladesh took over as WiP convenor since Olusola had moved to Canada. The meeting also agreed to increase fees – possibly for the first time since 1970!

Linking with UN-Habitat

CAP's growing profile was recognized when the President was invited to be part of a panel of speakers to a Networking event organized by UN-Habitat within the World Urban Forum in Barcelona in 2004. The theme of the event was Urban Planning Revisited, and this was repeated in the December 2004 issue of

Habitat Debate, which carried an article about CAP.

In 2005 connections were re-established to West Africa. Chi Lawrence and Kabir Yari from the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners were crucial in delivering a 2 day conference in Abuja. Similarly there was a regional meeting in Cyprus in April of that same year.

With the 2006 WUF being in Vancouver and the offer of CIP to host the 2006 CAP business meeting, the ground was laid for a major drive to “re-invent planning”. Preliminary discussions were held at the CIP conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July 2004, and these were followed up at the American Planning Association (with RTPI and CIP) in San Francisco in March 2005 and again at Calgary for the CIP in July 2005. By September 2005 conference calls had started involving UN-Habitat, CIP, RTPI, APA and the European Council of Town Planners to plan a World Planners Congress in Vancouver in June 2006 and a planning voice at the WUF. Ron Shishido (Vice-President Americas) played a crucial role in developing and delivering the Congress in Vancouver.

The message that planning needed to be re-invented and could be re-invented was taken to the Planning Africa conference in Cape Town in March 2006. A book, *Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills* was also produced with funding from the UK’s DFID. In this process the support of Kelvin Macdonald, who was the RTPI’s Policy Officer, and of Clive Harridge (RTPI President 2006) was crucial.

Vancouver and after

The WUF in Vancouver in 2006 marked a step change in the global profile of CAP. The doors were closed on a packed CAP Networking event at the WUF 20 minutes before the scheduled start. The messages from that event, and in particular the paper “Re-inventing Planning”, were taken into one of the Dialogue sessions of the WUF, where CAP had a prominent speaking role. The result was that the WUF affirmed the importance of planning. The official report on the WUF records 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”.

CAP member institutes had also signed up to the Vancouver Declaration. This document committed signatories to tackle the challenges of rapid urbanisation, the urbanisation of poverty and the hazards posed by climate change and natural disasters.

At the Business Meeting in Vancouver, Cliff Hague and John Anderson stepped down, and Christine Platt from the South African Planning Institute was elected President. Cliff took on the duties of Secretary-General. Alicia Yon was elected as Convenor of CAP’s Women in Planning network.

Increasing Activity

A key part of Christine's vision for CAP was to increase the involvement of members from the various regions. This has been achieved with meetings in Fiji, Barbados and Kampala in 2007, and a Plenary Conference within the Planning Africa meeting in Johannesburg in 2008. An increasingly close set of links were forged with UN-Habitat, through high profile involvement of CAP's President in the 2007 meeting of the Governing Council and at the 2008 WUF, where CAP again hosted a networking event and was a partner in the gender Roundtable. In addition a project from Barbados led by CAP's Vice-President (Americas), Richard Gill, was also featured prominently.

Back issues of *CAP News* provide more detailed descriptions of CAP's activity since 2000. Throughout this time the Association has depended hugely on the expertise and dedication of its administrator, Annette O'Donnell. CAP similarly owes a debt of gratitude to the RTPI (and to the Scottish office of the Institute in particular) for allowing us to use Annette's time for one day a week since 2000.

This article draws primarily on the recollections of two CAP Presidents. Inevitably much is omitted (the last 2 years alone could be a full feature!). However, hopefully this provides a deposit into CAP's corporate memory bank. It is now up to others to invest their stories there too!

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This article is based on an interview with Bill Robertson, a Past President of CAP, in Palmerston North, NZ in March 2007, plus other research. If you have further information about CAP, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, please contact Annette O'Donnell.

CAP News welcomes articles, photos and letters from its readers. We are particularly keen to carry reports on the activities of member institutes and of planning schools in the Commonwealth.

Please send your contributions to
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