

CAP NEWS

The Newsletter of the Commonwealth Association of
Planners

Issue no.22

February 2010



CAP President Christine Platt meets planning students from University of the West Indies and Jamaica's University of Technology at the CAP Americas meeting.

CHOGM backs planning – story inside. Plus lots more!

CAP acknowledges the support of the Commonwealth Foundation, whose core grant contributes to the preparation and dissemination of CAP NEWS.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Christine Platt



2009 was certainly a memorable year for CAP as you already know from the newsletters which you received during the past 12 months. The contributions made by CAP during the UN-Habitat Governing Council meeting, Commonwealth Consultative Group on Human Settlements, the Rotterdam Climate Change and Planning workshop, the work of ComHabitat and other events have all been reported on, but as you will see from reports in this newsletter, the year ended on a particularly high note.

We had the very successful CAP West Africa and CAP Americas workshops and I must pay tribute to the exceptional work done by so many people and in particular Chi, Kabir, James and Arnim, in making these events the success they were. It really is a pleasure to have been able to write the following to the CAP Vice President Americas after the 2-day

meeting in Port of Spain: “Your efforts reflect positively on all of us in CAP and have made a significant contribution to raising the profile of planners and planning in the Commonwealth. I know that the wide national representation, the quality of the presentations and debate, and the presence of significant numbers of students were all noted with approval by the Commonwealth Foundation.”

Most critically, CAP was able to make a significant contribution to the outcomes of the Commonwealth People’s Forum and CHOGM in Trinidad. This is also reported on in the newsletter.

These events leave us in a very strong position at the start of 2010. It is therefore from this positive platform that I am able to wish you all a very happy and successful 2010 and can outline a taste of what 2010 has in store for CAP.

CAP has another full calendar for 2010 but the highlights of 2010 are likely to be WUF V in Rio and the CAP Business Meeting in Montreal in October at the time of the Canadian Institute of Planners International Climate Change Conference.

CAP will be playing a role in the Habitat Professionals Forum Roundtable during WUF. In preparation for this, CAP has been assisting in the drafting of a Habitat Professionals Charter which will be the main subject of discussion at the Roundtable. The purpose of the Charter is to record the Vision and Principles on which the work of the Forum will be based and sets out the undertakings to which the signatories agree, which centre on knowledge sharing and co-operation. The draft Charter currently has the title “The role of human

settlement professionals in delivering a sustainable and equitable future". The Charter also acknowledges "the need for enhanced global co-operation between professionals" and "the urgency of the challenges faced in promoting sustainable urbanisation and sustainable development, particularly the rapid rate of urbanisation in many countries, the urbanisation of poverty and the impacts of climate change and the increasing incidence of disasters".

This last point is of course particularly relevant at this very sad time following the tragic consequences of the earthquake in Haiti. The Charter will be circulated to all of you for comment as soon as the drafting is complete, which will be prior to WUF.

It is appropriate at this point to spend a moment on the Haiti earthquake issue. The role of planning in post-disaster reconstruction is being increasingly acknowledged, and therefore it is important for you to know that on behalf of CAP I have already made the following offer to UN-Habitat: "... I am very happy for CAP, in a spirit of partnership with UN-Habitat and the people of Haiti, to use our network, particularly in the CAP Americas region, to put out any call you need to make regarding getting planners to volunteer to assist with the re-planning and redevelopment work which you will be doing in Haiti. Haiti is not a Commonwealth country but that does not mean we cannot use our network to see what assistance the planners of the Americas region, or even elsewhere in the Commonwealth, might be willing to offer". This offer was very favourably received and CAP is waiting to hear

what assistance we can give through our network.

CIP is convening a major international conference on Planning and Climate Change in October in Montreal. CAP has been invited to schedule our biennial Business Meeting during this event and therefore we look forward to CAP members playing a role during this conference. More information about the event is available from CIP.

The Business Meeting will be an opportunity to discuss where CAP has got to, and where it needs to go over the next two years. We have done a great deal since 2008, and have more exciting work to continue with and programmes to roll out until 2012. These include continuing the State of the Commonwealth Cities Project, the Capacity building programme, setting up a Commonwealth Young Planners' Network and the Planning and Food Security project which is also reported on in this newsletter. The last project is a fine example of the voluntary contributions which the planners of the Commonwealth are so willing to make for the common good.

Needless to say, regional events remain a priority and we look forward to the Planning Africa Conference in Durban, as well as events proposed for East Africa and Europe.

I know that with the exceptional commitment of our CAP members everywhere in the Commonwealth, we will continue to enjoy success and an increasing profile for planners and planning.

Planning “central to achieving MDGs” say Commonwealth Heads of Government

The Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago at the end of November agreed a forceful statement on the need for “new and inclusive approaches to planning”. This represents a breakthrough for CAP’s advocacy of the importance of urbanisation and planning

Paragraph 74 of the Communiqué agreed by the Heads of Government reads:

“Heads recognised that rapid urbanisation was posing a significant challenge in many Commonwealth countries, and that new and inclusive approaches to urban planning and management were central to achieving the MDGs. They acknowledged that leadership and a deeper understanding of the trends were required at all levels, together with the provision of effective financing for local infrastructure and services, to improve human security and achieve the Commonwealth goal of ‘demonstrated progress towards adequate shelter for all with secure tenure and access to essential services in every community by 2015’. They welcomed continued Commonwealth efforts to address these challenges.”

The reference to “new and inclusive approaches to urban planning” clearly acknowledges the “Re-inventing Planning” agenda that CAP has spearheaded in recent years. Similarly, the recognition of the importance of rapid urbanisation comes in the light of

research led by CAP, in partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute, on the State of the Commonwealth Cities. The research, published by the Commonwealth Foundation for ComHabitat (of which CAP is a partner), revealed that the Commonwealth’s urban population is growing by over 23 million people a year, while the slum population is also growing rapidly, by roughly 10 million a year.

The Communiqué came at the end of a week in which CAP had a high profile. The findings from the State of the Commonwealth Cities study were aired at the Assembly on Environment and Climate Change in the Commonwealth People’s Forum. Then they were reported to a plenary session of the Forum and reflected in the Communiqué from the Forum. At the end of the week, Dr. James Armstrong, CAP’s Vice-President for the Americas, was invited to the meeting between civil society and representatives of the Heads of Government.

Heads recognised that rapid urbanisation was posing a significant challenge in many Commonwealth countries, and that new and inclusive approaches to urban planning and management were central to achieving the MDGs.

CAP Secretary-General, Cliff Hague, said “The fact that the Heads of Government have now recognised the need for better urban planning and better understanding of urban trends is very welcome and very significant. Just as important is their statement connecting

planning to the Millennium Development Goals. We now need to build on this: we need our members and their professional institutes to show their politicians just how planning can make a difference”.

The Communiqué also includes statements on climate change and on sustainable development. There is also a section on food security (a theme covered by an article by Wayne Caldwell in this issue of *CAP News*). The Heads also expressed strong support for small states in their efforts for social and economic development.

Gender, always a strong Commonwealth concern, also features. “Heads called for allocation of adequate and visible resources as well as other measures to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment” says paragraph 97. Gender responsive budgeting is also commended, along with gender mainstreaming.

The Heads also “affirmed the centrality of civil society, including professional networks, in supporting the values and principles of the Commonwealth” (paragraph 112).

In 2013 the CHOGM will be in Sri Lanka, and then Mauritius will host the 2015 meeting.

The full text of the Communiqué can be viewed on the CAP web site, www.commonwealth-planners.org.

CAP at the Commonwealth People’s Forum

The Commonwealth People’s Forum is held every 2 years, immediately before and in the same city as the CHOGM.

CAP was invited by the Commonwealth Foundation to play a leading role in the Assembly on Environment and Climate Change. This was one of 8 Assemblies.

Our Assembly ran as a sequence of four workshops during which there were 17 presentations. The four workshops covered the Commonwealth Sustainable Fisheries Programme and Sustainable Livelihoods; Biodiversity and Forestry; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; and Human Settlements and Sustainable Urbanisation.

In her address to the Human Settlements and Sustainable Urbanisation session, Christine Platt, President of CAP, said “Planning is a key tool for the development of sustainable urbanisation. Making the Commonwealth’s cities healthy places to live is a challenge made harder by the rapid increase in their populations, particularly in the cities of small islands. The increase in slums and low quality housing in general places ever greater demands on already stretched services and can lead to a decline in overall living standards”.

Christine made a powerful case for the need for better planning. She was also able to bring the experience from CAP’s regional workshops into the Assembly. CAP Secretary-General Cliff Hague also spoke, presenting the report on *Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future through Urban*

Development, which he had written with Will French of the RTPI.

Mr. Murchison Brown, Mayor of Port of Spain, welcomed the report, noting that it showed the huge pressures that rapid urbanisation is putting on provision of urban services provided by local government. “Local governments are responsible for delivery of most MDGs at local level: water, sanitation, basic health care, primary education, low cost housing and many more”, he said. He also stressed the role of local government in planning, local economic development and “for ensuring inclusive development”.

Carl Wright, Secretary-general of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, also acknowledged the significance of the report and data on the *State of Commonwealth Cities*. “Having visited many Commonwealth cities over the years and meeting their elected leaders, their officials and their people, I am all too conscious of the huge pressures being generated on urban services,” said Mr. Wright. He went on to lament the fact that “local government and in particular cities, are the Cinderella of international development”.

He drew attention to the report by the UK House of Commons International Development Committee which was critical of the lack of an urban focus within the UK’s Department for International Development.

The Network of Inclusive Cities, one of the ideas discussed in the work on the *State of Commonwealth Cities*, was explained by the CLGF Secretary-General. Its aim is bring together local

governments in a number of Commonwealth cities who will seek to ensure that “all citizens, including the urban poor, migrants, the marginalised and under-represented groups such as women and young people, fully benefit from urban services and good governance”.

Mr. Wright concluded by stressing the role that local authorities are playing in cutting carbon emissions, while noting that rapid urbanisation is adding to the pressures.

A key feature of the workshop on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urbanisation was the posters sent in by CAP members. These were displayed on the walls and referred to in the discussion. Some of these posters are reproduced at the back of this Newsletter.

Several themes connected the different sessions within the Assembly. There was evidence that central and local governments are failing to deliver proper regulation and enforcement – whether of fishing, deforestation or urban development. The result is environmental damage, but also extreme pressure on poor and marginalised communities. Better monitoring is needed. Professionals and civil society bodies are vibrant resources that the Commonwealth can use to help governments, if more is done to support knowledge transfer, regional networking and Commonwealth research. With vision and pump-priming resources the Commonwealth could play a leading role globally on reconciling the “green agenda” of the North with the “brown” agenda of shelter and sanitation that is so important to the South.

We call on Commonwealth Member States to: make human settlements a standing agenda item at CHOGM.

An important message that came out of the Assembly was the idea that Human Settlements should be a standing item on CHOGM agendas, informed by action-research on the State of Commonwealth Cities. In addition, there needs to be integrated management of the Commonwealth's natural resources, a task that may often require joint working across national boundaries. In these ways the Commonwealth can tackle the interlinked crises of climate change, hazard vulnerability and the urbanization of poverty.

The CPF Communiqué

These ideas, and others were taken forward to the drafting of the Communiqué from civil society. The final Communiqué thus represents the ideas from all 8 Assemblies – plus some other statements on topics such as Commonwealth values, and on education.

The full text can be seen on the Commonwealth Foundation's website. From CAP's perspective the key paragraph reads:

“We call on Commonwealth Member States to: make human settlements a standing agenda item at CHOGM; support the proposed research programme 2011-2016 arising from the report ‘The Commonwealth’s Urban Challenge: Scoping the State of the Commonwealth Cities’; recognise the value of cities in wealth creation and the opportunities they create for poverty

alleviation, as well as the challenges of uncoordinated urbanisation; support the key role played by local government and strategic, integrated planning in delivering sustainable urban development; support local climate change strategies, including emissions reduction initiatives; share know-how and develop capacity on appropriate planning and land management systems; share good practice about participatory slum upgrading and spatial planning; and apply development standards which are realistic and affordable.”

CAP and Gender at the CPF

As well as leading the Environment and Climate Change Assembly, CAP was also able to participate in the assembly on Gender. CAP President Christine Platt was able to speak in that Assembly and explain the research work that CAP has done on Gender in Planning and Urban Development.

She was able to present a position statement that had been drafted by CAP's Women in Planning network. The paper was prepared by Carolyn Whitzman from the University of Melbourne and is based on the findings of the *Good Practice in Planning with Gender in the Commonwealth* research by the University of the Witwatersrand, as well as the outcomes of the discussion from that Roundtable on Gender at the 2008 World Urban Forum, at which a number of the CAP WiP representatives were present.

The Position Paper made the following calls to government:

- To institute gender mainstreaming in all their planning and development

initiatives: “the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes”, which means ensuring that budgeting, consultation, and evaluation of housing adequacy, employment generation schemes, community services, transport, water and sanitation, and other physical and social infrastructure needs take on the views of women and men equally and work towards greater gender equality.

- To increase the participation of women in decision-making, including elected office, the private sector, and civil society, towards a goal of 50% of elected officials and senior urban development decision-makers being women in 2050.
- To support women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship through adequate community services such as childcare, micro-lending, and affirmative action on employment in infrastructure delivery and environmental remediation work (traditionally seen as ‘male employment’) as well as food production, distribution and selling and other ‘street trading’ (traditionally seen as ‘female employment’ and often suppressed through use of inappropriate/unresponsive planning legislation).
- To ensure that women have equal access to secure tenure, through reform of legislation and policies in societies where women have traditionally been excluded from owning property.
- To ensure that preventing violence and insecurity in both the ‘public sphere’ of streets, workplaces, and schools, and the ‘private sphere’ of the home becomes a priority for government and private sector partnerships, and that sexual abuse, violence, intimidation and harassment are seen as a priority for eradication, as a pre-condition to women’s equal access to employment, education, and fulfilment of human potential.
- To include the expertise of grassroots women through: victimization surveys, Women’s Safety Audits, analysis of local needs and resources, support for infrastructure and service delivery provision by women, and leadership development.
- To ensure that women’s and men’s equal needs and capacities are recognized in responding to disasters, conflicts, and environmental degradation as they increase due to climate change in the coming century.

It also included two calls to the profession in the Commonwealth:

- To address gender inequalities within their leadership and also their policies, including undertaking research and action to address mid-career abandonment of the planning profession by women.
- To ensure that planning education includes planning for diverse populations and an understanding of gender mainstreaming and social equity.

CAP's inputs were received positively, and were reflected in the CPF Communiqué, in paragraph 70, which calls on Commonwealth governments to:

- Institute gender mainstreaming in all planning and development initiatives, particularly through assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, to ensure that the wealth created by urbanisation is shared equally.
- Recognise that the state of the built environment impacts directly on both.
- Access to employment and on conditions for crime and violence, and that safety audits are a proven means of risk reduction, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Recognise that insecure tenure has a gender dimension, and therefore Commonwealth governments must remove all impediments to purchase, ownership and succession to land and property.

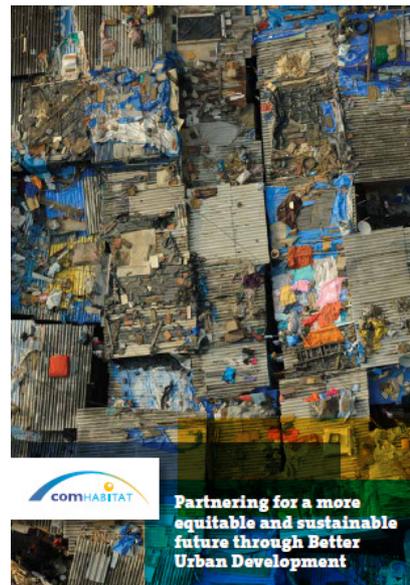
The Gender Assembly also connected to the issue of climate change. Paragraph 74 of the CPF Communiqué reads:

“We call on Commonwealth Member States to: stress that a gendered understanding of how people see their environment is important in developing policies to combat climate change; ensure that women’s and men’s needs and capacities are equally recognised in responding to environmental disasters and conflicts; and conduct a gender impact assessment on the environment.”

CAP's Research is published by the Commonwealth

Two pieces of research undertaken by CAP last year have now been published by the Commonwealth.

Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future through Urban Development is a short version of the work that CAP did with the Royal Town Planning Institute on the State of Commonwealth Cities. This booklet was published by the Commonwealth Foundation and launched at the Commonwealth People's Forum in Port of Spain last November.



The authors of the paper are Cliff Hague (CAP's Secretary-General) and Will French of the RTPI.



CAP West Africa Workshop, Lagos, November 2009



The Commonwealth Secretariat has published *Gender in Planning and Urban Development* as a Commonwealth Discussion Paper. This is based on the report that Alison Todes, Nqobile Malaza and Amanda Williamson from University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, did for CAP, with help from the CAP Women in Planning network.

Both reports can be downloaded from the CAP website. If you want hard copies of either report, please contact <mailto:annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk>

Perhaps better than anywhere else, Lagos illustrates the urbanisation challenges that the Commonwealth is facing. This then was a very appropriate venue for CAP's West Africa Regional Workshop that was hosted by the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners on 2-4 November 2009. The theme of the event was "Planning for Liveable Human Settlements: The West African Challenges".

The opening address from the Honourable Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Francisco Bolaji Abosedo, a fellow of the NITP, made the point succinctly. The Lagos population of 18 million does not include the population of adjoining settlements in Ogun State, which are also growing rapidly. Lagos is predicted to be home to 25 million in 5 years time. "It is the destination for all the ethnic nationalities in Nigeria because of the opportunities it offers", said Mr. Abosedo.



He gave the data to show just how economically significant this mega city is:

- 60% of Nigeria’s manufacturing value added;
- Company headquarters;
- Largest Stock Exchange in West Africa;
- About a third of Nigeria’s GDP;
- Over 80% of Nigeria’s international flights;
- 50% of the nation’s ports revenue;
- A telecommunications and media hub.

However, the scale and pace of development imposes strains on infrastructure, particularly water, energy, waste and traffic. In addition some of the highest value parts of the city are below sea level, with the Atlantic Ocean scouring away the protecting beach.

The State Government has achieved major improvements in sanitation, urban upgrading, infrastructure upgrading and greening transportation, security and good governance, explained Mr. Abosede. Building control and planning regulations have been reformed. Nine slum upgrading schemes are in progress, while in the downtown area on Lagos Island, public / private partnerships are operating.

“The transport system has been reformed with the introduction of the Bus Rapid System and the proposed Light Rail System”, continued Mr. Abosede. “The greening project has also changed the face of the city. Underlining all these is the preparation of different development plans to guide future growth of the mega city. Model city plans and master plans are being prepared for various planning areas and communities in Lagos.”

Climate Change and Eco-city design

Opuenebo Binya Owei from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology presented a paper that focused on planning and climate change. She argued that “The physical urban environment is at the core of both adaptive and mitigation approaches to climate change”. However, she noted that no city in Nigeria has a disaster management plan in place, and that little is being done at city level to prepare for climate-related emergencies. She stressed the vulnerability of Africa’s urban poor, who are exposed by their poverty, sub-standard housing and place of residence, which is typically on flood plains or unstable land. “Slums exacerbate vulnerabilities to climate change related disasters”, she said.

Fast growing cities such as Lagos and Port Harcourt have to deal with poverty, squatter and informal settlements, environmental problems, urban governance deficiencies, rapidly rising food and energy prices and socio-spatial fragmentation.

Opuenebo Binya Owei

Her presentation went on to explore the idea of ecocity planning. She identified practical measures that could be taken in cities:

- Plant trees, develop parks and maintain open space systems;
- Affordable, reliable and safe public transport;
- Environmental awareness and action at street and neighbourhood level, e.g. control of dumping of refuse;
- Protection of public spaces and sidewalks;
- Compact cities;
- Public / private / NGO partnerships for urban sanitation.

Planning and land tenure

In another major paper, Prof. Timothy Gyuse (Benue State University) reviewed “Land Reforms and Management in West Africa”. He pointed out that 60% of the population of West and Central Africa depends on land for sustenance. However, rapid urban growth is consuming some of the most productive agricultural land. In these circumstances the challenge of planning for equitable and sustainable outcomes is further complicated by “a complex land holding structure”.

Land tenure in this region has gone through three main stages. There were pre-colonial systems, in which immigrants could access land, but were essentially seen as “borrowing” it.

Colonial systems did not understand the traditional ones, and instead assumed that all land was in customary tenure, ignoring traditional individual rights and disenfranchising migrants. The colonial system vested authority for this land in the chiefs. However, this did not prevent the colonists granting individual rights to

settlers from Europe. Within urban areas the sub-divisions of the colonial city (European residential, African residential, and commercial) all had different land holding arrangements.

Then came post-colonial systems, characterised by attempts at land reform. Typically this meant vesting ownership rights in the state. In Nigeria, for example, all lands, except Federal lands, were vested in the State Governor under legislation from 1978.

It is not surprising then that land disputes, insecurity of tenure and land speculation have become serious problems. “Land is at the heart to the insecurity in much of West Africa”, said Prof. Gyuse. “A situation where tenure is unclear makes administration and management of land very difficult.” Within the urban areas the problem is not too severe, as most land has been demarcated and allocated. However, “most urban fringe areas have quasi-traditional ownership patterns. The occupants are often indigenous farmers who hold traditional rights but often have no legally recognised title that they can transfer”.

Prof. Gyuse called for governments to recognise small peasant farmers, and bring land administration to their level. “Ways have to be found to get the people directly involved” if equitable solutions are to be attained.

Regional Co-operation

A key feature of the workshop was the involvement of other Nigerian built environment professions. The Nigerian Society for Engineers, Nigerian Institute of Building, Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveying, and the Nigerian

Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers were all represented.

In addition, there were planners from Ghana, Togo, Benin and France. An important outcome was an agreement to try to forge better co-operation between Anglophone and Francophone planners in West Africa. It was felt that closer working would help raise awareness of human settlements challenges at all levels of government. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to guide the development of a West Africa Planning Association. There was also a call to the inter-governmental body ECOWAS to “create a territorial development strategy for West Africa that focuses on climate change, key infrastructure gaps and the role of human settlements in building competitive economies”.

A Communiqué was produced that called for Governments, NGOs and Planning institutes to “invest in capacity building through training and re-training of personnel for job efficiency, increased productivity, and relevance”. It also said “Planning schools in the Commonwealth should promote knowledge sharing and exchange programmes and expand their curricula to include contemporary human settlement and planning issues such as Climate Change, Community Planning and Design, Urban and Rural Governance, Local Economic Development, Information and Communication Systems for urban planning and management, Sustainable Land Management, Eco-sanitation and waste management”.

Thanks go to the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners for making the meeting happen and the French government for

their support, and, as ever, to the Commonwealth Foundation whose Programme Grant was a vital catalyst.

Americas Workshop, Port of Spain, November 2009

“The need for better planning and more trained planners has never been greater, and is an essential priority for the Commonwealth”, Dr. Mark Collins, Director of the Commonwealth Foundation told the CAP Americas meeting. “There is an urgent need to train more planners, and to modernize planning systems and practices that are all too often still embedded in colonial legacy, unsuited to today’s challenges.”

Dr. Collins’ keynote address highlighted two such challenges – climate change and slum growth. He spoke forcefully about the adverse impact that the economic crisis has had on poor people in the Commonwealth. Aid flows are down, and unemployment, particularly amongst young people is rising.

Dr. Collins stressed the important part that the professions can play in building capacity in the Commonwealth. He added that “we need to make cities work, and there is a heavy responsibility on your profession to achieve this”.

CAP’s President, Christine Platt, in her opening address also stressed the need for capacity building. However, she made clear that “What is urgently needed is political will to undertake the nation based reformation of planning systems and legislation to make them fit for purpose in the 21st Century and appropriate to local context. We need properly funded mandates to enable

government and particularly local government to fulfil its obligations in delivering planning as a critical component of governance”.

Cecilie Clarke Marshalle from Trinidad and Tobago’s Environmental Management Agency struck a similar refrain. She argued that the National Environmental Policy of 2005 committed Trinidad and Tobago to pursue environmentally sustainable development and recognised national physical development and planning as an important means to achieve this.

Cecilie reviewed the recent development history of the country and concluded that too often “environmental management comes too late in the planning and development process”.

Upgrading the Hip Strip

Pauline McHardy gave an insight into the way that planners in Jamaica are using their skills in participatory planning to sustain the island’s tourist economy. The Comprehensive Resort Upgrading Programme (CRUP) began in 2006 and focused on 6 major resorts. The overall goal of the programme is to develop attractive product concepts for each resort area so as to enhance its competitive position within the world-wide tourism market place.

Stakeholder involvement and consensus building were important features of the planning process. Upgrading Plans for three of the resorts were completed in April 2009. The Hip Strip has long been the heart of the tourist industry in Montego Bay, but congestion and disrepair have reduced its attraction. The plan came forward with a range of

revitalization measures including a broadwalk, landscaping and water taxis.

The main daytime attraction at Negril is its archetypal 7-mile Caribbean beach. However, this key revenue generator is threatened by beach erosion. The plan identified development opportunities in Negril to provide a broader base for its tourist appeal. Similarly in Ocho Rios the plan focuses on gateway improvements for the town, better transport and pedestrian circulation, and redevelopment of the market area.

Pauline was able to identify some good practice messages from these planning projects. These included the need to identify and work with stakeholders, create a long-term vision, build plans on research, foster partnerships and address issues of implementation.

Women and safety in Jamaica

Dr. Carol Archer from the University of Technology told how the downtown in Kingston has been abandoned by the middle class, while suburbs tend to be mono-functional, lacking facilities and “eyes on the street”. Assaults on women and muggings happen in these suburbs as well as in the city. However, Dr. Archer argued that ideas like those of Jane Jacobs should not be transferred to developing countries where cultures and socio-economic conditions are different to those in the USA.

She gave examples of practical actions by women in Jamaica that were creating safe spaces on streets that enhanced their economic opportunities and social possibilities. For example, an area of the sidewalk has been designated for provision of hair-dressing services. In

another case, in an inner-city area plagued by gang violence, women have organized street dances – “Sexy Saturdays Street Dance” - that both earn them income while also creating safe zones. Meanwhile, failures to use planning properly have added to dangers for women and children, for example by lack of safe convenient access to schools.

Sexy Saturdays Street Dance earns income and makes a safe area for women in an area plagued by gang violence.

Dr. Archer stressed the need for planning education to make young planners sensitive to gender differences in the use of urban space. However, when the only planning course in Jamaica was first set up in 1977, there was no acknowledgement of gender in the teaching. Now, in the internship seminar that is taught in Year 3, the students explore the similarities and differences associated with male and female managers.

Challenges for the Caribbean

Another in a strong line-up of speakers was Erik Vittrup Christensen from UN Habitat’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. He identified the main challenges that the region now faces: climate change, an increasing number of people vulnerable to natural disasters, water and sanitation security, poverty and governance. Crucially, Mr. Christensen stressed the need to make the connections: adaptation to climate change impacts requires disaster risk reduction strategies that are integrated with poverty reduction policies. He stressed the

importance of local economic development and job creation, with a particular focus on opportunities for young women in low-income settlements.

Thanks are owed to the Trinidad and Tobago Society of Planners who organized the event, and to the other supporters and sponsors, the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment, DESSAU, and of course the Commonwealth Foundation.

CAP : Habitat Professionals Forum and The World Urban Campaign

Towards the end of 2008, CAP was invited to participate in an Expert Group Meeting at UN-Habitat in Nairobi to discuss the UN-Habitat Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan for 2008-2013. A key component of this strategic plan is the need for UN-Habitat to work with partners.

Two initiatives have sprung from this: the resuscitation of the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) of which CAP is an accredited member and the commencement of the UN-Habitat-led World Urban Campaign (WUC).

The Preamble to the draft HPF Charter which is to be discussed at the HPF Roundtable at the World Urban Forum in Rio in March states the following:

“The Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF) was established on 7 May 1999 as an inter-disciplinary partnership of Human Settlement Professionals and UN-

Habitat to promote the delivery of sustainable urbanisation and equitable human settlements development. It consists of international associations of human settlements professions which are democratic, non-profit, non-political and non-governmental.”

HPF has now been acknowledged as a critical partner for the implementation of the UN-Habitat agenda. CAP is proud to represent the planners of the Commonwealth on this Forum and we will keep you advised of developments in the Forum’s work.

A second consequence of CAP’s involvement in HPF and the Expert Group Meeting is that we have been invited to serve on the Steering Committee for the UN-Habitat co-ordinated World Urban Campaign which is a major component of UN-Habitat’s partnership strategy. In addition, CAP will serve on the Executive Committee for this campaign. The World Urban Campaign is intended to be owned by the partners who are expected to take the campaign to grassroots.

The first steering committee for the World Urban Campaign was held in Barcelona in October 2009 and drafted a *Statement of Principles*. This stressed a positive vision of urbanisation, and the importance of cities to sustainable development. It called for the creation of a “*knowledge management network and portal to facilitate the open sharing and exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience in sustainable urban development*”.

The second steering committee for the Campaign was held in Paris in

December 2009, ahead of the World Urban Forum in Rio in March. This meeting resulted in the following **Problem Statement** being formulated:

“The first decade of the twenty-first century has been marked by overwhelming challenges including a food crisis, an energy crisis, a financial crisis, and a growing realization of the consequences of climate change. Thousands of organizations are developing tools and offering policy options to meet these challenges. But these activities are disparate and tend to ignore an equally unprecedented megatrend: that the world is undergoing an irreversible process of rapid urbanization. Failure to accommodate this megatrend has resulted in unsustainable forms of production and consumption, poverty and social exclusion, and pollution.

While cities are part of the problem, they are also primary victims and they must be part of any solutions.

Such solutions will require placing cities at the centre of strategies for change. They will also require new ways of thinking, new levels of understanding between stakeholders, and new partnerships.”

The steering committee went on to formulate a set of principles, referred to as the “**Paris Principles**”. These principles are as follows:

“Sustainable urbanization is understood by all partners as a process which promotes an integrated, gender-sensitive and pro-poor approach to the social, economic and environmental

pillars of sustainability. This integrated approach further requires that investments be made in new forms of technology and inclusive governance. More specifically, the principles of sustainable urbanization involve:

- (i) Accessible and pro-poor land, infrastructure, services, mobility and housing;*
- (ii) Socially inclusive, gender sensitive, healthy and safe development;*
- (iii) Environmentally sound and carbon-efficient built environment;*
- (iv) Participatory planning and decision making processes;*
- (v) Vibrant and competitive local economies promoting decent work and livelihoods;*
- (vi) Assurance of non-discrimination and equitable rights to the city; and*
- (vii) Empowering cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity and change.”*

100 Cities Initiative

Part of the World Urban Campaign is the “100 Cities Initiative” which seeks to identify cities which are delivering living practice examples based on at least one of the Paris Principles.

This ties in closely with the CAP and CLGF *Inclusive Cities Network* which has come out of the CAP initiated “State of the Commonwealth Cities” project. CAP has proposed that the network of Commonwealth Inclusive Cities be included in the 100 Cities Initiative as we seek to achieve much the same from the participating cities.

HPF and the WUC are yet more examples of areas where CAP is playing a role globally. We will need the support of CAP member institutes to make their own members aware of CAP’s work.

Planning and Food

Wayne J. Caldwell, MCIP

The agriculture and food system (processing, storing and distribution) is crucial to all countries within the Commonwealth. While circumstances vary from country to country, and even from community to community, there are certain shared commonalities — namely the relationship between soils, climate, and farmers.

Across the Commonwealth, there is an important role for the planning profession in various aspects of the agricultural and food system and in addressing some of the challenges that farmers, citizens and rural communities face.

Every year the planet loses an area the size of Scotland to erosion and urban sprawl. At the same time we add 70 million people to the planet’s population.

Commonwealth countries include a diversity of agricultural practices. There are many models of agricultural production with two distinct approaches: commercial agriculture and subsistence agriculture.

Canada, for example is dominated by a commercial system, with only around two percent of the country’s population involved in agriculture. This approach

to agriculture is very productive and is sometimes referred to as industrial agriculture or factory farming.

Elsewhere in the Commonwealth, however, farms may be much smaller self-sufficient or subsistence units of production with little produce available for off-site sales. In some parts of Asia and Africa, for example, the proportion of the population making their living through agriculture is as high as 80%, with millions of farmers only producing enough to feed their own families.

For planners to effectively plan for agriculture and food they need to understand the current realities, issues and trends associated with agricultural production. While the implications of these trends will vary between commercial and subsistence agricultural systems, there are implications which impact both. This article identifies some of the key questions that planners should be asking related to some of the major trends in agriculture. It concludes by offering suggested directions for planners.

Evolving Trends Affecting Agriculture

Globalization – How is globalization impacting on agriculture in your country? What is the impact on the number of farmers, farm size, livelihoods and the environment? Is there access to healthy, nutritious foods?

Agricultural products have long been traded on a worldwide scale. However, in recent years there has been a rapid increase in the volume and value of the global food trade (Carriquiry, et. al., 2008). In Canada, for example, 45% of

gross farm market receipts for primary agricultural products is derived from exports (2006). As a large net exporter Canadian farmers (and many rural communities) are therefore, sensitive to the volatility of international markets, with the result that many farmers are constantly trying to balance expenses with revenue (the cost-price squeeze). At the same time, the number of farms has decreased with an accompanying increase in farm size.



A large farm in central Canada.

Urbanization: How has urbanization impacted agriculture in your country? How much land has been lost? Is urban and peri-urban agriculture contributing positively to food production?

More people in the world now live in cities than in rural areas. There are fewer people farming, with increasing numbers of people dependent on farmers to feed them. Farmers, however, are often in competition for land with non-farm development especially in areas closer to cities. As land values increase, farmers can make more money selling farmland

for non-farm purposes, which adds to the growing problem of urban sprawl.

While farmland has been converted to other uses there is a need for increased food production worldwide. Internationally, access to food often depends on the ability to buy food rather than the ability to produce food (UNEP, 2007). There is a current shift from crop-based to livestock-based diets, as the developing world switches to industrialized countries' eating habits. These trends mean there is a need to increase global food production by 55% by 2030 (IPCC, 2007).

Farmer Demographics: Is the average age of farmers increasing? Are adequate numbers of youth choosing to farm?

In many countries there has been an exodus of youth from agricultural areas to urban centres. The result is an increasing average age of farmers. Even where youth want to farm the cost and availability of land can make it difficult.

Environmental Change: Have you considered the impact of climate change on agriculture within your country? What other environmental problems are present? Are agricultural production practices hurting the environment?

Global environmental problems include soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity, salinity, and the disruption of biological cycles. These trends, with climate change, are predicted to worsen in the coming years, affecting agricultural outputs (UNEP, 2007).

According to the United Nations, climate change is the greatest challenge currently facing humanity and a

changing climate has innumerable implications for farmers. On a world scale, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that a slight increase in global temperature (+2 degrees Celsius) may improve some crop yields in mid to high latitude regions. However, in low latitude regions, even a slight increase may have negative impacts.

Agricultural Trends and Planning: What are the evolving trends affecting agriculture in your country? Are farmers able to make a reasonable livelihood? How does planning impact the agriculture and food system?

In many different ways the planning system needs to be conversant with new and evolving trends in agriculture. The planning system plays an important role in regulating land use in a way that affects the land base, land use policy, and urban pressures. These items, poorly managed, can detrimentally affect agriculture and, properly managed, can contribute to the development of a healthy agricultural sector.

Planners have a skill set that can help farmers, villages and rural communities to engage in discussions that can identify challenges and set priorities.

Opportunities for Commonwealth Planners

Planners across the Commonwealth continue to seek best practices for planning for agriculture and food. As a profession there is an opportunity to provide leadership and direction in this

important issue. Five suggestions for planners are as follows:

- Planners need to work to ensure continued opportunities for domestic food production. This is relevant at a national, regional and local level. Food security and standard of living are intricately connected.
- There is increasingly a recognition that we need to intentionally plan for the food system as opposed to simply planning for agriculture.
- Food production occurs at a community level. Not only do we need to protect agricultural land, we also need to ensure that farmers have sustainable livelihoods contributing to vibrant rural communities.
- Planners have a skill set that can help farmers, villages and rural communities to engage in discussions that can identify challenges and set priorities.
- Agriculture across the Commonwealth is diverse. In some countries agriculture involves a tiny proportion of the total population - large capital expenditures, heavy reliance on technology and international trade define the agricultural system. In other countries, a large proportion of the population produces food using traditional farming systems. This dichotomy means that there is a need for a diversity of approaches to adequately address the challenges with planning for agriculture and food security.

References

Carriquiry, M. A., Dong, F., Elobeid, A., Fabiosa, J. F., Hart, C. E., Hayes, D. J., Womack, A. W. (2008). *Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute US and World Agricultural Outlook*. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2008). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2008: World Food and Agriculture in Review*. Rome: United Nations.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2007). *IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Statistics Canada (2006), Census of Agriculture.

Wayne J. Caldwell, *Rural Planning and Development*, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
wcaldwel@uoguelph.ca

CAP wishes to take forward work on planning and food security by producing a short Discussion Paper on the topic drawing on evidence and examples from different Commonwealth countries. If you can help in this work, please contact Wayne Caldwell.

Also see a series of papers by Ian Sinclair on the issue, at www.ruralplanning.com.au/library/

Commonwealth Week



Commonwealth Week this year is 8-14 March. During the week there will be a number of events that celebrate the modern Commonwealth, including one at Westminster Abbey.

The theme this year is *Science, Technology and Society*. We are invited during 2010 to look forward to the role that they can play to addressing future challenges.

Dr. Belinda Yuen from the Singapore Institute of Planners and a former CAP Vice-President, was one of a select group of scientists invited to contribute to a section on “Key Issues” on the Commonwealth Foundation’s web site (see www.commonwealthfoundation.com/news/ScienceTechnologySociety/KeyIssues/KeyIssuesDrBelindaYuen).

Dr. Yuen explains that “Technology is an important driver of human settlements development. “Human settlement conditions in many parts of the world, especially the developing countries are deteriorating and in need of appropriate technology to improve human settlement development and management”, she says. “In this regard, an increasing number of cities around the world from the United States, United Kingdom, and Sweden to the Middle East, China and Singapore are pursuing different methods of sustainable development, incorporating technology in a number of areas like construction, energy, transport and waste disposal for ecologically sustainable conversions and development of their built environment. This augurs well for long-term sustainable urban development.”

The Commonwealth Foundation invites professional institutes to promote the Science, technology and Society theme. Specifically they suggest that this might be done by:

- Promoting mentoring opportunities with the developing world;
- Holding exhibitions, lectures or events;
- Producing a report; and
- Listing what you have done on the Science, Technology and Society web pages.

Sixty years of planning education in Australia

Prof. Steve Hamnett

Australia's first planning programs

Australia's first formal programme of planning education commenced on 14 February 1949 at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries – now the University of South Australia.

At the end of the war in 1945, with a very extensive programme of building and expansion of metropolitan Adelaide in prospect, South Australia found itself with no effective planning legislation and no qualified planners. After a preliminary public meeting on 3 December 1947, the Town Planning Institute (TPI) of South Australia was inaugurated on 13 April 1948 and began to lobby a reluctant government to introduce suitable planning legislation. The visit to Adelaide by Sir Patrick Abercrombie in 1948 was used by the TPI to foster interest in planning. Abercrombie's advice was to establish a suitable course of training and the first program of planning education was the result.

An agreement between the South Australian School of Mines and Industries and the TPI established that the School would provide accommodation and some administrative support for a set of courses to be prepared with the TPI. The first programme was a two-year, part-time programme in which the subjects were Australian versions of those prescribed for the external examinations of the British Town Planning Institute. The first planning lectures as part of the new

post-graduate diploma took place on 14 February 1949.

The post-war years saw energetic efforts to establish programs of planning education in Melbourne and Sydney. Also in 1949 Melbourne University began offering its own post-graduate course of lectures in Town and Regional Planning. Denis Winston, Australia's first professor of planning was appointed by the University of Sydney in 1949 and he became the first President of the Australian Planning Institute in 1951.

The Future of Planning Education

To commemorate this important anniversary the University of South Australia held a symposium on the theme of 'The Future of Planning Education' on 13 February 2009.

The symposium included four major papers by international speakers. Andreas Faludi, of Delft University in The Netherlands and a major figure in planning theory and education for nearly four decades, asked 'Why can't the future of planning education be more like the past?' In this paper Faludi referred back to the 'specialist versus generalist' debates of the 1960s and reaffirmed his own preference for undergraduate planning programs with a strong core of theory, leading to 'generalists with a specialism'. Central themes in the papers of both Dory Reeves of Auckland University and Lee Lik Meng, President of the Asian Planning Schools Association, were the belief that planning is an endeavour with an eye on the long-term future.

For Reeves an excellent planner is '...expert at thinking and acting

strategically, highly effective at making connections, looking to the long term'. Lee suggested that scenario planning models, as developed in the corporate world, offer significant teaching and learning opportunities for planning education and practice.

Bruce Stiftel, director of the planning programme at Georgia Tech' in the USA, provided a comprehensive global survey of the development of planning education and of the tensions over time between social science-based and design-based programs. He then discussed the daunting contemporary challenges which face planning schools:

'How can planning schools rise to the simultaneous tasks of developing new ideas and tools that will contribute to the solution of pressing local, regional and global problems, prepare entry-level planners for ever-more complex practice responsibilities, update and enrich the practices of mid-career planners, respond to increased university focus on traditional research outputs, ensure currency of faculty skills and support professional institutions through outreach, learn effectively in a global context, and increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of university operations?'

Stiftel's response was that balancing resources and conflicting aims is what planners are supposed to be good at! He concluded that 'to advance in the 21st Century, planning schools will have to get much better at systematic assessment of knowledge, at exchanging scholarship across national boundaries, and at balancing competing objectives through good planning'.

Trevor Budge, Chair of the Planning Institute of Australia's National Education Committee, provided a progress report on PIA's current review of its education policy in his paper. Carolyn Whitzman's paper discussed the radical changes to program structure introduced at the University of Melbourne in 2007-2008 under the influence of changing European practices (the 'Bologna Accord'). At Melbourne more than 90 undergraduate courses, including professional qualifications in law, medicine, architecture and urban planning have been eliminated, and six generalist courses have been introduced in their stead. Planning is now a 2-year postgraduate Masters program.

Whitzman favours this postgraduate model, in part on the basis that critical reflection and policy development 'are higher level skills than were previously required, and require a certain level of maturity and life skills more likely to be seen in older students'.

The symposium papers can be accessed at <http://www.unisa.edu.au/nbe/Planning60/events.asp#Symposium: The Future of Planning Education>

The editor apologises for the delay in publishing Steve Hamnett's article. It is now 61 years of planning education in Australia!

Welcome to Rwanda

Rwanda was admitted to the Commonwealth at the November 2009 CHOGM. CAP welcomes this new member and hopes that links can be forged within our East Africa Region.

CAP has already received an informal approach on behalf of the University of Science and Technology in Kigali for help in developing a planning programme there. At the time of writing we are exploring possible ways forward on this.

CAP Business Meeting

CAP's 2010 Business Meeting will be held in Montreal linked to the Canadian Institute of Planners conference. The most likely date for the Business meeting is 1 October.

Any proposed changes to the CAP Constitution need to be submitted to the CAP office
<mailto:annette.odonnell@rtpi.org.uk> no later than 1 July 2010.

CAP will support the participation in the Business Meeting and conference of as many delegates as funds permit. Member institutes wishing to nominate a delegate for CAP support should e-mail the person's details to Annette by 1 June 2010.

Planning Africa

The fourth Planning Africa conference will be held 13-15 September 2010 in Durban, South Africa. The theme this time is "Beyond Crisis: Opportunities and Actions". For more information visit www.sapi.org.za or send your contact details to sapi@precisionconferences.co.za.

Les Ateliers: Porto-Novo, Benin, 24 July – 15 August 2010

Les Ateliers is a French NGO. It gathers professionals and students from different countries to work in multi-disciplinary teams on practical urban planning projects identified by local authorities. It is basically an intensive international studio, held in a place that has asked for the input of new and creative ideas.

This year's workshop will be in the Benin city of Porto-Novo. The theme will be "For a sustainable evaluation of the banks of the lagoon: development of an attractive ecological and university centre". The lagoon at Porto-Novo is a sensitive ecological space, but also under development pressure. The Municipality wants to protect the lagoon through development of an ecological and university centre.

During the three weeks the participants will be managed by a mixed team of experienced staff from Les Ateliers and from the local authority. There will be four mixed teams each with 6 international participants. The plans and designs will be presented to an international jury at the end of the exercise.

For more information visit www.ateliers.org or email contact@ateliers.org.

Posters at the Commonwealth People's Forum

The following pages show posters that were produced for the workshop that CAP led at the CPF in Port of Spain in November 2009.

PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



Climate change is one of the paramount issues facing the planning industry today, and will remain so well into the future. The community has a growing expectation that planners will give particular scrutiny to developments that might impact upon the natural environment and contribute to climate change, yet our ability to do so can be limited by the legislative frameworks we work within, as well as our collective understanding of the measures that should be embodied within these frameworks.

The planning profession has demonstrated that it has the capability and the qualifications to respond to big issues such as climate change, but it is important to remember that no one industry or group of professionals can provide the solution. Responding to climate change must be a collaborative effort with architects, landscape architects, engineers, surveyors and other related professionals. This is why Built Environment Meets Parliament (BEMP) is such an important initiative.

In association with Association of Consulting Engineers Australia, Australian Institute of Architects, Green Building Council of Australia, and Property Council of Australia – PIA meets annually with Federal parliamentarians and industry leaders to showcase the relationship between Australian communities and their built environment. The most recent BEMP meeting occurred in Parliament House Canberra on 12 August 2009. At this meeting the following principles for sustainable communities were adopted.

- 1 Establish a shared vision - Strategic planning should shape prosperous, liveable and sustainable urban communities fostered by governments and their partners working in collaboration.
- 2 Forge a co-ordinated framework - Planning must occur within a co-ordinated framework that links national, regional and local goals. These goals should be codified in intergovernmental agreements.
- 3 Maximise civic engagement - Strategic planning must advance community participation and civic engagement.
- 4 Define targeted outcomes for specific places and times - Plans should establish specific targets for economic prosperity, natural sustainability liveability and governance.
- 5 Demonstrate the best use of collective resources and clearly define how these resources are to be used - Plans should reflect strategic choices that are evidence-based.
- 6 Anticipate and address financial requirements - Plans should identify sustainable funding programs for all major elements of proposed strategies.
- 7 Strive for and enhance delivery efficiency
- 8 Adhere to and promote good governance - Strategic plans must be guided by credible institutional arrangements that ensure plans remain true to their goals and are implemented as promised.

The endorsement of these principles mirrors PIA's commitment to the Global Planners Network Declaration and the Zhenjiang Communiqué for planning for sustainable communities.

Neil Savery
National President

PIA Planning
Institute
Australia

For more information go to www.planning.org.au

Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project



Postcard from Sri Lanka
By Clare Hall
Australian Volunteer Planner



Torrential rain pours down from thick grey clouds billowing overhead. They are on a fast flight west from the Indian ocean to the Sri Lankan hill country some 50 km inland. It is around 2:00pm on a warm day in mid-July 2009 and I am stranded on my scooter at the side of a local road in Wewalagoda, Hikkaduwa, ankle deep in water. I can not see 50 metres in any direction, my view suddenly obscured the daily monsoon rains. While removing my umbrella from under my seat, I frantically try to cover the maps I'm holding. I hear the voice of a woman calling urgently, "Oyata bonawa te, nae?" She is inviting me in to drink tea. I see her emerge from the grey haze of rain and steam rising from the road, with a huge smile on her face. I guess I might look a little funny. Smiling gratefully in return, I follow her into a tiny cement and mud brick house with a terracotta roof and I take a seat on a plastic chair in the main room.

We chat about the monsoon, our families, and food, in a clumsy combination of Sinhalese and English while the rains blow over. I discover that my new friend is a tailor with two sons. Her husband died of cancer several years ago. She says she is happy now. Feeling the same, I leave her house with an invite to dinner.

Sunshine has burst through the grey ceiling above, illuminating terracotta roofs of houses and the fronds of coconut palms. Hikkaduwa is washed clean, shiny and vivid with colour. It is beautiful.

I get back to work, spending the remainder of the afternoon riding around the 1,522 hectare Hikkaduwa Urban Council area recording details of land use, roads, topography, view corridors, and heritage buildings.

This was part of my work collaborating with the Sri Lankan Urban Development Authority (UDA) to prepare a new Development Plan for Hikkaduwa.

Hikkaduwa

Hikkaduwa is a growing coastal town on Sri Lanka's south-western coast, some 90 kilometres south of Colombo, the nation's capital.

It is one of Sri Lanka's most important tourist destinations; therefore, is important to the national economy.

Like many parts of the Sri Lankan coast, Hikkaduwa was devastated by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and still bears visible scars from the disaster.

The tsunami redevelopment has occurred rapidly and largely unchecked, to the detriment of Hikkaduwa's commercial centre, beachside hotel precinct, and its once pristine sandy beaches and coral reef.

Its busy commercial centre, focused around the busy national highway, Galle Road, has suffered as a result.

Following the tsunami, the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and the Institute of Town Planning Sri Lanka (ITPSL) initiated the Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project (TRPSP).

The joint initiative provides assistance to the UDA and the National Physical Planning Department (NPPD) in strategic planning and urban design projects.

For further information about this project, please contact Micaela Drieborg on +61 39347 1900 or mdrieborg@planning.org.au

Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project



The project

A key element of this assistance is the supply of skilled professionals in planning, urban design, and landscape architecture, as well as GIS professionals, to supplement the shortfall in locally qualified staff.

The professionals volunteer their time to work on the project and undertake discrete planning and design projects concurrently with capacity building initiatives.

Hikkaduwa was nominated as an area the TRPSP team should focus on by the Sri Lankan Government, due to its significance for the tourism industry and the noticeable decline in its environment since the tsunami.

During early 2007, Asanthika Kappagoda, Stuart Carr, and Jacqui Monie commenced the preparation of the Hikkaduwa Development Plan, a three stage planning framework: Stage 1 – the Situation Report; Stage 2 – the Development Plan; and Stage 3 – Precinct-based Urban Design Plans.

Asanthika, Stuart, and Jacqui completed Stage 1 in early 2007.

The document provides a detailed overview of the demography, economic base, general land use patterns, community needs, and issues affecting future development in the Hikkaduwa area.

With a background in statutory and strategic planning, and a strong craving for adventure, I joined the project in early 2008.

The planning process

My role was to prepare Stage 2 – the Development Plan itself – in collaboration with the UDA's Galle District office under the direction of Mr Hemantha Jayasundera, the Sri Lankan TRPSP Director, and Mrs Indu Weerasori, UDA Director Development Planning.

I was joined at various stages throughout this process by fellow Australian planners Clare Findlay and Carol Pilatti, as well as Sarah Haq, a Melbourne-based Landscape Architect.

Currently, the Sri Lankan planning system does not incorporate any formal consultation process. This appears to affect the community's respect for planning and development regulation, and ultimately their

willingness to conform to development rules and guidelines. In an effort to somewhat overcome this a voluntary consultation program was however undertaken by the UDA and Urban Council, involving months of discussion and collaborative workshops with Government Officers and community stakeholders regarding the matters raised in the Stage 1 Situation Report.

The consultation process was a challenge in itself for members of our Australian team, due to language barriers. However, the greater challenge was ensuring that the information gleaned from consultation was embedded into policy and hopefully will be taken up by the community.



During the planning process, it became apparent that the 20-year-old land use maps held by the UDA were an insufficient base for mapping new zone- and precinct-focused policies.

The maps depicted a vastly different pattern of urbanisation to what was observed in the field.

So, to address this issue, I set about undertaking a Council Area survey. I discovered just how wonderfully diverse and luscious Hikkaduwa's natural environment and villages are during my meanderings through the paddy fields and village streets – far removed from its chaotic main street.

I found myself with a new daily ritual of afternoon tea with warm-spirited locals. This experience was totally thrilling!

Adoption

The Development Plan was adopted in November 2008 by the Hikkaduwa Urban Council Chairman at the time, Mr Winnie Kariyawasam.

For further information about this project, please contact Micaela Drieberg on +6139347 1900 or mdrieberg@planning.org.au

Post Tsunami Reconstruction Planning Support Project



It comprises planning strategies, development regulations and guidelines, Urban Design Frameworks (essentially concept plans) for eight precincts, and a complimentary 20-year, 38-project Capital Works Program. The implementation of the plan is now in the hands of the Hikkaduwa Urban Council, while they wait for its gazettal by the Minister for Urban Development and Sacred Area Development. The Urban Council has limited resources for items such as computers, stationary, staff, and capital, and have difficulty generating revenue through rates and issuing penalties for unauthorised work.



Furthermore, the local community does not regard development regulation by Government with a great deal of respect.

It was with these significant challenges to implementation in mind that we included the Capital Works Program in the plan to describe discrete infrastructure, recreation, and community facility projects that would greatly contribute towards the achievement of the overall planning strategies. The idea was that each capital works project could be implemented as the funds become available. This would still result in localised improvements to environment and quality of life, even if the implementation of development guidelines through the planning approvals process continues to be difficult.

Implementation

Now, more than ever, there is a stronger chance that implementation efforts will succeed.

The war that has gripped the nation for over three decades recently ended with the military defeat of the LTTE. When I arrived, a ceasefire had just eroded and the war was intensifying. The nation was littered with checkpoints; guards were armed with AK47s. Sri Lanka featured in international news bulletins for its suicide bombers and abductions, not for its rich cultural history and diverse natural beauty. Today, things have changed. There is a palatable sense of excitement amongst all those interested in Sri Lanka's future. It seems likely that the economy will begin to recover and tourists will again set their sights on Sri Lanka's beaches, temples, and curries.

For the Hikkaduwa Urban Council and the community of Hikkaduwa, this will mean the achievement of its vision and the protection of its assets - its beautiful surfing beaches, rivers, coral reefs... and its people. This means that now is a great time to get involved!

PIA are constantly seeking new skilled volunteers to work on the project. If you are a planner or urban designer and have a drive to use your expertise to make a difference, contact PIA to discuss how.

The following people deserve a mention for their contribution to the Hikkaduwa Development Plan: Mr Hemantha Jayasundera (TRPSP Project Manager), Mrs Indu S. Weerasori (Director Development Planning UDA), Miss C. Kumari S. Basnayake (Deputy Director UDA Galle Office – now Director UDA), Miss L.L. Padmaseeli (Deputy Director UDA Galle Office), Mr Winnie Kariyawasam (former Hikkaduwa Urban Council Chairman), Mrs R. Vinodani De Silva (Planning Officer UDA Galle Office), Mrs H.T. Damayanthi (Planning Assistant UDA Galle Office) and particularly Mr H.P.L. Daham Dileepa (Planning Assistant UDA Galle Office) and Miss P. Vishaka Priyadarishani (Planning Assistant UDA Galle Office).

A message to the CPF from Malawi



With the high rates of urbanisation Malawi is experiencing, multiple households live in one plot where, with densification, the sanitation conditions have continued to worsen. Most of urban poor live in plots that were designated for one household but are accommodating up to 20 families with basic sanitary services. Poor people can only afford to rent the dilapidated conditions.



A pit latrine

The middle class have begun targeting such communities, as they offer plots with security of tenure. The inability of the city authorities to provide land for the middle class has begun to adversely affect the poor. Gentrification has begun, with the poor being forced out of their communities and the rich demolishing

the shacks and constructing expensive homes.



Improved pit latrine

With the support of local NGOs like CCODE and networks of the poor in the Cities of Malawi (the Malawi Homeless People's Federation) communities are mobilising so as to be able to be part of the land market.

Communities can negotiate with their Local Authorities for basic support and land has been provided to implement their projects. In some cases communities can use low cost materials. In this way, housing and sanitation units can be affordable to the poorest. As the poor are the drivers of this process, scaling up of the projects has been guaranteed with the poor being able to work with their local authorities across the country.

With the urbanisation rates unabating, upgrading slums is the most feasible solution. It can guarantee access to land by the marginalised especially women and children.

Message to the CPF from the Caribbean Workshop of CAP, 19-21 November 2009



We welcome the CHOGM theme of *Partnering for a more equitable and Sustainable Future*, and this opportunity to have our say. We also commit to working together to implement outcomes of the CHOGM.

We come together in the spirit of “planners without borders”. We are open to working across national boundaries, across the institutional barriers that separate health, education, environment, rights etc. We already work with other professions and with civil society, and will strive to do so more effectively.

We see the modern Commonwealth, with its diversity, global span but local actors, as uniquely placed to lead international thought and action on the linked challenges of climate change and sustainable urbanisation.

Our region is on the front line. We have to find ways to deal with climate change, natural disasters and water shortages. These issues should be central to planning and to partnership-building.

We assert the importance of planning to tackle these challenges. Planning can and should be a tool for good governance, a focus for inclusion of the voices of women, youths and the poor in decisions about the places where they live.

Ethics are at the heart of planning. We call for planning as a means of transparency and as a way of securing the right to the city for the many, not just for the few.

We recognise the importance of urban development to economic recovery, but also stress that development has to be equitable and environmentally sustainable. Good planning is preventative urban medicine.

By sharing through the Commonwealth we want to create innovations in practice that are relevant to the needs of our region and its peoples.

Professional education and capacity-building are vital. Evidence should be the basis for policy; there must be evaluation and monitoring; lessons should be learned from the past.

Today’s challenges require that the Commonwealth, governments, civil society organisations and professions all work in partnership to use professional and local knowledge, to develop skills and mobilise resources.

The modern Commonwealth can lead international action on climate change and sustainable urbanisation.

However, political will and funding are critical to delivery. We call on our Commonwealth partners to work with us, in planning and implementing practical actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to make urbanisation more sustainable and equitable, to embed awareness of gender into mainstream practice, and to tackle the relation between urban spread, loss of farmland and concerns for food security.

To: CPF
From: Planners in West Africa
URGENT



The meeting in Lagos on 3-5 November 2009, with planners from Nigeria, Ghana and Togo, and other Built Environment professionals, agreed the following message to the CPF:

Noting that: the Commonwealth urban population increases by 65,000 people every day and the trend will continue into the future;

Noting also that almost half of this increase is in slums;

Alarmed that uncontrolled urbanization is creating problems such as settlements of the low income people in marginal areas vulnerable to natural disasters, poor land administration, urban and rural poverty, inadequate and ailing infrastructure;

Acknowledging that climate change and natural disasters already impacted on millions of Commonwealth citizens;

Concerned that waste, traffic congestion and air pollution blight our cities;

Aware that time is short: planning is needed now or it will be too late;

Gravely concerned that all these acute challenges are rampant today in West Africa;

Recognising that there can be no meaningful economic integration in the Commonwealth without adequate physical planning and liveable human settlements;

Accepting that land administration needs to recognise traditional land tenure systems which can provide access to land for the poor and vulnerable groups;

We call on:

- National governments to ensure that legislation for land use is fit for purpose today (including issues of tenure and climate change).
- Governments, NGOs and Planning institutes to invest in capacity building through training and re-training of personnel for job efficiency, increased productivity, and relevance;
- ECOWAS to create a territorial development strategy for West Africa that focuses on climate change, key infrastructure gaps and the role of human settlements in building competitive economies.
- The Commonwealth to endorse the findings of the Scoping Study on the State of Commonwealth Cities and to recognise the need for proper monitoring of urban change benchmarking of cities across the Commonwealth, and exchange of practices through action research.

And we affirm that:

- Inclusive community participation and public-private partnership in the provision and management of infrastructural facilities and services should be encouraged and sustained.

Improving access to Land and Housing



The Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy

As a partner with the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) set up by UN-Habitat in 2006, CASLE has established its own **Land Administration Group** under the chairmanship of Dr Clifford Dann.



“We identify problems in land administration which inhibit sustainable

land development and management, and we advocate the use of up-to-date technologies to speed up land administration processes which themselves must be transparent. Land and tenure problems are complex throughout the world”.

- Less than 30% of land in developing Commonwealth countries is covered by cadastre.
- In some cities 60% of the poor live on less than 5% of the land.
- 2% of registered land rights are held by women.
- Lack of adequate consideration to pro-poor aspects.

The need for the right tools is universal, and in November 2007 the first Expert Group meeting of Land Registrars in Africa took place at the UN-Habitat HQ in Nairobi.

MOVING FORWARD

Emphasis on exploring innovative ways of recording rights for poor people.

Effective decentralised systems.

Advocacy of gender equity policies and legislative measures.

Improvement and management of dispute resolution procedures.

Raising the land agenda with governments, e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategies, Development Assistance Frameworks.

Encouragement of strategies and programmes to promote continuous staff development.

Development of modern information and land management infrastructure such as GPS, LIS and all types of communication including electronic.



Reinventing Planning in a New Urban Pacific

Few would associate the Pacific Islands with 'urbanisation'. In fact the region has some of the highest urban growth rates and densities on some of the world's smallest land masses. This presents a unique set of challenges for urban planners and managers at all levels. This Networking Event will address the effectiveness and opportunities of a regional approach to planning in small island states, within the 'Reinventing Planning' paradigm. It will focus on the Pacific Urban Agenda, a collaborative plan of action that coordinates support to countries to address these urban challenges such as poor access to serviced land and housing, increasing urban poverty and informal settlements, declining environmental conditions, inadequate and failing infrastructure to meet basic needs and climate change.

THE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONTEXT

- The Pacific Region consists of 98% ocean and 2% land mass
- The Region typically consists of 14 Island countries including some 7,500 islands
- The Island countries are separated into three sub-regions:
 - Melanesia (west): Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu
 - Polynesia (southeast): Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu
 - Micronesia (north): Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- The geography, populations, cultures, economies and politics of these groupings are *extremely* diverse
- The geography ranges from low-lying coral atolls to small volcanic and large mountainous and volcanic islands
- The geography plays a major role in the development challenges of the islands

THE PACIFIC URBAN STATISTICS

- In 2007, the population of the Pacific Region was approximately 9.2 million
- PNG accounts for 6.2 million or nearly two-thirds of this population
- About 25% of Pacific Islanders live in urban areas, if PNG is included
- About 50% of Pacific Islanders live in urban areas, if PNG is excluded
- Of the 14 Island countries, 9 have more than 30% of their national populations living in towns and cities
- The percentage is considerably higher if peri-urban areas are considered part of national urban statistics
- Many cities and towns are growing at twice the rate of national populations

THE PACIFIC URBAN CHALLENGES

- Urbanisation is a new challenge in the Pacific Region in comparison to Asia and other regions
- Urbanisation in the Pacific Region is insignificant in terms of population but comparable in terms of density
- Urbanisation issues among Island countries are diverse and share distinct commonalities with other regions
- Some of the key issues and challenges confronting Island countries include:
 - Ineffective institutions responsible for the urban planning and management
 - Irrelevant legislative frameworks often carried over from the colonial era
 - Limited human resources, including a shortage of skills and capacity in urban planning and management
 - Limited supply of available land to meet urban and peri urban growth demand
 - Limited intergovernmental and inter-community engagement on urban planning and management issues
 - Increasing disputes on land tenure, ownership and boundaries, especially on customary and traditional lands
 - Increasing urban hardship such as poor access to land, housing, sanitation, water, health and education
 - Increasing demand for infrastructure including maintenance and financing of urban water, sanitation, roads etc
 - Increasing social problems including unemployment, squatters and security issues such as crime and violence
 - Increasing impacts of climate change and sea level rise including droughts, salinity of water resources, flooding and destruction of coastal infrastructure assets
- The bulk of Pacific populations in hardship now and in the future will be urban dwellers



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

Just what the doctor ordered: planning, partnership and participation.

Anote from RTPI International Affairs

Population growth, migration to cities, climate change and the risk of natural disaster pose challenges to governments at all levels in all countries. The 2009 UN-HABITAT Global Report on Human Settlements **Planning Sustainable Cities** is a turning point for planning, affirming the role of planning in meeting the challenge of rapid urbanisation. The world needs planners to create sustainable settlements in rural areas, small or medium-sized cities which are home to most of the world's urban dwellers and mega-cities, and to manage change in developed countries.

Barack Obama's message at the Report's launch was that only through partnership can cities manage and reduce the impacts of climate disruption, economic crisis and urban poverty. Anna Tibaijuka, Director of UN-HABITAT elaborated: *"We must either plan with and for people or perish from the pressures of population, climate change, migration, consumption, irresponsible individualism and unaccountable corporatism"*.

Taking up Dr. Tibaijuka's theme, the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) said that without planning, cities *"destroy farmland and forests, drink dry the reservoirs, pollute the waterways, and impose unacceptable costs in energy use and carbon emissions"*. Urbanisation is not an evil to be resisted but a challenge, and what is needed to meet it is planning: *preventative urban medicine*, in CAP's memorable phrase. As RTPI and CAP past President Cliff Hague put it in 2007 in a dogan since taken up by many – including the Vancouver Declaration founding the Global Planners Network - *"there is no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation, and there is no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning"*.

Good planning lifts people out of poverty, gives access to infrastructure and services; creates opportunities; gives rural areas a market, provides shelter for people who leave the countryside, helps them send back remittances and return to decent homes and employment when ready. In developed countries planning puts right past damage, manages provision for ageing populations,

identifies facilities for re-use and protects, manages and enhances the built and natural environments including. Good planning shapes and responds to the local context. Planning guides mega-city growth in sustainable directions so that the city is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

A key task is to **tackle climate change** through urban design, improving building materials, power and water distribution systems and transport and managing green areas to **create carbon-neutral, eco-efficient cities**. We need to steer settlement growth away from flood-prone coastal areas and hillsides subject to catastrophic mudslides and to protect forest, agricultural and wilderness areas in favour of safer places.

The way forward is to **empower local government** to formulate strategic spatial plans and encourage public participation - strategies that have been shown to work, even in slums and where large parts of the economy are "informal"; government policies can embrace these characteristics and work with them. In rural areas and in slums with precarious tenure, enlightened local authorities work with local people to give them title to the land they live and work on, and create sustainable livelihoods.

Royal Town Planning Institute international priorities

RTPI's international priority is promoting the value of planning and enhancing the professional planner's contribution to sustainable development. Its strengths are in **Advocacy**, being ready and able to contribute to major initiatives such as UN-HABITAT Global Reports and its new World Urban Campaign; **Building Capacity** by sharing information and experience with planners world wide and encouraging professional planning education in countries where it is not adequately provided, and **Communicating & Networking** through its international connections.

You can find out more about RTPI policy, international affairs, membership & education at www.rtpi.org.uk. Information about RTPI work promoting UN-HABITAT Global Report on Human Settlements is on its dedicated GRHS page <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/3008>. Or contact international@rtpi.org.uk



CAP Subscriptions **for 2010 are due**

The subscription rate remains unchanged - £1 per corporate member of the member institute.

Organisations such as planning schools 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.