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## Mediterranean Cities

The development of urban policies and local management strategies requires knowledge of the overall running of a city, which transcends the scope of geographic and sociological monographs on the urban phenomenon.

Many French institutions, both in France and in the countries of the South, are working to acquire knowledge on developing cities, in conjunction with researchers, experts and professionals from the South.

Several of these institutions are particularly interested in Arab and Mediterranean cities. For instance, the Centre for Studies and Research on the Urbanization of the Arab World, Urbama, a research unit associated with CNRS (National Scientific Research Centre), based at Tours University, is a pioneer in this field and has set up a network of researchers both north and south of the Mediterranean and developed relationships with French research centres established in the Arab world under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These include the Urban Observatory of the Beirut Centre for Study and Research on the contemporary Middle East and the Urban Observatory of the French Institute of Anatolian Studies in Istanbul.

Engineering firms, businesses, independent experts and technical assistants, together with their local partners, also help to build up city-specific urban planning, institutional and financial knowledge through cooperation

projects, often with a view to subsequently initiating development or investment projects. However, the collated data and acquired knowledge are only of interest insofar as they are exchanged, communicated and discussed among researchers, experts and professionals from the North and the South.

Within ISTED, documentation and information activities on developing cities are dedicated to encouraging such exchanges. First and foremost through this information bulletin, which in some 40 issues since 1988, has succeeded in gaining an attentive international readership. The library, which is readily open to a public of professionals and researchers, also has the fundamental role of disseminating information collected at source, such as study and research reports and theses. More recently, ISTED set up a website covering the activity areas of transport, roads and cities, which contains not only topics of current interest but also two data banks, one devoted to the responsibilities of local authorities worldwide and the other to the transport organization authorities in Europe, developed in partnership with the association's public and private members.

This issue presents a few examples of French urban research on Mediterranean cities. ■

Françoise Reynaud,  
ISTED - Villes en développement

# Beirut and its Urban Observatory

by Eric Huybrechts, Director of the Observatory

***Beirut (1,650,000 inhabitants over 205 sq km urbanized), situated outside the world's major trade flows, is nonetheless redeveloping swiftly after fifteen years of war, despite an as yet unstable and compartmentalized regional context.***

The rebuilding concerns major infrastructure and large-scale urban development operations (city centres: 4.69M sq m, southern suburbs: 6.5M sq m, two northern fills: 3.6M sq m of planned surfaces). In the pericentral districts, villas with gardens rub shoulders with 15-storey buildings. In the suburbs, districts can attain densities of 600 inh/ha, sometimes even 1600 inh/ha in some blocks. Irregular, dense districts adjoin prestige districts. Elsewhere, housing and industries occupy agricultural or wilderness areas. The resulting urban landscape is complex and the impression of chaos is reinforced by it being a mountainous, coastal site. The greater Beirut area, with 80 inh/ha, has a density bordering on that of Athens (79) or Barcelona (85), but higher than that of other Mediterranean port cities such as Istanbul (34), Marseille (58) or Naples (34).

Today's knowledge of Beirut remains limited, despite a recent increase in research on the city – for the past four years, about two scientific works on this city have been published each year. The Research Observatory on Beirut and its reconstruction, created in 1991 by the Centre for Study and Research on the Contemporary Middle East (CERMOC, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), is specifically structured towards urban research and planning in Lebanon. It collaborates with other organizations interested in this city, such as Lebanese universities, the French Urban Planning Institute, URBAMA and GREMMO). Its activities focus on four research areas.

## **Land use planning and the environment**

Land use planning issues have been addressed repeatedly over the past 50 years in Lebanon, in the wake of crises (earthquakes, civil confrontation, conflict with Palestinian combatants, wars, etc.). Only recently has the renewed impetus given to municipal structures (first elections for 35 years) begun to mobilize new actors and change the relationships between local and national levels in decision-making on planning and management. The central administration is also initiating study and debate on large-scale environmental concerns (coast, central plain, national territory). In this context, the multi-disciplinary research programme on the interface between urbanization and agriculture in the Lebanon coastal zone (1998-2000), directed by Joe Nasr, groups together planning and management researchers and practitioners. The Observatory addresses issues connected with spatial change and land economics in the peri-urban areas of cities on the Lebanon coast, which are having to cope with the greatest urbanizing pressures in the Near East.

## **Urban policies and practices**

Spatial policies at work (urban planning, facilities and infrastructure) have a considerable impact on changing urban spaces and practices. Research on the capacities and limits of the partners to these spatial changes and their relationships with their

environment, seeks to ascertain the relationship of a society with its territorial areas. The research programme on rebuilding and reconciliation in Lebanon, in which fifteen researchers and doctoral students from French and Lebanese universities joined forces, has gauged some of the effects of the end-of-war policies on the remodelling of society and spaces, by analysing public places, redevelopment negotiations and the re-establishing of the social bond.

## **The Beirut metropolis**

Research on Beirut often concerns limited scales or themes. Metropolitan-scale studies situate work on a different level, and relate Beirut's problems to those of other metropolises. Indicators based on location-specific statistics are regularly published in the Observatory Newsletter: density, centrality, urban economy, spatial dynamics, etc. Municipality-scale data have also been integrated into a geographic information system now being set up.

A research programme has been started on the metropolization of Beirut (1999-2000) which covers the entire metropolis, its limits, internal structure, centrality, economy, spatial dynamics, internal networks and links with its hinterland and the other metropolises of the Near East. This programme involves planning researchers and practitioners.

## **Urbanity and identities**

The country's political structure and the recent conflict confirm

the need to take into account questions of identity in individual research work. However, there are many signs that new urban practices are emerging, which attest to the progressive structuring of a society that is different to that of the war period. For instance, previously impassable areas (demarcation lines, mined areas) have recovered their dimension of urbanity and social mix. Daily commuting is reverting to a metropolitan logic over increasing distances to the detriment of the logic generated by microterritories under militia control during the war. Much individual research work is discussed in methodological seminars.

## **Structuring the development of knowledge**

To foster the emergence of knowledge on the city and planning in Lebanon, a network of researchers and planning practitioners has been set up. The researchers' field work and thinking on the subject have contributed precise knowledge on the city, shared at a methodological seminar. Information is regularly disseminated on these issues by the Observatory Newsletter and the CERMOC website (<http://www.lb.refer.org/cermoc>). A monthly series of conferences and round tables is organized to kindle scientific and technical debate on planning in Lebanon. To support these activities, CERMOC has a specialized library of books and maps (18,000 books: 2,500 maps and plans) which make it the main resource centre on these matters in Lebanon today.

Requests are now being made for aid to study other cities in the region and the Observatory is planning to extend its field of

activity to all the cities in the Near East. ■

Most recent publications in French on Beirut or rebuilding in Lebanon:

- El-Achkar E., Regulations and urban forms: the case of Beirut, Cahier du Cermoc n° 20, CERMOC, 1998, Beirut
- Ruppert H., Beirut, a city in the East marked by the West, translated from German by E. Verdeil, Cahier du Cermoc n° 21, CERMOC, 1999, Beirut
- Rebuilding and reconciliation in Lebanon, dir. Huybrechts E. and Douayhi C, Cahier du Cermoc n° 23, CERMOC, 1999, Beirut

Christian Thibault - IAU/IF



Worksite in the city centre - Beirut

## SFAX - Tunisia - Franco-Tunisian cooperation on the Taparura project: cooperation between Mediterranean practitioners

Chantal Guillet, GIE Villes Nouvelles de France

***Sfax, with its 232,000 inhabitants (400,000 in the Greater Sfax area) is the second city in Tunisia and a major industrial and trading centre. Its port, the largest in the country, specializes in exporting phosphates from big mining complexes in the region of Gafsa and Metlaoui.***

### Context of the Taparura project

After Tunisia became independent, it engaged in a vast industrial development programme from the 1960s onwards, particularly in the processing of phosphates. In Sfax, for instance, the second city in the country, after the first factory was set up south of the city early in the 1950s, a second factory was established right in the city centre, just near the public beaches. It began production in 1963. In 1970 an activity area, source of pollution, was established close by, also on the sea front.

For 26 years (the factory was shut down in 1989), the coastline was polluted by various types of solid and liquid wastes, including phosphogypsum, the residue from phosphate treatment, initially discharged into the sea and subsequently stored on site close to the sea (110 ha, 70 ha of which arranged in a platform several metres high).

The rehabilitation of this site is now a priority project in Tunisia, classified as a "Presidential Project". Taparura is a site clean-up project which aims to restore clean beaches and sea to the Sfaxians – bathing has been prohibited since 1978. By

rehabilitating the natural ground and extending it by backfilling, an urban project has enabled 445 ha to be developed into a housing and community facilities area necessary for the very young population of the city of Sfax.

### Cooperation

The cooperation of the Villes Nouvelles de France Group on this project began in 1994 through an entirely chance meeting in Paris with the advisor to the Minister of Economic Development, an urban planning specialist convinced of the need to prioritize the public

interest of this operation. There was an obvious similarity to the Etang de Berre, another site on the northern shore of the Mediterranean "sacrificed" to industrial development in the 1960s. It was with the team from the Public Establishment of Etang de Berre (Epaleb), a member of the Group, that this cooperation, financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Agency for Development, was begun with considerable pugnacity on both sides. The Epaleb team, proficient in urban planning and institutional and financial arrangements, was reinforced by environmental specialists (mostly from Provence) in order to assess the impact studies conducted by a Tunisian-Dutch consulting firm in the fields of hydraulics, containment of phosphogypsum deposits and its radioactivity (presence of radon gas).



The initial affinities were confirmed between the two Mediterranean teams. The Taparura project is regularly evoked by Epareb, together with the development of the shores of the Etang de Berre—particularly the means used by Epareb to conserve the environment, which were integrated by the Tunisian ministries in charge of the project and by the firm in charge of study and development of the city of Sfax's northern coastal area. French technicians regularly perform expert

appraisal assignments in Sfax and invite the Taparura authorities to Provence to meet urban project managers and specialized French companies. For instance, for the past five years, Villes Nouvelles de France has performed various urban planning, landscape, institutional and financial studies. It has provided decision aid which is greatly appreciated by the Tunisian project owners, by accompanying the work of the "Taparura" steering committee, chaired by the three

Ministers of Economic Development, Public Works, and the Environment. The feasibility studies will be completed midway through 1999 and this large-scale project will then enter into its operational and investment phase with, in all probability, a significant French presence.

### Main characteristics of the project

- Total surface of the area: 445 ha

- Total surface of land generated by dredging and backfilling: 376 ha
- Surface of urbanizable land: 262 ha
- Length of restored beaches: 5.3 km

→ *Gie/Villes Nouvelles de France, Immeuble le Wilson, 221 avenue du Président Wilson, 93210 La Plaine Saint Denis, tel. 33 (0)1 49 98 17 90, fax 33 (0)1 49 98 17 91, E-mail gievnf@calva.net*

## The Istanbul Urban Observatory, A francophone presence in Istanbul

Philippe-Schmerka Blacher

***Istanbul is doubtless, with Cairo, the largest megapolis of the Mediterranean basin, with more than 10 million inhabitants. And it is still continually growing, if we take into account the 500,000 new inhabitants who settle there each year. It is in this changing demographic and sociological context that the Istanbul Urban Observatory is at work.***

The Istanbul Urban Observatory (OUI) is a research and documentation unit in the French Institute for Anatolian studies (IFEA). It is accordingly under the responsibility of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is geographically situated on the IFEA premises, a building in the gardens of the Palais de France, formerly the French Embassy in Constantinople. The Observatory was inaugurated in 1988 by M. Eginard, directed by L. Ammour from 1992 to 1996 and since 1997, is placed under the scientific and technical responsibility of Philippe-Schmerka Blacher.

### OUI is developing several types of activities

1. Hosting European researchers whose research field concerns

Istanbul or Turkey, irrespective of their sex, age or nationality. Research has accordingly been performed for the past three years into urban planning, sociology, political science, linguistics, geography, history, economy and gender studies. During their stay in our centre, the researchers take part in OUI work and continue their research programmes in collaboration with the City of Istanbul or with Turkey.

2. On a quarterly basis, OUI publishes the Observatory bulletin which reproduces some 50 pages of submissions and a daily, thematic Turkish press digest. This bulletin is available free of charge. To add your name to the list of subscribers, simply send a letter or E-mail to the person in charge.

3. Each year OUI organizes seminars, colloquia and

conferences, for which the schedule is prepared in the Autumn. 1996 was the year of Habitat II, 1997 was a year rich in exchanges with observatories and institutes in neighbouring countries (Cairo, Beirut, Tachkent), and with Turkish universities. 1998 was a year with a more sociological, economic and geographic impetus (urbanization of Ankara, Algerian traders in Istanbul, financial flows between Germany and Turkey, etc.). 1999 should place more emphasis on gender studies and on the citizens' place in the city.

4. Since 1997, OUI has opened an Internet site (<http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/6163>) which resumes its main activities and updates the press digest twice a month. It also contains all the papers in the published bulletins, maps and

plans of the city and pages providing a gateway towards the main Turkish Internet links.

5. Owing to increasing demand, OUI proposes original, customized circuits, individual or in small groups (in French, Italian, Spanish, English, Portuguese, Russian and even Turkish), prepared by qualified people who will take you off the beaten track of mass tourism. These include "hot" ethnical neighbourhoods, markets, Istanbul judaite areas, the night life, vernacular architecture, or ecological outings and discovery tours outside the city walls.

6. Since 1998, OUI has been developing a partnership with the archive centre of the Ottoman Bank, which can be accessed on the Internet at the following address: [http://www.ottomanbank.com/Site\\_Map/Tanitim/tarihi\\_arastirma/tarihi\\_arastirma.html](http://www.ottomanbank.com/Site_Map/Tanitim/tarihi_arastirma/tarihi_arastirma.html). This collaboration enables maps of Istanbul at the turn of the century, and more generally of the main Turkish cities, to be scanned and placed on CD-Rom.

7. The OUI library collection, with more than 2,000 volumes, contains works and articles on the following subjects:

### Documentation

- urban planning and projects,
- directories and CD-Roms on French urban research,
- architecture and history of art,
- other specific statistics,
- demography, rural decline and intra-urban migration,
- diskettes and censuses on the population
- Habitat II conference documents,
- documents and books on gender studies,
- migratory settlements and Gecekondu "squatter houses",
- urban and architectural history,
- district monographs,
- specialized reviews and periodicals,
- urban sociology and anthropology
- thesis and master degree examinations in France and Turkey

### Cartography

The Observatory collection contains some 700 documents classified as follows:



IAURIF - Louis Servant

Istanbul

- atlases of Turkey,
- geological maps of regions of Turkey,
- Turkish and American geopolitical maps of Central Asia and bordering countries,
- Austrian, German and English historical maps,
- Ottoman historical maps of provinces of the Empire,
- topographical maps of regions of Turkey,
- aerial photos of Istanbul,

- cadastral maps of Istanbul (1992), 1:500 and 1:100,
- urban insurance plans, Istanbul and Izmir (1905-1945)

### Publications

Newsletter of the Urban Observatory, c. 50 pages, quarterly, available free of charge. ■

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## Are Arab metropolises controlling their growth better?

Jean-François Troin, Urbama, Tours

***The first seven major cities in the Arab world are experiencing a slowdown in their population growth and therefore seem to be the victims of an unofficial overestimation of their populations. This is revealed by a comparison between the projections of politicians or the media and the actually recorded reality.***

This being so, Cairo should pass from 10.3 million inhabitants in 1990 to 12.8 in 2000, whereas the press regularly refers to volumes of 13 to 16 million. Baghdad, second in importance, should vary from 4.2 to 5.5 at the same dates because its extensive spatial growth, due to its widespread

building patterns, enables it to be favoured with much higher figures. Alexandria, the second city in Egypt, is in the 4 to 4.5 million range. Casablanca was a surprise in that the 1994 census only recorded 2.8 million citizens whereas it was expected to enter the XXI<sup>st</sup> century with more than 4 million. Khartoum,

# Publications



**Maitrise d'ouvrage communal et urbaine en Afrique** by Jean-François Tribillon.-Paris: ISTED, 1998.- 40 p. (Working paper drawn up for the Local Authorities and Urban Development Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Cooperation and Francophonie)

This strategic guide seeks to help urban local authorities to carry out their tasks as project development, i.e. as organizers of local development, limited here to examples from a few fields: provision of public services, construction of public works, development operations.

→ *Contact: ISTED - Villes en Développement, Arche de la Défense, 92055 La Défense Cédex, France.*

**Patrimoine et action publique au centre des villes mexicaines** by Patrice Melé.-Paris: Editions de l'IHEAL/Presses de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, 1998.- 324 p. (Coll. Travaux et Mémoires de l'IHEAL, No. 66). The cities of Spanish settlements typify projects for urban order and control over space and men. The centrality model and the colonial layout, which gave a degree of consistency to the running of Mexican cities, have been challenged for several decades by the pressures of urban growth, the dynamics of the housing market and the fracture of central functions. The Mexican practice of heritage protection is one of the rare systematic attempts to protect all the urban spaces of the late XIXth or the early XXth century. The integration of central working class districts within the protected areas marked the end of the major renovation programmes but without enabling rehabilitation policies to be implemented.

Price: FRF 160

→ *Contact: Editions de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes de l'Amérique Latine, 28 rue Saint Guillaume, 75007 Paris, France.*

**La question urbaine en Afrique australe.**

Research perspectives, edited by Ph. Gervais-Lambony, S. Jaglin, A. Mabin.-Paris: IFAS-Karthala, 1999.- 332 p.

The texts collected here show that albeit with different priority objectives, French and Southern African urban research tends to focus on the same issues: urban democratization and its consequences on management and power restructuring; housing policies in the grip of forms of constantly changing urban segregation; local implications of "globalization" that is both feared and valued; conflictual identity-building processes in cosmopolitan cities; Price: FRF 160

→ *Contact: Editions Karthala, 22-24 bd Arago, 75013 Paris - France*

distended by cohorts of refugees, should count between 2.2 and 3.3 million at the same dates, but this is by no means certain and estimations are unreliable. Algiers seems to have steadied, increasing from 2.2 to 2.5, but the transfer of its growth towards its fringes distorts the perspective somewhat, as the Greater Algiers area groups together some 3.6 million souls. Lastly Damascus, according to the limits adopted for the calculation, is expected to vary between 2.2 and 3 million in the year 2000 and to undergo a moderate progression.

It is thus shown that the city management authorities, relayed by political staff and the media, have maintained a certain degree of catastrophism concerning the demographic development of the metropolises, fostered by the

idea – which has not been borne out, except for Khartoum – that there would be an influx of rural dwellers into the capitals, an idea based on far-from-recent data. The Arab world is nothing like the Asian megapolises with their excesses and the situation in the Arabian metropolises can be considered more balanced.

This does not mean that urban planning problems are not acute or that urgent solutions are not needed in some cases, particularly in the fields of sanitation, housing and public transport which has become obsolete everywhere and until recently was too neglected.

But greater interest should be taken in medium-sized cities which, with small urban organizations, are undergoing fast expansion and a high growth rate. Moreover, citizens in the Arab countries have already

recognized the virtually strategic importance of second and third tier cities for the supply of jobs and more accessible housing.

Some countries which already have a fairly balanced urban structure, such as Morocco or Syria, can give the example of well-moderated decentralization of urbanistic operations. Actions tend to speak louder than words in this respect, as shown in Morocco by the creation of regional urban agencies. But situations vary greatly and countries such as Iraq, Egypt and Sudan will doubtless find it more difficult to rebalance their efforts owing to the weight of the primate city in their national urban structure ■

## Association of Mediterranean Cities and Regions

The Cities and Mediterranean Regions Association (VTM), with the support of the Centre of Urban Planning Documentation, from the Directorate General of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, has set up an Internet site hosted by the Public Works Regional Engineering Centre (CETE) in Bordeaux.

The site has been on line since December and is currently being tested out.

It is designed to present activities in Mediterranean cities and regions in the form of a body of basic information and resources which expand as the VTM activities progress, and it gives still greater importance to a dynamic approach based on flows and interchange. In doing this, it meets the association's goals and action

philosophy: building up a network of Mediterranean exchanges and resources conducive to the spread, development and joint production of knowledge.

Through increasingly wide, rapid dissemination, the site opens up the association's activities to a more diversified public while giving special weight to its hard core: the VTM network.

Ideally, this site's useful support will ultimately enable it to become an active reservoir of information, documentation and resources connected with our fields of activity and our focal region, the Mediterranean, produced jointly by the VTM network, its partners or any organization or person whose activities link up with and enrich our own work.

It is a permanent monitoring tool based on the retrieval,

development, dissemination and sharing of resources.

The site is made up of three constituent entities of the VTM network:

- the VTM association acting as a network enabler and regional pole;
- the forum which federates associated poles;
- the associated poles which are persons or organizations in the forum. Each of these entities, while having a specific menu, occupy the same site and continually remain visible to be for consultation.

→ *Contact: Association villes et territoire méditerranéens, 24 rue Montgrand, 13006 Marseille, France, tél. 33 (0) 4 91 14 30 20, fax. 33 (0) 4 91 33 29 91, mël. atvm@club.internet.fr http://www.vtm-asso.com*



# DCT/ILO: --- Local and Urban Development Office

Nicolas Frelot, office manager

***The reform of the French development aid system came into effect in January 1999 and gave rise to the creation of the Directorate General of International Cooperation and Development (DGCID), the reorganization of the Directorate General of Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a definition of the role of the French Development Agency (AFD).***

The DGCID, which groups together the former DGRCSST and the Directorate of Development, is structured around sectoral poles. The Directorate of Development and Technical Cooperation comprises three Subdirectorates – Institutional Cooperation, Economic Development and the Environment, Social Development and Educational Cooperation – and an Economic Studies and Financial Aids Mission.

The Local and Urban Development Office is located in the Subdirectorate of Institutional Cooperation.

## Background

The Local and Urban Development Office derives mainly from the Local Authorities and Urban Development Office of the Directorate of Development of the Ministry responsible for Cooperation and Francophonie. This office, which was set up in 1992 under the Ministry of Cooperation reform, covered a wide range of sectors: decentralization, municipal development, urban development, local development in urban and rural areas and decentralized cooperation.

## Responsibilities

The scope of activities of the Local and Urban Development Office covers the following sectors: urban development, local development, municipal

development, decentralization and deconcentration, land use planning. The common denominator in the approach to these sectors is the strategic role of local democracy and the emergence of real local authorities in the social, political and cultural changes which will accompany the movement towards sustainable development of societies in the partner countries.

The scope of activities of the office, like all the DGCID structures, now extends the world over. It carries out development aid projects not only on the African continent, but also in Asia, the Near and Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe and in America.

## Linkages

Each office employee manages an activity, the sum of which enables a development aid policy to address urban planning and the emergence of local authorities. By virtue of its functions, this office links up closely with the other offices of the Subdirectorate, the Office of the Rule of Law and Public Liberties and the Office of Administrative Engineering. A cooperation policy in the field of decentralization and local authorities can only be evolved and implemented in the context of a cooperation policy within a State reform. It links up just as closely with the Subdirectorate of Economic Development and the Environment, particularly

as regards all the technical aspects connected with urban development aid. The urban services, such as water, electricity, transport, sanitation and waste, are handled from the environmental policy angle by DCT/E, and from the sectoral angle by DCT/ILO in conjunction with the French Development Agency (AFD). The AFD finances the necessary investments in the form of loans or grants and the DGCID is involved in the institutional aspects, particularly the investment management.

The Economic Studies and Financial Aids Mission and the DCT/ILO Office must jointly initiate studies and projects on local finances problems.

The Subdirectorate of Cultural Cooperation and the French language (DCCF), which is the leader of projects connected with the heritage and architecture, is an essential partner for DCT/ILO. The work of this office is concerned with strengthening the project development capacities of local authorities and private operators which participate in the enhancement of old centres for the purposes of local development.

The Mission for Decentralized, Non-Governmental Cooperation will also become a partner to cooperation projects in the field of local development and land use planning on which the office is working. ■

## Seminars



### World competitive cities

Congress organized from 19 to 21 May at the World Bank, Washington D.C., by the World Bank, the World Economic Development Congress, the Urban Age review, DC Agenda and the George Washington University. Its aim is to help major world metropolises to develop their competitive ability in the context of a globalized economy. It will particularly focus on points such as the mobilization of international investments and the implementation of partnerships between States and international businesses and investors.

→ Contact: Malcolm Locke, Director, World Competitive Cities Congress Secretariat  
fax: 1 781 869 7414, E-mail: m.locke@worldcongress.com

### Cities of the world, Cities of men

With the subtitle "Govern, rally, integrate", INTA (International Urban Development Association) is organizing its 25th congress in Lyon, from 6 to 10 June 1999. Its main theme will be the integration of people into the city through economic action, culture, communication, education, urban organization and citizenship participation. In the wake of major international conferences on urban development such as HABITAT II and AFRICITES in Abidjan, it seeks to bring together development and urban management practitioners - ministers, mayors, technical department managers, NGO directors, private company managers - from all five continents.

→ Contact: Agence d'urbanisme pour le développement de l'agglomération lyonnaise, 18, rue du Lac - BP 3129, 69402 Lyon Cedex 03, France, fax: 33 (0)4 78 63 40 83, E-mail: agence@urbalyon.org

### Local development in urban areas

The training of local elected representatives, local authority support staff and other stakeholders in local development in urban areas, including grassroots associations and NGOs, plays an important part in the new programme of the African Institute for Urban Management. Training modules are based on subjects such as: decentralization, public-private partnership in urban environmental management, the planning and management process of the local environment...

→ Contact: IAGU, BP 7263, Dakar, Senegal, tel (221) 824 44 24, fax: (221) 825 08 26, E-mail: iagu@cyg.sn

## Cameroon: Development aid for local authorities

This project is designed to improve the field autonomy of the Cameroon local authorities. Two main action areas have been determined: institutional aid to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and the Ministry of Urban Planning and the Environment for effective transfer of responsibilities to the decentralized authorities; aid to strengthen the management capacities of the two urban communities of Yaoundé and Douala, which is to be extended to four secondary cities: Limbe, Edéa, Garoua and Bertoua. The action will link up with the contributions of various donors (including the European Union) involved in the revival of the "Urban Development Project" initiated by the World Bank.

## Mozambique: Municipal development of provincial capitals

This project accompanies the decentralization policy implemented by the Mozambican government. It is a follow-up to the previous FAC "Aid to urban institutions and to social development in districts of Maputo" It provides for the implementation of addressing in the cities of Beira, Nampula, Pemba and Quélimate and the assumption of responsibility for a programme to train municipal employees in technical urban management.

## Municipal development, local finance and promotion of local economies

This project was designed as a support for the MDP (Municipal Development Programme - West and Central Africa) as part of France's aid for the ongoing decentralization processes in Africa. It aims to consolidate and structure the municipal movement and the local authority associations; to develop instruments to evaluate local economies for the benefit of elected and other local representatives; to set up a regional observatory of local finances in the UEMOA area (Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa).

## Railway consultation in Sub-Saharan Africa

This meeting organized in Bamako on 22 and 23 February 1999 by Isted and the Mali railways, with the help of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was in two parts:

- a seminar on supplier contracts, for legal executives in charge of procurements or contracting,
- a meeting for railway directors on the value of the company from the point of view of the private investor.

8 networks were represented (i.e. 10 countries in French-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar), together with international organizations, the Economic Commission for Africa (CEA), the African Railway Executives College (ESACC-GT), donors (AFD) and a French Ministry (METL).

→ Contact: Béatrice Adoléhouné, Head of the Isted Transport Department, E-mail: [beatrice.adolehoume@i-carre.net](mailto:beatrice.adolehoume@i-carre.net)

## International workshop "Metropolises on the move"

As a follow-up to the research work aided by IRD (formerly ORSTOM) and CNRS/PIR-Villes, on Bogota in Colombia and Delhi in India, a workshop designed to encourage a comparative approach to metropolitan dynamics in the various regions of the world, was organized at IRD from 2 to 4 December 1998. Four sessions addressed the subjects of: residential strategies and choices; spatial expansion and density redistribution; residential segregation and functional specialization of metropolitan space; urban policies and non-institutional actors.

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## Research and expertise inventory

Two studies, ordered by the Directorate of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have just been published.

One conducted by a consultant, Jean-Luc Perramant, is a "Directory of engineering firms and NGOs able to reply to multilateral invitations to tender in the field of urban social development. Summary of discussions and partnership proposals, Sept. 98". This study seeks to overcome the lack of French response to international tender invitations and to propose the pooling of the resources and skills required for tendering. The other, on cofinancing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IRD, by Bernard de Gouvello, "Coordination of French urban research on developing countries. Inventory and proposals, Oct. 98", is in line with the approach of the "Cities" group of the National Coordination Committee for research on development and emphasizes the need to improve the nebulous research locations.

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## Association of Urban Development and Cooperation Professionals

The annual one-day study session will take place on 3 Sept. 99 - probably on the ENPC premises - on the subject "Cities of the North and South: what training, what research?"

→ Contact: AdP, c/o Villes en Développement

## Seminar for European experts on urban development Bonn, 1 - 2 March 1999

The European experts on urban development held their 5th meeting in Bonn on 1 and 2 March 1999, chaired by Michaël Parkes from DGVIII. Nine countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom. Also present were representatives of Switzerland as observers and representatives of UTO.

Mr Töpfer, executive director from UNCHS and Mrs C. Wilander from DGIB-Environment of the European Commission, were invited to this meeting.

The group approved the document prepared and already presented in Rome "Urban Development Policy for European Commission Co-operation" which will be submitted to the European Commission.

The initial draft guidelines which are to accompany this document were submitted for comments.

Germany, the host country, presented its urban cooperation policy and announced that an international conference on cities, "Urban 21", would be organized in July 2000 in Berlin.

Mr Töpfer gave an update on the UNCHS "revitalization" mission and the Centre's new policies for Habitat+5. A meeting scheduled for July 99 in Sweden should approve the entire document "Urban Development Policy for European Commission Co-operation" and the guidelines.

## Urban management concepts and models in the context of developing countries Venice, 11 and 12 March 1999

The workshop brought together 84 delegates, mainly members of N'AERUS (Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South) but also representatives of NGOs, development banks and United Nations programmes, to seek to identify and organize an approach that would take into account the variety of positions within the European community of researchers, on the role of cities in development, the role of urban management and research on urban management. The N'AERUS members stressed the importance of the researchers' contribution to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of Europe's urban cooperation strategies and bilateral cooperation.

The papers, presented or discussed at the meeting, are available on the N'AERUS website, <http://obelix.polito.it/forum/n-aerus>

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