

# Villes en développement



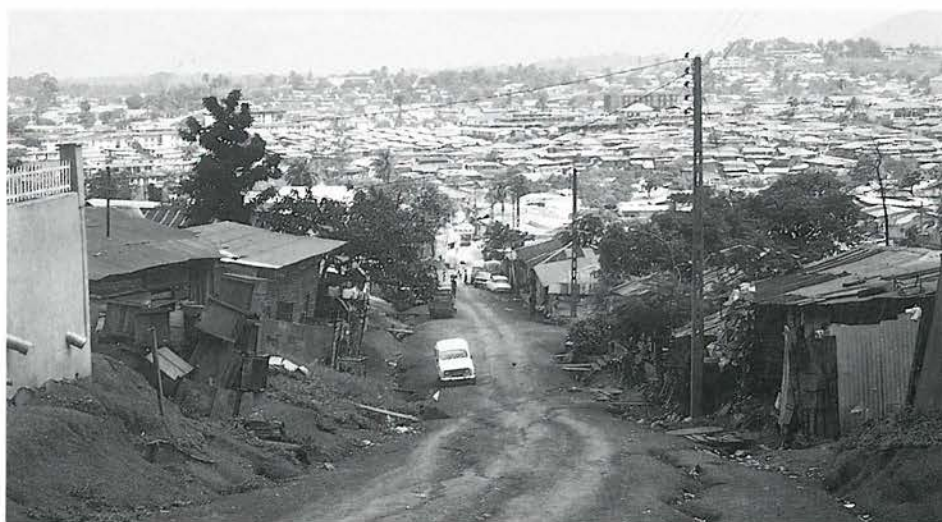
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## Space and Time in Cities

**S**pace and Time in Cities was the theme of a one-day ADP<sup>1</sup> seminar held on September 3 1993. It suggests 2 lines of reflection to urban development and aid professionals.

First, the end of the 20th century will be remembered as the period during which a worldwide network of great interconnected metropolises was formed, in which economic, social and political powers were concentrated. This network was the foundation for a society in the forefront of «modernity» which may have been tempted to ignore what was occurring in the vast interjacent expanses<sup>2</sup>. Today, we may ask ourselves what lessons can be drawn from the success of the Asian city-states, town and country planning problems in Europe, and the desertification of the huge areas of Africa that are devoid of real towns and cities? What is to be thought of the sudden revival of town and country planning in France, whose effects, in terms of time and space, on the development of the Ile de France region are unforeseeable?

Second, given that the planning of space must be sufficiently comprehensive and long-term to guide decision-making by «investors», urban development professionals need to change the scale on which they carry out their studies. It will be necessary to adapt planning procedures to the fact that, today, a great metropolis covers several thousand m<sup>2</sup> and comprises hundreds of different areas whose dynamics operate according to time-scales ranging from 1 year (the economic climate, the property market) to half a century (to redevelop a city). Such a metropolis directly influences regions situated within a 300 km radius (i.e., within a 1 to 2 hour train journey). At the same time, policies have to be implemented that foster both sufficient economic development (if only at the



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irregular level) and the establishment of social relationships (always an excessively long process). Too many of the cities that have mushroomed throughout the world have deteriorated into Mafia-controlled ghettos. However, it must be remembered that cities also exist thanks to urban development projects. Testifying to changes in the spirit of the time at different periods, such projects help to differentiate urban spaces, to establish new urban centres or to reinforce existing ones, to give meaning and identities to neighbourhoods that otherwise would be soulless. It is difficult to organise and finance such projects. Hence the importance of

designating in good time the areas where these projects are to be located for their most opportune implementation.

Given that the year 2000 will herald the start of a new era in which, for the first time, the urban population will outnumber the rural, we realise that influencing the construction of cities that do not exclude people from society remains a formidable challenge.

**François Noisette**

<sup>1</sup> Association des professionnels du développement urbain et de la coopération.

<sup>2</sup> J.Ch. Ruffin, «Les nouvelles terres inconnues» in: l'Empire et les nouveaux barbares, Lattès, 1991.

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# The links between urban crises and state crises

*In presenting these thoughts on the links between urban crises and state crises, and also, as we are at an ADP seminar, on the links between theorising and professional practice, we shall only review a few questions.*

## On the notion of crisis

The use of the word 'crisis' twice in the title of this article raises the first question: what does this notion mean, and what does it evoke?

The question is all the more important as its evocations are pervaded by the link between the concepts on which analysis is generally based and the policies that give formal expression to the proposed responses.

Unlike researchers and urban development professionals in other countries, we in France are very quick to say that a situation has come to a crisis. This may be due to the fact that evocations and ways of thinking, and notably the abuse of the notion of crisis, are influenced by history and culture.

These considerations are *not* irrelevant to urban problems. There are two identifiable cultures that permeate the analysis of urban policy and practice. To put it simply, one is the Latin approach and the other the Anglo-American. The former, particularly in France, excels at defining contradictions that are said to find expression in an unacceptable situation, i.e., a crisis which can only be overcome by a radical solution which transcends these contradictions. In the United States, on the other hand, people think contradictions can be lived with and managed. They tend to rely more on the passage of time to solve the problem. Thus, openly violent situations, notably in urban environments, are acceptable in the USA, whereas they would be deemed unbearable elsewhere. The notion of crisis sheds light on the relationship between the analysis of a situation and the policies proposed in response to this situation.

Two other questions relating to the notion of crisis are worth mentioning.

Can we talk about an «urban crisis», and about «failed urban policies»? For some people, we obviously can; whereas for others, all things considered and given the current social upheavals, cities fulfil their functions well enough.

How can we distinguish between the urban crisis as such and crises that simply occur in an urban environment? If the notion of urban crisis covers all the difficulties that occur in an urban context, then it would be more appropriate to talk of a social crisis, as this is a crisis that occurs at the level of society as a whole.

## On urban crises

Today, can we speak about a single urban crisis or about multiple urban crises?

Each national situation is specific. The nation is not the only relevant level of analysis. From this viewpoint, we have reached a historic break which has translated into a state crisis. This does not mean to say that the state has disappeared - far from it. States are in crisis because of the trend towards globalisation and of the questioning of the social transformation strategy summed up by Wallerstein as: «forming a party to conquer the state and to transform society». During this crisis period, the differences between the short, medium and long terms, which are vital to any urban strategy and policy, are blurred. From a geopolitical viewpoint, the urban crises in the South, in Eastern Europe and in the North occur in different situations.

In the South, the urban revolution is not the global extension of Europe's 19th century urban revolution. The link between urbanisation and industrialisation is not the same and is no longer the deciding factor. Urban policies are influenced by structural adjustment and its consequences.

In Eastern Europe, three aspects are worth noting. The cities are in a disastrous state and there are serious maintenance problems. The switch from command economies to free market economies is a gigantic upheaval. The institutional framework governing the relationships between private operators and the public authorities has to be set up from scratch.

In the North, the urban crisis is characterised by the end of the link between housing and wages, and by the calling into question of the public financing of urban development.

## Various hypotheses

Positive solutions exist to the crisis situation described above. In the areas of both

research and professional practice, it is necessary to combine four space-scales (municipal, regional, national, global) and three time-scales (the short, medium and long terms).

In the short term, analogies between the various situations, in the eyes of urban development professionals faced with dramatic realities, allow transfers of and improvements to urban policy and to management tools in areas such as, for example, land, financial, construction and legal engineering policies.

With a short-term horizon, the municipality seems to provide space on a scale least likely to restrict the scope for social transformation. Providing a choice is made in its favour, the space represented by a municipality can provide a framework for a determined policy of establishing relationships between democracy and urban development.

In the medium-term, which is the appropriate time-scale for urban planning and strategy, there is plenty of scope for diversity. The space represented by a nation remains appropriate for transfers, adjustments and attempts to equalise opportunities.

The space represented by major regions and by geo-cultural units is very interesting and can provide a framework for thinking about urban policies in the light of comparative analyses.

The scope afforded by the long-term is considerable. This is the time-scale for transformations on a global level. Testimony to this is the awareness of the importance of urban development matters in all international negotiations (on debt, world trade, the environment, etc.). Conversely, the international environment and global space, by the extent of the constraints they impose, define all urban policies.

From the long-term viewpoint, we also have to think about the connection between trends in scientific thought and social change, because the philosophical and urban evocations that we call our «thoughts on urban development» have always been formed on the basis of this connection.

Gustave Massiah, ACT

# Neighbourhood-driven urban development

By the end of this century, half the population of the world will be living in urban areas. Three of the world's 25 megalopolises will be situated in the North; and the rest in Asia and Latin America.

In 3rd world cities, which have resulted from uncontrolled urban growth, this concentration of population is a challenge that few states have the human and material resources to face. The urban policies implemented until now have proved inadequate.

In the face of increasing migration from rural areas and smaller towns and of a housing shortage which governments do not make up for (in Mexico, the public sector covers only 3.5% of the annual housing shortage), self-help or non-formal settlements have been growing more and more on the periphery of metropolitan areas. These forms of settlement currently account for between 60% and 85% of urban housing. In Brazil, a third of the urban population lives in *favelas*. In 6 years' time, two thirds of the population of Caracas will be living in the *barrios de ranchos*, and in Lima 40% in *pueblos jóvenes*. In Guadalajara, over a third of the city's surface area is currently used by *asentamientos irregulares*.

What significance should be given to the social dimension of such housing, and what role should be assigned to these neighbourhoods, whose existence cast doubt on land use policies?

As it would be beyond the scope of this article to develop my answer, I shall have to simplify it, at the risk of setting up a dualistic dichotomy: today, the dynamics of urban development turn on the opposition between a **formal urban sector** and a **self-help or irregular urban sector**.

The formal sector is regulated by planning. It operates in co-operation with several sectors of the formal economy and the support of specialised technicians who say: *planning will produce ordered growth in line with needs and the required financial equilibrium; this, in turn, will improve the quality of urban life*. Hence the following sequence: defining standards->design->servicing->construction->sale->occupancy. The self-help (irregular) sector, which is continually changing and out of line with accepted technical and economic standards, is driven above all, with the support of the majority of its occupants, by the social need for housing. Hence the following sequence:



*A self-regulated neighbourhood in Guadalajara (Mexico)*

*Germàn Solinis*

sale->occupancy->construction->servicing  
->regularisation of tenure.

Again, it would be beyond the scope of this article to categorise these forms of production which concern low-income or even «status-less» groups of people. So I shall only mention their importance as generators of new forms of social life and of contributions by grass-roots groups to the organisation and management of urban life. The self-production of settlements on the periphery of Latin American cities implies the setting up of specific, participatory processes which develop out of the occupants' experience of co-managing successive confrontations with the state and local authorities.

By increasing their negotiating skills, in the absence of other actors, these occupants themselves become the agents, i.e. the actors, of another form of urban development.

Social organisation is both a prerequisite to and a means of initiating people into social and political relationships. Although the occupants' capacity for self-regulation does not necessarily lead to their political mobilisation, the evidence from our research shows that it does at least result in a process of community action and training.

This organising process involves 4 stages.

**1) Self-help housing.** This takes place at regional level through the extended family and mutual support networks.

**2) Service provision.** In neighbourhood units, neighbours form teams from which natural leaders emerge and of which women are the most dynamic members.

**3) Management.** At the municipal level, the local organisation is institutionalised in a more or less representative group, depending on the role played by outside leaders.

**4) Claiming.** At city level, links are forged with other city political groups through alliances, misalliances, co-opting or autonomous co-operation.

The action of the inhabitants of peripheral neighbourhoods highlights the break with a model of behaviour, and the end of the direct connection between urbanisation and industrialisation. In Mexico, in less than 30 years, urban policy regarding these «abnormal» forms of urban development has gone through several phases, from repression to legitimisation via regularisation: it has been a history of failed interventionist policies and of change in the role of the state.

So the question is: does what has been occurring in these irregular neighbourhoods foreshadow the emergence of a new urban policy which takes into account the inhabitants' practices, their visions of the world, their aspirations and their claims? Civil society has to speak out in favour of a different future, as the foundations of city identities are to be found in city neighbourhood units and not in high-tech summit meetings.

**German Solinis**  
**Secretary General of ARCI**  
**(l'Association de Recherche**  
**Coopérative Internationale)**

## Civil society & crisis/miracle in the informal sector

The concept of the informal sector was invented at the beginning of the 1970s to depict the efforts made by rural migrants newly arrived in urban areas to survive, at a time when industry and the formal modern sector were unable to absorb them. Subsequently, this concept was extended to include all very small-scale craft enterprises, and then the multiple activities of wage-earners anxious to preserve their living standards.

The informal sector has always had the following features: ease of entry, a small scale of activity, family ownership, low standards of education, use of local resources, and non-compliance with legal and administrative regulations. Today, it encompasses a wider range of activities, including the person working at home, hawkers and the small business owner who has neglected to comply with all the formalities. However, the informal sector must not be mistaken for the illegal and fraudulent underground economy.

Today, at a time of crisis and general structural adjustment in most developing countries, the informal sector has become a workshop of private initiative and free enterprise, but also a scrap-heap onto which all the casualties of structural adjustment are dumped and left to fend for themselves. So it is understandable that the public authorities are beginning to view with less condescension a sector which symbolises their powerlessness. At a time when unemployment rates have been soaring, particularly in urban areas, the growth of the informal sector's small-scale activities has been the only way of keeping these rates within certain limits. These limits are not acceptable, but they do at least enable a civil society in disarray to adapt to a new and difficult situation, at the same time as it drastically changes the rules of the game. This also explains why the following international definitions of the informal sector were adopted in January 1993 by the 25th international conference of labour statisticians and included under the working population concept: family enterprises that do not employ any permanent personnel; very small enterprises that employ permanent personnel without declaring them or that are below a certain threshold in terms of size. Thus, all these economic units belonging to the household sector now make up what is known as the informal sector.



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From now on, their number will have to be regularly estimated by every population study and census.

In developing countries, the informal sector accounts for between 20% and 80% of jobs outside the agricultural sector. These figures are lower in urban areas, where most jobs in the formal modern sector are concentrated. The income of the small entrepreneurs in the informal sector is on average much higher than the wages paid in the formal modern sector; even hawkers earn much more than the minimum wages, as several surveys in African cities (Niamey, Conakry) have shown. These surveys have also shown that employees in the informal sector are almost the only workers whose wages approach the legal minimum, which again is more than what theory would have us believe they earn. At least, all this was true at the beginning of the 1980s.

After over a decade of austerity, what remains of the informal sector's miracle today? Everywhere, employment in the informal sector has grown constantly and rapidly: over the last decade, it has increased from 20% to 25% of the non-agricultural working population in Algeria, and from 69% to 75% of the same in Mauritania, to mention just two countries where estimates have been made at various periods. In Latin America, employment in the informal sector has increased by 6.8% a year compared with 3.3% in the rest of the economy excluding agriculture.

But, at the same time, GDPs were stagnating! So income per head should have declined and the miracle of the informal sector should have ended in increasing poverty. Although we do not have reliable data yet on incomes in the informal sector in recent years, there are reasons to believe that the miracle still persists: GDP remains an uncertain indicator, particularly as the informal sector has expanded and as restrictions on the wage bill can be more than made up for by the increased speed at which money circulates, by links with the underground economy (smuggling on the borders between monetary zones) and especially by the acceptance of the idea that both the formal sector and the public authorities should be fostering the development of the informal sector.

As households' purchasing power is declining, the markets for public procurement contracts must open up to the informal sector. In several countries, agencies have been set up for the purpose of making small companies in the informal sector eligible for urban development work and for labour-intensive public works programmes on the basis of the decisive criterion of the number of jobs created. In other words, cities, which all too often have forgotten about their inhabitants, must provide them with work.

Jacques Charmes, ORSTOM

# The joys and sorrows of urban planning

The theme of our Association's 1993 seminar - «Space and time in cities» - immediately evokes, from a practical viewpoint, planning and the need to take the long-term into account. The practice of urban planning has undergone great change over the last 30 years, especially in developing countries. The urban development plans of the 1960s were very different from the practices of today. Indeed, today, urban planning has gained from new and complementary economic, financial, social, legal and institutional approaches.... As regards developing countries, however, one cannot but detect in this rapid diversification of approaches a degree of impatience on the part of international organisations in their quest for a means of keeping the urbanisation of these countries under control and even, beyond this, of regulating urban behaviour in developing societies. So it is useful to attempt to describe the various forms of urban planning, to compare them with each other and to relate them to the objectives that have been set and to the context.

Planning by objectives or by results. In the field of urban development, the object of the planning has a physical reality and a durability which quite naturally induce people to «design» a city, and to do so with the long term in mind. As it takes a lot of time and a lot of people for designs to become reality, it is necessary to have a precise document which everybody has to comply with. In France, it is traditional for the public authorities to endeavour to get such documents approved and implemented.

In countries where the Anglo-American tradition prevails, the practice is different and is obviously inspired by different conceptions of the role of public authorities and of relationships between citizens and authority. Perhaps it is the traditional opposition between common (unwritten) law and written law? Undoubtedly, yes. The one is based on detailed prescribed texts whose application must leave little scope for interpretation; the other says as little as possible, leaving application and interpretation to jurisprudence and the right of appeal.

White papers and policy papers were supposed to influence our ideas. The results have not met these expectations. It is not necessary to invoke the work of F. Braudel to state that a city is at once a space, an

economy and a society, and to conclude from this that city planning has to deal with these three dimensions without favouring any one of them. Which is easier said than done! The planning of each dimension has a specific logic requiring specific methods. And this applies to both the urban and the rural worlds, and to both the neighbourhood and the regional levels.

The whole of social life has been taken over by economic considerations, to the extent that economics is now seen as the only way, or even as the aim, of controlling change. The obvious reason for this is that the economic approach has developed powerful rational modelling tools... To such an extent that very serious problems have been relegated to the status of «the social dimension of structural adjustment»! This has given substance to the idea that all planning has to be based on this type of rationality. In spite of the progress of quantitative geography, physical planning is most often considered as part of the social dimension.

And yet people do recognise the importance of the spatial dimension. Sophisticated econometric studies have been made of economies of scale and external economies linked, for example, with urban density or with siting. Urban productivity is a fashionable concept, even though its definition is not clear. Nevertheless, these have been feeble attempts to take urban realities into account. And the idea that urbanisation is the driving-force of the division of labour and of development is still vigorously being questioned.

Just when overall urban planning is declining, sectoral planning - of drinking water and electricity distribution networks and even of transport - has been increasing sharply. The object of such planning is easy to identify. Above all, the management of such activities is similar to that of a company. As if a city were no older than any company! And all-encompassing: networks do not grow in a void. It would be more appropriate to refer to such «sectoral planning» as *programming*.

Is a long-term view incompatible with the profitability of investments? True, at a time when there is a serious shortage of long-term financing, choices have to be made. Although it is indispensable to have a vision of an acceptable future in order to

guide short- or medium-term programming, «futurology» has to stay in its place, which is to shed light on the future without going into detail. What is the point of claiming 10% accuracy in predicting a city's future population if, for the period in question, the annual growth-rate remains at 5%? Fortunately, the problems relating to the environment and to «sustainable growth» are bringing the long-term view to the forefront again, in connection with themes that are more favourable to the physical planner's viewpoint.

The World Bank's urban projects have emphasised the need to modify existing policies. These projects have often allocated aid resources to large-scale projects that concern 10% of the urban population at the most, whereas over the life-time of the projects the urban population has grown by 30% or even 50% in the very conditions that had been denounced! A minimum amount of realism would have prevented such strategic errors. Experimenting is necessary to change urbanisation or housing policies, but it must itself be conducted in the framework of an overall strategy.

The difficulties of project-based interventions and the problems posed by structural adjustment have led to institutional interventions. It was urgent to recognise that you can only plan or programme something which requires continuous management. What is the point of planning the production of a property company whose activity is not based on a stable system of resources and is not clearly identified?

But practice makes perfect. It is no use anticipating the management abilities of various categories of people. Ultimately, healthy budget practices are the *result* of decades of municipal management, and not a *prerequisite*. By trying to produce managers, we risk producing people who are lost in the middle of their own societies.

Land is often considered as an urbanisation resource. Hence the taste for land-use management. And it is true that land speculation and the accumulation of wealth that goes with it are powerful mechanisms at the heart of the urbanisation process. So land can be the object of planning, providing this reality is taken into account as well as the fact that such planning is partly free from the tutelage of the public authorities. Although a modest and inglorious form of planning, it is at least realistic.

Can urban development be planned in cities where informal or clandestine housing is widespread? In any case, it is a travesty of reality periodically to assume that «we» shall find ways of bringing households in the informal sector back into the legal sector (if necessary, by changing the latter) and only to produce planning documents that make no mention whatsoever of the informal sector, which will slip into the interstices between the plans...until a new planning wave analyses the situation again and proposes that the irregular settlements be absorbed, «restructured» and/or blocked!

The temptation is no less strong to use urban planning as a local democracy forum. And yet we know to what extent urban development and power are interwoven: Cameroonian and Nigerian societies are as well informed of the benefits of organised space as Ivorian or Mexican societies; and yet these societies continue to produce anarchic neighbourhoods.... Besides, can planners choose the types of society for which they work or must they try to assess the conditions in which they do their job and to take them into account, for instance, by using the support given by a reliable authority or by running an active representative organisation?

I shall conclude with a witticism: planning needs to be planned. In my view, it is necessary to study the specificity of each situation, to assess the degree of regular management, to identify what can really be planned, to strike a balance between the long and the short term, and between experimenting new practices and sticking to existing practices, and not to sacrifice urgent action and continuity to institutional prerequisites, requiring sustainability .... The ability to take up the challenge of urbanisation depends on simple projects with sensible and sufficiently ambitious aims to mobilise people, and not on sophistication. The context in which each country is switching from a rural to an urban society must also be taken into account. Good planning calls for insight, caution and breadth of vision.

**Michel Arnaud**  
Architect and town planner  
AMNR

## Space and time in cities

*Two hours of debate on: «Space and Time in Cities». A two-column summary with ellipses, oversights and inaccuracies. The author craves the reader's indulgence.*

**Terms :** urban, crisis, macro-economy, transfer, policy, programming, development, social change, economic, planning, land, power, time, dialogue, putting into perspective, co-operation, decentralisation.

**Participants :**

- Jean Dellus : an architect, a town planner, the winner of a prestigious urban planning prize in 1991.

- Michel Arnaud : an engineer, an architect, a town planner, the leader of the round-table discussion.

- Jean-Marie Cour : an engineer, an economist, the World Bank, the OECD.

- Alain Durand-Lasserve : a geographer, a researcher at the CNRS, a member of the Interurba Group.

An audience of about 100 persons : questions, appeals, contributions... and plenty of city-related stories : professional, sometimes emotional, never neutral.

**The main themes of the debate**

**Jean Dellus: 20mn; the French scene.**

*Review:* putting in perspective again; history of urban planning in France.

*The past :* the concerns of the 1960s: managing urban growth. Creation of the corresponding tools: infrastructures and dwellings, therefore urban master plan and high-density housing estates.

*Today:* reconquest of urban space, industrial redeployment, redevelopment of blighted areas.

*Outlook:* to rebuild cities where they stand.

*Decentralised context:* decisions are made locally ; the state as leader ?

*Challenge 1:* to adapt the tools, the structures to these new urban policy objectives.

*Challenge 2:* how to co-operate within the context of a changing French scene?

**Michel Arnaud : the scene in the South (sub-Saharan Africa) 3 times 5 minutes.**

*Questions:* can decentralisation bring decision-making closer to citizens? Has social change been implemented? Can it be?

Economic crisis, states in structural crisis : what role for urban planning? Urbanisation in Africa: what models? Import/export of models: how to go about it?

**Jean-Marie Cour : twice 10 minutes. Time, time, time...,**

*Situation :* review of the North/The North's solution/The North's constraints...no long-term dialogue; probable failure as it does not fundamentally initiate a change of attitude in Africa.

One-off policies without any dialogue : example, structural adjustment...

Africa's integration into the world economy: through the market, cities, city networks, urban agents...

*Challenge 1 :* relating, putting into perspective again. The African urban model is constantly evolving ; it is building itself up everyday...

*Challenge 2 :* to restore, to initiate dialogue about visions, prospects.

**Alain Durand-Lasserve : 20 minutes on reinventing dialogue.**

*Point of view :* it is difficult to imagine Africa without the French experience ; so it is difficult to evaluate the positive or negative impact of the French experience. The models have been transposed : state/nation .... Is there a nation? What role for the state?

*Outcome :* situation blocked; few counter-models.

*Today :* no alternative except decentralisation. But too many copies of the model; possible failure !

*Objectives :* need for dialogue; need for reflection : power, social relationships, democracy, social dynamics ...

*A difficult debate to touch on :* the question of power ; special preserve ; no dialogue between researchers and professionals.

*A concrete and exemplary situation :* land. A dialogue of the deaf. Different interests: buying of support and land rent, on the one hand; transparency and public finances, on the other.

*The method :* to set up venues, moments of dialogue and debate, to negotiate...

**The audience :** 3 contributions/questions. Where do the models come from: who asks for them? Decision-makers often want what there is in the North!

Techniques transferred or stolen.

**5.45 p.m. Conclusion/opening**

To open a dialogue and to take one's time : linking up politics and expertise, cultural identity and external models : a topical debate both in the North and in the South. End of debate : cocktails.

**Fabrice Richey, town planner,  
E 4 international agency**

# Development aid news

## A ppointments

### European Union

- Christian Curé, IDTPE, the former assistant manager of Cités unies développement, joined the staff of the Commission of the European Communities on November 15 1993. He is now working in Mr Ryelandt's department within DG III/B2 as an expert on decentralised development aid.

## Civilian development aid appointments in 1993

### Benin

- Bernard Lesterlin, a sub-prefect, as technical adviser to the ministry of the interior.

- Gérard Egrot, architect-town planner, as technical adviser on patrimonial and housing problems affecting technical assistants to the cultural action and development aid mission.

- Bruno Daly, an economist, as technical adviser to the general manager of SERHAU-SEM.

- Robert Schmitt, as technical adviser on local finances to the head of local authorities.

### Burkina Faso

- Denis Sidot, a local government officer, as adviser to the mayor of Bobo-Dioulasso.

### Cameroon

- Philippe Garnier, a local government officer, technical adviser to the head of local authorities.

### Central African Republic

- Georges Lamoure, an architect, as technical adviser to the general manager of the local government administrative department.

### Ivory Coast

- Hervé Haüy, a property legal expert, technical adviser to the private office of the minister of construction and town and country planning.

- Gérard Desanlis, an architect, technical adviser to the urban department of DCGTx.

### Namibia

- Michel Goguillon, an ENSTIM engineer, as technical adviser on infrastructures.

### Senegal

- Marie-Laure Soucat, a local government manager, as technical adviser to the local authorities department.

## U rban development networks

Cités Unies Développement continues to support the organisation and activities of urban development networks that are particularly interested in the environment :  
- the CIUDAGUA programme : formation of regional committees in the Caribbean, the Andes, the South Cone and Brazil. The six planned national seminars will be followed by the establishment of a local body to stimulate research and to implement a basin management policy;

- support for the functioning and activities of the MEDCITES network of which 18 Mediterranean coastal cities are members;  
- technical secretariat of the MEDURBS networks «Villes Environnement» and «Ecocycle», supported by the Commission of the European Communities, devoted to urban environmental observatories and to recycling and waste collection practices;  
- leadership of a programme of co-operation between cities that are members of the CITYNET network and European cities on the following themes: refuse management; water and sanitation; energy conservation.  
Contact: Cités Unies Développement, 22 rue d'Alsace, 92532 Levallois Perret Cedex. Tel: (33-1) 47 39 36 86; fax: (33-1) 47 39 36 85.

## S outh Africa

### Steering committee on development aid actions in the social housing sector

A seminar on the financing of social housing in France for a delegation of around 15 South African personalities will take place from January 17 to 21 1994 in Paris. This seminar is being organised by Actim in co-operation with the French *Ministère de l'Équipement, des Transports et du Tourisme* and the ministry of housing.

The draft agenda includes the following themes: housing policy and the French institutional framework; the system for financing social housing; owners or customers; urban planning and land control by local authorities.

## A bidjan Mos

Abidjan's urban planning workshop still has a few copies available of the «Atlas of land-use methods (MOS) in Abidjan, in 1989» published in 1993. It proposes to make them available through «Villes en développement».

## Audio-visual products

Two videos have been made available to «Villes en développement», which can provide copies of them on request:

«Des jeunes et des villes» (Cities and the Young), a video produced by AITV for the ministry of development aid on the occasion of the symposium on «Youth, cities, employment» held in October 1992: this film contains interviews of young people, people out of work, urban social workers, and women in the towns and cities of sub-Saharan Africa (30'). The other video was produced by Top Movies for a Municipal Development Programme seminar (West-African module) on «Urban growth in West African coastal cities»: it contains striking pictures of the speed and impact of urban growth, and comments by Mr Nicéphore Soglo, President of the Benin republic. (7').

## D istricts in Niger

A document presenting «Socio-economic images of districts in Niger» was published in June 1993. G. Lamoure and D. Lecompte co-ordinated this publication for Niger's planning secretariat of state and its urban planning and housing department. A few copies are available from the planning ministry (Ministère du Plan) in Niamey or from: la Mission de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle, BP 494, Niamey.

# Symposia

**Dakar, Senegal,  
January 31 - February 4 1994**

Congress of the African water distributors' union (UADE). Themes: management of water resources; communication by African water distribution companies; human resources management; monitoring of the quality of water; how computer science can help the management of drinking water; urban sanitation in Africa.

Contact: *Secrétariat du congrès, c/o Direction générale de la SONEES, 97 avenue André Peytavin, Dakar, Sénégal. Tel: (221) 235091; telex: (221) 61137 SG.*

**Paris, France,  
March 29 - April 1 1994**

**EGIS '94.** - The ADOC network has been charged with organising a session on SIG and remote sensing specially for developing countries.

Contact: *Réseau ADOC - Christiane Weber, Institut de Géographie, 12 rue Goethe, 67000 Strasbourg, France. Tel: (33) 88 35 83 85. Fax: (33) 88 35 84 46.*

**Palma de Mallorca, Spain,  
May 5 - 7 1994**

**Sectoral specialisation and Mediterranean space.** Organised by the research group on regional economies in the Mediterranean basin.

Contact: *GRERBAM - Faculté de Droit, d'Economie et de Gestion, avenue du Doyen Poplawski, 64000 Pau, France. Tel: (33) 59 92 32 97. Fax: (33) 59 80 75 90.*

# Book Review

**L'expérience française du financement privé des équipements publics** (Private Financing of Public Infrastructure: the French Experience). Under the direction of Claude Martinand.- Paris: Economica, 1993.- 194p. As key factors of urban development and planning, there is an increasing demand for public facilities, both in developed and in developing countries, at a time when budgetary constraints and debts are making local authorities and public-sector enterprises feel the pinch. After a more theoretical analysis, this book reviews these challenges through 12 case-studies that highlight the flexibility of the «French model» consisting of delegated management and of public service concessions.

Contact: *Economica, 49 rue Héricard, 75015 Paris - France. Price: FFr125.*

**Nouveau manuel d'aménagement foncier: African cities** (New Land Development Manual: African cities), by J.F. Tribillon. - Paris: ADEF, 1993.- 317p. French (and Portuguese) speaking African countries use quite similar land development tools to deal with urban problems, which are very similar in most cities. Hence this manual, which is based on a large number of concrete experiences in the field. It does not only describe the legal tools, but, above all, it tells us how to use them. This is done by means of a set of descriptive sheets, which are published alongside the thematic chapters.

Contact: *ADEF-Association des Etudes Foncières, Grande Arche Nord, 92044 Paris Cedex 41 - France. Price: FFr175.*

**Assainissement et développement urbain: quartiers d'Afrique noire** (Sanitation and urban development: the neighbourhoods of black Africa). Produced by l'Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès. - Paris: Agence E4 International, 1993.-89p.

This book, which comes with a video showing examples in Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso, analyses the questions and approaches relating to sanitation action taken in under-privileged neighbourhoods in sub-Saharan African cities from the viewpoint of local urban development.

Contact: *Christine Pointereau, Agence E4 International, 81 rue des Archives, 75003 Paris - France. Prices: manual + video: FFr250/Manual only: FFr150/Video only: FFr150.*

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