

Contents

1. Editorial
2. Land use planning in Africa:
A new lease of life for
decentralization?
3. Pathways to
decentralization in
Thailand
4. Why is Regional Planning
a priority for Morocco
today?
5. Cooperation project for
regional planning in
Venezuela
6. Publications
7. Conferences - Training
8. News on cooperation

Villes en développement - D.R.



Jakarta (Indonesia)

Cities and Regional Planning

Budgetary disciplines imposed on developing countries by international donors have caused too much importance to be attached to macro-economic and financial indicators when assessing the capacity of these countries to move towards a structural adjustment “nirvana”. As a result, regional planning and urban development policies, though not abandoned, have been considered as simple secondary adjustment variables. To use the hallowed phrase, short-term dictatorship has triumphed to the detriment of a long-term vision, which is the time frame of any regional policy. Such budgetary priorities have eclipsed the other aspects of economic and social development and have resulted in spiralling negative effects: galloping, unregulated urban growth, increasing social and spatial inequalities, sectoral imbalances in the economy, and worsening poverty.

Today, there is an ever-greater awareness that urban development and regional planning are economic policy components in their own right and that it is self-defeating and costly to react afterwards to correct urban, regional and social imbalances resulting from budgetary and financial priorities. This fact, which has long been recognized but is not easily mainstreamed into institutional and administrative realities, is an argument for rehabilitating urban and regional planning practices in developing countries. The

situation in these countries is usually paradoxical. Grassroots development, mobilization of local actors, and “participatory governance” according to the expression popular among international consultants, are acclaimed as appropriate ways to achieve “good” urban and regional policies. But governmental politicians nonetheless remain glued to economic and sectoral indicators – as if governments do not let their right hand know what their left hand is doing.

In France, recent advances in urban and planning policies, under the Voynet, Chevènement and “Solidarity and Urban Renewal” Acts, are opening up to a new period that should make spatial planning practices more consistent, efficient and fair. Sustainable development, the new common denominator of local policies, is introducing fresh constraints but also many opportunities to improve urban and regional policies. It certainly offers new ways and means of intensifying our cooperation with developing countries for urban planning. ■

Serge Wachter,
*Scientific Adviser, Forward Studies Centre,
DRAST*, Ministry of Public Works,
Transport and Housing*

*Drast: Department of Research and Scientific and Technical Affairs

Regional planning in Africa: A new lease of life for decentralization?

Christel Alvergne, regional planning adviser to the MDP

In October 2001, French Aid set up a new programme "Revival of Regional Planning Policies". This three-year programme is implemented under the MDP in Cotonou.

Regional planning is a necessary condition for development in Africa. No country can achieve development without public facilities, a regional approach and coordination of local and national institutions. But in the last two decades, such policies were overshadowed by structural adjustment which reduced policies to short-term objectives. The dominant discourse was one of decentralization, which had become a guarantee of development and democracy. It is true that the logics of this process ran counter to regional planning principles of the 1950 to 1970 period. On the one hand, a belief in the economic and social efficiency of proximity, a bottom-up concept of development and a logic of subsidiarity formed the engines of institutional organization. On the other hand, a unilateral vision of regional policies was conducted by a centralized State that was the guarantor of equity. But regional planning and decentralization are now no longer in conflict with each other. Regional planning is back in favour while decentralization is the means of achieving this objective.

What are the central aims of this transformation?

Restore central government's role. Some may see this revival of regional planning as a return to the French Jacobin model. This vision is restrictive because it brings a centralized system into binary conflict with

one in which central government has little say – a kind of "all or nothing" situation. But the real world is different. This evolution should enable central government to regain legitimacy and an indispensable local role. Decentralization has spawned many actors responsible for their own regional planning. It thus requires concerted action by everyone to prevent too much disharmony resulting in a loss of efficiency and to enable leverage effects to be used.

In this context, central government has a major role as a creator of vision, a guarantor of equity, a coordinator and an arbitrator. Decentralization has not divested central government of its role, as may have been thought, but has given new meaning to its action. Hence the importance of future planning and deconcentration. Future planning is necessary to give direction and bring the future into the debate. And deconcentration, which has been all too often overlooked, cannot now be dissociated from decentralization.

Give decentralization a new lease of life. Decentralization is much more than the offloading of central government powers onto local authorities. It is the quest for a different institutional architecture. In this sense, it is not a state to be attained but an ever-changing process. There is not just one good system but an adapting pattern and institutional backing for

development. These are the local development conditions to which decentralization must open the way. In this context, regional planning restores central government's role. It also introduces study and debate on the local organization of public services, which is governed by principles of efficiency and equity and involves consensus-seeking and sharing. In this sense, the localization of public services, schools, hospitals, and the road transport facilities to get to them, leads to responsibility-sharing between local authorities and dialogue with central government.

Find African-style regional planning processes. Living, travelling and governing do not have the same meaning on this continent. The territorial components, roads, proximity, boundaries or the nature of land ownership, do not cover the same realities as in western countries. Regional planning could draw on some structuring elements of the African region, such as markets or urban-rural interdependence. Whereas many local policies used to be governed by local hub logics, today the aim is to develop activities tailored to the culture of this continent.

Market structuring functions should thus provide much food for thought in these renewed policies. The extent to which the African market structures territories and shapes societies is a well-known fact. How can it play a part in regional planning? Our proposition is not to

create markets but to identify planning priorities to be developed through a better knowledge of the way these markets work. Using this approach, populations move, encounter one another, and enrich one another.

A change in perspective is also necessary owing to the nature of urbanization in Africa. This process, which is a factor in development throughout the continent, involves changes that must be identified and understood. Urban-rural interaction and the development of the popular economy make the African city an atypical model. The importance of green spaces and gardens in our cities is well-known but the planning of African cities must go further than aesthetic characteristics.

Take into account the regional dimension: A West-African economic, social and political space cannot be achieved without a regional vision. The reality of national boundaries is limited and continually challenged by practices and mobility patterns of populations. And the implementation of sectoral policies at regional levels has geographic effects that must be assessed and taken into account. But if poles are to become prime movers, their regional dimension must be measured and harnessed.

In fact, stimulating regional planning in Africa is a challenge. It is an objective that does not come directly under donor policies. But here and there, a new awareness of such matters is emerging. Several States – Senegal, Benin, Ivory Coast and others – are placing this issue on the agenda. And regional institutions such as WAEMU are introducing the local and regional dimension

into their sectoral policies. The revitalization of regional planning enables decentralization and regionalization processes to be mainstreamed into a vision

of the African territory and into a policy framework that is consistent for institutional and private actors as much as for donors. ■



Cotonou - Benin

Villes en développement - D.R.

Pathways to decentralization in Thailand

Eric Bogdan, Architect, Task Officer, Franco-Thai cooperation programme for architecture and urban planning

Bangkok, a megapolis covering 1,500 sq km, with some 10 million inhabitants, is the capital of a centralized kingdom, which ever since it was founded in 1782, has unceasingly attracted people in search of employment, entertainment and social ascension.

Strong economic growth in the 1980-1990 period in Thailand (9% per year on average from 1985 to 1995) left public authorities powerless in the face of pressure from private investors, who freely took advantage of increasing demand for real property to build the city frenziedly with no architectural or urbanistic constraints, until the real estate market collapsed in 1997.

The Bangkok municipality, which was greatly concerned by motor traffic problems, went in for a large motorway infrastructure network, and more recently a metro for which the third line will be finished in 2004.

Communication infrastructure building was the government's priority, not only because it met the need to alleviate congestion, which was paralysing the capital and standing in the country's way as regards the planned

strategic regional role, but also because this infrastructure was the central node of a vast network designed to cover the entire territory.

Over the past ten years, Thailand has thus focused its efforts on building road infrastructure which now links up with Malaysia in the south, Burma in the west, Laos in the north-east and Cambodia in the east. Future extensions of these networks in Laos and Cambodia should link Thailand up to China and Vietnam by road.

These regional planning strategies are defined by the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB). In 1950, a National Economic Council was set up to make economic studies and advise the government on economic and tax matters. The Council had 20 members and was chaired by

the Prime Minister. It covered five sectors: agriculture, finance, trade, industry and telecommunications.

In 1957, the World Bank undertook a study on the economic situation in Thailand, which gave rise to recommendations for the creation of a much-needed national economic planning system. The Bank recommended that a central planning agency should be set up to continue studies and draw up plans for development of this system.

Further to these recommendations, the National Economic Development Board was created in 1959 and then converted into the National Economic and Social Development Board in 1972.

Since then, this board has been placed in charge of:

- drawing up five-yearly and yearly plans,

- studying, analysing and providing solutions to development problems and identifying economic opportunities,
- evaluating development projects before they are implemented and examining whether they are in line with the national plan,
- coordinating the implementation of programmes and ensuring they are in line with policies set out in the plan,
- controlling and assessing the progress of programmes and projects,
- developing communications.

For a long time, the National Economic and Social Development Board gave priority to developing Bangkok and its region, which included creating the Eastern Seaboard at the end of the 1980s – a vast area with a deep water port, a hundred kilometres to the east of the capital. This area was intended to cater for heavy industries and attract foreign investment through tax privileges.

As a result, the Bangkok municipality no longer permits factories to locate in its urban area and the Eastern Seaboard has become the country's largest industrial zone, which is faced with pollution problems and absorbs workers from rural areas.

The Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) of the Ministry of the Interior was set up in 1957 to implement the national policy and it was not until 1966 that offices were established in the country's 75 counties.

Until 1999, the 1451 DTCP executives were in charge of drawing up plans at several levels: regional plans grouping a number of counties, county

plans directing land use, urban areas, transport and future development, and urban planning programmes detailing future developments for the next twenty years. These planning programmes concerned 144 municipalities, except for Bangkok which set up its own urban planning department.

In practice, since its establishment, the DTCP has been unable to fulfil its mission (a hundred urban planning programmes have been implemented). Only the road infrastructure has been developed and the buildings have been clustered together at the roadside to make the most of the electricity grids installed at that time.

Under the new 1997 constitution, an administrative reform substantially increased the number of municipalities (1129 at present) and village agglomerations.

Decentralization now leaves it to the municipalities to draw up their own urban planning programmes provided they obey national directives, whereas very few of them have departments adequate for the purpose.

The role of the Department of Town and Country Planning will thus be reduced gradually to drawing up regional and county plans and training the staff of the municipal technical departments. The DTCP executives seem satisfied with

this arrangement as they will no longer be subjected to vehement criticism. They should massively join the municipal teams once the budgets have been transferred. But they wonder whether the local authorities will be capable of doing work in which they have no experience. ■

Why is Regional Planning a priority for Morocco today?

Mohamed Souafi, Director of Regional Planning in Morocco
National Slum Clearance Agency (ANHI)

Regional planning is one of the many priorities in the catching-up, upgrading and modernization process of our country. The specific nature of this discipline lies in the fact that it deals collectively with all problems relating to the environment, training, housing and production, and concerns all members of the public for one reason or another.

But the most important aspect is the political dimension. Today, planning consists in tackling problems differently based on needs expressed by the people, and in developing solutions differently based on qualities of initiative and on grassroots projects.

People are sometimes surprised at our commitment to Regional Planning and our interest in national debate. I wish to clearly explain the reasons to them. We have entered a most singular period in our national history. The decade that has just begun will be **the decade of living dangerously** for our country. Over the next ten to fifteen

years, we will have to meet three commitments. Each of them alone would be sufficient to pose very difficult problems, but together, they will create an extremely tense situation that can only be tackled after putting all the cards on the table, so as to build national consensus on the steps to be taken.

The three commitment already on the agenda relate to

demography, economy and ecology:

- The demographic dimension will be decisive. For the past few years, we have been witnessing the coming of age of the baby boomers of the late seventies – with palpable consequences on unemployment of young people, particularly young graduates. **And this is only the**

beginning. The demand for jobs is set to increase rapidly in the next ten years. It concerns young people not efficiently trained by the school system and graduates many of whom have entered branches that do not reflect the needs of the real economy. There will soon be millions of insufficiently or badly trained new young entrants into a labour market in the throes of change.

- The economy: The Ministry of the Plan's work has demonstrated that to meet the country's needs, we must double the economy's growth rate, which has been stagnating for decades at around 2.5%. This does not merely mean a change of pace. If we are stagnating at this level, there is a root cause, a structural cause. And if we are to double the growth rate, extensive structural reforms are

first necessary, which concern the very equilibrium of our society and require broad-based consensus. But at the same time, our economy will undergo profound change with the Free Trade Treaty. Opening up to Europe is quite simply globalization, with all that means, particularly in terms of competitiveness. But to be competitive, Morocco must make a considerable effort to catch up. This effort must be perfectly targeted towards the relevant skills and areas in order to exactly match economic, and particularly industrial, development requirements.

- Ecology: To complete the picture, our major ecological balances are strained to their limits and we are verging on a shortage of the most fundamental resource – water. We can only tackle this problem through a stringent water-saving policy. But this is not a simple technical problem. It is a sensitive social issue that involves the allocation of water resources, their cost and their use.

The challenge to Morocco in the coming decade will thus be to provide jobs for millions of young people, under the absolute constraint of international competitiveness, while

reaching the limits of our natural resources. The basic problem is as follows: With the three-fold challenge facing us, how are we to manage our land use so as to respond as efficiently as possible? The interface between these three challenges is the local area itself. And that is the reason for the difficulty in using a framework that must necessarily involve a consensual approach.

It explains the steps taken to organize national debate on regional planning, which we considered as the first “building block” of a vast jobsite and which justifies the down-up approach to this debate, from local to national.

True democracy is not all-out invective and a public free-for-all of personal interests. It is a meaningful, difficult approach that takes time and effort. It must proceed in three phases: informing the interested parties, holding organized debate and determining guidelines on a consensual or majority basis.

That is exactly what we have done. I think I can say that we have accomplished a feat of information such as never before in our country. We have given a voice to everyone who has something to say, beginning at



Aerial lieu Fez (maroc)

Villes en développement - D.R.

the grassroots and aiming for national synthesis. This approach is not a window-dressing exercise. It has proved conclusive in producing a National Planning Charter, which explains the national consensus on local area development.

The implementation of this charter’s guidelines and recommendations requires extensive mobilization of all concerned: central government, local authorities, socio-economic operators, civil society, etc. It is a new “striking force” which Morocco must develop to tackle the issues identified by the charter.

This is the objective that the Regional Planning Department is ardently seeking to achieve by strengthening and promoting practices and knowhow in this field. In this context, a Fonds de Solidarité Prioritaire (FSP – Priority Solidarity Fund)/ framework agreement has been signed, which is the first of its kind between the Kingdom of Morocco and the French Republic for institutional aid in implementing the renovated national regional planning policy. ■

Cooperation project for regional planning in Venezuela

Michel Titecat, Senior Economist, Ingérop

After the disastrous floods in December 1999, a wave of international solidarity developed. France quickly took concrete steps, particularly for re-housing and risk prevention.

The Venezuelan authorities, well-informed of French regional planning know-how, expressed the desire to set up closer cooperation in this field. The disastrous effects of the floods were largely due to very deficient spatial planning management as regards urban development, conservation of the natural heritage and the

location of activities. More generally, Venezuela was concerned with implementing decentralization, the main aims of which were more balanced regional development and the improvement of sparsely-populated inland regions. This project is the result of the approach adopted by Venezuela, which is in line with

the aim of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the renewal of regional planning policies in developing countries.

Political and institutional context

Since 1998, Venezuela has undergone major changes in both the executive and the legislative branches of government, with the build up of a socio-political movement around President Chavez. This has been accompanied by radical transformations of the institutional system, with a new Constitution (24-03-2000) that has in particular organized the local authorities.

It is interesting to note that regional planning forms an integral part of the new Constitution, in its section on "environmental rights". This corresponds to an horizontal interministerial approach and includes public consultation procedures. The concept is thus a modern regional planning initiative, with many similarities to the French system. Various bodies have been set up, with specific mandates to implement a regional planning policy. They include the *Federal Government Council* that administers the *Interterritorial Compensation Fund*, and the

Public Authorities Planning and Coordination Councils in each of the States.

Regional planning policy thrusts and issues

The Venezuelan territory has great diversity and as yet unexploited opportunities. Nearly 85% of the population is concentrated along a corridor close to the coast. This means that whereas the highly urbanized areas are congested and heavily polluted, the peripheral regions are under-equipped, industrial activity is fragile and the potential is underdeveloped, particularly in the agricultural sector.

With the new Administration, regional planning has once again become an avowed priority. The Government has resolutely set out the main spatial development guidelines and has fixed a broad, more balanced regional planning objective to develop the potential that is unexploited at present.

- This "*Reconquest of the Interior*" will be based on the strengthening of a central east-west artery, Orenoque-Apure, and the creation of two north-south arteries, one in the east towards Ciudad Bolivar and the other in the west towards San Cristobal. The road,

railway and waterway transport network has an important part to play in implementing this strategy.

- At the same time, the Regions, which are institutions grouping States together, have been revitalized to form the consultation framework for large-scale regional planning projects.

- The decentralization process has a key place in the system, with local authority capacity-building and institutional and financial measures written into the Constitution and the Law.

The main guidelines of future regional organization result from top-down input and form a "*presidential*" project. It is important that this approach should be enriched with a bottom-up initiative, backed by the Regions, States and Municipalities. The institutional organization has three levels: the federal State, the 23 States, and the Municipalities. Their resources and their prerogatives are defined by the Constitution.

Other local organization patterns also deserve a mention:

- At infra-communal level are the *parishes*, which under certain conditions, by delegation, can provide

local management services (waste, cemeteries, etc.).

- At supra-communal level, the law provides for grouping into districts and associations of communes (*mancomunidad*).

- At inter-regional level, the "*Regions*" associate a number of States with a view to cooperation and alignment of spatial development policies.

The States are small in terms of their areas and populations. By grouping them into six Regions they work on a larger scale which is more appropriate for major land development projects. The Regions are thus destined to form an appropriate regional framework for regional planning policies.

The role of the Regional Development Councils, which bring together political representatives of the States and municipalities, central administrations, and civil society (universities, institutions), is to organize debate and consultation, drawing on specific regional technical organizations called *Regional Development Corporations*.

At the federal State level, the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD), and more particularly, the Vice Ministry of Regional Development

Publications



Atlas de Shanghai. Espaces et représentations de 1849 à nos jours

, under the direction of Christian Henriot and Zheng Zu'an. Mapping by Olivier Barge and Sébastien Caquard.- Paris: CNRS Editions, 1999.- 183 p., maps (Asie Orientale coll.).

Founded in 1849, Shanghai is a creation of modern times, a singular outgrowth in a nation shaped by continuity. By drawing on hitherto unpublished material, ancient maps, archival documents and statistical reconstructions, the authors have sought to enfold space into time, to recount history through local change, to restore a historical depth to the upheavals of present times.

Price: 30.18 euros

Municipalités et Pouvoirs Locaux au Liban

, under the direction of Agnès Favier. - Beirut: Centre of Studies and Research on the Contemporary Middle East, 2001.- 438 p. (Cahiers du CERMO coll., No. 24).

The reinstatement of municipal authority through the polls (1998 municipal elections) immediately raises the question of changes in local governance methods. Its impact is analysed from three angles: local representation, participatory practices and negotiation mechanisms concerning the implementation of public policies in a municipal context.

CERMO: cermocadm@lb.refer.org

Afriques Noires by Roland Pourtier.- Paris: Hachette, 2001.- 255 p., maps (Carré Géographie - Hachette Supérieur coll., 7).

Today, four decades after the independences, Africa is not progressing at the same pace everywhere. The democio-economic indicators provided by countries of the North on this subject maintain an "Afro-pessimism" made credible by the many crises, such as armed conflicts, famine or AIDS. Yet profound changes are being worked. The urban revolution is transforming socio-spatial configurations, behaviour patterns and mentalities and bringing about cultural change.

Price: 13,57 Euros

(MPDDR), coordinate all the regional development policies.

It is thus with both these actors, MPDDR and the Regions, that this cooperation project will be implemented.

The cooperation project

Guidelines

- Focus the support measures.

To be efficient, the project will be focused on the Midwest region, selected for (1) the local context, which enables a wide range of regional planning problems to be covered; and (2) the advanced level of work and discussion on spatial development.

- Close involvement of the Venezuelan partner.

To reach out to all the Venezuelan players concerned, it is essential that the counterparty should have considerable resources, if only to disseminate acquired knowhow. The commitment of the Venezuelan Administration is strong, accounting for nearly three times the funding on the French side.

- An action-learning approach
We adopted an action-learning method which is particularly appropriate for the present situation in which the schedule of studies for

diagnosis, planning and spatial development programming is very dense.

The Midwest Region

This Region has 71 municipalities covering 81,700 km, with 3.6 million inhabitants, and comprises non-oil producing States. Agriculture, livestock production and fishing have long formed substantially all the economic foundations of this Piedmont region of the Andes. More recently, a comparatively efficient SME industry has been developed. The leading sectors are the agro-food and metal engineering industries.

This region's favourable geographic position, half-way between the central Caracas-Valencia regions and the Maracaibo oil-producing area near the port of Puerto Cabello, have consolidated its role as a marketplace. Barquisimeto is now the leading food trade centre in Venezuela. The service and trade sector has developed to a remarkable degree. But more effort is required to strengthen regional competitiveness.

The city of Barquisimeto is without doubt the urban pole of the Midwest Region. This urban area has nearly 1.5 million inhabitants and is growing strongly.

Ciudad Bolívar (Venezuela)



Villes en développement - D.R.

Content of the cooperation project

- The project will be an institutional strengthening programme at the country's four land use planning levels:

(1) Central Administration, with the MPDDR as the reference beneficiary.

(2) *The Region, in this case, the Midwest Region, through its technical reference centre*, the Foundation for regional development (FUDECO).

(3) The States of the Midwest region, with the State of Lara as the main beneficiary.

(4) The municipalities, both urban (Barquisimeto) and more rural, involved in

integrated agricultural development projects.

- The institutional strengthening and knowhow transfers will concern regional planning sectors.

- The action learning method adopted will cover two operational themes:

- Planning, focusing on:

- Spatial diagnosis (social, economic, environmental).
- Future studies and long-term spatial approaches involving public and private partners.

- Project implementation in its various stages: identification, definition, monitoring and evaluation. ■

Conferences Training

- Financing for development
- Habitat économique et développement durable
- Metropolization of Urban Development in the Global Economy

Financing for development

The United Nations international conference in charge of examining financing for development will convene in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico from 18 to 22 March 2002. The Secretary-General's report has set out recommendations on mobilizing domestic and international financial resources for development, trade, increasing international and financial cooperation for development, and debt. A report by the high-level panel, chaired by Mr E. Zedillo completes the preparation for the meeting.

→ Contact: Coordinating Secretariat, Tel: 212 963 2587, Fax: 212 963 0443, www.un.org/esa/ffd, E-mail: ffd@un.org

Habitat économique et développement durable

This course, held from 3 to 21 June 2002 in Grenoble, forms part of the curriculum "Architecture de terre: cultures constructives et développement durable" and proposes a comprehensive approach to a low-cost building construction project: preliminary studies, accessibility, construction quality and cost elements. Participants will then be able to develop one or more aspects of their own project with technical assistance by the pedagogical team.

→ Contact: CRATerre-EAG, Marina Trappeniéris, Tel. 33 4 76 40 14 39, Fax 33 4 76 22 72 56, E-mail: craterre-eag.formation@grenoble.archi.fr

Metropolization of Urban Development in the Global Economy

The 26th INTA Congress will take place from 23 to 26 June 2002 in The Hague, The Netherlands. Study and discussion on metropolization will cover linkages between urban networks, hierarchical and social issues, changing democratic models, and economic structures and facilities that are of key importance for metropolitan regions.

→ Contact: INTA, Tel. 31 70 324 54 26, Fax 31 70 328 070 27; www.inta-aijn.org

Financé par :

Ministère
de l'Équipement,
des transports
et du logement

Ministère
des Affaires étrangères

Support for decentralization and project ownership of Cape Verde local authorities.

The project will provide support under the National Decentralization Programme for:

- improving the central government/local authorities interface.
- enabling local authorities to have complete mastery of municipal finance management in cooperation with the competent central government departments, and to fully exercise their powers.
- training those involved (central government, local authorities, NGOs) to enable them to work better both separately and together depending on the areas of competence.
- helping central government to implement the decentralization policy.
- continuing awareness-raising and appropriation of reforms already in progress with the National Association of Municipalities of Cape Verde and the local authorities.
- encouraging the emergence of an efficient, responsive training centre with INAG (national administration and management institute).
- encouraging the coordination of external support measures with DGCI (Direction Générale de la Coopération Internationale).

→ Contact: nicolas.frelot@diplomatie.gouv.fr

**“Opportunities to finance cities
the experience of Mercosur cities”**

The regional seminar “Opportunities to finance cities – the experience of Mercosur cities”, organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mercocities and Isted, with financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IABD), was held from 6 to 7 December 2001 in Santiago, Chile.

The programme included a series of sessions on the following themes:

- institutional and legal framework,
- urban development management and planning, project financing,
- forms of partnership and types of public/private contracts,
- access to urban services for underprivileged social groups,

- contract life and regulation.

During these two days, there were many exchanges of experience among the Mercosur cities and with international and regional institution representatives and French experts.

They dealt with opportunities for cooperation, particularly the institutional aspects and financing mechanisms, and training of Chilean professionals in the following areas:

- urban and regional planning and development,
- water resource management through catchment areas,
- public services including drinking water, drainage, irrigation and flood protection,
- port activities in Valparaiso.

The seminar “Habitat des pauvres: quelles politiques face aux inégalités urbaines”, initially scheduled for 8-10

April 2002 in Casablanca is postponed until 12-14 June 2002.

→ Contact: colhabmaroc@hotmail.com

Partnership for the development of Greater Antananarivo.

The main aim of the project is to help to set up a Development Office in Antananarivo, which will ultimately evolve towards an Urban Agency.

The second aim is to provide additional technical support to outlying communes. The project comes under a partnership which brings together AFD, the “Cities Alliance” multi-donor programme and decentralized cooperation (la Communauté Intercommunale des Villes Solidaires (CIVIS) in Réunion for intermunicipal activities, and Ile de France Region for support to urban municipality of Antananarivo).

On completion of this project, French Development Aid should be able to end its institutional support for the communes of the Antananarivo urban area.

→ Contact: nicolas.frelot@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Managing urban growth in Addis Ababa.

The implementing project for the Addis Ababa management plan provides for:

- strengthening the coordination capacities of the agency in charge of applying the master plan
- improving mass public transport in Addis Ababa
- renovating the city centre (area surrounding the station)
- creating secondary shopping centres
- creating building plots with all services
- improving household refuse management
- coordination, communication and evaluation.

→ Contact: nicolas.frelot@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Support for municipal management and urban development in Congo.

The 36-month project aims to take into account the needs expressed by the municipalities concerned, with a view to restoring proper functioning of their administrative, financial and technical departments, and helping them to acquire new equipment, instruments and more efficient procedures. This approach will also enable the Mayors concerned to better determine their policies for the heavy infrastructure and equipment projects being considered by other donors involved with Congo. Technical assistance will be provided for the Mayor of Brazzaville, with responsibility for and evaluation and monitoring of the entire project.

→ Contact: nicolas.frelot@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Directeur de publication:
Jean Smagghe,
président de l'ISTED

Rédacteur en chef :
Jean-Michel Maurin,
Association de
professionnels
développement urbain
et coopération (AdP)

Comité de rédaction :
Xavier Crépin,
François Croville,
Dominique Ducourtioux,
Nicolas Frelot,
Maryse Gautier,
Francis Godard,
Marie-Alice Lallemand-Flucher,
François Lamoise,
Hugues Leroux,
Claude de Miras,
François Noisette,
Françoise Reynaud.

Secrétaire de rédaction et PAO :
Christiane Graechen-Rebel

Impression Graphoffset
Bondoufle (91)
Traduction : Valérie Jacob

ISSN 1148 - 2710

Abonnement : 4 n° par an
18,29 Euros

ISTED
Centre de documentation
et d'information
«Villes en développement»
Arche de la Défense
Paroi Sud
92055 La Défense Cedex
France
Tél. (33) 1 40 81 15 74
Fax. (33) 1 40 81 15 99
mél. crebel@isted.com
<http://www.isted.com>