

Villes en développement



March 1994 - N°23

Water - Health - Cities

At the Rio summit in June 1992, 110 heads of state and of government took two important decisions: they adopted Agenda 21, an official action plan for the environment and development; they set up the Sustainable Development Commission to monitor the implementation of their commitments.

At this commission's first meeting one year later, I proposed that a round-table discussion be held in France on water and health in low-income urban areas, in order to mobilise actors and decision-makers to tackle this crucial problem. In the year 2000, an estimated one billion people will be living in insalubrious conditions in the cities of developing countries and of countries in transition. Because their land is often occupied illegally or because it has been developed haphazardly, these neighbourhoods often do not benefit from organised urban services or investments.

Although major capital investments have been made over the last 10 years, both in rural and large urban areas, an analysis of the situation today has revealed that the basic needs of the inhabitants of secondary cities and of outer suburban neighbourhoods have been inadequately met. Traditional programmes have proven to be unsuitable for the specificities of these areas, thus slowing the process of developing them.

This round-table discussion, which took place in Sophia-Antipolis, France, from February 21 to 23 1994, brought together by invitation about a hundred people, including experts from the countries affected and representatives of the competent international organisations, financial institutions and overseas development aid actors (companies, local authorities and NGOs from the North and the South).

These debates resulted in recommendations of «principles of action», which France will



A village hydraulic pump in the outer suburbs of Ouagadougou

Patrice Deniau (CFD)

present at the next meeting of the UN Sustainable Development Commission in May 1994.

I am pleased that, on the occasion of this round-table discussion, «Villes en Développement» chose to devote a whole issue to the theme of «water, health, cities», and that its feature articles are based on summaries of the round-table discussions' introductory documents covering themes such as water and health, institutional problems, technology and appropriate management methods.

This contribution should broaden the scope of thinking on drinking water supply and sanitation, and mobilise all urban development professionals, who are rightly concerned for the future of rapidly growing populations living in ill-equipped secondary cities and outer suburban areas.

Michel Barnier,
Minister of the Environment

Contents : Water - Health - Cities

Water and health in an urban environment, by Pierre-Marie Grondin

Water in third-world towns and cities, by Gérard Salem

Towards an institutional new deal, by Jean-Marie Tétart

Supplying water to peripheral urban areas, by Jean Jaujay

The programme for the supply of drinking water to the «pueblos juvenes» in Lima, by Henri Claret

Water and Health in an Urban Environment

An analysis of contemporary projects relating to water and health has highlighted *three* medium-term goals, whose attainment would directly reduce the mortality and morbidity due to water-transmitted pathogenic agents: to understand how information is *communicated*; to foster the *participation* of the population concerned; and to assess the *impact on health* of the action undertaken.

In practice, these three goals and the links between them are rarely taken into account when projects are set up or evaluated. Moreover, in an urban environment, the priority needs of the public (waste processing, for example) and the complexity of the water cycle (rain water and household waste, latrines and the ground water table) mean water and health need to be addressed through a holistic and environmental approach favouring *man-environment interaction*.

Communication

Choosing who to communicate with often depends on what needs to be communicated. If children make up the target audience, information could fail to be passed on correctly if parents are overlooked and if the pedagogical tools provided are not suitable for the latter. Similarly, taking only women into account in health promotion activities creates a gap between the two adults responsible for the family's health. Communication specifically with those directly involved - technicians, political decision-makers and local government officials - is usually neglected, creating a gap between what is concretely achieved and the active contributions of responsible bodies. It is impossible to make a reasoned choice specific to each problem because of the excessive diversity of *methods used* and because their effectiveness is not evaluated *in situ*.

Co-ordination of action to raise the awareness of the various partners involved - the state, NGOs and local communities - is rare, which can result in paradoxical and contradictory messages being sent. There is no *mediator* capable of co-ordinating the sometimes conflicting themes and objectives of the various partners.

Should these different aspects lead to the *production of precise and didactic methodological frames of reference*,

benefiting from new experiments in water and health? Should not the *very substance of the pedagogical message* systematically refer to *man's place in the world ecosystem*, taking into account local cultural specificities, instead of limiting itself to an obviously outmoded economic and pasteurian approach?

«Health education» terminology does not reflect the diversity of health-related situations, but rather ideas related to training and the learning process. In order to emphasise more strongly the interaction and the development of ideas relating to hygiene sanitation, the term health promotion *activity* is preferable.

Participation

Little attention is paid to the needs expressed by the populations concerned. Yet such needs are the driving-force behind any primary healthcare actions, which are based on the dynamics of local community life. True, such community-based solidarity has broken down in many regions. And the dynamics specific to a group concerned by a project are present to a varying degree in the minds of outside leaders and decision-makers. But, all too often, externally designed and organised projects are artificially stuck on to given groups of people.

Little is known about the *changes in social life* induced by the construction of a water-supply piping network alongside traditional water holes. The community concerned by a project has to be involved in its conception, implementation and subsequent management. This poses the problem of finding representatives capable of *motivating* the populations and of dealing with central and local government officials and with donors. More generally speaking, should NGOs become *mediators between various development aid actors* and set up structures to act as go-betweens linking donors with local communities?

Should not the study of the relationship between man and his environment be a priority? This would help to understand the needs addressed by each project and to structure the project accordingly.

Here again, the terminology used, such as «*participation of the public*», is unsuitable. Should it not give way to notions such as *explicit involvement and decision-making?*

Health

Outer suburban areas have a dense and permanently growing population. This contributes to the development of faecal and chemical pollution. The transport and storage of drinking water are sources of contamination, posing problems comparable to that of access to water. Few studies have been made of *the impact on health of such a sanitary situation*. Little is known about the degree of parasitological contamination relative to faecal contamination. Domestic and industrial pollution has probably been under-estimated and treatment programmes have not been a priority. It is in this framework that the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends the regular monitoring of the following parameters in drinking-water: faecal coliforms, cloudiness, pH, and residual chlorine content.

Can the quality of water be significantly improved by *daily monitoring of water quality* by a body that is independent of the water producer?

Is it desirable to lower *the standards recommended by the WHO, notably regarding faecal coliforms and cloudiness?* Should the use of *water quality indicators* be replaced by research into how to *change sanitary behaviour* so as to prevent illnesses due to drinking water? Should not the consideration of environmental problems (pollution, exhaustion of reserves, destruction of the living environment) play a *major and original* part in resolving such issues, and even more so in areas where the deterioration in the quality of the environment occurred immediately after a period of rapid development?

The management by neighbourhood inhabitants of their interactions with the environment could rely on inter-sectoral co-operation and on the integration of multi-disciplinary teams (of healthcare professionals, social anthropologists and sociologists, economic and environmental professionals, technicians) in order to avoid simplistic solutions that are not the answers to a critical sanitary and environmental situation.

Pascal Revault, EAST
Pierre-Marie Grondin, PSEau

Water in Third World Cities

Too much or not enough for good health

We have known at least since Antiquity that water is good health's best friend, but also that it is the carrier of many diseases. This singular paradox is most disarmingly illustrated in Third World cities, where there always seems to be either too much or too little water. However the problem of water is dealt with, health problems always arise, and vice versa. In fact, water and health are so closely linked that public health officials routinely use access to water and water consumption as health indicators.

From rain-water to collector-water

To begin with, let us take water in its most banal form: rain. Rain-water is needed for crops grown on city outskirts; these crops are all the more important because city dwellers do not produce what they consume. Thus, the nutritional health of city dwellers depends on the development of such crops, as the quality and accessibility of fresh food products are important to the population, which explains why the development of such crops has been a major aspect of the urbanisation process of developing countries over the last decade. This same rain causes floods, tragedies that repeatedly hit the squatter settlements, which are situated in areas liable to flooding. But, rain-water is also needed to replenish ground-water tables, the quality of which has been diminishing because of the densification of urban housing, increasing use of fertilisers and the development of pollutive industrial activities. Thus, the nitrite and nitrate content of water is often twenty times higher than the norms recommended by the WHO. This polluted water is used both for watering crops and as drinking water by those who have only wells to satisfy their needs. While we are already aware of the tragic effects the consumption of such water has on small children, cancerologists are now studying the effects it has on the digestive systems of 10 to 15 year olds.

Rainfall also leaves water that has collected on the surface, a haven for all sorts of mosquitoes. There is no lack of clean surface-water in which anopheles, the vectors of malaria, can reproduce - a tin filled with water suffices. The high concentration of



Siphoidé - Bangui

Patrice Deniau CFD

dwellings combined with a dense population create new media by which diseases are transmitted, which is all the more serious because city dwellers have low immunity to infections, diseases etc.. Gnats turn into genuine urban mosquitoes because pools of dirty water, their favourite reproductive medium, abound in the city.

From the spring to the tap: what water, for whom and at what price?

Fortunately, water in the city also means drinking water, which raises questions of supply, distribution and disposal.

The quality of water depends on how it is supplied and on the quality of the distribution network. Technically, solutions exist, even in the Sahel, but Third World states often cannot afford to implement them.

Water distribution is much more of a political problem. Everyone realises that investing in water means investing in public health for decades to come. In fact, all too often, water distribution systems meet the needs of political clientage more than the rigorously evaluated needs of users. Having drinking water nearby means better personal hygiene for each individual; but it also ensures the hygiene of the whole environment. Water badly stored in a waterpipe or disposed of through a drainage system which amounts to nothing more than sewage discharged into the street, cause public health problems which are costly for the whole community.

The link between diarrhoea, the main cause of death among children aged between 0

and 4, and water quality has been well established, as have been the relationships between water and intestinal parasites, parasites and malnutrition, malnutrition and health expenditures, health expenditures and lower educational costs, etc.

I take care of water ; another department takes care of health.

So it seems clear that water problems in cities are inseparable from health problems. How, therefore, should we judge the «truthful pricing» water policies implemented by some international organisations? In the name of strict financial orthodoxy, water policy is confined to privatising the water company, and purely and simply getting rid of public standpipes. How can the medium-term costs of this to the health of individuals and of the community be measured?

A World Bank expert in Dakar recently answered the question in this way: «I don't know. I take care of water, another division takes care of health.»

Gérard Salem,
Health Geographer,
ORSTOM

Towards an Institutional New Deal

When discussing the access of low-income urban populations in the Third World to water supply and sanitation, it is traditional to mention the incompetence of water and sanitation companies, whether national or municipal, private or public, or to mention the general economic crisis.

It is true that the internal functioning of the companies providing these services can and must be improved. It is also true that the general institutional framework can be transformed. But these measures alone cannot provide quick solutions to the problem. The right solutions imply, first and foremost, an institutional new deal based on a new partnership at local level between the inhabitants, economic agents, companies providing the water and sanitation services, the central authorities and, of course, the state.

Community Involvement

Community involvement must not be reduced once again to a local programme for making inhabitants more conscious of questions of hygiene, or to using the population as a reserve workforce for self-help projects, or to making an indispensable financial contribution to the construction of neighbourhood facilities.

Community involvement should be part of a city's overall management: it should make neighbourhood committees and the organisations to which they belong partners in designing projects, planning their financing, managing their technical and economic aspects, but also in drawing up an overall strategy for the city. Managing a city does not consist of accumulating one independent neighbourhood project after another.

This approach assumes that the population can form representative and responsible organisations, and that their knowledge of the water and hygiene sector is not limited only to so-called appropriate technologies, but extends also to understanding modern technology and management methods. This also assumes that the machinery for permanent dialogue, consultation and joint work exists not only at neighbourhood level but also at the level of the city as a whole.

The role of the water and sanitation company

Redefining the role of the water supply and sanitation company is also an important element in a strategy for low-income urban neighbourhoods.

This company, whether it is part of the public or private sector, and whether it is a national or a local organisation, can no longer simply be at the exclusive service of the people who are connected up to the water distribution network.

Its mission statement should require that, in partnership with the municipalities and organised communities, it should serve all the inhabitants of a city, whether they are connected to the water network or not, and that it should provide a diversified range of services, including connecting homes up to the water network, laying waterpipes, supplying water by trucks, disposing of used water, emptying cesspools or septic tanks, and providing grass-roots organisations and co-operatives with technical assistance.

New ways of delegating the responsibility for managing facilities and services must be found.

They must successfully combine flexibility with creativity, and financial transparency with a sense of partnership.

Such a redefinition of the mission of the public water and sanitation service is of particular importance at a time when most developing countries are quite rightly encouraging the recourse to private enterprise through leasing contracts, concessions and privatisations.

The public authorities

The state and its local representatives obviously have a major part to play in the institutional new deal, because it is the state that establishes the regulatory and prescriptive conditions that will permit the development of the new deal through the establishment of local partnerships.

A standard, by referring to a single quality requirement, often set at a high level, introduces an element of rigidity which stops any official recognition of the need for a range of different services for different inhabitants. A standard implicitly refers the provision of such services to the informal, derogative sector,

i.e. to what cannot be institutionalised or be the object of a contract. It would certainly be interesting if the state developed more the provision of public services.

The state also organises the decentralisation policy, and therefore defines the rights and duties of local authorities and the conditions in which they can delegate the provision of services to companies and to organised groups of members of the general public.

Under this decentralisation policy, the state should give municipalities an important role to play. As a mediatory body, a municipality can organise negotiations about projects, obtain funds from various sources and co-ordinate the actions of the various actors involved in urban affairs at various levels: the neighbourhood, urban catchment areas, the city as a whole.

Dovetailing has yet to be organised

The key actors of this new strategy for providing the low-income urban population with access to water and sanitation are the grass-roots community organisations, the service-providing companies, the municipalities and the state.

In many of the world's cities, the dovetailing of the actions of these various actors has yet to be organised. Indeed, it is at the heart of the institutional problem, in terms of both water supply in an urban environment and of the decision-making machinery within a local strategy for the protection of the environment.

The discussion of institutional questions should be focused on this need for dovetailing. It could produce recommendations relating to:

- the setting up, at local level, of permanent bodies for the joint management by the various parties concerned of water and sanitation facilities;
- the definition of the powers of municipalities in the area of water supply;
- the development of training programmes for members of grass-roots organisations;
- the reflection on the concept of the provision of differentiated water and sanitation services and their implications for the terms and conditions of privatisation and of concession contracts.

Jean-Marie Tétart
Cités Unies Développement

Supplying peripheral urban areas with water

When reviewing the results of the first decade of provision of drinking water and sanitation in developing countries, we have to recognise that they have not been good in peripheral urban areas and in secondary cities. And yet these are the places that have the highest growth-rates, and in which the most underprivileged or the most unstable sections of the population are concentrated. In fact, the largest investments have been made in the centres of large towns or villages, i.e. in two institutionally well-defined sectors where standardised supply systems have been set up based on well-oiled management models.

The shortcomings of traditional urban hydraulics

The management of urban water and sanitation networks is usually entrusted to public- or private-sector distribution companies whose autonomy is the best guarantee of efficiency: they have to balance their accounts and to cover all their costs including the repayment of borrowings made to finance investments.

The investment and operating costs of urban networks rapidly become prohibitive when:

- housing is not dense enough or badly planned;
- the volume of water distributed is too low and, especially, when the number of subscribers is too small (a few hundred connections);
- the great distance from the central distribution point causes costly drops in water pressure;
- the recovery of costs by periodical invoicing is too uncertain, either in peripheral urban areas or where there is too much competition from traditional watering places (in secondary cities);
- the centres are too dispersed to justify centralised management.

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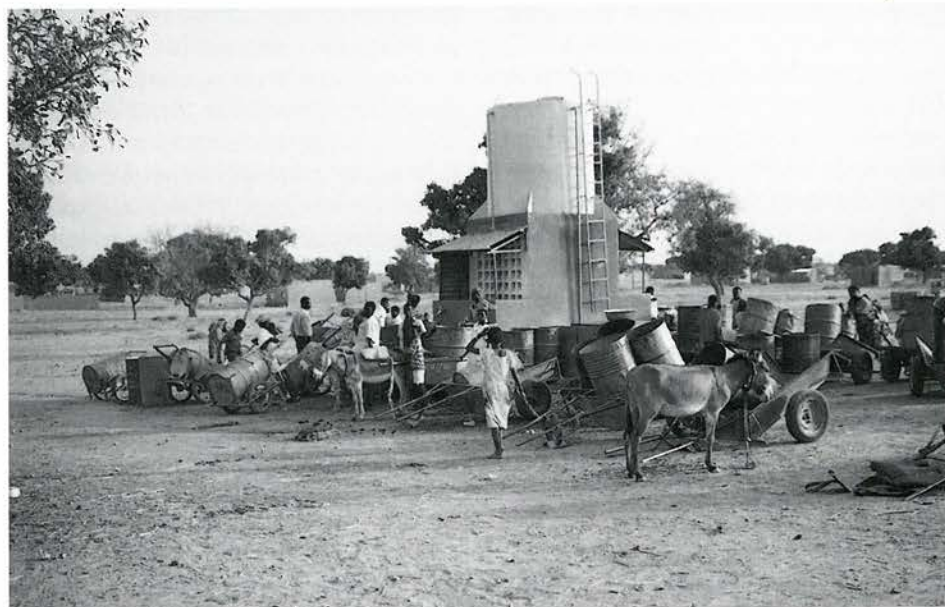
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A proven model : village hydraulics

Village hydraulics is most suitable for villages that have a traditional social structure and several hundred inhabitants.

These villages have been equipped more recently, but very rapidly, on the basis of a model which has been swiftly adopted by all states :

- the watering place is a well fitted with a hand pump;



Watering place - the outskirts of Ouagadougou

Patrice Deniau (CFD)

- the community manages the facility through a voluntary watering place committee;
- the financial contribution to the investment is small;
- the pumps are maintained by local craftsmen;
- the low recurring costs are borne by the users.

The reason for this success is the adequateness between demand and supply, and between a facility and the locally available human, technological and financial resources.

The secondary cities

To supply intermediate urban areas, existing models were applied at first, almost as they were. They quickly turned out to be inappropriate: the (often oversized) networks turned out to be prohibitively costly; the standpipes did not cover the water distribution company's operating costs; the hand pumps, which had been badly maintained, were often abandoned. A hand pump's low flow-rate ($1\text{m}^3/\text{h}$) limits the number of users to between 200 and 300. Thus, for larger villages, a separate water supply facility has to be installed in each neighbourhood. In almost all cases, the principle of one committee per pump has to be complied

with. According to this model, there is no reason for not equipping large villages of over 2,000 inhabitants, providing these people preserve or adopt the indispensable sense of partnership.

Peripheral urban areas

In the outskirts of towns and cities, it seems that the water network operating companies need the support of local communities, both formal and informal. The form of management can vary a lot in line with the features of the local community:

- resale of water through household connections;
- water carriers;
- delegation of management to voluntary committees.

Each of these procedures results in cost differentiations which may seem totally exorbitant in the first two cases, the more so as the population concerned is among the poorest.

But, in fact, these procedures make it possible not only to make up for the restrictions imposed on the extension of existing networks, but also to provide a range of services that fit the users' different income levels while guaranteeing that a minimum amount of water is supplied however precarious a situation the various users may be in.

New management procedures

The important point that must be remembered about current urban or rural models is the «autonomy» of the entities charged with managing the facilities, whatever the type of management, i.e.:

- industrial, in the case of the water distribution companies;
- voluntary, in the case of the watering place committees;
- private, informal, as in the case of *de facto* or *de jure* concessions.

These entities actually have all the features of a company, albeit a very small company in the informal sector. These features are:

- a product, water, a staple commodity;
- a market, as water is of value almost everywhere, be it sale value as for the water carriers, or use value, i.e. the price users

deem acceptable given, on the one hand, the cost of their current source and, on the other, the improvement to the quality of service;

- a production tool, which has to be operated and maintained.

And they have to have the management tools to enable them to comply with the obligation to balance their operating account. A final innovative prospect which must not be excluded is that of entrusting the entire operation of such enterprises, both in peripheral urban areas and in rural districts, to private-sector operators. If the sale of water is an economic transaction which can balance an operating account (including charges taken to renew or to repay borrowings), why not take the same logic further by entrusting to the private sector (a fashionable thing to do nowadays)

the financing of the provision of drinking water fountains, within a pricing and contracting framework, thus relieving the state and public finances of a burden?

Why not imagine that, through a process of return to their roots, economic agents will emerge in the villages themselves to provide a complete drinking and pump water supply service, in exchange for the right to sell water?

Is this just a dream or a potentially real development success story?

Jean Jaujay,

Caisse française de développement

The programme for the supply of drinking water to the «pueblos jóvenes» in Lima

The cholera epidemic that devastated the poorest districts of Lima, Peru, in 1991 was a direct result of the inexistence of any form of water distribution infrastructure.

This led the European Union, in the framework of emergency aid to developing countries and with the support of the French government, to budget over the next four years the funds required to implement 460 autonomous drinking water «micro-projects» (MPs), which should benefit the 700,000 inhabitants of the «Pueblos Jóvenes» (PJ) in the city of Lima.

Alternative technology

Each MP will cater to the needs of 1,500 inhabitants (250 parcels of land) and will include the construction of the following facilities:

- a 50m³ galvanised steel tank which can be disassembled, i.e. used either as a permanent or a provisional facility;
- part of the definitive «PJ» waterpipes (30%);
- six standpipes (drinking water fountains).

The tank will be supplied by tank trucks until it is technically possible to connect it to the network of the state-owned company that supplies Lima with water (SEDAPAL). The solution is open-ended.

3The populations concerned will participate in the works, during which they will benefit from various types of training.

Institutional aspects

The four main partners in the implementation of each MP will be:

- the ALA92/07 programme, which will finance the studies, the building materials and the training courses;
- SEDAPAL, which will approve the projects, provide the technical supervision, deliver the appropriate certificates of compliance, and supply the tank trucks with water from places in its network that are situated as near as possible to the «PJ»s that will benefit from it;
- the municipality, which will facilitate the legal recognition of the «PJ»s and will make the heavy equipment available (earth movers, etc.) for works to improve access to them;
- the populations concerned, which will provide both the skilled (craftsmen) and the unskilled labour (for digging trenches). The ALA92/07 programme is also supported by:
- NGOs, which will be responsible for mobilising, organising and training the populations;
- the Peruvian government's food programme (PRONAA) will distribute food during the community works programme;

- CUD (Cités Unies Développement), which, through decentralised development aid procedures (involving European municipalities), will finance some complementary facilities and equipment that may be required (small pumps, water pipelines, etc.)

Sanitary training and education

Sanitary training and education will be provided by NGO train-the-trainer specialists (multiplier effect). Here are the training themes

- the dissemination of training knowledge;
- improving the organisation of communities;
- sanitary education and the environment;
- establishing a micro-enterprise or association to manage and to maintain an MP;
- support for the formation of tank truck micro-enterprises;
- setting up a system for monitoring the quality of water in each MP, in co-ordination with the municipalities.

Henri Claret

ALA92/07 programme

Development Aid News

◆ Appointments

- **François Noisette** was appointed as technical advisor to the private office of the Ministre d'Etat aux Affaires sociales, à la Santé et à la Ville, on January 10, 1994. He is in charge of urban development policy. Ministère des Affaires sociales..., 8, avenue de Ségur, 75350 PARIS 07 SP-France

- **Xavier Crepin** was appointed General Manager of ISTD on January 24, 1994. He has resigned as President of the Association des professionnels du développement urbain en coopération (ADP).

◆ ADP

Fabrice Richy will act as President. Jean-Louis Venard has joined the executive committee and will be the editor-in-chief of the bulletin *Villes en développement*. The General Assembly will hold elections in September 1994.

◆ URBADISC 94

The European CD-ROM on urban development, architecture, housing, urban engineering and town planning will soon come out: 400,000 bibliographic references on your personal computer. URBADISC is the result of the combined efforts of the following organisations: Centro de informacion y documentacion cientifica, Spain; Coordinamento nazionale delle biblioteche di architettura, Italy; London Research Centre, United Kingdom; Réseau Urbamet, France. The URBAMET database provides you with some 20,000 bibliographic references from the *Villes en développement* documentation and information centre on urban development, housing and space management in countries of the South, as well as references on the major metropolitan areas around the world. *Contact: Villes en développement, Arche de la Défense, 92055 Paris la Defense Cedex 04-France, Tel: (33 1) 40 81 15 65* *Price - for single-station use: FF4,500 (FF3,795 excl. VAT); for network use: FF6,750 (FF5,690 excl. VAT).*

◆ INTERURBA

In 1993, the Interurba research group published two new documents in the «*Pratiques urbaines*» (Urban practices) series: -Vol. 10 : **Les thèses françaises sur les villes des pays en développement** (1980-1990) by F. Leimdorfer and L. Vidal (FFr50); -Vol. 11: **Le dispositif français de recherche et d'études urbaines dans les pays en développement**. Etat de la question (FFr60). These documents provide a comprehensive presentation of the themes covered, the places and networks for research and teaching, the management and motivation bodies, the documentation centres, the research departments and the new actors involved in urban practices. Moreover, the Interurba research group and AITEC have been jointly reflecting on the urban crisis. A working group has been formed to prepare a one-day session in June 1994 on the topic, «Is there an urban crisis? Toward a comparative approach to the urban crisis in the North, the South and the East». *Contact: Interurba, 109 rue de Turenne, 75003 Paris-France, Tel : (33.1) 42 71 20 98; The one-day session Alain Durand-Lasserre. Documents distributed by AITEC, 14 rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris-France, Tel : (33.1) 45 31 18 08*

Workshops for French technical assistants

August 29 - September 2, 1994
Paris (Arche de la Défense)

Creating an «urban project»: municipal partnership and negotiation tools.

August 29 - September 2, 1994
Paris (Arche de la Défense)

Ownership of municipal investments; methods for managing urban services and facilities.

September 5-8, 1994

Paris (Arche de la Défense)

Systems analysis and management tools for complex projects.

November 28 - December 2, 1994
Cotonou, Benin

«Urban development and local authorities»: a sector-based strategy.

Contact : - on the spot : Mission de Coopération;

- in Paris, Département de la formation (DAG/F), ministère de la Coopération, 57 boulevard des Invalides, 75007 Paris,

France. Tel: (33) 1 47 83 18 40; Fax: (33) 1 47 83 18 69

The proceedings of the two following seminars organised in August 1993 by the Bureau de la déconcentration, de la décentralisation et de la coopération décentralisée of the ministère de la Coopération, have been published:

- «**Instruments and methods for strengthening local communities**», produced by Groupe Huit, IX-602p.;

- «**Local development and rehabilitation of urban neighbourhoods**», produced by Agence E4 International, 146p.

These documents, based on contributions by development aid workers participating in these seminars, capitalise on their relevant experiences in the municipal field and in local development.

They can be read at the «Villes en développement» documentation centre.

◆ JVE

The deadline of the invitation to tender for research work on the topic «What does the future hold for young African city dwellers?» was January 31, 1994.

A total of 50 applications have been received from all the French-speaking African countries and from a few English-speaking countries (Kenya, Malawi, Republic of South Africa). Judging from the tenders received, the French development cooperation missions and JVE committees in each country have actively mobilised people for this event.

The committee of experts, who judged the tenders, met on February 10.

Contact: Fanny Chauveau, Secrétariat permanent JVE-ISTED, 6 rue de Talleyrand, 75007 Paris-France, Tel: (33.1) 45 55 75 64.

Symposia

April 12 - 24, 1994
Birmingham, United Kingdom

Housing for the urban Poor. Housing, Poverty and Developing Countries.
Contact : Rick Groves, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom. Tel: 44-214-145-027, Fax: 44-214-143-279.

April 27 - 30, 1994
Lisbon, Portugal

The Role of towns in a Changing World. 14th Congress of the United towns organization.
Contact : UTO, 22 rue d'Alsace, 92532 Levallois-Perret Cedex, France. Tel: 33-1-47-39-36-86, Fax: 33-1-47-39-36-85.

June 24 - July 3, 1994
Manchester, United Kingdom

Cities and Sustainable Development. Global Forum 94. One of the main sessions will be devoted to the theme, «Cities and Partnerships».
Contact: Global Forum 94, Eastgate, Castle Street, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4LZ, United Kingdom. Tel: 44-61-234-3741, Fax: 44-61-234-3743.

Book Review

Pouvoirs et cités d'Afrique noire. Décentralisations en question (Power and Cities in Black Africa - Decentralisation in question). Under the direction of S. Jaglin and A. Dubresson.-Paris: Karthala, 1993.-308p. (Coll. Hommes et sociétés)

Caught in the stranglehold of structural change, the states of Black Africa have reduced urban investments and are attempting to implement «decentralisation» policies, with the support of international donors. What is at stake in this process is the nature of the powers at work in cities, their functions and scale of regulation, and the procedures by which the governed monitor the governing powers.

*Contact: Karthala, 22-24 bvd Arago, 75013 Paris - France.
Price: FFr160.*

La ville et son double: la parabole de Mexico (A city and its twin: the Mexican parabola), by J. Monnet.- Paris: Nathan, 1993.-224p. (Coll. Essais et recherches). Mexico City, which typified Renaissance urban utopia and provided the prototype for US metropolitan areas, now, at the end of XXth century, embodies the archetypal «monster-city». Using this example, the book discusses current views on the city and how we symbolise it; it reveals underlying historical and mythical references; and analyses their political challenges and implications in the everyday life of city dwellers.

*Contact: Nathan - DPE, 9 rue Méchain, 75676 Paris Cedex 14 - France.
Price: FFr135.*

Villes d'Afrique (African Cities). Special issue, under the direction of Ph. Hugon and R. Pourtier. *Afrique contemporaine*, no.168, Oct.-Dec. 1993.- 272p.

Focusing on four topics: history, the multidimensional nature of the African city, city youth and the uncontrolled city, this issue discusses the specificity and diversity of African urban development, raises questions about current cleavages in a context of crisis and change, and reveals the tremendous dynamism of the forces at work, deeply transforming African societies.

*Contact: la Documentation française, 29 quai Voltaire, 75344 Paris Cedex 07 - France.
Price: FFr95 + FFr15 postage.*

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 - France
Tél. (33.1) 40.81.15.74

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J. Baudoin, président de l'ISTED
Rédacteur en chef : ADP, J.L. Vénard,
Comité de rédaction : X. Crépin,
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