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Land use in Abidjan

Atelier d'Urbanisme de la région d'Abidjan

New Tools

In this newsletter, «Villes en Développement» examines the important subject of the new tools made available to spatial planning managers by the Information Sciences.

During a recent visit to Korea, I travelled with representatives of a French satellite imagery company who were journeying around Asia. As I listened to them, I was struck by the fact that it is in developing countries, which have not yet implemented traditional observation methods and cartography on a large scale, that these tools are coming into their own most rapidly. Jean-Paul Blandinières who, after a long period abroad, is now working with me in this field, has drawn the same conclusion from his own experience. It is impossible to monitor the rapid changes in mushrooming Latino-American metropolises by relying on the traditional turnover of censuses and cadastral surveys. Remote sensing satellites

equipped with increasingly accurate sensors offer frequent, close observation of urban morphology and consequently provide better solutions for monitoring urban phenomena in these metropolises. Midway through the eighties, many Southern cities began to digitise their cartography with aid from the World Bank, and today's developing cities are not left out of the tremendous expansion of the Internet. I am confident that the French Ministry of Public Works, which represents the great tradition of the industrialised countries in this field and includes the National Geographic Institute, has mainstreamed this «new technological deal» into its own rapidly-advancing work and into its relations with the developing countries. ■

Paul Schwach
Director,
Deputy Director General for Town Planning,
Housing and Construction

An Experience in Colombia

Jean-Paul Blandinières, DGUHC/OE Sub-Directorate

What to do about the lack of censusing, surveys and conventional statistics.

The obstacles to generating statistical and cartographic information in countries of the Latino-American subcontinent are plain to see¹. The speed of social change, particularly in urban environments, contrasts with difficult topography-linked territorial access, lack of infrastructure and public sector problems. This makes the public authorities' monitoring and evaluation tasks singularly complex.

Colombia has managed to overcome this handicap and has given paramount importance to regulations on territorial observations and their implementation. This country, which was a pioneer in the field of macro-economic information in the seventies, was quick to understand the importance of the territorial dimension, and in the context of its decentralising reform in the eighties, took advantage of the buildup of technical knowhow and channelled it towards the production of territorial information systems. To this end, it sought out the most avant-garde technological innovations. Right at the outset of this period of reform, its acquisitions included a GIS for the city of Bogota and the means to process satellite imagery for the «Agustín Codazzi» National Geographic Institute. This evolution, so surprising when you consider that in some industrialised countries it is still only in its infancy, had its roots in the inability of traditional statistics to keep up with ambitions for managing and evaluating public action. The importance of territorial

morphology was soon realised, particularly when determining the social strata used to differentiate urban service charges. This progress also owes much to the virtually systematic use of area sampling in statistical surveys, made mandatory by the absence of a register of people or economic units. The territory thus becomes the first angle of approach to statistics which thus come naturally to interwork with cartography.

This context was particularly conducive to the development of statistical remote sensing applications. The recorded radiometric values were mathematically treated to evolve morphological and land use planning characteristics. These were used as space segmentation criteria and thus served to stratify area sampling and optimise the relationship between estimation accuracy and the number of units to be surveyed.

Data acquisition via remote sensing has the advantage of being quick and inexpensive without requiring the observed zone to be accessible². These methods have been successfully implemented in urban areas for intercensal demographic surveys and in rural areas where information gathering costs are particularly high³.

At the same time, the necessary tools were introduced at local level to implement planning and development policies, which are the sole responsibility of the territorial authorities because in Colombia there is no local government. The first «Man-



Jean-Paul Blandinières

agement GIS» systems were set up in the major regional metropolises, making possible large-scale digitisation of traditional mapping data (land register, utilities, road systems, etc.). For the 1993 population census, the Statistical Institute (D.A.N.E.) completed this work by producing digital mapping of all the country's urbanised areas based on aerial and satellite-based coverage. This stock of «physical» data is today available to all public officials in charge of land use management and is widely used for field studies. But new developments are also emerging to satisfy legislative requirements on territorial information.

A new, remarkable event is the Act 102 of 1996 amending the 9th Act of 1989, called the «Urban Reform Act», which establishes the framework for land use planning and requires communes to acquire the information systems essential to diagnosis and policy-shaping. This is the «urban survey file». And the Ministry in charge of land use planning intends to acquire an urban territory ob-

servations system and a system for building up experience in urban development, which will enable the impact of the new regulations to be assessed. This is the «experience bank».

The present-day problem in Colombia is clearly one of improving land management in urban areas⁴ and implementing an observation policy for this purpose in accordance with World Bank recommendations⁵. On the strength of their investment in baseline data acquisition, the urban management services are now concentrating more on methods. They must not only combine the statistical and geographical approach⁶ but also develop urban area modelling, made possible by the development of GIS type tools⁷. This resolutely innovative approach to territorial observation methods and tools in Colombia is no surprise to those who know that the ability of public management tools to meet new challenges is more a question of sacrificing no-longer-relevant investments than a problem of «becoming acclimatised» to new technologies.

As the Colombian Administration has not rigidified the heavy statistical apparatus, it has succeeded in adapting its observation system to the gradual decentralisation of responsibilities. ■

1. «La información económica en América Latina», Jean-Paul

Blandinières, Banco Central del Ecuador, Quito, 1988

2. c.f. article by Françoise Dureau in «Télétection et systèmes d'information urbains», *Anthropos-Economica*, Paris 1995.

3. «El uso de imágenes Spot para el diseño de la muestra de la encuesta de hogares rurales», Dora Sanchez de Aponte y Jean-Paul Blandinières, documento de trabajo, Dane, 1990.

4. «Desarrollo urbano futuro en

Colombia», Ministerio de Desarrollo Económico, Departamento Nacional de Planeación y Programa de Gestión Urbana de las Naciones Unidas, Bogotá, 1994.

5. «A framework for reforming urban land policies in developing countries», David E. Dowall and Giles Clark, Policy Paper, World Bank, 1996.

6. c.f. article by Jean-Paul Blandinières in «Télétection et systèmes d'information urbains», *Anthropos-Economica*, Paris 1995.

7. «La vinculación de los sistemas de información georeferenciados con los observatorios del suelo», Jean Paul Blandinières, Seminario sobre «Observatorios del suelo y del mercado inmobiliario y la reforma urbana», Medellín junio 1997.

Developing tools, broadening minds

Raymond Delavigne, IAURIF

Planning practitioners, both in the North and the South, have all heard of GIS systems, remote sensing and the Internet, have encountered them or begun to work with them. The experience of IAURIF in France and throughout the world illustrates the changes they are making in decision elaboration.

GIS

Neither mapping, nor spatial data geocoding, nor statistics, nor data of any kind¹ were invented by GIS, which has existed under this name since 1980-85². But this system, born of data processing and especially geomatics, has gathered them into homogeneous bases, which is a distinct advance. The GIS thus forms a kind of spatial integrator and a key basis for future space and environment management systems.

The Ile-de-France (Paris region) Geographic Information System, which began on a small scale in 1976 with a computerised land use map, now comprises some fifty «layers» of thematic and specialised data base information, digitised to a scale of 1/5000 over the entire region (12,000 sq. km). The land use inventory (the «MOS») is drawn up every four years in 110 read stations through the

interpretation of stereoscopic aerial photos. It is still used as a graphic integrator for socio-demographic, economic and environmental data layers, such as the population per census block, a digital land model with a pitch of 50 m from the National Geographic Institute, hierarchically graded transport networks, water representation, and sectioning into elementary drainage basins.

Special data bases, spatially consistent with one another, detail different land uses: public open spaces and woodland areas according to twelve descriptors, sewerage stations with some sixty attributes, deposits of nine materials and operational quarries with their technical and administrative characteristics, protected areas and monuments with their by-laws, road noise, atmospheric pollution peaks, waste, etc.

Various specific sources of information enrich these data bases. IAURIF exchanges data with other public partners. It



Vertical view of inhabited urban fabric : Mauritania Villes en développement

also provides technical support for several specialised regional observatories.

Cross-tabulated data permit a variety of mapping and statistical work with different scales and based on sectioning which is no longer only administrative. This work may consist in planning to bury high-tension electric cables according to certain priorities, studying the provision of public facilities for difficult districts or evaluating the number of inhabitants subjected to noise levels greater than 70 decibels.

Remote sensing

Remote sensing has been used for nearly a hundred years, and in recent years it has taken on a new lease of life through orthophoto maps and digital photos.

Satellite remote sensing began a quarter of a century ago. It is developing rapidly and still has a long way to go as increasingly sophisticated satellites and sensors enable it to be continually improved. Remote observation of the earth enables a vast geographical field to be covered in considerable detail with a variety of themes and makes the repetition of observations much easier. And digital images can be processed in far greater detail than aerial photos.

IAURIF has long been testing out satellite remote sensing possibilities (Landsat MSS and TM, SPOT and recently ERS) in many different fields: forestry, the natural environment, water, humid areas, quarries, waste land, peri-urban farming, micro-climates, vegetation, urban infrastruc-

ture. This work has paved the way to operational approaches such as:

- Cartography and monitoring of residential density in major metropolises such as Cairo, Beirut, Brasilia, Buenos-Aires, Antananarivo and Manila.
- Preliminary studies for master plans,
- Large-scale infrastructure impacts,
- Multi-criteria studies,
- Suitability maps, etc.

It has been taken a step further in the past few years with the integration of satellite imagery in the regional GIS. This enables information from different sources and times to be cross-tabulated and «masks» to be created to refine analyses and target them better. More particularly, a method for the close monitoring of space use resulting from urbanisation is being developed on a regional scale, using multi-date mosaics. And very fine-quality mapping of the natural environment and humid zones has been achieved with IFEN³, based on SPOT

data, (0.1 to 0.2 ha areas classified under 65 headings). This is the first time mapping derived from the European CORINE-Landcover programme has offered such a high definition.

The Internet

The Internet is the latest addition to these new instruments. It permits communication on a large scale and can be combined with the foregoing instruments using the appropriate software.⁴ It offers the two previous instrument families a powerful means of disseminating, collecting and exchanging all kinds of information in digital form (texts, tables of figures, maps). When applied to the environment, it quickly informs everyone concerned and enhances their involvement in the management of their living environments. This new communication tool follows on from the computerised bibliographic systems (Urbanet and Ecothek) accessed through the Minitel viewdata

service. It is producing a quiet revolution and is vital to the observatories that collect and redistribute data in the form of trend charts. Extranets⁵ are currently under study for regional observatories on water and waste, to give their members priority access to cartographic and statistical data. In parallel, it will be determined which information can be disseminated more widely on the Internet via the IAURIF site.

Broadening minds

These successive innovations have been made possible by the tremendous progress of data processing.

They are at different stages of development but they are all bound to be most useful, especially if they can interwork. They open up entirely new solutions to the cruel lack of relevant data, particularly but not solely in the southern countries. Planning, urban development and the environment are their

core applications, and the boundaries between them, formerly clear-cut, are tending to disappear.

More than any cultural revolution, these new tools «decompartmentalise» the mind. Through their synergism and groundwork for the elaboration of decisions, they open up realistic prospects for sustainable development. ■

1. In a GIS, it is possible to store data such as regulations, legislation, etc.
2. There has long been a distinction between vectorial geocoding which represents data by their algebraic coordinates (x, y and even z, t, etc.) and «raster» geocoding by elementary surfaces (attribution of one or more statistical indicators to the data, like television or digital photography).
3. IFEN: Institut Français de l'Environnement (French Institute for the Environment)
4. For example, the Internet Map Server distributes maps via the Internet, produced with Arcview office automation software.
5. Networks with access reserved for members of various organisations as opposed to intranets which are internal networks reserved for members of a single organisation or to the Internet which is open to everybody without any access control.

Cities: Intranet or die

Georges-Yves Kervern, President of the Association des Villes Numériques (AVN - Association of Digital Cities)¹

Re-election, direct contact with their constituencies - legitimate concerns of those whom citizens, and sometimes governments, have placed at the head of cities or local authorities.

In the years to come, unless they make use of the new means of communication, elected representatives will be unable to fight for their seats or carry out their duties, policy-makers will not stay «tuned in» to their constituencies. According to specialists on Digital Cities or Smart Communities, town planning is being «turned upside down» by the New Technologies of Information and Communication (NTICs). This is the challenge for urban planning, for the urban landscape. What is this urban or regional landscape ready to embrace the huge potential of NTICs? More

generally, it is the challenge of the 3 Rs:

- Political Revolution
- Urban Re-engineering
- Re-election (or renewal of confidence).

Political Revolution

NTICs are not politically neutral: on-line meetings of the municipal council, cyber-sessions, cyber-political parties ñ all this exists and constitutes the political reform of the cyber-democracy. Chateaubriand in his own time and François-Henri de Virieu more recently in Marly-le-Roy have both spoken of social electricity.

All this is involved in rebuilding a weakening social fabric, which is why re-engineering has become a necessity.

Urban Re-Engineering

The Parthenay Intownet in France (Deux-Sèvres) has demonstrated how urban and regional planning problems can be transfigured by NTICs.

The digital landscape question is on the agenda in Ardennes, Alsace, Antwerp region, Provence-Côte-d'Azur region, Finland and Sweden. Info highways are displacing auto highways as drivers of land use planning.

Re-election

Both the magnitude of the issues at stake and the telecommunication techniques mobilised by the cyberdemocracy make NTICs the mainspring of elections. The days of policies indifferent to NTICs are number-red. It is wishful thinking to toy with re-election ideas if you don't know how to toy with a mouse!

Three riddles

Confidence between politicians and citizens is at stake. The integrity of the social fabric is at stake. People's security is at stake. There are many reasons for people to lack confidence at the junction between the 20th and the 21st centuries. End-of-century man is like Oedipus before the Sphinx. Three riddles are set for him and foster his suspicions and mistrust of the system:

- the riddle of the «tearing of the social fabric» born of the obvious contradiction between the expansion of NTICs and the daily complaint of a lack of communication between generations, professions, elected representatives, citizens, etc.

- the riddle of «globalisation» born of the obvious contradiction between the strong desire for local autonomy or even withdrawal into personal or family space or small affinity groups, and the steamroller forces of economic internationalisation and globalisation.

- the riddle of the «end of the story» born of the contradiction between repeated praise of the market-driven economy with its predictions of definitive, overall success and the grim reality of pauperisation, unemployment and ecodoom.

The meteoric concept of the Internet : the Digital Community

All human groups are seeking our their LCD, LLM and HCM through their use of NTICs:

The LCD, lowest common denominator: that which is shared by a small group in terms of centres of interest, joint passions. It is the parameter common to an affinity group.

The LCM, lowest common multiple: an urban entity, village, territorial dimension, a space common to affinity groups residing in the same landscape.

The HCM, highest common multiple: a base market, books, the automobile, sport, museums, contemporary art, music...

The expansion of «e-commerce», electronic commerce, is taking place by affinity groups according to strategic rules.

The local authorities are thus a means of cutting across all the B/C (business to consumer) and B/B (business to business) flows. Interactive television and the use of the television screen on the Internet will revolutionise the B/C relationship.

EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) has already transformed the B/B relationship. Real commercial space will be created for

logisticians, and air, train, car, hotel booking systems.

Local authorities must position themselves in this radical restructuring of commerce. The marketplace is traditionally a hive of activity in the city centre. Electronic commerce is a dedicated vector of the urban intranet.

The European Associations that are structuring the advent of the digital civilisation in local authorities are: Association des Villes Numériques (AVN), TRN Network (Tele-Region Network), IRISI and the Telecities Network.

The 5th European Community Framework Programme for Research explicitly refers to the themes of the digital city and telematics at the citizens' service.

These themes will include the functionalities which AVN has adopted to structure its knowledge base on pilot digitisation experiences in Europe: teleteaching, teleworking, telemedecine, media libraries, road traffic control, electronic commerce, civil status, cyberdemocracy, safety. For fast-developing countries, the intranet plus satellites will

enable them to skip those development stages in which the developed countries have sometimes become bogged down : landlines, cabling, Minitel terminals, monopolies.

It is from this knowledge bank that AVN expects to receive a major impetus in local authority networking. This will be made clear in the programme being prepared by AVN for the 1999 «Fête du Net» celebration in France in 1998. ■

1. AVN (Association des Villes Numériques), 46-48, rue Chardon Lagache, 75008 Paris, France, tel. 33 (0)1 40 71 31 10, fax 33 (0) 1 45 20 98 63, E-mail:gyk@tactic.fr

Cybercafé in Douala



Michel Gérard



«Autour d'Afrités», Publications of the Delegated Department of Development Aid and Francophonie

- La décentralisation en Afrique subsaharienne (Decentralisation in Sub-Saharan Africa). Think tank on decentralisation. Rapporteur: Françoise Brunet. Paris, Min., 1997 - 72p.

The task of the working group under the chairmanship of the Prefect Jean Clauzel, was to make an inventory of decentralisation policies being implemented in countries in contact with the Ministry of Development Aid, and to present France's policy and aims to its partners seeking aid for decentralisation and to international organisations such as the United Nations Organisation, the World Bank, the European Union and other bilateral cooperation bodies. It also drew up general guidelines, for use by various different French development aid bodies, on possible replies to requests for aid in the field of decentralisation.

- The Dynamics of Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa. - Paris, Min., 1998. - 24 p. Summary of the study by fifteen researchers and experts on African countries, led by M. Arnaud. It is divided into six sections: 1/Rapid urban growth is set to slow down; 2/Urban productivity is more than proportional to the demographic load of cities; 3/Urban growth has a ripple effect on the rural world; 4/Sub-Saharan urbanization reflects strong economic and social dynamics; 5/Decentralisation is underway but on the scale of a generation; 6/Financial requirements will be met by local and external sources of funding.

- What urban development aid for the year 2000? Records of the seminar on development aid strategies in the urban sector, organised by the Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme with the support of French Development Aid. - Lomé, EAMAU, 1998. - 222 p.

This seminar, which gathered together nearly 90 participants working in 18 African countries, developed a knowledge of the issues at stake in cooperation between France and African countries in the urban sector in the year 2000. Contributions from the participants stimulated by the «inventory» of urbanisation in Sub-Saharan Africa, focused primarily on the credibility and legitimacy of local institutions, the validity of a housing policy based on private production, the political problem posed by exploiting plentiful, underpaid labour, the difficulty for recent urban centres to form real communities.

GIS, a storage system before all else

Jean-Claude Lummaux, former adviser at the Madagascar Geographic Institute

It is often thought that a GIS requires considerable resources. But Jean-Claude Lummaux shows that this is not so and that time itself is an important factor which calls for a quick, albeit modest start.

A geographic information system enables site-specific information to be collected, managed and combined, spatial data relations examined and decision support elements produced.

Spatial analysis methods, management and processing models are becoming ever more complex and sophisticated. But although technology is offering an increasing analysis potential, in practice all these possibilities are by no means used to the full even in the most technically advanced countries

In fact, the main value of GIS does not lie in its analysis capacities, for it is used far more as a storage system than an aid to decision-taking.

Information - lacking or unaccessed?

Every planning decision however modest, every local event whether a major operation or a simple act of management, gives rise to information generation and gathering. But all too often, this information is neither kept nor even used.

In fact rather than a lack of urban information there is a lack of awareness of its very existence, a lack of dissemination and sharing. And what is true for cities in the north is even more so in the south where the multiple stakeholders - local authorities, bi- or multilateral

donors, non-governmental organisations, network managers - generate many situations for information gathering, many different places where responsibilities are managed and discharged:

- Urban patterns of electricity consumption and trend monitoring provide information on the population, its distribution and lifestyles. This information exists and providing it is accessible, usable and used, it enables the distribution company to manage the supply network and send out bills.

- Aid programmes financed by international donors, whether for education, health, road network maintenance or industrial development, inevitably involve surveys or evaluation phases which enable site-specific data to be collected on the population, facilities and environment. Even if each of these operations only provides fragmented information because it concerns limited areas or small populations, the build-up of such information made possible by storing data in an information management system ultimately gives it meaning that goes far beyond the result for each operation taken separately.

In these conditions, the primary utility of a geographic information system does not lie in its processing capabilities but in its capacity to store and sequence information to facilitate storing and re-use. It files away, catalogues and

communicates information collected on the city, which is then made available to user groups.

Information - above all a question of organisation

The most obvious feature of a geographic information system is its technology but this is not really the essential aspect. The information is more important than the system that manages it.

Today's hardware and software tools, which provide the essential functions, are becoming increasingly sophisticated and reliable and their purchase and maintenance costs are falling each day. Technological developments will only serve to enhance the phenomenon. The obstacle to their use is now neither financial nor even technological because the systems and interfaces have become de-skilled.

The real difficulty lies in the necessarily cooperative nature of an efficient territorial information system. It requires an organisation focusing on the flow of information between practitioners instead of between any pockets of power that may be formed through possessing restricted information.

Think big, start small

Setting up a GIS to manage information on an urban area is primarily a question of organisation.

The system must include a reference information layer, an objective description of the territory in question, which relates each partial information item to its spatial location. Although it is possible for this

baseline data to go into considerable detail, identifying and describing each building, each street segment, each facility, such detail is unnecessary, expensive to compile and, still more, to maintain. This solution is all the more dangerous because although a donor can help to create the initial coverage ñ by financing an urban land register, for instance ñ updating will most often have to be borne by local budgets with all the risks that will entail. It is not a crime to have ambition, but a geographic infor-

mation system can function and render services on the basis of a simple town map that makes it possible to locate planning operations, position the main facilities, show the population distribution and evolve the first analyses.

Therefore it is only when the information flow is operational, the personnel are trained, the policy-makers are used to consulting the available information to support their decisions, that the time be ripe to go into greater detail and make more complex analyses.

The main utility of a GIS is its capacity to gather scattered information and make it processable.

Simple tools, based on elementary cartography make immediate progress possible, gradually solve the organisational problems inherent in any information flow system, and make practitioners aware of the benefits they can expect, - and at costs consistent with the financial resources of a particular time and place. ■

Perspectives

Michel Gérard, Association de professionnels développement urbain et coopération (AdP)

GIS and satellite remote sensing sometimes reveal realities that our brains never imagined. But their benefits do not stop there.

They enable sought data to be linked to known data¹, thereby solving the chronic problem of elaborating decisions where the data required for correct diagnosis is lacking or old.

Cities are subject to the laws of the living environment: the data within each elementary cell are linked to one another and to the data of close cells by correlations, relations of exclusion, implication, etc., inasmuch as settlements and their surroundings do not come about by chance. Innumerable cells can thus be classified in a limited number of types and each type can be characterised by a few easily observable data, some from the sky, which predetermine all the other data within acceptable confidence intervals. The recognition of this fact, facilitated by

computer graphics and data processing mathematics² has caused geomarketing to flourish. By combining the typification of elementary cells³, high-definition satellite observations and area surveys (or previously collected data, even non-exhaustive, within a sufficient panel of types), town planners will quickly obtain the data they need.

But this time will not come, whether in the North or the South, unless we pave the way for it. It is therefore essential to store dated data from all collectors, whether exhaustive or not, in a single geodetic control network⁴. But it is not easy to guide people in this direction when they have been made short-sighted by their own limited ambitions. Defining the elementary cell also raises more questions than

the subject deserves. Simply, the cell must be neither too big - commingling effects mask laws - nor too small - statistical relevance is not ensured. Geomarketing, which «took the plunge» without any theorising, shows that the city block tends to be a good «elementary brick». So there is no time to lose⁵...

To advance more quickly, large-scale international aid should provide more incentives to build up geodetic control everywhere, and in countries such as Colombia⁶ or Ecuador⁷, which already have substantial bases, to perform research work on data linking. ■

1. Known data can sometimes be linked exhaustively and at high speeds by satellite.
2. Grouped under the generic name of «data mining».
3. constantly being improved.
4. c.f. art. by M. Lummaux.
5. Notwithstanding some resistance for fear of interfering with individual freedom, unfounded at city block level.
6. c.f. art. by M. Blandinières
7. c.f. Orstom works

Training



Courses and seminars at EAMAU

After some initiatives in 1996 and 1997, the African School of Architecture and Town Planning (EAMAU) is officially opening its Continuing Education activity in 1998 with a programme of seven courses and seminars, which will be supplemented during the year as requested. Dates for the first semester 1998:

- 6 to 11 April 1998: Design, execution and management of public spaces
- 11 to 22 May 1998: Management of urban district rehabilitation operations
- 8 to 12 June 1998: Land use workshop in Africa

All information on these courses (including registration procedure) is available from the EAMAU page on the ISTD site: <http://www.isted.3ct.com>

Grenoble Town Planning Institute

DESS (Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées)

Subject «Ville, développement et coopération internationale» (Cities, development and international development aid), a post-graduate course including seminar contributions from national and international personalities in the professional development sector, a three to six months international course in a professional situation, and international multidisciplinary team workshops during which students conduct a study mission for a local authority or a public or private organisation.

→ *Contacts: Alicia Casalis, Jan Tucny, Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble, 2 rue François Raoult, 38000 Grenoble, France; Fax 33 (0)4 76 56 21 76; E-mail: jan.tucny@upmf-grenoble.fr*

Local Development Engineering

CIEDEL trains development managers from the five continents, to improve their practices and reflective thinking. Each year, 15 to 20 countries are represented.

Diploma course: continuing full-time education over a two-year consecutive period by cumulable modules; or skill-based course: possibility to follow and validate one or more teacher-supervised, self-initiated work modules.

→ *Contact: CIEDEL Formation, 30 rue Sainte Hélène, 69002 Lyon, France, fax 33 (0)4 72 41 99 88; E-mail: cidel@globenet.org*

- Support programme for district initiatives in Madagascar (PAIQ). This programme aims to provide neighbourhood facilities (alleys, drainage, public washhouse rehabilitation, etc.) in underprivileged districts of the five major cities in Madagascar. It interlinks with decentralisation and follows on from a project implemented mainly in the capital in 1995. The programme will rely on «NGO resources» to select various projects proposed by the district associations.

- Support programme for decentralisation and local development in Senegal (PADDEL). The main aim of the project is to provide institutional support for the Senegalese Administrations (Interior, Urban Planning and Housing, Finance) that are conducting the decentralising reform, and to assist in organising decentralised governmental departments and managing urban development and land use planning. The second aim is to create and manage a training system for elected representatives and civil servants in authorities or decentralised governmental departments. It also helps local authorities to discharge their new responsibilities, mainly in fields considered as priorities (health and social action, training and education, urban planning, civil status, natural resources management). The areas concerned are Thiès, Fatick, Kolda and Ziguinchor regions, rural communities in the Dakar region, and the Tambacounda province.

- Institutional strengthening of urban communities in Chad (RICU). This project seeks to continue institutional aid to the capital of Chad and to extend it to the bigger secondary towns: Abéché, Moundou and Sah. The funding will be used to improve communal finance management, to strengthen the capacity of communal project owners and prepare them for their future status as decentralised authorities with the help of the Association of mayors of Chad communes, and to target training projects towards key municipal players in collaboration with the associations.

Third meeting of urban development experts - 24 and 26 February 1997 in Loughborough

The work undertaken since March 1997 (c.f. Development Aid News, No. 38) is taking form even though debate on the linkage between urban development and economic development is not closed. The importance to be given to promoting democracy at local level (one of the four objectives assigned by the Maastricht Treaty to European Union Development Aid) also remains to be clarified. Agreement has been reached on the structure of the joint document that will centre on four priorities: local democracy, environmentally-friendly economic and social development, integration in the world network of cities, poverty reduction, urbanisation benefit-sharing. The work schedule has been tightened owing to preparations for the negotiations of the future agreement with the ACP countries. During the meeting, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID) organised presentations of non-governmental organisation work: ENDA, Homeless International, Voluntary Service Overseas, and urban environment improvement projects in India and Asia. These well-structured projects are sometimes based on the twinning of local authorities. They are the result of recent commitments to global initiatives aimed at reducing urban poverty. Contact: Claude Pralraud, MAE Coopération et Francophonie, DEV/ILU, 20 rue Monsieur, 75700 Paris 07 SP, France, tel. 33 (0)1 53 69 41 52, fax 33 (0)1 53 69 41 64, E-mail: dev.ilu@cooperation.gouv.fr and François Noisette, Ministry of Foreign Affairs ST/R, 244 boulevard Saint Germain, 75303 Paris 07 SP, France, tel. 33 (0)1 43 17 89 19, fax 33 (0)1 43 17 89 50, E-mail: francois.noisette@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Africités 98

The African Community Week held in Abidjan from 26 to 30 January, brought together more than 700 people. Ten African ministers in charge of decentralisation, nearly three hundred mayors mostly from French-speaking Africa, but also from South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, many representatives of local authority associations and municipal departments, showed their interest in this first event organised by the West and Central Africa module of the Municipal Development Programme. Partners to development also attended, such as multinational institutions, bilateral cooperation agencies, Northern local authorities engaged in decentralised development aid, federations of municipalities and development research bodies.

In his opening speech, the Ivorian President, Henri Konan Bédié stressed the importance of the social, economic and cultural transformation induced by the rapid growth of African cities, and the need for governments to prioritise urban policies based on the participation of the many players concerned and on the mobilisation of financial resources principally through developing local taxation.

The discussions centred on five main themes: the fundamental role of cities in Africa's economic, social and political development; promotion of urban management based on partnerships between local governments, contractor companies and civil society; the need to address local government concerns effectively at national and international levels; building a real local democracy by involving the populations; the urgency for improving technical and financial capacities of African local authorities to provide people with better services and promote local development.

The legitimacy of the West and Central Africa module of the MDP is thus enhanced: in its mission to strengthen the capacities of African local authorities, particularly through the African Institute for Advanced Municipal Studies, the monitoring body of local economies and finances and the decentralisation monitoring body now being set up and through an Internet network for national associations, local authorities and cities; in its role as leader of the debate on decentralisation at regional level; and in its municipal structuring support function. E-Mail: pdm@internet.bj

African educational institutions and the decentralising process



At Africités 1998 in Abidjan, African educational institutions were invited to a round table by the African School of Architecture and Town Planning (EAMAU). This meeting brought together the Ouagadougou School of Hydraulic and Rural Engi-

neering for Senior Technicians (ETSHER), the African Management and Cadre Training Centre in Abidjan (CAMPC), with the participation of the National Polytechnic College of Yaounde and the National Polytechnic Institute of Yamoussoukro. Mr. Kouadio N'Da N'Guessan, Director General of EAMAU, presented the enhanced training offered by these schools to meet requirements arising from the ongoing decentralising process in this region. This offer of training is characterised by its professionalism, fulfilment of expectations and fair prices.

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