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Ouagadougou

Urban Cooperation Strategies

Four years have already passed since the HABITAT II Summit took the measure of the world urbanization trend. Under the impulse of cities in the South and civil society organizations, the countries gathered together in Istanbul recognized the crucial importance of the grassroots and urban community level for development. Whereas all too often, cities used to be considered merely as places with escalating problems, they now appear as generators of resources and opportunities. And at the same time, they are key stepping stones towards a living democracy.

With less than a year to go until the assessment of progress by the UN General Assembly, this issue of «Villes en Développement» invites us to measure how far international institutions have managed to respond and adapt. Articles on the subject suggest that the actual changes have not matched up to intentions and that international institutions, anticipating the mediocre results, are now seeking to form an international city-oriented political coalition of national and local authorities and civil society, as much as looking for define new ground for international urban cooperation.

For François Amiot, the two conditions for success of «Cities Alliance» are linked: innovative approaches must take account of the voice of urban populations, which cannot be separated from democracy. It is the local authorities' task to convince governments that grassroots urban development strategies are the best solutions for poverty and inequality alleviation programmes. For Marie Thérèse Manchotte, the origin of the European Commission's difficulties in implementing city-oriented programmes lies in the reluctance of State and Regional Authorities, both in Europe

and the developing countries, to recognize local authorities as frontline partners. Rémi Stocquart associates this with the reluctance to share power and the fruits of development, which justifies the campaigns initiated by UNCHS on urban governance and the popular habitat (security of tenure, access to basic services). Lastly, Anne Querrien notes that for a long time, the World Bank limited its action to national plans or support support of market priced urban services, or potentially so. The will to multiply the direct borrowing capacities of cities should develop comprehensive approaches combining housing, the economic activities of the poor and possibilities for mobilizing their contribution to the «gross urban product».

Our country's many researchers and cooperation practitioners, who have never abandoned this problem area, are also invited to this international debate, as much to define their input at the multilateral level as to help to develop a new urban cooperation culture at the national level. The High Council for International Cooperation intends to take part in these discussions by bringing together all the components of French Development Aid in a working group led by Mr Yves Dauge, open to contributions from all the disciplines concerned by this theme. ■

Jean-Louis Bianco
*President of the High Council for
International Cooperation*

The High Council for International Cooperation is a consultative body working with the Prime Minister. It brings together representatives of civil society: local authorities, trade associations, NGOs, companies, migrants' associations, academics and researchers.

The Cities Alliance was officially set up under the patronage of President Nelson Mandela on 16 and 17 December 1999 in Berlin, in the presence of James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, Klaus Töpfer, Director General of UNCHS, representatives of fourteen governments, and world associations of cities and local authorities.

A new, long-awaited initiative. In response to repeated, pressing demand from cities in the South for more broad-based, and above all, better coordinated international assistance, the World Bank and UNCHS have just launched a joint initiative «The Cities Alliance». This action is intended as a coalition of donors and their partners in development. Among potential donors are not only the World Bank and UNCHS, but also regional development banks, United Nations agencies, bilateral and other multilateral bodies. Associations of cities or mayors, NGOs and representatives of the main economic and social stakeholders have a special place among the development partners.

Mobilization of funds and donors

Five months after Berlin, the Alliance has mobilized 11.4 million dollars, 7 million of which come from the 9 bilateral countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom. The remainder is from the World Bank (3 million) and UNCHS (1.4 million). The aim is to attain 40 million dollars over a three-year period. This requires further effort to achieve greater donor mobilization, as parallel financing is not recognized.

The aims of the Cities Alliance

The role of the Alliance is not to finance urban projects or to take

the place of donors but to foster a collective assistance strategy in favour and at the request of cities in the South, able to make specific actions more consistent and to enhance the impact of aid, particularly on disadvantaged city-dwellers. Its purpose is not only to mobilize funds but also to capitalize on the experience and knowledge of its partners, whether in the South or the North, with a view to launching two types of priority action that can be interlinked:

- Aid in devising urban development strategies for local development stakeholders, i.e. official bodies (representatives of governments, local authorities, etc.) and civil society. The main idea is to help partners in the South to define an «overall development framework» for the city (and its hinterland) through a participatory, operational-level approach. The anticipated result is a government-supported action programme that can be financed by the municipality, supported by the government and proposed to donors where necessary.
- The intensification of the fight against urban poverty by identifying and preparing enlarged programmes (on a city-wide or nation-wide scale) for the supply of basic services to city-dweller have-nots. Slums or squatter settlements are particularly concerned by these programmes, the framework of which has

developed into a global appeal for «Cities without Slums». The ambitious aim is to enhance the living environment of some 100 million citizens by the year 2020. To meet this aim, the Alliance has developed an action plan that encompasses a series of key actions for national urban capacity building, support for regional and local initiatives, and networked dissemination of knowhow and experience. The Cities Alliance estimates the physical investment effort under this action plan at around 50 billion dollars over the next 20 years. During the Berlin meeting, «Cities without Slums» received substantial support from donors and Nelson Mandela declared that he intended to be a most active patron of this programme.

The big question now is whether the strategy gradually being implemented through the Alliance will have enough impact to give operational status to this international development agenda based on this dual urban action. The answer will depend on reactions to the strategy, as reflected in both local urban policies and international cooperation policies.

The Cities Alliance Charter

The Alliance is governed by a Charter that lays down its form of organization, work arrangements and methods of action:

- The organizational structure of the Alliance comprises a

Consultative Group, which is its decision-making body; a Policy Advisory Board with a membership of 10 pre-eminent urban experts (still to be selected) to provide guidance on any strategic matters that may arise; and a Secretariat in charge of managing the Cities Alliance. The Consultative Group includes not only donors but also four international associations: IULA (International Union of Local Authorities), Metropolis, FMCU/UTO (United Towns Organization) and WACLAC (World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination). Furthermore, during the first year, potential donors can participate in the Consultative Group as associate members with no voting rights.

- Besides its important knowhow dissemination activities, the Secretariat's work mainly consists in identifying proposals for studies, ensuring they are consistent with donor programmes, evaluating them, then financing them under an annual work programme submitted ex ante for the approval of the Consultative Group. Under the Charter, proposals requesting the assistance of the Cities Alliance can be made by any of its members. Proposals amounting to less than \$ 250,000, that have been positively evaluated (by the secretariat for those below \$ 15,000 and by independent assessors for the others), are immediately implemented and are notified to the Consultative Group each quarter. Larger proposals must be approved by the Consultative Group on a «no objection» basis, within ten working days of electronic

transmission of the report. Note that application forms are available from the Cities Alliance website (www.citiesalliance.org).

- The Alliance only intervenes if the proposals submitted meet the eligibility criteria specified in its charter. All proposals must not only come under the dual urban action of the Alliance but they must also be specifically approved by the government and beneficiary municipality; mobilize joint funding of at least 20%; identify potential pre-project development partners (donors, public sector, private sector); establish the participatory project approach; ensure the project has the potential for large-scale enlargement.

Ongoing programme and activities

The initial and ongoing programme of the Alliance was approved in March 2000. It consists of 17 proposals, spread over 6 regions, amounting to around 3.1 million dollars. It is allocated almost equally between urban poverty alleviation operations, the development of city strategies and operations in which both components are combined.

At the same time, a series of new proposals amounting to 3.5 million dollars was prepared and submitted to the Consultative Group, which met in Montreal on 12 and 13 June 2000. The largest proposal concerns the Philippines (1 million dollars) where 10 cities come under a development strategy. This

series gives more weight (56%) to city strategies than to operations for the large-scale improvement of living conditions of disadvantaged city-dwellers. This distribution of proposals is not intentional but probably stems from a two-fold ambiguity: the rather artificial separation between the two components, which both result from a participatory approach and cover large-scale operations; and the lack of proven methods (now being sought by the Alliance) able to prevent economic and budgetary paralysis of most of the cities in the South from plunging city-dwellers of the South still deeper into «poverty of the majority», in the words of Philippe Haeringer.

The Cities Alliance invites us into a global pro-city coalition

through worldwide networks. The success of this coalition will depend on the ability of these networks to turn aside from the beaten track and create innovative approaches hinging on this less and less silent urban majority, which is itself being carried along by the build-up of local democracy. It will also depend on the ability of urban local authorities to make themselves heard by governmental authorities in charge of defining national poverty alleviation strategies. ■

The new challenges of urbanization: UNCHS solutions

Rémi Stoquart, urban planner, Regional Office for Africa and the Arab Countries, UNCHS (Habitat)

UNCHS action follows on from international recognition of the role of local authorities in urban governance expressed at the Habitat II Summit and centres on two core ideas: «Adequate shelter for all» and «Sustainable urban development».

The World Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in 1996 by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), is the normative and operational reference of this agency. In particular, it has led to international recognition of the role of local authorities in the world's management of urbanization. The progress made during this summit gave UNCHS a mandate and a strategic vision structured around two core ideas: «Adequate shelter for all»

and «Sustainable urban development». This vision guides the Centre in its measures in favour of the management of human settlements in general, and of cities in particular. UNCHS action consists firstly in large-scale normative work. The most recent instances are cooperation with CAMVAL for the promotion and adoption by the United Nations Member States of a World Charter of local self-government, that defines universal principles of local democracy and

Rémi Stoquart



Abidjan

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decentralization. This Charter, which is currently under discussion, should be presented to the next special session of the «Istanbul+5» General Assembly of the United Nations scheduled for June 2001.

UNCHS has also launched two global campaigns, one on «Good urban governance», the other on «Security of tenure and housing rights».¹ The central aim of this normative work is to heighten the awareness of urban policy-makers and partners towards adopting and implementing enabling urban policies in all countries. These policies involve both the public sector and the private sector, central governments and local authorities, NGOs and civil society. The ultimate aim of this approach, which is admittedly most ambitious, is to eradicate urban poverty. This approach still tends to meet with resistance in many countries, owing to implications of decentralization such as power management and sharing, the effective participation of the entire population in the decision-making process, and reasonable and fair sharing of the fruits of development.

UNCHS bases its normative work on technical cooperation activities and provides regular operational assistance to many cities in developing countries in Africa, Asia, South America

and Eastern Europe. More than 240 programmes are involved in almost 90 countries, nearly all of which are in the least advanced countries. This technical assistance enables UNCHS to constantly adjust its normative work to realities in cities and countries. It is carried out in partnership with agencies of the United Nations system, such as UNDP or the World Bank², and other multilateral and bilateral institutions for development.

UNCHS, chosen to be the Cities Agencies after the «Habitat II» Summit, gives neutral, sustainable and permanent support and advice, particularly to the poorest countries, on problems as varied as the urban environment, urban security, the implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes or the management of natural disasters and post-conflictual situations. The scope of its activity ranges from institutional reform to training and capacity-building. It covers housing, urban policies or municipal, local and national capacities, or even the definition of urban indicators and observatories to help measure progress in these sectors.

One of the strong points of UNCHS expertise is its support to local authorities and States for the development of strategic planning and participatory ma-

agement processes, with a series of tools such as participatory diagnosis, city consultations or national consultations. This support is given before traditional donors become involved. It helps local authorities to identify their priorities, build the capacities of all stakeholders (whether public, private or members of the community), implement strategies enabling them to manage and plan urban development on a participatory basis, aiming insofar as possible to mobilize existing local resources. These strategies create the conditions for a consultation and action framework on a local or nation-wide scale to alleviate poverty. They make use of successful experiences of good practices at local level and thus ensure the reproducibility and sustainability of these experiences, which are all the more reliable because they benefit from shared involvement and responsibility.

Efficient guidance and management of urbanization also requires the recognition of local authorities as the best able to coordinate urban policies and mobilize partners from civil society (opinion leaders, vulnerable groups, associations, the private sector, etc.). Not only their responsibilities and their role but also their capacities are

still inadequate in many countries. UNCHS thus seeks to permanently develop the involvement and skills of local authorities so that they are not just service providers but enablers and mobilizers of local and international potentialities.

Sustainable urban governance is impossible without strong local authorities that are capable and accountable to the people who have empowered them, and without awareness of the challenges and choices in urban governance in the years to come. ■

¹ In practice, the campaign on «Good urban governance» finds expression in the promotion of participatory urban development strategies based on key concepts such as good governance, the subsidiarity principle, transparency, civic commitment and safety in cities. The second campaign on «Security of tenure and housing rights» has resulted in greater priority being given to security of tenure, the regularization of spontaneous settlements, access to basic services and facilities, and large-scale slum-improvement programmes. For further information on these two campaigns, visit the UNCHS website: www.unchs.org

² On this subject, see the paper on «The Cities Alliance» in this issue.

The urban strategy of the World Bank

Anne Querrien

The World Bank has realised the extent of the urban phenomenon the world over, including in Africa, and in response to the ascendancy of local authorities, it has defined a new urban strategy to guide its action in all sectors.

Since 1998, the World Bank has defined an urban strategy made public in 1999. It is an corporate strategy and not, as it used to be, a strategy for companies in the urban sector. Every sector of the Bank must be aware on a cross-cutting basis that all development is henceforth

urban, because more than half the world population is urban, and above all, because the return on capital invested in the city is around three times that in the country. The poor themselves, to whom the Bank's aid is dedicated, will increasingly be urban poor and will be more likely to benefit from

development projects in their favour if they are city-dwellers. It is a real change in culture on the part of the World Bank. Admittedly, since 1972, 3 to 7% of World Bank loans were devoted to urban development, but more with a view to accompanying national development plans. And the World Bank itself acknowledges that in 1987, a damper was put on the urban sector and emphasis was placed solely on the development of commercial urban services: transport, water and drainage, which accounted for 6% of loans. The World Bank is thus finding it difficult to develop its new strategy, because for ten years, it neglected the staff in charge of urban problems. It thus intends to mobilize its entire structure around these problems, through thematic working groups. The about-turn of the World Bank in favour of urban issues would doubtless have occurred anyway due to the realization of population trend patterns. All over the world, even in Africa,

the urban population is becoming the majority. But the World Bank has also become aware of the collective stand taken by States, and above all, the ascendancy of local authorities, which emerged as a key developmental factor at the Istanbul World Conference on Human Settlements in 1996. In the scientists' conference forum, some experts claimed that urbanization was a danger to the world and a pollution-generating phenomenon. But representatives of other countries, including India, the rest of Asia and Latin America, testified to the increase in economic productivity made possible by urbanization, which in fact gives hope that through growth, poverty will be curbed. To implement this new strategy, on the one hand, the World Bank will put its entire skills base and influence towards developing the importance of urban matters in national strategies of countries to which it lends money. It will also try to convince many partners to give money to local

organizations that engage in the fight to eliminate unsanitary housing, preferably with the support of their governments but above all within a horizontal technical support partnership between municipalities and/or non-governmental organizations. This is the «Cities Alliance». The World Bank is a lending body that seeks to help its «clients», which are thus mainly national states, but now also very big cities, particularly capitals, able to issue loans on the world market and to guarantee their repayment. To eradicate poverty, Cities and States will do well to implement new procedures to finance housing for the poor, which make them active in basic services essential to the workings of a city: transport, small retail trade, child care, washing and ironing and other domestic services. Although such a strategy may build up poverty in a closed system, it is a pro-poor factor within an overall enabling process of the national popula-

tion, according to the pattern in already-developed countries. The aim is to go beyond international partnerships on local urban slum-eradication projects, and to marshal and build up a global professional elite to spontaneously take over from the World Bank, consisting mainly of mayors but sometimes also technical service managers and urban research specialists. However, it is regrettable that in the new World Bank strategy, no mention is made of economic activities whose development forms the bottom line of Indian slum eradication programmes or the WALTPS African cities development programme – no more than the complementarity between these economic activities and activities in this sector integrated into the world economy. ■

Anne Querrien is the chief editor of *Annales de la Recherche Urbaine* (No. 86, June 2000, «Developments and Cooperation» in charge of international action under the Planning, Construction and Architecture Programme.

The European Commission's urban programmes for developing countries

Marie-Thérèse Manchotte

The implementation of European programmes in favour of urban development in non-member countries is fraught with problems. However, some programmes are showing some interest in local authorities and their role in urban governance.

The implementation of European pro-city programmes is fraught with problems:

- The emergence of local urban authorities as direct partners of the European Commission is coming up

against heavy resistance at State and regional levels, both in Europe and in developing countries. The principle of subsidiarity is tending to keep cities under the responsibility of higher-level political or administra-

- Little attention is given to urban issues in the economic and social development process and the extremely high urban growth rate (particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa) is still ignored (at best). The contribution of urban areas to the national wealth is underestimated. «Urban» treatment of social policies is not on the agenda.

- The management of programmes or projects concerning cities or urban areas does not come within the remit of the European Commission. The multiplication of small projects is difficult to manage by the Commission Departments and the Technical Assistance Boards owing to the cost.

These are the programmes managed by the Directorates-General for External Relations and Development. Other Community initiatives exist on

urban projects but they concern the Member States.

Programmes managed by the Directorate-General for External Relations for countries in Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean.

The **Urb-Al**, **Asia-Urbs** and **Med-Urbs** programmes seem to offer the promise of being urban programmes. They are innovative in their methods of implementing decentralized cooperation and seek to put European local authorities in contact with local authorities in partner countries or to put professionals in European countries in contact with one another and with professionals in the partner countries. The scope of these programmes covers the city in the broad sense of the term.

These programmes are concerned with means of communication, trade, experience-sharing, database building, the establishment of «good practices», forming sustainable partnerships, and secondarily, with urban projects.

The Urb-Al programme

The Urb-Al programme is intended for cities, urban areas and regions in the European

Union and Latin America¹. The European Commission's financial contribution is 14 million euros.

Its goals:

- Develop a direct partnership between local entities, promote the participation of local authorities in relations between the European Union and Latin America and foster the exchange of experience on key urban issues.
- Improve socio-economic conditions and people's quality of life, encourage the equitable development of urban centres.

Programme activities:

- **Biennial meetings** (1998 Lisbon, 2000 Rio de Janeiro).
- **Thematic networks:** Eight thematic networks are active: Drugs and the city, the preservation of historic urban contexts, democracy in the city, the city as a promoter of economic development, urban social policies, urban environment, management and control of urbanization, control of urban mobility.
- **Joint projects:** a subsidy of 50% of the budget, limited to 100,000 euros per project. 1,000 European and South-American local authorities take part in the Urb-Al programme. 4,500 stakeholders on both continents are informed of or involved in its activities.

The Asia Urbs programme

The aim of the Asia Urbs programme is to promote sustainable partnerships between local authorities in Europe and the 16 countries of South and South-East Asia². The programme will encourage the participation of citizens and the improvement of human resource capabilities in the planning and management of urban development.

The programme's budget is 26.2 million euros to finance some 60 two-year projects.

Development projects and studies are eligible for a subsidy of 65% of the costs, limited to 500,000 euros for projects and 15,000 euros for studies. The projects must be developed through a partnership of at least two European local authorities with an Asian local authority.

Suggested themes:

- Urban governance, human resources development, institutional development
 - Socio-economic development, including employment and poverty alleviation
 - The urban environment, including heritage conservation
 - Urban social facilities.
- The first call for proposals has been made. 19 projects have already been approved.

Note that compared with the Urb-Al programme, the Asia-Urbs programme seems more oriented towards projects than towards the development of communication tools and facilities.

The Med Urbs programme


Med Urbs is one of the Med programmes that responds to the will to develop multilateral cooperation with Mediterranean Non-member Countries (MNCs) under the Renewed Mediterranean Policy.

The goals: Improve the living environment of urban populations, strengthen and generalize democratic practices at local level, develop decentralized cooperation processes between local authorities of MNCs and between these countries and their counterparts in the European Union.

Two phases: a pilot phase in 1992/1993 and a consolidation phase in 1994/1995.

Financing: 85 projects involving 270 local authorities have been co-financed through a budget of 22.3 million ECU. Since 1995, the Med Urbs programme is suspended owing

Publications



What future for urban cooperation. *Assessment of post Habitat II strategies by Isabelle Milbert, with the collaboration of Vanessa Peat.* - Berne: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 1999.- 341 p. Over the past ten years, there has been a notable change in the attitudes of governments and donors in favour of urban development. This document reviews urban activities conducted by bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies and should be considered as a tool for the exchange of experience, the quest for appropriate solutions and better consultation of the partners involved. Free of charge
→ Contact: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Freiburgstrasse 130, CH 3003 Berne, Switzerland, E-mail: info@sdc.admin.ch

Development and Cooperation: Les Annales de la Recherche Urbaine, No. 86, May 2000.- Ed. Plan Urbanisme Construction et Architecture.- 160 p. The development of cities follows models unlike those of national development. It involves not only trade flows but also transfers between territories and inter-cultural exchanges of knowledge. Researchers are realizing that the "pensée unique" (one idea system) is inefficient both at national level and at international level. This is a recurrent conviction whether in France, the Northern countries, China, Morocco, Africa or Latin America. Other courses of action are proposed. Price: FRF 200
→ Contact: Lavoisier Abonnements, 14 rue de Provigny, 94236 Cachan Cedex, France, Tel.: 33 (0)1 47 40 67 00
Editor: Anne Querrien
E-mail: Anne.Querrien@equipement.gouv.fr

Urban issues in South Africa, edited by Jean-Baptiste Onana.- Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999. - 401 p (Espace Afrique Australe Collection) For at least a decade, the issues at stake in South African urban space have been many and varied. They include the reconstruction of townships and infrastructure, property rehabilitation, welfare housing planning, economic integration, democratic urban governance, neighbourhood protection and the control of serious crime. In many respects, the urban crisis being weathered by South Africa, is deep-rooted in the status quo ante of the bygone days of apartheid. Price: FRF 195
→ Contact: Ed. L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 75007 Paris, France E-mail: harmat@worldnet.fr

to conflicts of interest between the programme management bodies.

The Barcelona Conference (1995) revived a partnership process between Europe and its Mediterranean partners.

Lastly, the Directorate-General for External Relations asked for a report to be drawn up on the urban environment in development cooperation, which was published in 1998³.

Programmes managed by the Directorate-General for Development

The Lomé Convention, which manages European Union relations with countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, makes no mention of urban area concerns.

From the 1st to the 7th EDF, most urban funding has gone into urban infrastructure works. Today, more attention is paid to maintenance and management of the facilities that have been built.

In the indicative programmes of the 8th EDF in some countries, the amounts used to support the decentralization process, with a view to strengthening democracy and human rights, are resulting in renewed interest in local

authorities and their role in municipal and urban governance. Some of these programmes will provide institutional support for local authorities and their supervisory authorities and will subsidize urban amenities in medium-sized towns.

The Directorate-General for Development has mobilized a group of European experts on the urban theme, which has met regularly since February 1997 and has instructed a consultant firm to draw up "Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development"⁴

But the document «New Guidelines for the Community Development Policy» (March 2000) makes no mention of an integrated vision of the role of cities in economic and social development.

Other programmes

Many development measures funded by the Community are devoted to urban development. They are implemented by NGOs and by decentralized cooperation bodies. The initiative falls to the operators and the Commission usually only allocates partial funding.

The main focus of budget lines for such measures is not the city, which is not in itself an end

purpose for funding. However many different activities concern urban development: support and training for local authorities, operations to improve urban living conditions, particularly in microprojects, rehabilitation and integration of underprivileged districts, seminars and training sessions, and the strengthening of partnerships between civil society and local authorities. But the multiplication of NGO actions without territorial coordination or policies confuses the urban landscape and waters down responsibilities. The emergence of local authorities as credible partners to urban programmes may enhance awareness of the role of cities in development processes. ■

1. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Equador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela.

2. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

3. «The Urban Environment in Development Cooperation, a Background Study», Adrian Atkinson and Adriana Allen, ISBN 92-828-3349-6.

4. Under discussion and finalization.

*Indonésia, Jakarta
Kampung Improvement Programme*



<p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">Conferences Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding Asian cities • Urban systems engineering • Local development engineering 	<p>Feeding Asian cities</p> <p>Under the auspices of the FAO project «Meeting urban food needs», and in collaboration with the Municipality of Bangkok, the FAO Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the Association of Food Marketing Agencies (AFMA), CITYNET and IULA, a seminar «Feeding Asian Cities» is organized from 27 to 30 November 2000 in Bangkok. It will be devoted more particularly to the part that cities and local authorities can play in reducing urban food insecurity. → Contact: asian-cities@fao.org - www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agism/sada/asia/index.htm</p>	<p>Urban systems engineering</p> <p>Compiègne University of Technology is setting up a new «Urban Systems Engineering» department to train engineers opting for scientific and technical disciplines in fields related to the city and architecture. Two sections will open in September 2000: «Engineering for the development of urban spaces» and «Engineering for architecture and buildings». → Contact: <i>Génie des Systèmes Urbains. Université de Technologie de Compiègne, BP 60319 - 60206 Compiègne Cedex, France. Teaching programme available on request: projet-gsu@utc.fr</i></p>	<p>Local development engineering</p> <p>CIEDEL (International centre for studies on local development) offers university and professional training for field practitioners, in 12 modules on 3 themes: «Development policies and strategies», «Project development, management and evaluation», and «Local development methods and tools». There is also a free-choice curriculum. → Contact: <i>CIEDEL Formation, 30 rue Sainte Hélène, 69002 Lyon, France; E-mail: ciedel@univ-cathlyon.fr</i></p>
	<p style="font-size: 1.5em;">7</p>		

Call for proposals

At the end of a research and pilot project programme "Drinking water and sanitation in peri-urban districts and small centres", financed by French Development Aid and conducted by the Water Solidarity Programme in conjunction with the Municipal Development Programme, it was considered necessary to extend the programme, this time focusing on sanitation problems.

Research initiatives and pilot projects will cover the sustainable management of waste water and excreta and the sustainable management of solid urban waste in countries of the priority solidarity area.

The ultimate aim of the programme is to prepare renewed work methodologies for the implementation of sustainable solutions from a sociocultural, technico-economic and environmental standpoint, to develop discussion on these methodologies and promote them to decision-makers, operators and donors.

Proposals, in 5 copies, are to be sent before 30 September to the following address:

→ Bureau DCT.ILO, Attention: Jean Louis Armand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 20 rue Monsieur, 75700 Paris 07 SP France

For information on the subject «Liquid waste sanitation», contact Christophe Le Jallé, Programme Solidarité Eau, E-mail: le-jalle@gret.org

For information on the subject «Solid waste», contact Claude Baehrel or Félix Adegnika, Municipal Development Programme, E-mail cbaehrel@pdm-net.org or Fadegnika@pdm-net.org

www.urbamet.com

The backbone website for urban planning, housing and transport professionals is now on line. It aims to act as a gateway, a directory and a resource centre. It links up with national and European resources in these sectors. The partners are mainly Urbamet members. With your help, we hope to open it up on a broader international scale.

→ Contact: Villes en Développement

Cities of the North, Cities of the South, what training, what research

The proceedings of the one-day conference of the Association de professionnels «Développement urbain et coopération (AdP)» on 3 September 1999 are now published and are available at the price of FRF 100.

→ Contact: AdP, c/o Villes en Développement-ISTED, E-mail reynaud.ved@isted.com

AFRICITIES 2000 Windhoek, (Namibia), 15-20 May 2000

The second summit of African local government authorities took place in the presence of some 1,400 participants from 42 countries, including thirty Ministers for Decentralization, the Economy and Finance and around 800 mayors, representatives of local authority associations, NGOs, heads of local departments and development aid agencies. At the first Africities meeting in 1998 in Abidjan, discussions highlighted the need for governmental policies to take better account of the economic and financial implications of decentralization and the need to strengthen the self-sufficiency of local authorities. These issues were the core theme of Africities 2000 and the discussions focused on the following four subjects:

- National economic policies and sustainable local development,
- Enhancing the capacity to mobilize financial resources of African local authorities,
- Financing infrastructural and urban services,
- Access of African local authorities to credit and financial markets.

The very rich contributions should soon be available for consultation on the West and Central Africa Municipal Development Programme (PDM) website, which is the joint organiser of Africities 2000, with the East Africa Municipal Development Programme (MDP) and the City of Windhoek.

→ Consultation: PDM, 01 BP 3445 Cotonou, Benin, <http://www.pdm-net.org>



Databank on local authorities

This databank gives the institutional and financial framework of local authorities in some 43 countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and will be extended during the year to a dozen more countries in the Priority Solidarity Area (Burkina Faso, Mali, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Cuba). The aim of this databank is to provide the most accurate, comparable information possible on local systems. It is piloted by ISTD and built up in partnership with CFCE (French Centre for Foreign Trade) and DEXIA Project and Public Finance International Bank.

→ Consultation: www.isted.com

The ISTD

Administration Board elected Jean-Pierre Dufay as Vice-President of the "Cities" Department at the meeting on 15 June 2000.

Mr Jean-Pierre Dufay, born in October 1955, General Manager of the Planning and Urban Development Institute of the Ile-de-France Region (IAURIF), is a former student of Ecole Polytechnique (1974) and Chief Highways Engineer. He was Head of the Planning and Urban Development Department of the Yonne County Public Works Directorate from 1979 to 1985. He then joined the Autonomous Port of Paris where he was Operations Manager from 1985 to 1990 and then Urban Development and Operations Manager. He joined IAURIF in October 1992 as Deputy General Manager and has been General Manager since 1993. He is also Governor of Creteil IUP (Institute of urban planning) and Chairman of the URBAMET European Association.

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