

Villes en développement

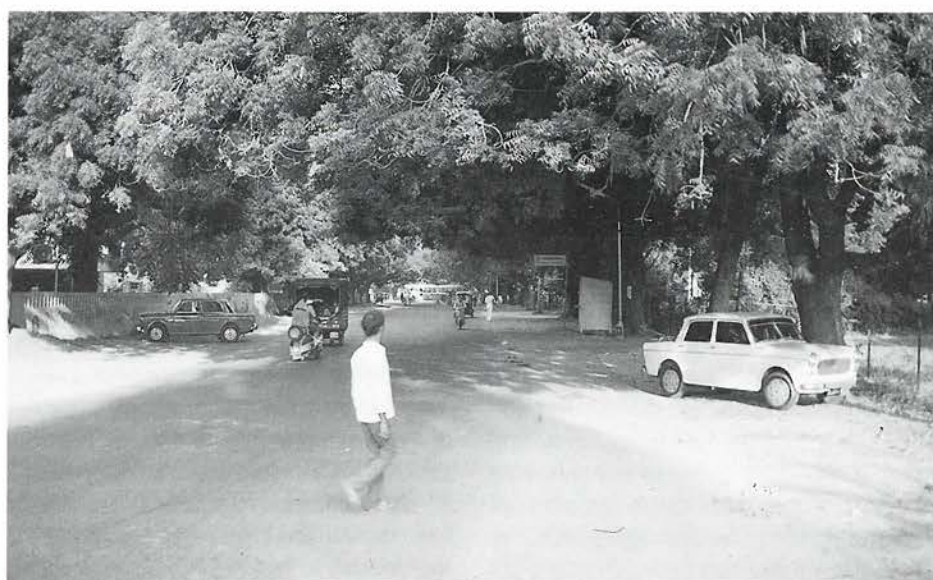


March 1993 - N°19

Urban research

Research into urban development remains absolutely necessary. And, of course, its object is the same as for any scientific research: the production and dissemination of knowledge. There is no need to invoke the outmoded debate on the split between basic and applied research. Research is one and indivisible. When it comes to formulating the right questions, making critical use of the appropriate conceptual and methodological tools, collecting and processing facts and information, the complexity of which requires clarity of exposition, researchers fall into only two categories: good and not so good.

Do we need to remind our readers that urban research divorced from the practice of putting things into perspective before taking action, i.e., in short, research that dissociates the researcher's viewpoint from the practitioner's, would be doomed to losing sight of its purpose... and even to losing its own soul, even if the decisions it might or might not generate came, in the last analysis, within the realm of politics? This interface (of reflection and action, knowledge and practice) is an endless, and somewhat ambiguous, struggle, which leaves no room for intellectual or professional routine and for facile confinement to a single discipline or distinct social practice. This problem, which is not a new one, will probably never be solved. But what progress has been made over the last 15 years, despite all the institutional constraints and the sometimes discouraging alternation between periods of stimulating advances and of stagnation! *Eppur, si muove!* (as Galileo said). Would I go so far as to say that urban research, to the extent that it concerns societies and environments which have been hit head-on by unbelieved demographic growth, involves a whole set of specific constraints? Some see these as arising from ethical considerations; I should describe them as realistic. The aim is



Ahmedabad

Pierre-Marie Tricaud

not so much knowledge for the sake of knowledge; but rather to be able to give advice, encouragement and support to the often fragile and threatened actors and forces of change; to develop the scope for learning; and to reinforce the often uncertain and inadequate potential for research work wherever it exists.

In short, urban research must come within the scope of a lucid and, if possible, warm-hearted

cooperation, which needs to be continually renewed. This, of course, calls for intelligence and continuity of purpose; but also sturdiness of character, team spirit and competence. Such cooperation already exists; yet it has never appeared overnight. The concise overview presented in this issue of *Villes en Développement* bears testimony to this.

Michel Coquery

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French research and urban problems in the third world

Over the last two decades, the towns and cities of the third world have experienced deep changes. These have occurred in a context of an economic crisis and social transformations that jeopardise the mobilisation of financial and human resources; context in which the development choices made have tended to increase inequality rather than to reduce it.

The various forms of multilateral and bilateral cooperation have attempted to keep up with the social and technological changes in third-world countries, to understand their factors and mechanisms, and to develop tools and methods capable of foreseeing the demand and needs of tomorrow.

Viewed from this angle, research has an essential contribution to make. What does it amount to in France? What difficulties does it face? What are its strengths?

The actors

Urban research is conducted by major research establishments (mainly the CNRS and ORSTOM) and by higher educational institutions, i.e., planning institutes and university laboratories. In addition, a number of engineering consultancies and NGOs are involved in research and studies, both as users and producers.

Thus, about thirty bodies are continually doing research into the urban problems of the third world. Of these, less than around 10 claim to be specialised in both urban and third world matters. Geography and sociology still account for much of the urban research produced, but multidisciplinary courses in training for research occupy a more important position. This opening up has been confirmed by a 10 year survey of trends in the subjects studied. This survey has also highlighted the switch from monographs/case studies to thematic studies. Such reorientation of research work owes a lot to incentive schemes (the REXCOOP programme, the ministry of research's invitations to tender, the Plan urbain and, more recently, schemes organised by the ministry of foreign affairs).

Most research work is still dedicated to the countries within the jurisdiction of the ministry of cooperation: 75% of university urban research work is centred on North and sub-Saharan Africa, 20% on Latin America, and less than 4% on Asia.

Three types of problems

The first type of problem is not specific to France, but there is a greater sensitivity to it in this country than in Anglo-Saxon countries: it is the tendency of centres of research and expertise to gravitate to those international organisations that are active in the urban sector (UNDP, UNCHS and especially the World Bank). This trend seems to have accelerated in recent years.

A second set of problems arises from the very structure of the research community in France and its recent history. It is split into a large number of units which have found it extremely difficult to coordinate their initiatives. This dispersion often makes it impossible to reach the critical mass that would be required to make significant progress in the study of certain themes or regions. Moreover, for lack of durability, it does not permit sufficient capitalisation of acquired knowledge.

Changes in the organisation of research and of studies in the urban sector from 1985 to 1989 seriously hindered the implementation of a research policy, with the termination of the REXCOOP programme, the disappearance of several large consultancies and of the Cooperation and Planning Agency (ACA), the dissolution of ORSTOM's «D» (urban development) department, the disbandment of the architecture, urban and social section of the CNRS, etc.. Incentive schemes sometimes succeeded in preserving acquired knowledge. But, with a few exceptions, they failed durably to consolidate centres of research and to build up a solid network of research units which adopt an approach specific to urban problems in the third world in terms of both research and operational action.

The third type of problem, which is specific to France, arises from the ambiguous relationship between the research world and the world of operationally orientated studies.

The two approaches are obviously complementary, but sometimes lacking in practice. This is due to disciplinary, professional and sectional compartmentalisation and to different cultural references. Several schemes have been implemented, notably the REXCOOP programme, for the purpose of, among other things, establishing sustainable links between research and operational work; programmes too short-lived to have had more than limited results.

But French urban research has a lot going for it

In the first place, French research has a potential that is unique in Europe: major research establishments staffed by a stable corps of researchers.

Secondly, French research has capitalised knowledge of a number of powerful subjects to an extent that is internationally recognised (including the strategy of actors, work and social mobility, relationships between different levels of power, land management and regulation, housing policy, water treatment, waste management, renovation-conservation of the urban heritage, urban transport).

Finally, over the last decade, French research has proved its special capacity for analysing the linkages between the social and technical aspects of the above-mentioned areas of study.

Reorganisation of the French urban research community

The reorganisation of French urban research has been characterised, on the one hand, by the emergence of new sets of questions posed by actors not directly involved in the production of research (NGOs, local authorities, etc.), and, on the other hand, by a less distinct separation of urban research into developing and developed countries, in terms of both subjects and methods of research.

This reorganisation has been reflected in the setting up of new multidisciplinary federative research bodies which function as networks: the PIR-Villes of the CNRS, the «Interurba» research grouping, L'Ecole des Hautes études urbaines, as well as the creation in the Paris area of a research and training centre with an international reputation.

But there is no doubt that a coordinating element is missing, i.e., a major forum for permanent exchanges between the research world and action specialists involved in cooperative ventures in the urban sector. No institution has taken over the coordinating role that used to be played by the SMUH, which had become known as the ACA.

Alain Durand-Lasserve,
CNRS, GDR-Interurba

Natural space in an Indian metropolis : Ahmedabad

Pierre-Marie Tricaud was charged by the development and scientific, technical and educational cooperation department of the French ministry of foreign affairs with running a research programme into the management of «natural space» in the large metropolitan areas of developing countries.

The object of this programme was to study the importance, the evolution and the role of natural space and natural elements (animal and vegetable populations, natural habitats) in the major conurbations in developing countries. So the following have been studied: green belts, suburban space, green space, rivers and riverside areas, urban agriculture and stock breeding.

Thus, by making professionals more aware of these questions, the goal has been to improve the management of the interface of urban areas and natural space, with a view to responding better to the needs of all urban inhabitants for improved supplies (of vegetables, fodder, livestock, etc.), job creation, a better quality environment, leisure and cultural facilities.

In addition to bibliographical sources, this programme was based on five monographs of the following cities: Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Ibadan (Nigeria) in black Africa, where the emphasis was on urban agriculture; Tunis and Cairo (the emphasis being on the demand for pleasure gardens and plans for green belts in reclaimed arid areas); and, finally, Ahmedabad, which is described in this article.

This last study, which was conducted in collaboration with «Economie et Humanisme», featured the active involvement of local actors (the municipality, university bodies, NGOs, and, last but not least, the Alliance française). It should result in a number of initiatives that will be taken shortly (the setting up of a working party and experimentation).

The project

Ahmedabad, the capital of the state of Gujarat in north-west India, is a metropolitan area with a population of around 3.5 million inhabitants. It is a very active industrial, commercial and cultural centre.

For the purpose of the study, all the existing data on the various types of vegetation to be found in the metropolitan area were collected. Only the parks (60 of them totalling 115 hectares, i.e., 0.5% of the conurbation's total



West bank, Ahmedabad

Pierre-Marie Tricaud

surface area) and the woodland managed by the state were more or less accurately identified. So the study stressed the important contribution that remote sensing could make to the drawing up of a systematic, accurate and up-to-date inventory, which is indispensable to good management.

The study described the role played by vegetation in improving the urban environment as a whole (biodiversity, temperature, humidity, purity of the air, etc.). However, on the basis of a survey conducted by Dr Anjana Desai on how the inhabitants of Ahmedabad themselves perceived the environment, the study emphasised that the city's inhabitants attached less importance to the physical environment than to the social environment.

Thus, the vegetation had to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the space reserved for strengthening social relationships. These findings corroborated the results of research into open space conducted by the Vastu Shilpa Foundation (VSF) for studies and research into environmental design in Ahmedabad. According to VSF, the space that functions best is space that is common to a specific, i.e., clearly defined and identified, group of users, enabling them to develop their own use of it and permitting social control over its use. The trees that are part of such space have several functions: to provide shade, to be visual landmarks and to act as boundary markers... These considerations are equally true in the case of shanty towns, as has been revealed by a study of Indore. Modern urban planning has often created green space that is

in direct contradiction with these principles: in such cases, the space turns rapidly into wasteland.

Furthermore, on the basis of our own observations and those of researchers in Calcutta, our study drew attention to the trees planted in line along streets and avenues. People associate such plantations with a large number of (often informal) economic, social and religious activities, providing the trees concerned are of suitable species: banyan, pipal, neems, etc.. Here, as elsewhere, we came across the importance attached by Indian culture to natural elements. Various varieties of tree and bush are associated with divinities. So they are considered with special respect and are part of everyday life and ritual (both of which are closely interrelated in Indian culture).

A strategy for developing vegetation

At the heart of any strategy for developing vegetation there is the design and planning of open space with plantations chosen in accordance with the needs and behaviour of the population. On this basis, our study proposes several sectorial projects and submits the basic outline of a plan for developing the natural space available in Ahmedabad.

Philippe Blancher,
Director of «Economie et Humanisme».
Pierre-Marie Tricaud,
landscape architect, IAURIF.

The World Bank and Urban Research

It is not our intention to present a spectrum analysis of the institution and of its ability to produce urban research. We wish simply to share our thoughts on the Bank's practice in its African theatre of operations, the one we have been most active in as a consultant, a project planner and an actor often involved at the Bank's request or at the request of the state concerned.

Urban research is not one of the Bank's major preoccupations. It is mainly concerned about the smooth running of international cooperation in the urban sector: it wants to maximise such cooperation, the scope for which, when viewed from the field, seems to be limited only by the receiving country's ability to manage the flows of funds, to accept them and, in principle, to reimburse them.

This should reassure those who entertain simple ideas on the division of labour: research is for research institutions, teaching is for teachers, and world development is the Bank's sole object.

It is true that none of the basic concepts of urban sociology or economics produced over the last 30 years is attributable to the World Bank. But it is also obvious that it is continually introducing new mechanisms or processes for the only apparent purpose of always doing even more than what is expected: providing ever more services, more building land, more facilities...

For example, in attempting to limit the social damage of structural adjustments and to bypass government bureaucracies, the Bank «invented» semi-public sector works agencies whose job it is to distribute public-sector works contracts to small enterprises, particularly the more labour-intensive ones. For example, again, when the Bank discovered that it was impossible, in K., to produce building land using the traditional state «parcelling out» procedures, it accepted the idea of collaboration between urban planning departments and traditional landowners who, in any case, could not have been expropriated of their land for lack of funds or lack of resettlement land.

In the second urban project in G., the state was given the leading role to play in servicing and developing new housing sites, because, at the time, it was deemed to be the most reliable, the least uncertain, the least weak decision-making authority... and too bad for the official anti-state line! This sort of innovative empiricism is practised more particularly in



Djibouti

Groupe Huit

the field of urban affairs. When the Bank intervenes in the financial, economic, and industrial fields or when it embarks on the restructuring of its general administration, its thinking seems less flexible and more ideological, evincing a poorer understanding of the dynamics of concrete, local phenomena. Why is the Bank's approach to the urban sector more empirical? Because this sector is in the minority within «the Bank» as an institution. So it lets the urban sector perform a function akin to that of a guided missile's homing devices, and, to boot, without running any risk, given the sector's more or less marginal importance. And also because the urban sector is special in that it does not offer much scope or time for doctrinaire answers. The urbanisation of the third world is a permanent challenge, a threat, and cities themselves look increasingly as if they will be carried away by a tidal wave. Quick action is required: a few connecting roads have to be built; some large water pipes have to be laid; the construction of low-cost housing has to be brought under control; small enterprises have to be made partners in the management of urban services... Once you have seen the ineffectiveness of traditional town planning solutions, of the administrative production of land, and of service or land development concessions, there is no other option than to explore new approaches.

You need only open your eyes to see that some of these new approaches are being systematically explored, whereas others are

being disdainfully ignored: in this category are, for instance, public transport and urban planning, which, by the way, are not in contradiction with the liberal approach to urban management. Generally speaking, the question of the interrelationships between public and private services and between central and local government has been ignored to the benefit of «all private» and «all local» policies, which have been presented naively as the true foundations of genuine liberalism.

In the last analysis, and somewhat paradoxically, the major innovation attributable to the Bank has been its conception of the urban project as a set of purposive investments presented as consistent with each other and making up a package whose impact on development can (must) be measured. The intended result is not so much economic efficiency (although this is still claimed to be the n° 1 objective), which is increasingly uncertain, as social and institutional change considered both as a vehicle for new, immediately applicable solutions and as the groundwork for the long-term introduction of new urban government methods.

The - stormy and fertile - discussions during (and after) work sessions attended by people involved in these projects are always about change. The question of efficiency is never raised.

Jean-François Tribillon

Urban research in Africa

As elsewhere, urban research in Africa really developed when the cities became «problems».

In the 1960s, two symptoms made people aware of the urgent need for urban research: - the «shanty towns»: i.e., the realisation that there was a multiplicity of forms of social housing;

- urban growth: i.e., the many problems posed by the two aspects of urban growth, demographic and spatial.

However, compared with other continents, mass urbanisation came late to Africa. Large cities, highlighting the scale of the problems posed by mass urbanisation, have appeared only recently in Africa. To begin with, African urban research studied the applicability to African cities of concepts defined in Europe and Latin America. Thus, it swiftly locked into the dominant tendencies of international urban research.

Two ways of doing research have always coexisted: the researchers' and the practitioners'. Although implemented by different people, these two approaches have always been cross-fertilised by each other. The studies conducted by one approach into the mechanisms of urban growth have converged with and nourished the preoccupations of the other with the indispensable planning of such growth.

Thus, the theme of the control over spatial and demographic growth has produced both remarkable analyses of urban development and a series of operational tools (the master plan, the SDAU, ...) that bear the hallmarks of either British «physical planning» or French «aménagement du territoire» (town and country planning).

Many studies have been motivated by a new awareness of the unacceptable: the precariousness of the housing in which the poor live. Yet the benefits of such housing have been highlighted: its affordability; the not negligible quality of its construction work; its adaptability; its proximity to places of employment, ...

This led to a radical change of policy, from «slum eradication» to the upgrading of spontaneous settlements. At the same time, with the decisive assistance of the REXCOOP programme, many studies have been completed into the economic aspects of the construction sector and into the production of low-cost housing (notably thanks to the use of local materials).



Douala

Constance Corbier

When it became clear that it would not be possible to bring urban growth under control in the short term, researchers and practitioners gave priority to the provision of essential local services. Extensive research was done into three services: water supply, sewerage, transport.

Spatial expansion poses the difficult problem of how to extend such networks.

The moral imperative, which requires that essential services should be accessible to everybody, has to be reconciled with the need to cover costs. Various combinations of methods were studied. The «imperialism» of the cumbersome interconnected sewerage network has increasingly given way to other techniques based on an individual sewer on each plot of land. As regards transport, stiff competition from private operators has adversely affected almost all public urban transport services. Research has concentrated on proposing ways of linking up the private and public sectors. An area of research specific to Africa has been the study of the various legal systems that govern urban land practices («traditional» law, «colonial» law, «modern» law...).

Thanks to the new awareness among their leading research institutions of the importance of urban questions in the third world, researchers in the North have benefitted from considerable support in their research work. This has not always been the case of African researchers. It is true that they have had some outside support within the framework of

international cooperation (from France, Canada, northern Europe and, more recently, the UNCHS and the World Bank), and thanks to a more elaborate partnership between researchers from the North and the South. But research in Africa is in dire straits. At best, African states can only afford to maintain existing structures. The means of action have disappeared. The only studies that are conducted are those ordered by developed countries. Some researchers have given up all their research ambitions; others are frantically chasing after «survival» contracts.

The same goes for urban research, even though the donors' interest in urban questions remains. However, in a recent fit of energy, African researchers decided to set up a network between them called RIEU (inter-African urban studies network). They have the support of the French cooperation effort. An inaugural seminar has just been held in Brazzaville. They have just received an order for a survey of the current state of urban research in Africa.

We can only express the hope that, thanks to this will to exist, African urban research will be reborn.

Jean-Paul Duchemin

Ciudadagua

Ciudadagua is a decentralised cooperation programme between Europe and Latin America in the field of drinking water and sewerage systems. It was launched by «Cités unies développement» in 1988. The programme is based on a series of symposia that bring together representatives of Latin American and European towns, most of whom are, in fact, French and Spanish. The Latin American delegations include all the actors whose roles are related to urban water supply, i.e., mayors, heads of water supply departments, representatives of local associations and social scientists, who are often involved in providing representative organisations with technical assistance.

Each symposium is prepared for by a research programme of which the analyses and conclusions provide the raw material for debate. Thus, the highlighting of urban issues is not a secondary preoccupation; it is almost the main motivation for the research work; and the symposia as such are more like forums for an exchange of views than seminars.

The research is carried out by Latin American teams belonging to a network - called REDES

- which already existed but which has been significantly strengthened and dynamised as a result. It is now established in all Latin American countries. The network coordinates the programmes in collaboration with a French researcher.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to achieve the aim of setting up cooperative ventures with European researchers, for lack of funds for such activities. In fact, to date, only the Plan urbain is committed to such financing.

However, three programmes corresponding to three symposia have been completed. The aim of the first one (Montevideo symposium) was to make an overall diagnosis of the sector (access to services, economic and institutional situation, technological aspects) on the basis of monographs of five major capital cities. The second programme (Quito symposium, January 1990) was dedicated to the participation of inhabitants in the creation and management of networks. The third one (San José de Costa Rica, June 1991) was about the integrated management of drinking water supply and sewerage systems.

The results of this research work certainly amount to the best set of analyses of urban water in Latin America currently available. One of the shortcomings of these programmes is undoubtedly the failure to examine more deeply the problems of technological choices and of international aid. The next programme should partially make up for this, as its object will be to assess the decentralised cooperative ventures undertaken within the framework of Ciudadagua.

All in all, over 17 research centres have been mobilised in Latin America by these programmes and the official reports of the first two symposia have been published. An association has been set up called ALCEPA, of which 500 drinking water and sewerage departments are now members. A Latin American confederation of «pobladores» has also been set up.

It is planned to hold the next Ciudadagua symposium in Brazil in 1994.

Daniel Faudry,
Member of the Ciudadagua
standing committee

Financial transfers from cities to rural areas

It is often said that, in developing countries, the cities exploit and weaken the rural areas. It is true that certain mechanisms, such as the authoritarian fixing of some prices, may have had such an effect. But other mechanisms, notably state budgets, have had the opposite effect. This has been revealed by the results of research by the OEIL, a University of Paris XII laboratory.

OEIL researchers -Rémy Prud'homme, Laurent Davezies, Bernard-Henri Nicot, Yara Oliveira - first studied the case of Paris, and then the cases of Casablanca, Abidjan, Bangkok, and Sao Paulo. This research benefitted from various fundings, including the government of Morocco, the World Bank and the government of Brazil. As regards the method used, its principle was simple, but its application was complicated. The budget of the country concerned was broken down into several hundred receipt and expenditure items. Each of these items was allotted to the city in question and to the rest of the country, with a view to finding out who effectively bore the tax burden, and who effectively benefited from the services thus financed. If there were

several reasonable ways of allotting the items, they were all tried out, which amounted to a sort of generalised sensitivity study.

The results leave no room for any doubt: what the large cities contribute to the national budget exceeds what they receive from it. These findings are not surprising, and even less deplorable. The cities make big budget contributions because of the concentration of activities and wealth within them. The rural areas are too poor to be taxed. Even though city-dwellers receive «slightly more than their share» of the national budget, they ultimately lose out. This redistribution of funds by the budget is a desirable form of solidarity.

But these findings have political implications. They show that the cities are not monsters that suck away the lifeblood of the rural areas and slow down the economic development of the country as a whole. They are places where productivity - and hence receipts - are higher than elsewhere, and places which redistribute a part of this surplus productivity. Cities need to be organised and managed, not fought against, if we want to stimulate development.

Rémy Prud'homme, l'OEIL

Financial transfers between cities and the rest of the country induced by national budgets					
	Abidjan 1984	Bangkok 1987	Casablanca 1982	Sao Paulo 1985	Paris 1984
Share of the country's population (%)	18	14	12	12	18
As % of national budget					
Contribution to budget	54	41	34	20	26
Gains from budget	25	28	18	14	19
Transfers	25	13	16	6	7
Transfers per inhabitant (\$)	200	160	400	90	870
Transfers as % of GNP	5,3	2,5	6,5	7,4	1,7

News about Overseas Development

Restructuring of the ministry of cooperation

The ministry of cooperation has been partially restructured. This move was motivated by the need to streamline the ministry's internal organisation and the need to be more responsive to the new realities of developing countries. The development department is now made up of four sections (compared with seven before) : institutional development, economic development, health and social development, education and human resources. As part of this transformation, the urban development office has been incorporated into the new "city and decentralisation office" at the same time as its area of competence has been enlarged to include decentralisation and town and country planning matters, greater local management and development powers, in both rural and urban areas, urban development projects and, finally, decentralised cooperation.

This new office will ultimately be comprised of a multidisciplinary team of seven executives and four administrators.

Contact: *Félice Starling, ministère de la Coopération et du développement, bureau de la déconcentration, de la décentralisation et de la coopération décentralisée (DEV/IDD) 1 bis, avenue de Villars, 75007 Paris-France.*

Appointments

Jean Faussurier, a TPE engineer, has been appointed as the officer in charge of India and south-east Asia in the international action section of the ministère de l'équipement, du logement et des transports.

Civilian development cooperation appointments in 1993

Burkina Faso

Dominique Bertrand, an TPE engineer, has been appointed to the post of coordinator at the department of land transport in Ouagadougou.

Mexico

Gilles David, an TPE engineer, has been appointed to the post of adviser to the Mexican institute of water techniques in Mexico.

Municipal Development Programme (PDM)

The PDM has launched its programme of seminars on the subject of municipal development.

From November 4th to 6th 1992, a seminar was held in Cotonou on «the municipal challenge and human resources». Abidjan hosted a meeting on the subject of «Municipal credit» from November 16th to 20th 1992. The PDM also actively participated in the training course for cooperation staff on the subject of «Municipal development» in Cotonou from November 9th to 12th, 1992.

Between six and eight more seminars are to take place in the first half of 1993, at the same time as the beginning of formalisation work on the subject of local finances, municipal management indicators, ... The programme unit will organise one-off support missions, at the request of beneficiaries.

Contact: *Jean-Pierre Elong M' Bassi, PDM Module Afrique de l'Ouest, BP 01-3445, Cotonou, Bénin.*

Invitation to tender by the ministry of research and space on the subject of cities in developing countries

The ministry of research and space announced an invitation to tender entitled: «Crisis and transformations affecting cities in developing countries». The date limit was 19th March 1993.

The transformations affecting cities in developing countries indicate the three sub-themes of the research to be done within the framework of the invitation to tender:

1. The redistribution of urban powers.
2. The segmentation of urban societies.
3. Changes and effects of urban policies.

The selection criteria are: relevance to the three sub-themes, a multidisciplinary approach, genuine collaboration with research teams in developing countries, the amount of field research and of assessments.

The person in charge of the invitation to tender: *Pierre Trincaz, ministère de la Recherche et de l'espace, département recherche pour le développement, 1 rue Descartes, 75015 Paris-France. Tel: (33.1) 46 34 32 36. Fax: (33.1) 46 34 37 06.*

Interurba

- At last, the «Interurba» research group has got an address and has started publishing a news letter called «Urbinfo» which gives details about the research programme, working groups and seminars. It also talks about member training activities and gives news from correspondents.

Contact: *GDR-Interurba, 109 rue de Turenne, 75003 Paris, France, Tel: (33 1) 42 71 20 98, Fax: (33 1) 42 71 20 91*

Other networks:

- Inter-African urban studies network (RIEU)

This association is charged with fostering contacts, research and collaboration between African researchers and practitioners and their partners from other continents; it also aims to coordinate research, training and information programmes, and to promote new themes.

Contact: *Robert-Edmond Ziavoula, ENAM/CERPAD, Université Marien Ngouabi, BP 1191, Brazzaville - Congo*

- Red de Estudios de los servicios urbanos en América Latina (REDES)

A research network specialised in urban services in Latin America composed of researchers from various bodies in Chile, Colombia and Peru. It has the support of the French agency: «Cités unies développement». Contact: *Marcelo Nowersztern, CUD, 22 rue d'Alsace, 92700 Levallois-Perret-France. Tel: (33 1) 47 39 36 86, Fax: (33 1) 42 70 37 99.*

- **Citynet**: a regional network of local authorities for the management of organisations in Asia and the Pacific in partnership with NGOs.

Contact: *Secrétariat Général, U.N.ESCAP, Division of industry, human settlements and environment, Rajadamnern avenue, Bangkok, 10200 Thailand.*

- Association pour une fondation des villes et territoires méditerranéens.

Contact: *Jean-Claude Jager, Délégué général, C/O Ecole d'Architecture de Marseille-Luminy, 184 avenue de Luminy, Case 912, 13009 Marseille, France. Tel: (33.1) 91 26 79 79, Fax: (33 1) 91 82 12 81.*

Symposia

Toronto - Canada June 12-17 1993

Reinforcing our communities. 31st world congress of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA). Four major sub-themes: local autonomy, economic vitality, communal well-being, integrity of the environment.

Contact : IULA '93 Congress Secretariat , Station 1060 - Metro Hall, 55, John Street, TORONTO, Ontario, Canada M5V 3C6, tél. 416-392-8673; fax. 416-392-3751

Johannesburg - South Africa Sept 20-24 1993

WASTEX. International environment show and WATER AFRICA, African congress-exhibition on water.

Contact : Specialised Exhibitions, P.O. Box 2900 JOHANNESBURG 2000, République Sud Africaine

Montreal - Canada Sept 21-25 1993

The citizen and sustainable development. Metropolis' 93: 4th congress of the worldwide association of large metropolitan areas.

Contact : Congrès Metropolis '93, Communauté Urbaine de Montréal, 2, Complexe Desjardins C.P. 129, Montréal (Québec) Canada H5B 1E6, él. (1-514) 280 40 68, fax.(1-514) 280 42 44

Book Review

Les thèses françaises sur les villes des pays en développement (1980-1990) by François Leimdorfer and Laurent Vidal. - Paris: GDR-Interurba, 1992, 159 p. (Coll. Pratiques urbaines, 10).

A statistical and lexicological analysis of the titles of a corpus of 622 PhD theses presented in France from 1980 to 1990 in the field of urban studies on developing countries. This analysis is part of a general survey by the «Interurba» research group of the identification of the entire system of French research specialised in the urban sector in developing countries.

Distribution: AITEC, 14 rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris-France
Prix : 50 F TTC

Mobilité et transports dans les villes en développement.

CODATU V, Sao Paulo, Sept 1990, directed by Xavier Godard. - Paris: L'Harmattan, 1992.- 233 p. (Coll. Villes et entreprises).

Beyond CODATU V, the question raised is: what forms of financial transfer and of influence affect local transport policies and the implementation of suitable solutions through the international exchanges that cities in developing countries benefit from? Economic and financial exchanges, but also exchanges of technologies and organisational models, north-south exchanges but also south-south...

Distribution: L'Harmattan, 5-7, rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 75005 Paris-France
Prix : 140 F TTC

Habitations et habitat d'Asie du Sud-Est continentale, published by J. Matras-Guin and C. Taillard. - Paris: L'Harmattan, 1992. - 233 p. (Coll. Recherches asiatiques).

The result of multidisciplinary thinking, this book studies the dynamics of the relationships between space and society at three local levels: the home, the rural village or the urban district. It also studies how the grouping of villages or urban districts achieves the linkages with urban and state societies of Indochinese rural or urban populations still in Indochina or living in the western world.

Distribution: L'Harmattan, 5-7, rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 75005 Paris-France
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