

Villes en développement



June 1992 - N°16

Neighborhood projects

There is no doubt that one of the main features of the poor neighborhoods of urban areas in industrialised or developing countries is their lack of a future. Those charged with preparing urban growth either overlook them or take them into account in a negative way, ie as if they were «immaterial». Michel Cantal-Dupart has expressed this idea well by pointing out that we never see any construction cranes in such neighborhood.

Consequently, to a varying extent, their inhabitants are reduced, at best, to limiting the many annoyances of a daily life «cut off» from that of other inhabitants, or, at worst, to trying to organise their very survival.

Thus, the notion of a neighborhood project is itself a sign of change. One might even say a sign of wealth, but this would be an exaggeration. In any case, it is a sign of awareness. It is not only a matter of containing delinquency or, of preventing the deficiencies, of deprived neighborhood from hindering the development of the city centre. The primary purpose of such a project is to think out the mid and long term evolution of a stagnant urban life.

A neighborhood project can be the inhabitants' project, although it is well known that the inhabitants of deprived areas often have difficulty in expressing themselves. However there are numerous examples of such people expressing themselves fully and strongly. Evidence of this was given in a highly significant speech at the Caracas conference in November 1991.

A district project can also be initiated by the authorities, either local (most often) or national. This is quite customary in developed countries. A good example of this is France, where, for over ten years, an active urban policy has been implemented based on five-year contracts between the central government and local authorities. Preparation for



Raboteau neighborhood in Gonaïves, Haiti

Source: M. Pelletier AICF

evaluating such contracts has at least permitted the formulation of mid-term policies.

Urban development is certainly a matter of strength of will. Various forms of alchemy can combine government action with individual initiatives, market forces and a variety of external influences.

But there is a prerequisite for such an alchemy to be successful: the need to reconcile the two sources of projects. A project initiated by inhabitants cannot possibly succeed without the support of the local authorities; the

corollary of this is that there is no hope of a successful urban life where an urban project is forced upon the inhabitants concerned.

So a neighborhood project policy has to pay a lot of attention to the means required for its implementation: one must beware of dashing hopes. Great care must be taken about the conditions in which this policy is adopted.

Jean-Marie Delarue,
Délégué interministériel à la Ville
et au développement urbain

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Urban neighborhood in the developing world: the demand for democracy

Is it worth repeating how urgent the situation is? Everyone is aware of the figures relating to the rampant urbanisation of third-world countries, the increase in urban poverty and the exclusion of an always increasing number of city dwellers from access to a decent home.

In the difficult current economic and social conditions, nothing indicates that these phenomena are on the way to being brought under control or these trends to being reversed. The contrary is true.

Nobody has the right to wait any longer before taking action. Solutions have to be found to the problem of meeting the primary needs of a normal city life in spite of the lack of the considerable financial resources (notably from the public purse) that are required. That is what is at stake today. How is this to be done?

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the analysis of the problem and to propose a course of action.

We would like to make it clear that our proposal to take action in deprived urban neighborhoods does not mean that we consider this as the only possible and necessary course of action. The least that can be said for it is that it is one relevant approach among others to changing urban life for the benefit of the majority of city-dwellers.

As the starting-point for our analysis, we have taken three very simple observations:

1. cities, in which half the population of the globe will soon be living, are clearly the scene of severe disorders;

2. these disorders reflect the general inadequacy of the management of urban areas and could lead to more and more serious social and economic disruption;

3. all thinking and action pertaining to city life must take deprived urban neighborhoods into account if the struggle against urban disorders is to be successful. Action to improve deprived urban neighborhoods benefits the entire city as a whole. This is so because, to begin with, over half of the urban population lives in such neighborhoods.

And also because, in the strong words of the recent Caracas Declaration¹, «these neighborhoods have to be looked at as areas where numerous dynamic economic, social and cultural forces come into play». These dynamic forces affecting the lives of

the majority of city-dwellers are *the constituent parts of a genuine urban identity*; they alone can provide *realistic* benchmarks for taking action at neighborhood level, of course, but also at the level of the entire city as a whole.

Finally, to take action to improve urban neighborhoods is to take action to improve areas that have functional links with the city as a whole. So it is to intervene in the production process of the city in its entirety. This analysis sheds light on our identity and our role as participants in the overseas development process, as representatives of our two organisations: the Gret and the Psh. In short, our mission could be defined as follows: to take action at neighborhood level in order to mobilise and to bring together all those who play a part in the making of cities in both the developed North and the developing South.

Thus, the Psh attempts to network local authorities, associations, independent professional bodies, researchers and governments, so that they work together to implement the process for giving most people access to proper housing. As for the Gret, it conducts pilot experiments; we thus intend to provide other options by networking on concrete projects with partners from both North and South who share our objectives.

Such an approach calls for the clear expression, from the outset, of the assumption on which it is based: the production of living conditions more favourable to the poor, ie to the majority of city-dwellers, who currently have no say whatever in the decisions affecting their own future, requires that they should be given the right to speak. And everything should be done to make sure that this process is a durable one. Having set the scene and spelt out the objectives, what strategies do we propose to implement in order to achieve our aims? First of all, recognition. Although too often overlooked by official maps and statistics, deprived housing districts are there. They exist and they have a right to have their existence recognised. The very history of these neighborhoods proves that without security of tenure - which does not necessarily mean ownership of land - no durable improvement can be expected.

But let us not be mistaken. Such recognition, which is prerequisite to any action taken

and processes implemented, must be conquered.

With this in mind, the first step of any action is to allow city inhabitants to express themselves freely. This will make it possible to invent with them alternative solutions to the centralised urban management practices whose limitations have been proved. Considerable changes are to be expected from this approach. What changes?

Allowing city inhabitants real freedom of expression means guaranteeing that they will be listened to. In this respect, what is mainly at stake seems to us to be the initiation of a dialogue between city inhabitants and the various local authorities. At this level, the dialogue will be all the more effective if each of the protagonists understands that it is in its best interests. This will only be possible through concrete actions taken in specific areas where the stakes are clearly identifiable.

Once again, we should not delude ourselves. Durably viable political concertation about the action to be taken is possible only if the income of deprived city-dwellers is recognised first, a prerequisite for the mobilisation of new resources. Clearly, such resources cannot be generated exclusively at neighborhood level.

Today, it appears everywhere that reconciling social integration with economic integration, notably through access to housing, is the major challenge of the fight against social exclusion. No effort must be spared to achieve this, bearing in mind the limitations of this approach (particularly in terms of the mobilisation of resources). In the last analysis, our proposal may be summarised as follows: *we should aim to strengthen the various parties that make city life what it is by putting them in a position to deliberate on the problem, in the framework of concrete action to improve living conditions in cities.*

In our view, that is the mission that has to be assigned to all of us today. We should now like briefly to translate this mission statement into major operational aims by considering the cases of Africa and Latin America.

In Africa, urban growth, which is quite recent, has now reached one of the highest rates in the world. Town and country are highly interwoven, both socially and

economically. The social system features a very small number of structured organisations that represent the people and weak independent bodies. However, there are numerous and complex social networks that provide support, mutual assistance and reliance on others. So the neighborhood approach, even though it is beginning to produce new ways of thinking and behaving, is still in its embryonic stage. The more so as the effective devolution of powers from the State to municipalities has hardly progressed yet.

This is the reason why it seems to us that priority should be given to setting up deliberation procedures based on very small-scale actions - ie to foster, at local level, negotiations between all the people concerned. At the same time, in order to make the process of negotiation last, it is necessary to give a structure to

neighborhood organisations and to set up independent bodies capable of starting and managing a dialogue.

In Latin America, the context is different. Two thirds of the population live in cities and, today, the overwhelming majority of working-class districts have been structured around neighborhood organisations. Independent bodies (ie teams of professionals) have gradually established themselves, notably with the financial support of international NGOs (non-governmental organisations).

Under pressure both to relieve themselves of the management of industrial disputes and to give in to the democratic demands of working-class movements, notably in the cities, most Latin-American States have initiated processes of political and administrative decentralisation. Thus, municipalities elected by universal suf-

frage have gradually been set up. From now on, it is undoubtedly at this level that the real challenges have to be taken up. It is a matter of making sure that the benefits of the management experiments successfully conducted in the neighborhoods are transferred to the administration of a city as a whole.

In our view, independent teams of professionals have a major part to play at neighborhood level, ie that of real *intermediaries*, one of whose functions is to turn municipal districts into places where different urban management practices are the norm, by fostering deliberation and interaction between all the parties involved in producing urban areas. In particular, such teams should provide the municipalities that participate in this process with coaching in the required *technical skills*.

Cooperation between Rennes and Sao Paulo

In 1989, at the behest of two French agencies - PSH and ORSTOM - the city of Rennes decided to give its financial and, later, institutional support to a project for the assisted self-construction of a «mutirao» of 22 multioccupancy housing blocks, in the Valo Velho neighborhood, a southern suburb of Sao Paulo.

This project originated in a long process of social and industrial action by a working-class movement. In this case, it had been a strongly structured movement called «Povo em ação» (People in Action), an association whose initial objective was to own a piece of land, on which to build decent housing, with the help of architects and technicians, for people from the «favelas». French support focused on the multioccupancy housing programmes. Once this project had been worked out, the city of Rennes, with the backing of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and la Caisse des Dépôts, a French financial institution, lent its support to the innovations introduced by the local project management team.

The underlying idea which impelled the city of Rennes to embark on such a decentralised overseas development project was, first of all, to support local partners who had not hitherto been used to working together at neighborhood level. Next, it was a matter of proving that an original housing construction project for the poorest people was feasible and, above all, reproducible on a larger scale at the level of Sao Paulo city itself. Lastly, in our view, support for a district will have led to increased cooperation between cities (in health, training, waste disposal, etc.).

Once again, this experience proved that area development remains a vital challenge for social forces. These, to further their interests, try to turn municipal power into a negotiation framework. The municipality acts as the referee of social conflicts and alliances, prior to playing a leading role in the provision of facilities and services. This is how the municipality becomes the preferred framework of negotiations on urban matters both as regards to long-term programming and to daily life in urban neighborhoods.

Unquestionably, the extraordinary growth of a city such as Sao Paulo calls for deep thinking about its mid and long term future. But the Valo Velho experiment has demonstrated the value of work done at neighborhood level. Such work makes all those involved forget the language of technical neutrality that we all hear too often in matters of urban planning. Has not the time come to reconsider the validity of large-scale structure-building operations? The alternative approach, ie, a much less brutal treatment, based on the active participation of inhabitants and on the concept of the neighborhood, deserves serious consideration.

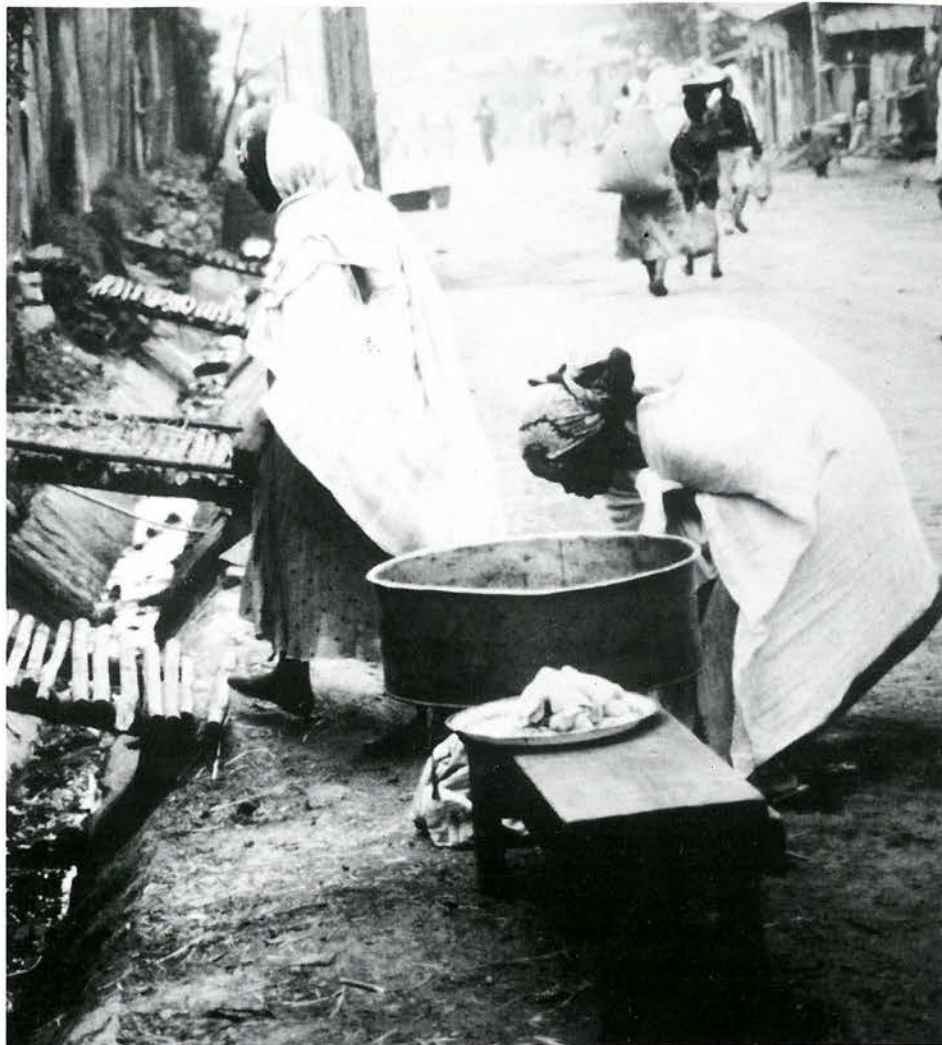
**Jean-Yves COULON, Director of
PACT-ARIM d'Ile-et-Vilaine
President of the Rennes/Sao Paulo
Committee**

Possible mirror readings of two contrasted realities. Different priorities from one continent to another, but the challenges are the same. The best way to change cities is to work from the bottom up - ie to start at the level of districts. The same requirement exists everywhere. A democratic one. With, in the last analysis, the aim of being effective.

Isabelle de Boismenu
Coordinator
of the urban housing team at Gret

Serge Allou
Executive Secretary
of the Psh

(1) This Declaration was made public by an international group of senior civil servants who met in Caracas from 25th to 29th November 1991 at a conference on the transformation of makeshift self-established districts. It was published in full in the latest issue of the Bulletin de l'Arci, n°19-20, March 1992. (Arci, 1 rue du 11 novembre, 92120 Montrouge, France).



Ethiopia

Source: Bernard Dardel

A rain-water purification project in Tahoua (Niger)

A natural disaster resulted in a local development process.

The town of Tahoua, which is situated in the South-West of Niger, was affected by large-scale floods in 1978, made worse by inadequate earthen drainpipes.

The government of Niger's planning department got in touch with the German overseas development agency (GTZ), which carried out preliminary studies.

An original form of multilateral cooperation between France, Germany and Niger was set up.

- The planning department was charged with coordinating the project.

- The municipality of Tahoua, as the contracting authority, was responsible for technical coordination, project implementation and maintenance.

- The department of health, in collaboration with a French overseas development orga-

nisation (AFVP), recognised the project as a pilot scheme (PISE) and took charge of supervising and publicising the project.

- The ministry of public works was responsible for the works themselves, for supervising 150 workers from the town, with the technical collaboration of Germany's GTZ agency through a special body (called the jobsite coordination office).

The technical solutions which were adopted gave rise to the participation of the town's inhabitants in the project.

- Street paving stabilises the land (preventing erosion) and drains the rain-water (which infiltrates through the gaps between the paving-stones). Also, these stones could be produced locally.

The programme was also original in that it got the local population to participate in some sub-programmes such as refuse collection.

The structures that were set up made the action taken more durable. These included:

- a local association for young people, called «les Samarias», supported by the AFVP; it was charged with refuse collection. This association also disseminated medical information on infectious diseases;

- a coordination office responsible for managing the personnel and equipment on behalf of the municipality;

- the company that produced paving stones. From an institutional viewpoint, collaboration between the municipality, three government departments and two European organisations called for quite a complex structure; but this made it possible to broaden the scope of the project from a «technical» operation to a comprehensive public health, economic and social reinforcement operation.

Joël Audefroy, Gret-Habitat

Overseas development and the environment: an assessment of 10 neighborhood projects

Today, it is of vital importance for development projects to take the environment into account as a basic framework for action in cities. Like many other financial backers, the ministry of overseas development has, for two years, been implementing an urban environment policy based on local development projects. This environmental approach aims to find new solutions to the major problem of rampant urbanisation in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It takes into account the cultural, social and political dimensions of urbanisation.

The environmental type of approach emphasizes action at two levels:

- improvement in the working conditions of the inhabitants of outer suburban neighborhoods and small towns through encouragement of the emergence of dynamic local forces, notably by means of projects for managing local urban facilities and services;
- improvement in access to essential public services, such as refuse collection, sewerage and the supply of drinking water.

Since 1989, a lot has been achieved in improving living conditions in urban districts through the work done by several NGOs (AFVP, GRET, AICF, ASF, etc.).

These projects have involved both local inhabitants - social restructuring has been fostered through action at neighborhood level - and national or municipal institutions, whose access to information on environmental technology has been facilitated and who have received legal, financial and technical assistance with implementing the appropriate strategies.

Neighborhood projects

The projects identified by the ministry of overseas development are situated in the relevant area, ie mainly in West Africa. They have been chosen on the basis of the extent to which they emphasize environmentally conscious urban policies. They all feature:

- significant support for states and local authorities in the environment field;
- action by two French overseas development organisations: AFVP and GRET.

These projects concern neighborhoods situated in the outer suburbs of capital or provincial cities. Priority has been given to

towns with populations of between 10 000 and 30 000 inhabitants or to the outer suburban neighborhoods of larger cities, ie neighborhoods with populations of between 6 000 and 20 000 people.

All these projects have two common goals: improvement in inhabitants' living conditions, and protection of the environment in urban neighborhoods. These goals are the threads that connect up with each other a range of projects: to restructure urban neighborhoods, to provide basic urban facilities and services (health, education, refuse collection, transport, electricity), to improve the quality of infrastructures and networks (roads, utilities, drinking water treatment and supply), to introduce land legalisation procedures, to develop housing, and to enhance the quality of the environment.

Projects are implemented wherever an actual or potential dynamic exists because of action by grass-roots groups, such as associations or neighborhood committees. The

favoured means of action and mobilisation of inhabitants in an urban environment are good leadership and awareness campaigns. The intention is to initiate action at neighborhood level first aimed at improving inhabitants' living conditions, with a view to setting off a development dynamic which will subsequently permit the preparation of programmes intended for the town or city as a whole.

Any development project has a chance of succeeding only if it is or if it becomes the municipality's project. Hence the vital importance of concertation/participation procedures implemented under the authority of the mayor.

Although the importance of the part played by the operator has been amply proved, it is necessary to review his powers, status and objectives by means of deep reflection on his changing function, methods and know-how.

Fabrice Richy, Agence E4

1. Projects in progress

Ivory Coast: project to restructure Sokoura, a housing neighborhood in Aboisso - USAID/AFVP/E4

Haiti: support for local urban development in the Raboteau neighborhood of Gonaïves - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/AICF/E4 (project completed)

Congo: Upgrading of urban management tools in Brazzaville - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/AFVP

Ivory Coast: municipal programme to improve the environment in the municipalities of Fresco and Sassandra - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/AFVP

Senegal: support for local development initiatives in two outer suburban neighborhoods of Dakar (Taly Bumack and Wakhine) - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/AFVP

Namibia: neighborhood development projects, support for urban planning - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/CRIAA/GRET

2. Projects at the identification or start-up stage

Cameroon: urban projects in the two cities of Yaoundé and Bafang - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/AFVP/GRET

Mali: neighborhood development projects in Bamako - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/GRET

Angola: urban project in Luanda, outer-suburban low-cost housing - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/GRET

Madagascar: project to support urban management authorities and to provide neighborhood facilities - ministère de la Coopération et du développement/GRET

Shanghai - Upgrading of Qianjiatang neighborhood

Following a symposium held in Beijing on housing, France or, more precisely, the French Institute of Architecture, was invited by the authorities of Shanghai to participate in an urban renovation project in this city's old neighborhood.

Shanghai has inherited, from its extraordinary period of economic boom in the 1930s, 70 million square metres of housing stock of great architectural value and, on the whole, in good condition.

In the 1970s, the local authorities made a great effort to build new homes in the city's outer suburbs (around four million square metres or 80 000 homes per year).

Initially, France cooperated with Shanghai by analysing existing housing and by studying ways of improving such stock and of renovating an old neighborhood.

In 1987, it was agreed to renovate the Qianjiatang neighborhood bordering on Huahai street, one of the busiest shopping thoroughfares in Shanghai, situated in the heart of the old town. Twelve thousand people divided into 3 500 households live in a neighborhood covering 10 hectares (ie 1 300 inhabitants per hectare, *not* the highest density rate in the city centre). Most buildings are of the «lilong» type, ie terraced buildings typical of Shanghai comprising 2 or 3 storey homes with a yard. These homes used to be for single family occupancy, but are now overcrowded, being occupied by several households.

In 1988, as part of our technical cooperation effort, we launched a consultation to collect ideas for the development of the neighborhood. The specifications jointly defined by the French and Chinese teams were intended to preserve about half of the old buildings and to construct 215 000m² of new ones (145 000m² for housing and 70 000m² for shops, public utilities and industrial activities).

Five French and two Chinese teams participated in this consultation process.

A Franco-Chinese consultative committee, which met in Shanghai from February 27th to March 3rd 1989, chose the project submitted by the CHEMETOV-HUIDOBRO agency. A large number of people from several regions of China, sent by the government in Beijing had attended the presentations of the various projects and discovered the importance and significance of this type of consultation for Chinese municipalities.

Prior to proceeding with the actual work to develop the neighborhood, and faced with the delicate problem of rehousing its inhabitants, the municipality wished to assess the economic feasibility of renovating ancient buildings. So we agreed that the next stage of our cooperation should be devoted to renovating one of the neighborhood's old buildings.

After renovation, this 500m² building, which was in fact composed of five units making up a «lilong», would house 10 families.

The CHEMETOV-HUIDOBRO agency, which had won the consultation process prize, was chosen to draw up the architectural project in collaboration with the Shanghai Housing Institute, our Chinese partner. This phase also enabled us to find suitable solutions for the local background and to study technical problems specific to Shanghai, such as, for example, that of humidity rising through walls.

At this stage in the project, we wanted to get French construction material industrialists involved. Twenty-one of them responded favourably and supplied the materials free of charge. These materials are currently on the way to China.

The work will be carried out by a local firm with our support. To begin with, the Chinese architect and site superintendent will get some training about renovation techniques

and about the supplied materials. Then, on-site assistance will be provided.

When the renovation work is finished at the end of this year or at the beginning of 1993, it has been agreed that the Municipality of Shanghai will place part of the renovated homes at our disposal to be used as a showcase for the French industrialists involved, with a view to developing industrial cooperation with local partners.

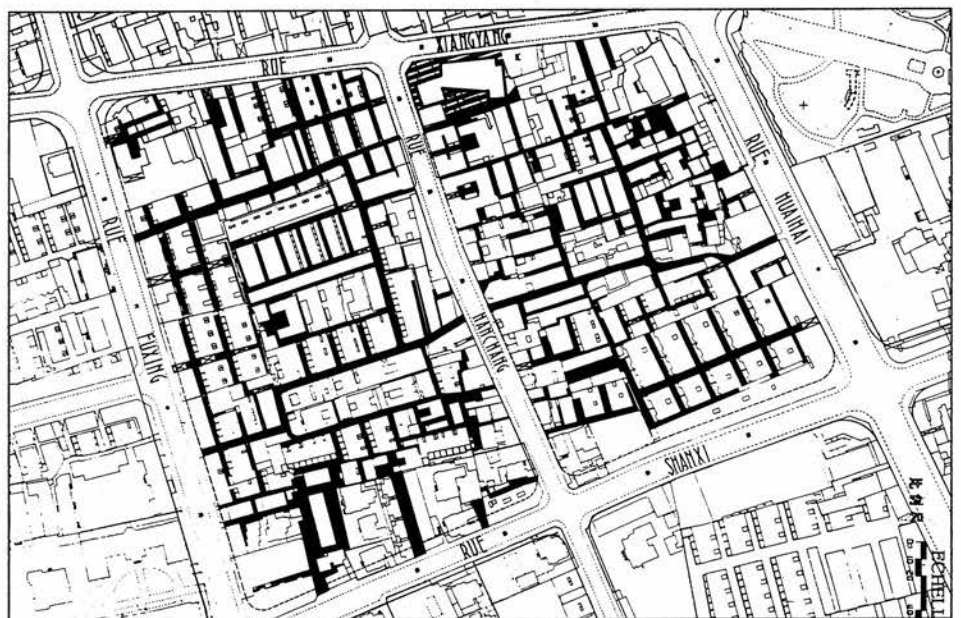
Moreover, the local authorities have recently informed us of their decision to renovate the neighborhood in accordance with the specifications of the winning project. They would like French architects, companies and investors to get involved in this project. Following the Chinese government's decision to declare that the development of Shanghai is one of its national priorities (the aim being to turn Shanghai into one of the largest metropolises in the Pacific), many public and private projects have emerged, notably in the Pudong development zone on the east bank of the Hwang Pu river. The modernisation of Shanghai also requires the renovation of the city-centre; this means both reducing the population density and relocating a large number of polluting factories.

高航

Jacques Gauran,
DAEI representative

Qianjiatang neighborhood

Source: IRSTH and IFA



Overseas development news


■ Publications by the ministère de la Coopération et du développement

The Information and Communication Department has just published an entirely revised edition of the manual produced by the BCEOM and the CEBTP entitled: «Les routes dans les zones tropicales et désertiques»:

- vol. 1: Politique et économie routière;
- vol. 2: Etudes techniques et construction;
- vol. 3: Entretien et gestion des routes.

All of the Ministry's publications are on sale at: «La Documentation française», 29-31 quai Voltaire, 75006 Paris, France. In addition, copies of all six volumes of «Manuel d'urbanisme pour les pays en développement» produced by the SMUH-ACA are still available.

To take advantage of special rates for the purchase of this document, or to obtain a copy of the Ministry's complete catalogue of publications.

 Please write to Mme E. Cazenave
Ministère de la Coopération et du Développement, CID/DOC
57 bd des Invalides, 75007 Paris, France.

■ Concerted action by the MRT urban management in D.C.

Three of the networks set up by the ministère de la Recherche et de la technologie will continue to function until 1993:

- «Management of Urban Social Affairs»
Contact: Mme Annick Osmond - IFU - Université Paris VIII - Cité Descartes, 4 avenue Nobel, Champs-sur-Marne, 77436 Marne-la-Vallée Cedex 02 - France

- «Networking and Infrastructures»
Contact: M.A. Guillerme - ENPC - TMU, Cité Descartes, 4 avenue Nobel, Champs-sur-Marne, 77436 Marne-la-Vallée Cedex 02 - France

- «Improving Instruments of Knowledge»
Contact: Mme Christiane Weber, URA 902 - CNRS - Institut de Géographie, 12 rue Goethe, 67000 Strasbourg - France


Documents collected by members of this last network will be incorporated into the URBAMET bibliographical data base and may be consulted at the «Villes en Développement» documentation and information centre.

■ «Villes en Développement» Documentation and Information Centre

The Centre invites you to enhance the value of your studies by bringing to the attention of its users the reports, maps, photos or slides you care to entrust it with and which will enable it to inform its users better: the Centre receives nearly 1500 enquiries a year, either on the spot or by mail.

■ ADP (Association des professionnels développement urbain et coopération)

Their workshop to be held on 4th September 1992 will be on the following theme: «Who is needed for which cooperation with the South?» It will take place at l'Ecole nationale des Ponts et chaussées, 28 rue des Saints Pères, 75007 Paris - France.

 Contact: ADP
c/o «Villes en développement»

Symposium on: «Youth, Cities, Employment» What Future for African Youth?»

26th-29th October 1992 - Paris - France

Challenges and goals:

Given that young people under the age of 25 account for around 60% of the urban population, urban youth are a new and massive phenomenon in Africa. An unclearly identified group who hold out both good prospects for the future and potential risks, they question African leaders and their partners. Their economic and social integration is made difficult by an urban crisis which affects all young people, from rejects to those in full-time education.

The urban youth are responding to the crisis in more and more informal ways, especially as regards employment. But there are limits to what they can do on their own through group strategies and by showing solidarity to each other; so there could be explosions of social unrest in the towns and cities. It is necessary to take into account the needs of this new population, and its will to invest its energy in urban life.

The challenge facing the symposium will be to succeed in joining the three terms of its title in a questioning process involving decision-makers, field-workers and researchers. The ministère de la Coopération et du développement has seized on the emergence of this new field of action to take a long-term view of policies relating to this category of full-fledged city-dwellers.


As the first stage in this process, the symposium is the starting-point for describing and analysing the situation. Its scientific committee guarantees the quality of the scientific thinking that it will produce.

Secondly, the Ministry is anxious to use the reserves of energy that will be revealed on this occasion both in the North and in the South, and wishes to mobilise field players capable of exchanging information and of transferring know-how.

The ultimate aim of this approach is to arrive at an outline of an action programme for urban youth. The underlying concern of this approach can be summed up in one word: to initiate a *transversal* process. The Ministry wishes to redefine policies on youth by transcending strictly sectoral concerns: education, sport, health, etc..

This symposium, by invitation only, will be jointly organised by French ministries (Affaires étrangères, Jeunesse et sport, Ville, etc...) and bi-/multilateral development organisations (German overseas development agency, UNESCO, the World Bank, etc...). It should bring together about 400 participants, of which from 100 to 150 will be from sub-Saharan Africa (French-/English- or Portuguese-speaking).


The persons invited will receive a pre-programme in June for registration purposes.

 Contact: Mr Gérard Van Wassenhove, Ministère de la Coopération et du Développement, 20 rue Monsieur, 75700 Paris - France.
Agence Barter Communication, 7 rue Royale, 75008 Paris - France

Symposia


Paris-CNIT-France
24th September 1992

20th anniversary of the Plan construction et architecture ; several important events will mark this anniversary, notably a symposium on the theme: future prospects for construction and housing.

 *Contact: Annie Novelli, PCA, Arche de la Défense
92055 Paris La Défense Cedex 04 - France Tel. (33.1) 40 81 24 79*


Paris-CNIT-France
14th-16th October 1992

The responsibilities of economic actors in the shaping of cities; organised by the European Business Ethics Network (EBEN). The aim is to share thoughts on the ethical aspects of the responsibilities of economic decision-makers with respect to urban matters.

 *Contact: Londez Conseil, 116 avenue Gabriel Péri
93400 Saint-Ouen, France Tel. (33.1) 40 11 87 08*

Tunis - Tunisia
15th-19th February 1993


6th CODATU conference on the development and planning of urban transport. Programme: scientific and technical conference, international transport equipment show, technical visits, study tour.

 *Contact: Mr Christian Curé, Secrétaire général de la CODATU
c/o Cités-Unies Développement, 22 rue d'Aksace
92300 Levallois Perret - France.
Tel. (33.1) 47 39 36 86 Fax. (33.1) 47 39 36 85, Téléx 610.472*

Book review


L'environnement en Afrique ; published under the supervision of Guy Pontie and Michel Gaud. Aspecial issue of «Afrique contemporaine», n°161, 1st quarter 1992, 282 p.

Specialists in natural and biological sciences, notably at ORSTOM, take stock of current knowledge of Africa in their respective fields. Social scientists show that certain simple correlations need to be qualified. The book concludes with thoughts on the major political and economic challenges of the environment, and on the risks of conflict that go with it.

 *Contact: La Documentation française, 29 quai Voltaire, 75344 Paris cedex 07 - France. Price: FFR 85.*


Urbanisation et développement dans les pays tropicaux; edited by Pierre Vennetier, Bordeaux: CEGET, 1991, 198 p. (Coll. Espaces tropicaux, n° 4).

Urbanisation has been spreading very fast in Africa. Although cities appear to be necessary for economic development, they do nevertheless pose a lot of serious problems. So it is absolutely necessary to arrive at a better understanding of the nature and forms of this phenomenon, of the changes it causes in the economy, behaviour, and social relationships, and the difficulties faced, because of it, by the public authorities and city-dwellers.

 *Contact: CEGET-CNRS - Domaine universitaire de Bordeaux - 33405 Talence - cedex - France; Price: FFR 100.*

S'informer sur les formations (Finding out about Training). A guide-book for voluntary service overseas people by Elisabeth Frantz and Antoinette Surun. Paris: ministère de la Coopération et du développement, 1991. 357 p. (Coll. Analyse des sources d'information).

The first part analyses how to organise a personalised search for training courses and how to understand the French information system on continuing training. The second part provides practical information on the various sectors in France, in the regions, and in countries to which one may be posted.

 *Contact: La Documentation française, 29 quai Voltaire, 75344 Paris cedex 07 - France. Price: FFR 180.*

Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement

Centre de documentation et d'information "Villes en développement"

Arche de la Défense, 92055 Paris-la-Défense Cédex 04 - Tél. (33.1) 40.81.15.74

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Organisme :

Adresse :

Directeur de publication :

J. Baudoin, président de l'ISTED

Rédacteur en chef : ADP, F. Noisette

Comité de rédaction : X. Crépin, L. Femique,

D. Gardin, G. Gros, F. Reynaud

Secrétaire de rédaction et fabrication :

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