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*View of Alger*

ISTED

## Urban Cooperation Professionals

The last one-day conference for urban cooperation professionals in developing countries provided an opportunity for the participants to express their concerns and their expectations. Firstly their concerns, as it is important to recognize the paradox of a sector of activity where expectations and needs are immense but where year by year, the work possibilities for professionals (particularly young professionals) seem to be dwindling. Whether researchers, development aid workers, experts in specialized consultancy firms or association members, they all or nearly all note a reduction in official development aid resources.

One of their main worries is the risk of a break in the transmission of knowledge and experience between the generation that was active in the years 1960 to 1980 and the young people now entering the employment market with the same passion as their elders but whose future looks grim right at the start of their careers.

However, the speakers did allow some hopes of renewal to filter through. Geographical opening up of official development aid, increasing support measures of economic actors, strengthened involvement of civil society partners and local authorities, confirmed

support from the European Union and intervention by other European countries, regeneration and improvement in the quality of research and training, are all perspectives that need to be consolidated.

This trend is a partial response to concerns that fuel the high expectations placed on the international organizations and the new emerging economic cooperation actors, i.e. local governments. New measures must accompany this trend to make it sustainable and efficient by mobilizing professionals in the urban cooperation sector.

The former are asked to mainstream into terms of reference of urban projects, the need to ensure the renewal of expertise by actively making way for young professionals. For the latter, it is up to the profession to draw lessons from the changing institutional landscape which, both in the North and in the South, consecrates cities and local governments as privileged actors in urban development. ■

Claude Pralraud  
Chairman of AdP  
Technical Adviser in charge  
of urban planning, traffic, transport and  
the environment,  
Office of the Mayor of Paris.

## Events

### ■ Discuss Cities Without Slums action plan ahead of CSD-12

Norwegian Minister of Environment and Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Børge Brende, convened a seminar in Oslo, Norway on 11 February 2004, on meeting the challenge of urban poverty, in advance of the 12th Session of the CSD to be held in New York from 14-30 April, 2004. South Africa's Minister of Housing, Birgitte Mabandla, also participated, sharing South Africa's housing development and financing experience.

The Manager of the Cities Alliance Secretariat, Mark Hildebrand, made a presentation on the status and challenges of the "Cities Without Slums". Central themes of the seminar included housing rights and security of tenure, financing human settlement development, and urban governance and the role of local authorities.

→ *Contact: For more, see the Norwegian Ministry of Environment's web page "Norway Chairs CSD" at:*

*Website: [www.dep.no/md/engelsk/csd12/](http://www.dep.no/md/engelsk/csd12/)*

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### ■ "Cities, local governments: the future for development"

#### Founding Congress of United Cities and Local Governments, Paris (France), 2-5 May 2004

Cities Alliance - City Development Strategies Workshop  
- 4 May 2004

During the Founding Congress of the United Cities and Local Governments - the new world organisation of local authorities resulting from the unification of FMCU-UTO and IULA - to be held in Paris from 2-5 May 2004, the Cities Alliance is hosting a special session on City Development Strategies focusing on how CDS are helping cities both in planning for their future growth and in strengthening their decision-making processes to balance economic, social and environmental progress. Four Cities Alliance-supported CDS processes will be presented at the session: Chengdu (China), by Vice Mayor Sun Ping of the Chengdu Municipal Government; Tetouan (Morocco) by Rachid Talbi, Mayor of Tetouan; Aden (Yemen), by Yahya Mohammed Al-Showaibi, Governor of Aden and the South African Cities Network (South Africa), by Andrew Boraine, Chairperson of the SACN.

→ *Website : [www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg)*

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### ■ City Development Strategies: Improving quality, impact and sustainability of urban investment and poverty reduction

Hanoi, Vietnam, 8-10 June 2004 (tentative)

A CDS workshop convening city officials and representatives from Asian and various other cities worldwide as well as their development partners will be hosted by the Ministry of Construction of Vietnam. Organised jointly with support from Japan, the World Bank and Germany's GTZ, as well as other Cities Alliance members, the workshop will:

- Provide a forum for CDS city leaders to share experiences and innovations;
- Enhance understanding of CDS impacts;
- Disseminate lessons on monitoring and evaluation of CDS impacts;
- Promote regional dialogues and city networking opportunities; and
- Provide an opportunity for development assistance organisations to learn about CDS directly from local authorities.

The workshop builds on a CDS meeting of mayors and city officials from 23 Asian cities, held in Fukuoka, Japan in July 2000 :

→ *Website: [www.citiesalliance.org/fukuoka.nsf/](http://www.citiesalliance.org/fukuoka.nsf/)*

*[www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org) (see the Events site)*

### ■ Cities Alliance Secretariat Update

A Senior Urban Finance Advisor and an Urban Economist have joined the Cities Alliance Secretariat team as part of the Alliance's initiative. Dr. Krishnaswamy Rajivan, the Alliance's Senior Urban Finance Advisor, former Chief Executive Officer of the Tamilnadu Urban Development Fund, will focus largely on helping cities mobilise domestic capital to implement CDS and citywide upgrading strategies. Ms. Pascale Chabrilat is an Urban Economist who has joined the Secretariat on secondment from France's Caisse des dépôts et consignations (CDC) and, in addition to supporting the Alliance's activities in urban finance, will assist Alliance members and their clients in integrating local economic development (LED) into CDS and slum upgrading programmes.

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# Such a long road

Michel Arnaud, Highways Engineer, Architect and Urban Planner

*Michel Arnaud drew on his wealth of experience when he opened the AdP seminar with a portrait of trends in employment and careers in international urban development.*

By all accounts, the twenty-first century will be the “urban century”. But paradoxically the careers offered to young (and not so young) French people wishing to devote their work to urban cooperation are not easy to come by – which is in total contradiction with the efforts by some in this country to provide, and by others to receive, increasingly specialized training in this field. This is because sustained urban growth alone is not enough to create a strong demand for expertise. The use of urban skills in the field of cooperation is dependent on international aid.

Colonial urbanism sought to develop cities using the physical and human resources that were available. The independence of French-speaking African States did not cut them off from this tradition. Intervention of the World Bank with its urban projects did not immediately cause a radical change. However, the argument of “urban bias” lastingly penalized urban cooperation. There was a popular idea that migrants were drawn into cities, particularly the largest ones, because of the advantages offered by governments to city-dwellers – to the detriment of rural areas. From then onwards, the development of rural areas and the curb on migration were to be the priorities!

As public investments were supposedly the cause of migration, the emergence of “international standards” and the concept of “essential needs” were in contradiction with this trend. And they supplanted it because it was obviously justified to provide selected city-dwellers with minimum urban services. This primarily concerned existing slums – yet it did not prevent new ones from forming! Structural adjustment, in turn, frustrated this policy by drastically reducing the already inadequate capacities of public institutions to provide basic social services.

The second United Nations Conference on Urban Settlements in Istanbul in 1996 marked the entry of cities into the aid field, which went hand-in-hand with the global decentralization wave. But it was an ambiguous, institutional shift in emphasis rather than a change of attitude to urban development. This ambivalence continued on into the “War on Poverty” and the Cities Alliance Initiative. To serve as a mobilizing point, the former became a melting pot that embraced job creation, access to urban services, health and education and “the right to have a say in matters”. The Cities Alliance initiative, for its part, has brought up to date concepts such as the large-scale improvement of slums or the security of land tenure.

And so, following the

successive announcement effects, there is still no provision for the reception of some 1.7 billion men and women in developing cities by the year 2025, a number nearly double the billion catered for (sic) over the past fifty years.... But, people will say, as regards job opportunities, what does it matter whether or not the task required by a client is in the relevant work area as long as the corresponding offer of employment is abundant and accessible; surely it is sufficient that it meet donors’ requirements – an inevitable position but one that is dangerous in the long run.

The major aid-funded studies and projects are now entrusted to consultant firms through the bidding process. The volatility of skill requirements is such that these firms have no choice but to form teams on a customized basis. As a result, there is a considerable risk that experts from India or other developing countries will cost less than we do but be just as capable of applying terms of reference previously defined by the donors. The build-up of expertise in the south is natural. Advanced countries are obliged to offset their costs by a higher level of performance. This concern is obviously not that of international cooperation organizations.

Such a situation makes the renewal of expertise virtually impossible. Junior

positions are increasingly occupied by nationals from aided countries. France’s various voluntary service systems – VSN (Volontaires du Service National/ national service volunteers) which became CSN (Coopérants du service national en entreprise/ military service industrial placement volunteers) and VIE (Volontariat International en Entreprise/ voluntary international industrial placements) – and NGOs still enable young people to come into contact with developing societies but it is after a first experience that the problems begin for it is then that dedicated job applicants come up against a lack of job offers!

A “professional community” unable to do its intended work is bound to decline. Activity in which various skills are temporarily lumped together, without a common rationale being patiently developed, is unlikely to build up people’s experience and make their action progressively more relevant. French urban research in developing countries is far from negligible but researchers and academics pursue careers that are mainly regulated by the assessments of their peers. Furthermore, R&D, which determines the competitiveness of expertise, requires research findings to be used as a basis for defining and testing strategies and projects – which is obviously impossible when the only consideration is the response to international demand.

To break out of this stalemate, we must look beyond the present situation and open



up new opportunities. Three complementary approaches are necessary to give a new lease of life to urban cooperation in the French context and consequently provide a sound framework for the occupations and careers it can and must offer.

- Firstly, we must work actively towards “cooperative demand”. Foreign aid cannot sustainably finance needs that are increasing at the same pace as urban growth. And that is how it should be, for the only realistic response to urbanization in these countries is for the societies concerned to build up their own funding for urban investment, including their capacity to make use of the inter-

national financial market. This is even more so because the middle market created by ODA which is managed by donor countries, despite its different formulations, is mainly a projection of the concerns of societies of the north. Financial constraints call for an approach that will move away from “ready-made” solutions towards “tailor-made” solutions able to mobilize local leaders more effectively. This approach would have to bring all skills based on knowledge and action into play.

- Secondly, we must seize the chance to restructure French development aid in the urban sector around “decentralized cooperation” – following

on logically from Istanbul and decentralization. A whole range of urban policy issues come under government jurisdiction and justify State-to-State cooperation, but governmental cooperation programmes are scarcely better equipped than international institutions to provide the many different urban authorities with appropriate aid. Other countries prioritize NGO intervention. No doubt the French style of decentralized cooperation between French local authorities and their foreign counterparts corresponds better to our system and our traditions. And surely the real market for our skill areas lies in this type of cooperation which con-

sists not so much in financial aid as advice and studies aimed at helping local authorities to cope with their problems.

- Thirdly, urban cooperation needs to be re-focused around the current major problem of urbanization of the part of the world that is still under-urbanized. Cities will continue to grow. There is thus no question that the purpose of cooperation, with the pursuit of our professional occupations in this context, is first and foremost to ensure that urbanization works as well as it possibly can in these cities and that poverty, insofar as it is unavoidable, is bearable and dignified. ■

## Public-private partnership, the Scandinavian reference

*André Hernandez relates the specificity of the Scandinavian approach to urban cooperation.*

After ten years in French-speaking Africa, then a self-employed consultant in Indonesia in 1985 and recruited in Denmark in 1999, I was able to observe the changing market conditions in which project management has taken precedence over consultancy and more and more nationals belong to project teams or even lead them. Projects are developed as if with building blocks, involving different trades working together at times and for periods scheduled in advance. The Danish experience

offers an interesting answer to several questions. Which social and economic context enables companies to recruit and be cost-effective, how is work organized, how important is central government, how is work done for countries abroad in the urban planning sectors?

### **First comparisons between France and Denmark**

French companies tend only to have a core of regular marketing and administrative staff. To

use a comparison from the football world, Danish society works in a 4-4-2 line-up (40% domestic labour, 40% abroad, 20% self-employed) whereas the French tactic tends to be 2-2-6. In this context, how is it possible to ensure the transfer of domestic knowledge and the promotion of young people. Managers are often in the 35 to 40 age bracket in Denmark.

Permanent conflict between the public and private sector and the omnipresence of the Administration in the international sector

are virtually non-existent problems in Denmark. The multiplicity of national or local public players and the jungle of organizations continually being created makes French assistance abroad far from transparent. France's isolation – her francophony, the French Exception and anti Anglo-Saxon sentiment – lead to affirmations that are easily misunderstood abroad.

### **Scandinavian socialism**

Scandinavian socialism can be summed up in three words: liberty (in the liberal economy), equality (with respect to taxes, pensions and health) and fraternity

(in which community life is highly developed).

An annual survey by Mercer (consultancy firm) on 215 cities, used by multinationals to evaluate their employees' quality of life, shows that Copenhagen ranks among the first 5 cities.

But that does not explain why the companies are prosperous. A comparison of tax percentages with company profits gives:

Denmark	30
Sweden	28
France	33,3

Source: Ernst & Young, *Worldwide Corporate taxation Guide, January 2001.*

The big difference is that social security systems are financed by taxes in Denmark, hence the lack of payroll taxes for employers and employees. Levels as percentages of salaries are as follows:

Denmark	1
Sweden	33
France	45

Source: Ernst & Young, 1999.

This partly explains why Danish companies prefer to recruit, given that the cost is limited. It is further substantiated by an evaluation of flexibility in recruitment, contacts, salaries and dismissals (rated out of 8):

Denmark	7,32
Sweden	7,64
France	4,80

Source: IMD *World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2001 & World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report, 2000*

This shows that no Scandinavian model exists, given that Sweden is much more heavily dominated by the Administration.

There is only one type of contract, whether in the public or the private sector. No benefits, bonuses, 13th-month pay, different retirement dates, expatria-

tion premiums or security of public employment. Everyone, whether in the public or private sector, is treated the same.

### Life in a Danish consultancy firm

Job incentives and community life result in group leisure pursuits, often financed by the companies, which seek to facilitate employee cohesion and optimum communication with managers (less hierarchy including that of salaries). A survey has been made which establishes which workers identify most with the corporate objects (rated out of 8):

Denmark	7,32
Sweden	7,64
France	4,80

Source: IMD *World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2001 & World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report, 2000*

It is also shown that the French lack foreign language skills (in %)

	anglais	allemand	Français
Denmark	76	52	10
Sweden	72	25	7
France	35	9	-

Source: EU Commission, 1999. *Urban-sector employment in Denmark*

There is only one administrative level after central government, the commune, which has extended powers and is in direct contact with the public. Taxes are paid to the commune of residence which provides social cover, and not to central government. There is only one centrally-run local level, the District, with few prerogatives such as regional planning, but the commune can refuse to apply a proposed plan. Copenhagen, the only large city, includes 10-30 communes depending on how far out the city limits are drawn. There is no ad-



Øresund Bridge which links Denmark and Sweden, a symbol of Scandinavia's integration into Europe.

ministrative entity grouping the urban area, no urban planning unit in the communes but a local development unit concerned with quality of life. There is no regional body (such as IAU-RIF, the French urban planning agency). Urban planning is one aspect of social development.

The emergence of local authorities is not relevant in Scandinavia since everything is decided in the commune which concentrates on these social aspects without any action on the international front.

### How does a Danish consultancy firm work?

For international cooperation, Danish funding is managed by an agency, Danida. Other Scandinavian funding is often open to the Danes: SIDA Swedish Agency, joint Nordic Funds, Norwegian Norad. With Holland, these are the four countries that spend the most in the world as a percentage of the GDP. Consequently the total amount of Scandinavian aid is the same as French aid. But it is exclusively reserved for the private sector. Central gov-

ernment never intervenes and decentralized cooperation is outside the prerogatives of the communes.

DANIDA uses a protective system in which the selection of service companies is based solely on criteria of quality, not price, which is calculated as a fixed percentage to be added to the net salary.

There are no seconded civil servants and no contractual employees are used.

The continual refocusing of cooperation in French-speaking Africa shows how difficult it is for the Administration to adapt to the world market. Danida selects target countries on the basis of technical, not political, criteria (good management, lack of corruption, democracy, etc.). Danish companies have a better knowledge of constraints in a market where they are not given preference.

Urban planning abroad consists of quality management and controls. Danish companies have appropriate structures. The system is protected but flexible: no unsackable staff, young executive staff, less hierarchy, dynamic structures. The counterpart may be some "pressganging" to which the French would not take kindly. That is doubtless why I am in Denmark but have gone back to being a self-employed consultant. ■

# Urban cooperation: --- what future for young professionals?

Caroline Martin, IEDES graduate (Institut d'Études du Développement Économique et Social) and job-seeker

*France's offer of urban development services is going through a transitional period. This was shown by meetings with twenty professionals from different horizons They are all wondering what the future holds for their employment sector.*

## **The destructuring of a professional sector that is nonetheless developing and diversifying**

Through interviews with some of the personalities in the urban cooperation sector (NGO members, researchers, training specialists, consultants, civil servants and students), I was able to assess the scale of the challenges involved in renewing these activities, which were addressed at the AdP conference. It emerged from discussions focusing mainly on individual careers, that this professional community, whose level of skills is largely recognized,

is tending to become fragmented This is shown by the difficulties of French donors in choosing between ad hoc consultant teams formed in response to calls for tenders and the rare French consulting firms working in the urban field abroad. The culture of Franco-French cooperation, confined to the traditional sphere of influence of the Priority Solidarity Zone and still more to French-speaking Africa, is hampering and complicating the opening up of this sector to other experiences and areas of knowhow. At all events, the fear of using new teams results in a network logic in which young

people have difficulty in finding their place. They are up against a professional community who continue to follow their habits while becoming marginalized at the same time.

However, the conditions of these professional activities have unquestionably evolved over the past thirty years. Institutional changes of donors, conditions of urban growth in the south, the professionalization of local operators, the decrease in official development assistance, the build-up of decentralized cooperation, the emergence of NGOs in the urban sector, are all

factors to which professionals have gradually had to adjust. Strictly operational occupations for which engineers, architects and urban planners have been sent as development workers to cities in developing countries have been replaced by more forward-looking, context-sensitive approaches involving partnership, management, diagnosis, assistance and assessment. In addition, globalization is causing an upheaval in urban intervention. The inclusion of urban processes in national programmes is being called into question. Logics based on the market, on access to technologies and on inter-

## Publications



**Villes et citadins dans la mondialisation** under the direction of Annik Osmont and Charles Goldblum.

Paris 2003, Karthala-Gemdev ed., 300p.

This book is the result of work and discussions of a working group organized by Gemdev. It uses Latino-American, African and Asian references and covers four themes: The globalized economy and metropolized spaces; Socio-spatial changes and negotiated urban planning; Transfers of models and local democracy.

Price : 25 Euros

→ Contact : GEMDEV  
[www.gemdev.org](http://www.gemdev.org)  
[www.karthala.fr](http://www.karthala.fr)

**Villes et sociétés en mutation: lectures croisées sur la Colombie**, coordinated Françoise Dureau, Olivier Barbary, Vincent Gouëset and Olivier Pissoat. Paris: Anthropos, 2004.- 370 p., tab., maps, bibliogr.

This book proposes a multidisciplinary interpretation of the urban process in Colombia. It contains six chapters: dynamics of the urban system; spatial mobilities, metropolitan segregation, black ethnicity in the city; violence and cities; urban management and local democracy.

Price : 30 Euros

**Aménageurs de villes et territoires d'habitants : un siècle dans le Sud algérien**, by Taoufik Souami. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2003.- 420 p., drawings, bibliogr.

The author analyses the workings of institutional machinery in the context of "autoproduction" of cities and regions, by observing the situations experienced in the South of Algeria during a century. He also endeavours to describe the complexity and fragilities of official and institutional approaches.

Price : 32,50 Euros

→ Contact:  
[www.editions-harmattan.fr](http://www.editions-harmattan.fr)

national partnerships are playing an increasing part in local decisions. At the same time, cities in developing countries are growing fast both spatially and in their social complexity. In fact, approaches to problems must not only use different tools but they must also work at different levels: urban areas, city centres, neighbourhoods, infra-local levels.

In response to these structural and contextual transformations, urban cooperation expatriates have sought to renew their approaches by calling their urban practices into question. They have usually decided to return to France, have put their work into perspective and thought out new modes of action. They have come to grips with the diversification of working envelopes and skills and have adjusted to the multiplication of urban actors such as developers, contractors, associations and NGOs. As a result, the diversification and multiplication of the work content has broadened the definitions of urban activi-

ties as much as it has confused them.

### What options for young graduates?

Ability to adjust to multiple contexts and work as a team, knowledge of actors' logics, analysis and synthesis capacities, are all qualities and skills identified as necessary by these professionals. They illustrate the multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting nature of urban action. At the same time, possibilities of pursuing a career exclusively at international level are dwindling. Firstly because it is risky to restrict activities to the international scene, as shown by the return to France of the more experienced actors in this sector. And secondly because missions are becoming much shorter. The alternation of missions in France and abroad provides skill-building opportunities.

In everybody's view, the integration of young professionals into the urban export sector is now possible not only through associations and NGOs but also

through decentralized cooperation. Like most young professionals now in search of employment, I am faced with a difficult alternative. On the one hand, associations, including NGOs, promote internship status. Making this choice means accepting status-based and salary-based precarity. And on the other hand, local governments are beginning to use a more open approach to these questions. Local governments, now largely autonomous, have acquired the cross-cutting knowhow through their practices that is required for urban expertise. They are now capable of carrying out these partnership activities by drawing on their own resources. Lastly, it seems possible to take advantage of this "destructured" context by approaching authorities whose international activities are still in their infancy and offering them action plans, guidelines for developing their operations and sources of funding, etc.

It is a fact that, for lack of perspectives, job-seekers are gradually turning back to the

French urban sector. In my view, the best opportunity of participating one day in the implementation of a project abroad, in the context of a developing city, is to become a member of a local authority.

One thing is certain, energies, dedication and skills exist. Many students have had a taste of urban cooperation work during their studies. And for many of them, this work is experienced as a genuine commitment. But fears are that they will not all be able to earn a livelihood from it.

However this may be, the question of a new action framework is posed – to strengthen and diversify French expertise, on the one hand, and to facilitate the integration of young professionals, on the other hand. ■

## Symposium

### Urban Development Research Programme (PRUD) Feedback symposium



The feedback symposium on the theme *Governing the cities of the south: challenges for research and action* will be held at Unesco (Paris) on 5, 6 and 7 May 2004.

The programme leaders wish to give the final symposium a dimension of optimization of the programme benefits and feedback from the research. With this aim in view, policy makers, local elected representatives, mayors of large cities, and specialists in direct contact with activities and personalities of

civil society will be invited so that an open discussion can take place with the PRUD teams in four workshops organized on the following themes:

- The actors' strategies and action logics;
- Urban spatial and social configurations;
- Urban policies and public/private relationships;
- Urban management systems.

Through wide-ranging discussion between planning specialists from the North and South, the aim is both to transcend the geographic

limits of the PRUD and to formulate concrete proposals that will build a bridge between research and action in favour of urban development.

The concept of this symposium is resolutely focused towards the identification of cross-cutting relationships through singular situations, with a view to providing better aid for decision-making.

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## News on cooperation

### Africities 2003 Summit

The third edition of the Africities Summit was held from 2 to 8 December in Yaoundé (Cameroon). This event, which brought together a large number of African local elected representatives and many foreign participants (more than 2,000) is an important forum for the African municipal movement and for decentralization dynamics in Africa. The theme adopted for 2003 concerned access to basic services in African local governments. Many workshops addressed the thematic aspects and political meetings were organized to create dialogue between central governments, local governments and development partners. Alongside the thematic and political meetings, CITEXPO enabled exhibitors to present their products and their activities to a large number of visitors (decision-makers and specifiers) mainly from the local government sector.

ISTED was on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stand at Africities and developed contacts with many African leaders and international organizations. Isted also helped the Cities Alliance to prepare a special session on this initiative, inter alia by producing a communication brochure, providing French and English documents and distributing a special issue of the Villes en Développement bulletin on the Cities Alliance.

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Anne Charreyron-Perchet, head of urban department Isted, at the Citexpo exhibition in Yaoundé (Cameroon)



### AdP 2002 Conference proceedings

Through funding provided by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the proceedings of the AdP conference on 6 September 2002 "The City and large-scale investments" have been printed for distribution essentially to French missions abroad (such as local development assistants, SCAC or research institutes). These proceedings included contributions on specific investment issues and innovative approaches together with viewpoints of elected representatives (from Lyon and Ségou) and Rachel Ayache's groundwork for some case studies of major projects (in Burkina Faso and Kremlin Bicêtre) and on the role of urban actors in the negotiation of these projects. A few copies are available from AdP.

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### Dinner-debate AdP

A dinner-debate organized by AdP (Association de Professionnels - urban development and cooperation) will take place on Tuesday, 9 March in Paris, on the theme: the press and urban issues in developing countries, in the presence of Michèle Leridon, former AFP officer in Abidjan, now chief editor for Europe and Africa at AFP Paris Press Agency, and Bernard Loche, chief editor at France 3 public television network, former producer of the Sagacités magazine.

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### AdP Executive Committee

At the end of the General Meeting on 4 September 2003, membership of the Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee was as follows: Claude Praliaud (Office of the Mayor of Paris), President; Jean François Vergès (consultant), Vice-President; Françoise Reynaud, SECRETARY; Nathalie Joubert (French representative to UNESCO), Treasurer; Marcel Belliot (FNAU), Thierry Paulais (AFD), François Phulpin (Urban Planning Consultant), in charge of relations with AGECID and analysis and reflection on young professionals.

Jean Michel Maurin (Calvados County Public Works Department) continues in his capacity as chief editor of Villes en Développement.

Philippe Martinet remains the webmaster of the site.

→ Website: [www.adp.asso.fr](http://www.adp.asso.fr)

### Urban Agenda

A new "Urban Agenda" section is available on the Isted website [www.isted.com](http://www.isted.com). This regularly updated agenda presents international seminars, congresses and events in the urban sector in the months to come. It gives the date, place and address of the website for the events. We will welcome any input you can send for this section.

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Africities 2003 Summit in Yaoundé (Cameroon)



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