

Villes en développement

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The developing city : a Medellín district

ADP IS FORTY

Éditorial

A debate that is global at last!

While a number of seminars in 2018 are devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Henri Lefebvre's book «The Right to the City», the fortieth anniversary of the creation of AdP Villes en développement gives us the opportunity to see how ideas progress, disappear, emerge or are reformulated. This is particularly so in the case of the «Right to the City» which, once reinterpreted and appropriated by citizens' movements, is becoming an essential part of the global urban debate, as at the Habitat III Summit (Quito - 2016). The last forty years have indeed been marked by the Habitat Summits organised by the UN: Habitat I (Vancouver - 1976), Habitat II (Istanbul - 1996) and Habitat III.

Each of these summits has provided an opportunity to take stock of the upheavals which affect professional practices, for example the «collision and collusion of scales» mentioned by geographer Michel Lussault in this issue. As Michel Arnaud explains, these changes have led to the transformation of an entire profession. In the 1960s, the profession acted mainly through urban cooperation with former colonies.

Today, international expertise is more diversified. Gradually, the city has become the theatre for the activities of new stakeholders whom we wanted to hear from in this issue, starting with local authorities, as Mouctar Mamoudou in Niamey testifies. The emergence of local authorities on the world stage has been accompanied by a greater role for NGOs, which are now making a success of the World Urban Forums. Emelyn Bermundo

underlines the activities of one of them in the Philippines.

The question of funding also raises the question of the position of donors. In this issue, Robert de La Rochefoucauld presents AFD's commitment - or that of private actors, as Pierre Victoria from Veolia shows. But are we not in danger of commodifying urban space, as Jean-François Tribillon warns us?

*«The urgency of a sustainable
development must take into account
the urbanization matter"»*

Today, we are all confronted with the imperative of sustainable development in the face of threats to the planet that compound the persisting economic disparities affecting cities in the South, as well as in the North. The Habitat III summit enshrines the new order through an agenda and deadlines recounted by Christine Auclair. The realisation of the suddenness of global climate change must be followed by a general mobilisation, which involves taking into account the issue of urbanisation. Hence the need for a global urban debate.

For forty years, AdP has been making its contribution, as described in this issue by some of its former presidents. With the support of its members and the backing of its partners, such as the magazine Urbanisme, the association hopes to pass on the torch to succeeding generations.

**Antoine Loubière
Benjamin Michelin**

ACTING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Interview with Michel Lussault

The geographer Michel Lussault is a professor at the École normale supérieure de Lyon. He directs the «Lyon Urban School», which runs a programme on global urbanization in the Anthropocene.

For Villes en développement, he presents the main points of his analysis, which can be found in his trilogy of books: l'Homme spatial (2007), l'Avènement du monde (2013) and Hyper-lieux, les nouvelles géographies de la mondialisation (2017).

What are your views about the concept of urban globalization?

We must move away from the facile idea of a world that will constantly become more uniform. It is of course the case that globalization produces uniform spaces. As soon as you leave Dakar airport, you are struck today by what resembles an urban copy/paste environment, and the same is true in many countries - there is a standardization of forms, modes of financing, materials, architectural styles, procedures... and of urban thinking itself. From a certain point of view, yes, globalization produces uniformity, and this applies in developing cities too.

However, from another point of view, that of spatial organization, geographical imagination and practices, differentiation is becoming important once again. In a sense, the more generic urban spaces become, the

more we need to produce uniqueness, especially through places. But today's "local" environments bear no resemblance to those of yesterday. When one talks about the local environments of yesteryear, one is either being nostalgic for a bygone age, or denying the qualities of a contemporary place by comparing it with a misconception about an old place. Denial and nostalgia are two facets of the same inability to think of new local environments in the context of intense globalization, i.e. within a metabolized, metamorphosed local environment.

This local environment no longer refers to an unchanging, scale, but to a «hyperscale» of globalized space. We can witness a collision and collusion between scales. The world continually transpires every place: every place is both a local area and a platform for the intersection of principles of action and

living. The place thus becomes open and modified, which grows and which is nourished by the daily practices it calls into being. This approach takes into account the fact that we are not the «victims» of globalisation; we also help bring it about, due to our interactions with places.

In order to do away with the logic of scales, you recommend focusing on the importance of relations?

The loss of reference points that results from globalisation means that everywhere there is a social demand for where one lives and its singular nature to be taken into account. This demand, which can go as far as the desire to set up a club, can be observed within all social classes, even during rehousing operations after slum clearance. This process is equally capable of producing «gated communities» or poor people who live among their own kind using arguments such as: «we are among ourselves... in a secure environment; we can develop mutual aid networks...» Those involved in planning and urban development are forced to satisfy this demand. A development that has a clear location and limits and that is conceived as a protected «bubble» is certainly easier to create, and subsequently to control. It is easier to appropriate, and also often better accepted by local groups suspicious of openness and the contact with otherness which it imposes.

Except that reliance on the enclosed residential clubs and/or professional, consumer or leisure practices becomes so powerful that it excludes everything else. It makes it impossible to consider the general interest that transcends a specific place. We therefore need to work towards urban planning that is «situational» - that takes account of all the resources provided by a situation or a given place - and that is aware of what runs through a situation, what transcends it due to spatial and temporal processes, what links it to all the elements that make it part of an urban system.

«The «hyper-place» about which I have tried to theorize, based on my observations, shows precisely situations where such relations are the most apparent: what is enclosed in a hyper-place is in reality permeated and used, what crosses it is localized and made to belong. This works both ways.

Starting from this observation, I think we

Times square, a hyper-place





Blaise-Diagne international airport in Dakar: an iconic hyper-place ?

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should promote urban planning and development that embrace these kinds of tension that we find in contemporary places - between what is closed and what is open, what is the enclosure, what permeates, what is established or ephemeral. Perhaps this could provide a way of replacing prescription engineering which claims it knows everything and practically resolves the slightest problem and contradiction in advance, with engineering that provides tools for collective work, which brings in the inhabitants, who become the co-constructors of urban projects and which is attentive to this volatility that affects contemporary space.

How can we escape from the financialized urban economy?

Urban development is dominated by a neo-liberal, financialized, vision, which is that of the victors of globalization. In a very conventional way, this vision retains one of the foundations of the urban economy, namely rent from land and property. However, property ownership and the obsession with land development are major obstacles to the urban renewal. While everyone is discussing «smart cities» and we are being bombarded with talk about digital ideologies and their supposed ability to alleviate spatial constraints, investors are still localizing much more than they are dematerializing. The most profitable financial «investments» are often in urban locations.

However, digital technology also offers an opportunity for new ways of thinking. In the collaborative digital economy, people share their cars and their land, etc., moving away from the idea of the immediate immobilization of assets. We can thus work on «commons» which raises the question of appropriation and not ownership: how can I

use a resource in common with others without privatizing it? Can land be used by developing activities without too closely defining its use through private or public ownership?

This creativity is necessary to rethink our approach towards the urban economy. What is happening in the informal spaces in developing cities may inform developments that would be interesting elsewhere. Slums sometimes emerge as places where the idea of ownership has been abandoned. Of course, some forms of ownership may still exist in the form of transferable rights, but sometimes there is no ownership, only use of land. The appropriation of use can go hand in hand with ownership, but not necessarily. In informal housing situations, we also see the extent to which «do it yourself» and empowerment are two aspects of urban renewal.

What view do you take of the current institutional framework and the intermediating bodies?

The traditional intermediating institutions (school, politics, health system, press...) are in crisis. They are being crushed by the spread of the forms of living that result from globalization, in particular the individualization of mores. At the same time, cooperative project approaches are emerging. These collectives can be relatively effective, but they are nevertheless very much linked to a specific situation. They cannot serve the public interest in a satisfactory and lasting manner. I think that we must invent new institutional mechanisms to promote the general interest and allow forms of regulation to appear as a result of the mobilization of collectives.

Today, however, it is private groups that claim to play this intermediating role and offer

us cohesive frameworks for imagination - for example GAFA, Airbnb, Uber... Such a situation is untenable: a private group cannot genuinely consider the general interest - which, as a matter of principle, must be detached from the search for added value. There can be no genuine institution of general interest that is not public, but this must not be based on the old local framework any more than on the traditional, deficient, geopolitical State.

You are working on the Anthropocene: what is your conception of the environment in urbanization?

The Anthropocene is perhaps less of a concept than another way of recounting the history of our occupation of the planet. It makes it possible to shake off the somewhat stereotypical notions of infinite growth, and more recent ideas of radical degrowth, by connecting urban and environmental globalization in the realms of thought and action. Indeed, today, two processes fuel globalization: urbanization on the one hand and global change on the other... We must therefore «environmentalise» urbanization and urbanize global change. We must think of the environmental question as a power that moves societies and spaces and consider urbanization not as a scourge but as a positive force that causes the pattern of societies to evolve.

The sciences to complement this new interpretation have yet to be invented, bearing in mind that knowledge can no longer provide us with an overview. From now on we must act in an uncertain world.

Interview by Antoine Loubière, Benjamin Michelon and Marianne Durand

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: 40 YEARS IS PART OF 70-YEARS CONTEXT!

Founded in the era of Habitat 1, AdP is celebrating its 40th anniversary. On this occasion, the association asked Jean-François Tribillon to take a look at these four decades of urban planning in the countries of the South. This legal scholar and political scientist, who teaches at the Paris-La Villette School of Architecture, provides a critical analysis, going as far back as the immediate post-war period, in order to point up the major trends. This is a forty-year development that took place in a seventy-year historical context, in an African setting.



Tanger Med 1 container terminal

© Jacques Gally

Following on from colonial urban planning

What is called «colonial urban planning» is not urban planning in the sense of the organisation and planning the development of cities. At the outset, most of the work consisted of extending cities by successive subdivision. Colonial development was subdivision development. In the years following independence, development operations were transformed into planning operations. These involved master plans that were seen as providing the basic urban structures from which cities would emerge: facilities, housing, universities, business areas, port and airport extensions, waste management, transport, etc.

The basic idea was that urban development must be planned in the same way as the economic development of new States: and central government was the planner. The master plans were very far-reaching, to the point of serving as schematic projections for urban policy. From this standpoint, the results are indisputable.

The destruction of States

The destruction of States and administrations (both those that represent government

and provide services) in the name of structural adjustment sounded the death knell of these operations. The World Bank put in place a radically opposing doctrine: the city is the area where urban projects must be bankable in order to find funding as reproducible schemes so that they can be adopted as policy. The coherence of projects is the result of the Bank's development ambitions and not of the urban planning regulations that are applicable in the area in question. As we clearly stated at the time², these schemes were semi-successful while the policies were outright failures. The most spectacular example was the resolution of the urban land issue through the organization of property markets, the encouragement of investment and the struggle against poverty through legal ownership.

Sadly, we are more «optimistic» about the setting-up of private companies providing delegated public services (water, waste management, sanitation) or performing public functions (such as land development). The relentless way the Bank replaced administrations by agencies that were under its wing is one of the great triumphs of neo-liberalism. These agencies had to employ

personnel who were not civil servants, work like clockwork according to the principles of private law, and foster competition between service providers...

The Rewriting of History

It may be that the offence to reason (and nothing is more serious) lies in the way this change has been described: the destruction of public services and the market taking over interactions between people have been presented as the outcome of a natural historical process. It is history that has placed internal markets under the domination of the global market; it is history that has made finance the organising power of the global market and thus the organiser of everything. It was not the result of the victory of more powerful and better equipped men over others. It was written.

In this rewriting of history, the Bank, and the universities that exist in symbiosis with it, have played a crucial role. Since 1972, when it first became involved in urban affairs through its Philippine and Dakar «serviced plots» project, the Bank has become the main institute for research, study, experimentation and policy initiatives. The other

institutions have aligned themselves with it to the point where the most shocking praise of neo-liberalism was heard in AFD's corridors when it was under a socialist government. AFD is indeed an agency!

The embodiment of technical reasoning

A city must be managed, it cannot be planned. It is permeated by projects financed by the Bank; national institutions are given the task of organising the submission of their country to the liberal diktats of the Most High, of directly connecting civil society to the world market... How can a group of professionals - AdP - withstand such an environment, how can it bow out gracefully, how can it be content to do no more than prepare projects for financing bodies that have become the masters of development? The end of the Soviet Union in 1989 sealed the neoliberal pact and made it universal. Our professional group had flourished until then under the banner of technical and international urban reasoning, undoubtedly influenced by the modern movement which found some virtues in colonial urban planning... as long as it was decolonized.

In this context, Michel Écochard's influence must be mentioned, beginning immediately after the war in Morocco and ending in 1965 in Dakar, he argued in favour of multipolar conurbations that could be covered by master plans. He exemplified fairly well the militant technical thinking that AdP has adopted and that Michel Arnaud too has taken up, although doubtless in a more political form. This international planning thinking has few weapons with which to confront the Bank and global trends in opinion. It is isolated as a grouping of professionals far from universities and intellectual movements and fails to benefit from alliances with professionals from the countries of the South.

The latter were not ready to fight against these developments, so clear was it to them that colonization could be seen as a first form of forced globalization, admittedly one that was restricted to the sphere of the colonial compact, but nevertheless an international and globalized phenomenon. The globalization that followed did not surprise them... But does this necessarily mean they found it unacceptable?

Failure and a new work programme

And meanwhile, life and the city go on with an increasingly obvious contradiction between schemes (I was even responsible for one very recently myself in the company

of Christian Bouchaud) which are sometimes just wishful thinking, even if they are as beautiful as a Michelin map, as well as campaigns to combat urban poverty which increasingly seem to be based on the idea that this is as easy as installing electricity ... and the behaviour of people who themselves did what they had asked for in vain and which someone could have given them, carving out small pieces of land to start building houses that they will never finish.

In this way, a real city is born from day-to-day living and the agglomeration of domestic spaces, unbeknown to official urban planning. The mismatch between the project plans of urban organising authorities and the practices of the city's population is clearly apparent today.

We must do something, and quickly, because the real city is in danger of suffocating the official city. It is worth noting that this situation does not greatly hinder the development of a third city, that produced by financia-

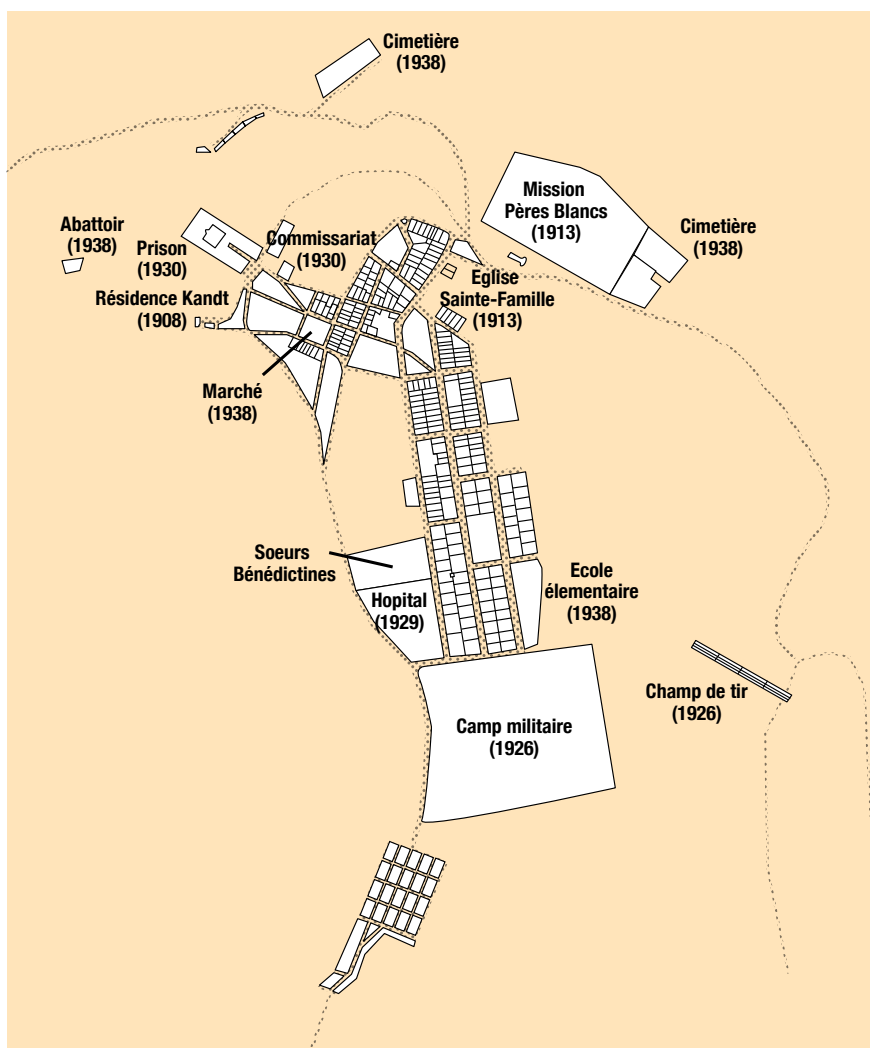
lization in the form of airports, container ports, shopping centres, golf courses, gated communities, etc. These investors are quite willing to grant a few subsidies to the project plans which provide them with easy pickings.

The existence of these three cities is quite apparent in the last seventy year period that we have described here. It is useless to dream of reunification. Let us try to ensure that they co-exist peacefully, take advantage of each other, benefit from common services and that the real city is not the only one to endure the new waves of urbanisation that are looming due to demography, climate change and wars. This is some programme...

1 - Massiah, Gustave, Tribillon, Jean-François. Villes en développement : essai sur les politiques urbaines dans le Tiers-Monde. Paris, Éditions La Découverte, In the series "Cahiers libres", 1988, 320pp.

2 - Tribillon, Jean-François. Afrique atlantique : de l'urbanisme colonial au développement urbain, revue Urbanisme, n°332, sept-oct 2003

Subdivision of the centre of Kigali in 1957 (Source Benjamin Michelin 2016)



THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH URBAN EXPERTISE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Before the Second World War, in «the countries of the South» - the former colonies - urban planning was carried out by the colonial administration, and was more or less apparent depending on the extent of the involvement of the colonising power. Here, Michel Arnaud describes the transformation he witnessed between 1954 and 2006. He started his career as a colonial official, then continued as an official working for AFD's predecessor, the Secretariat for Urban Planning and the Residential Environment (SMUH), and finally as a free-lance professional. This co-founder of AdP proposes a sequential approach that emphasises the relationship between urban development policies, aid mechanisms and professional practices in the urban planning sector.

To speak of «urban planning professions» in the plural has become commonplace today. This is an acknowledgement that the term «urban planner» can no longer be used to designate the single practitioner who planned the physical and material development of cities. The list of practitioners now includes those who analyse, produce or manage urban areas, at various scales and in various sectors. The expertise required ranges from sociology to governance, and includes architecture, engineering, economics, finance, without forgetting politics. There are not even clear boundaries between the different professions involved and there is much overlapping between different the kinds of expertise. In the context of development aid, this broadening of the profiles of French urban professionals took place in France and in the countries of the South essentially after the 1960s. Urbanisation in developing countries then became a major phenomenon and one that was increasingly difficult to deal with.

1950-1980, economic growth, independence

The last years of the colonial system were marked by pro-active but straightforward urban management, relying on a strong tradition of order and authority to impose and control urban development with limited means. A few officials from mainland France were called in, bringing their recently acquired skills to the reconstruction process, without much consideration for local conditions, and these were followed by private urban planners with their Master Plans. This situation remained unchanged in the former French colonies after they gained their independence in the 1960s. Especially since the French and global economic situations at the time were very favourable.

French urban policy instruments (Caisse des Dépôts real estate companies, Semi-public planning companies, employers' construction fund), and consulting firms increased the transfer of French experience in urban

management. The first national design office to include urban planning expertise opened in 1964 in Côte d'Ivoire.

At the same time, the SMUH – which was set up in 1960 on the basis of an interdepartmental experiment in the French overseas departments and territories as an instrument for defining French urban cooperation - was taking over the administration's role and recruiting contract staff with various training backgrounds. Its role was to prepare them for the technical assistance professions by raising their awareness of the need to adapt French practices to local contexts.

SMUH enhanced its expertise by creating new industrial cities and coordinating the French institutional and private sector partners that were invited to sit on its Board of Directors. It was involved in training French urban planners who had graduated from the nation's schools or universities and it also produced relevant technical documents. SMUH also organised «urban planning missions», carried out by French civil servants and contracted practitioners, including architects, which were a forerunner of urban agencies.

This is the framework in which the urban planning professions evolved in the former colonies, at the same time as they evolved in France: organising ministries of construction and urban planning ministries, replacing the officials from the national administration.

1980-1995, structural adjustment

This period was marked by the long economic recession caused by the oil shocks, the fall in commodity prices and the indebtedness of developing countries. These were followed by the economic reforms imposed by the major donors (World Bank, IMF) and the inability of development partners to continue financial aid commensurate with urban growth. During this period, The French Cooperation (Caisse centrale de coopération which later became the French Development Agency - AFD) stopped financing social housing, countries reduced urban development budgets and the use of expatriate contract workers.

At the same time, the emergence of an anti-urban bias (due to the adoption of the urban bias thesis, i.e. the belief that much urbanisation is unjustified) and the involvement of



First Franco-Indian decentralized Cooperation Meeting, New Delhi 2010

© Xavier Crépin

the World Bank were changing the directions of urban policy in most developing countries, shifting the focus onto the fight against migration, giving priority to agricultural and rural development, abandoning urban master planning, cost recovery, poverty reduction and governance.

The framework for intervention in the urban sector now became that of consultations with private bodies, generally multidisciplinary and often confined to the implementation of a policy defined by the donor. For its part, UN-Habitat offered French practitioners an opportunity to promote French-style urban planning, of which little advantage was taken because of the conceptual domination of English and the attempt to make, or pursue, a career within the organisation. The urban planner then became integrated within these multidisciplinary and sometimes multi-functional structures.

Since 1995, local expertise and competition

Since 1995, the number and level of training of national practitioners has been increasing, national administrations have gained a new independence and globalisation has accelerated factors which have combined to create a new context. Two events were to impact French methods of operating in developing countries. First, the un-tying of aid increased the scope for involvement in a more competitive climate. Next, the Ministry of Development was merged with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of the 1990s and public cooperation policy and operational activities were separated and allotted respectively to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Development Agency. In this context, technical assistance became increasingly rare and gave way to ad hoc and more specialised expertise. AFD's areas of expertise were broadened and it recruited urban planning practitioners to bolster its ability to design and implement urban projects.

Overseas consultants (civil servants, design office executives, freelancers) regained a prominent position, as urban planning projects are a means of establishing a presence among national or local managers, and even of prospecting for and, if necessary, building major construction projects. Thus far, it was not large-scale property development (entire environmentally-friendly or sustainable cities) that was absent from this competitive landscape.

The shift towards new areas of activity has also been responsible for a diversification of professions and backgrounds. The privatisation of urban services, governance or



A Standpipe in the Ivandry district of Tananarive

© François Noisette

sustainable urban development led to a proliferation of, frequently private sector, players from different disciplines with clearly identified profiles: engineers, political scientists, experts in transport or the environment. At the same time, «decentralised cooperation» enabled practitioners from French urban planning agencies to continue to import urban policy from the French mainland and even to position their executives within the international market for urban studies.

From colonial to globalised urban planning

Thus, since 1945, we have witnessed the diversification of the urban planning professions, whose activities have changed from colonial urban planning to «globalised urban planning», resulting in more imitative ideas and practices. There has also been a shift from development activities to project-centred urban planning, with difficulties in dealing in an appropriate and cross-cutting way

with diverse local situations, in particular the expansion of precarious neighbourhoods.

This change is a response to the growing complexity of urban problems. This complexity is linked to urban expansion, increasing environmental risks and challenges, technological development (transport and digital technology) and the changing roles of the public sector, the private sector and civil society.

Urban action today involves coordination and remedial action, as much as, if not more than, planning. The urban planning professions have had to adapt to this complexification of urban systems, and will have to continue to do so in the future. Furthermore, urban planners, whatever their initial training, will have to know how to «change jobs» in order to grasp opportunities in a huge and continually changing urban development sector.

Interview edited by Ferdinand Boutet

THE GLOBAL URBAN DEBATE: LOCAL ACTORS AND THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Barely two years have passed since the Habitat III conference in Quito, which was held forty years after the 1976 Habitat I conference in Vancouver. The new world urban agenda, which was endorsed by 193 governments for the coming twenty years, has ambitious goals that put cities and regions at the very heart of development. In this article, Christine Auclair, an expert working for UN-Habitat and a member of AdP, discusses the impending international debate, highlighting the urban issues and the stakeholders involved in this process.

The development of an «urban science»

The new agenda is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were finalized in September 2015, underlining the need for poverty reduction. It also acknowledges the Paris Climate Agreement, which highlights a climate pathway that imposes a new form of planning and the sustainable management of cities and regions. In this context, even if the Quito global urban agenda is not binding, the impetus will generate substantive actions involving different levels of stakeholders who will be grouped around local authorities.

From this point of view, 2018 marks several milestones regarding urban issues. To begin with, scientists and city experts met in Alberta in early March at the Cities and Climate Change Science Conference. A first, this conference was sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with the aim of stimulating research on cities and climate change. An «urban» science is emerging that aims to better understand emission mechanisms, refine projections and model climate action, focusing on low-carbon urban infrastructure, smart grids, access to «green» energy, and adaptation responses such as resilient infrastructure and warning systems.

Urban authorities at the forefront of action

In addition, in the eighteen months since Quito the focus of the urban agenda has been essentially local, concentrating on the climate issue. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris agreement has put mayors at the centre of climate action. Having committed themselves to emission reduction targets that are more ambitious than those adopted by States, cities are asserting themselves as key players in terms of both emission reduction and adaptation strategies.

2018 will see the organisation of an annual event of a new type where cities will take centre stage. The Global Climate Action



Works for the Quito metro whose first lines are due to open 2019

© Xavier Crépin - October 2016

Summit will be held in San Francisco from 12 to 14 September. Cities will have a strong presence there with the C40 network as a leader and private sector support to attract the necessary investment. The «Climate Chance» initiative, supported by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments), is another example.

Goal 11, a priority for stakeholders

The High Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development, scheduled to take place in July in New York under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, will be another highlight of 2018. The Forum will focus on the follow-up of five MDGs including Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The Member States, together with local authorities and non-state actors, will present their strategies for action and their climate commitments. The right to housing is certain to occupy an important place at this meeting. The Agenda 2030 roadmaps, the global urban agenda 2036 and developments subsequent to the Paris agreement on targets for 2050 suggest some key upcoming matters for the urban debate. First, the High

Level Political Forum will subject SDG11 to a three-yearly review until 2030. The COPs, conferences and annual summits on climate action, will also be important occasions to confirm the central position of cities and regions in the climate debate.

For the time being, mayors and city networks are at the centre of the stage. We should closely monitor the initiatives of the networks of cities in the coming years, starting with the members of the Global Task Force, who have been a driving force behind the Quito initiative, the GDPs and post-COP21 actions.

As in the last forty years, it is therefore important that the 250 professionals working in the seventy countries brought together by AdP, a partner of the World Urban Campaign, support and facilitate these conferences, in conjunction with non-state actors, businesses and local authorities. By the next Earth Summit and the Habitat IV conference, central and local governments and their stakeholders will once again have embraced some effective strategies to meet climate challenges, with urban and regional issues at the heart of sustainable development. ■

THE DIVERSITY AND COMMITMENT OF URBAN ACTORS

In this set of articles we are giving the opportunity to speak to four prominent figures respectively representing local authorities, civil society, private companies and donors. The influence exerted by these actors has increased over the last twenty years. The statements below brought together by Ferdinand Boutet testify to their involvement in the creation and management of developing cities.

► Mouctar Mamoudou has been President of the special delegation of the City of Niamey in Niger since 2017 and is a commissioner on the Niamey-Nyala programme.

What are your priorities for action in Niamey?

Managing a city is similar to managing a family: you have to think about day-to-day life and the future. The city of Niamey is experiencing high demographic growth, rapid urban sprawl and the concentration of economic activities. Nine months ago, the city lacked a direction. We had to propose a course of action. Our first goal is to meet day-to-day needs of the population, for whom we must be present. In order to improve the management of the city we want to make the community run smoothly again and provide its employees with good working conditions, while achieving optimisation. We also want to provide our citizens with uninterrupted public services and manage our financial resources in a responsible manner, in order to create a climate of trust among the population, which is essential!

The second goal is more comprehensive: to implement a sustainable urban policy in Niamey. This mainly involves the ability to deal with problems beforehand, and no longer be constantly reacting. We are putting measures in place to meet future needs. We are attempting to get residents involved, for

example by launching the e-nyala internet application and a toll-free number that allows them to warn us about events directly.

What pathways are available to you to achieve urban sustainability?

Schemes for creating and managing of networks are often out of step with the situation in the field, being based on a developed city model. Paradigm change is essential to move towards sustainability. Each case is a specific situation: we must find the appropriate techniques for Niamey. It is necessary to dialogue with residents, starting from the bottom of the scale, households first, then districts. We want to improve and modernize local methods that are disappearing. We are promoting a green economy, new techniques and new jobs for the city in order to move towards sustainable and less costly management.

We hope to join the ranks of the major African cities and to become a model for the rest of Niger and internationally. The President of the Republic launched the special Niamey Nyala programme (Attractive Niamey), which aims to provide facilities

that are worthy of a capital (health services, roads, development, street lighting, etc.) and to ensure the day-to-day operation of essential services for the population. Our political aim is for Niamey to be influential, but also take care of its citizens.

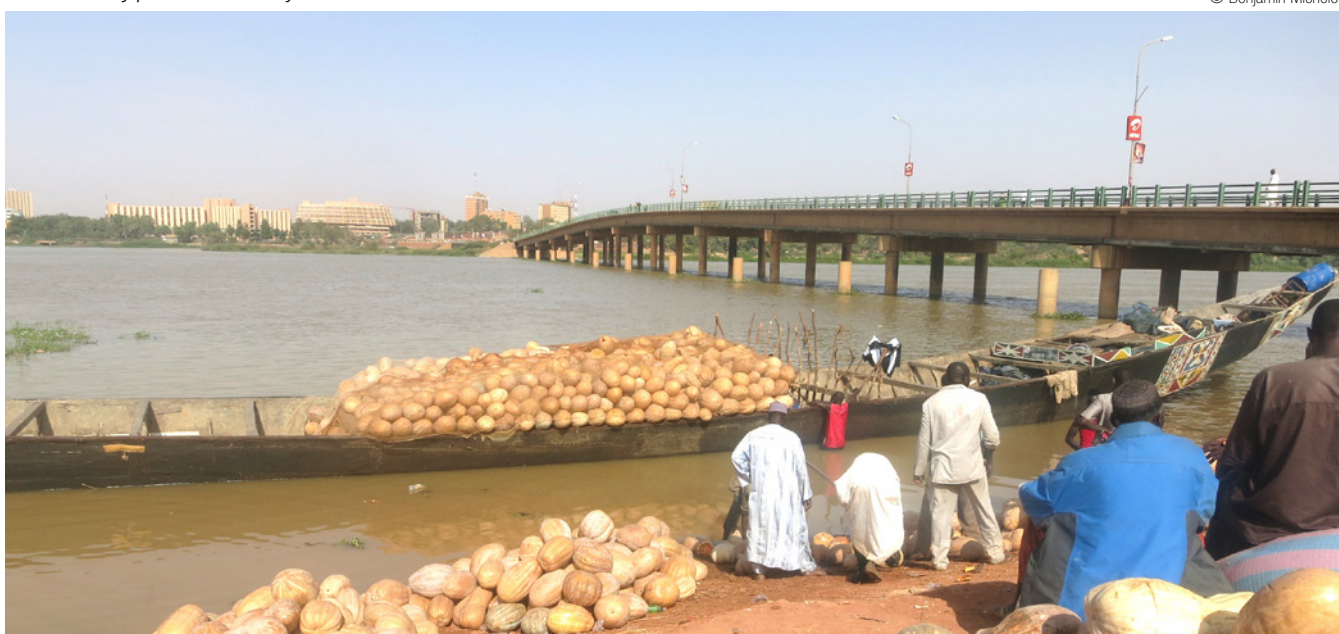
How will you finance the attainment of these goals?

We must control expenditure and broaden the tax base before seeking external funds. We are working to optimise this. Since I took office, we have increased revenues six-fold, mainly by taxing the occupation of public property. At the same time, technology provides a means of ensuring secure collection. This effort should allow us to gain the trust of citizens and make better use of the funding they provide.

If this work is properly done, it will give us more credibility with regard to receiving external support, which will ideally be technical rather than financial. The city must take charge of itself, and become more independent of central government and donors. Niamey must take her destiny into her own hands.

Gourd delivery pontoon in Niamey

© Benjamin Michelon



► 3 questions for Pierre Victoria, Veolia's Director of Sustainable Development

*«Lack of foresight leads to grief»,
Léonard de Vinci*

Veolia is committed to the resilience of regions, a concept that is of particular concern in the countries of the South. Tell us about this new approach

In the face of global climate change, which is more intense in the countries of the South, a three-pronged strategy is being pursued. This involves the management of urban development, access to essential services and reducing the use of resources.

Extreme phenomena are on the increase - floods, torrential rains, hydric stress... They cause as many deaths as chronic diseases such as malnutrition.

The more vulnerable countries of the South are the first to suffer. At COP 21, their representatives placed the emphasis on adaptation to climate change, while the media focused on the need for mitigation. However, we should not see these two approaches as being in opposition with each other.

Adaptation to climate change is a key issue for regions: in addition to taking into account the risks generated by climate change, resilience offers the opportunity to see the city differently. It contributes to the creation of new forms of cooperation between actors within regions.

A commitment to the environment compels us to work in a holistic and cross-cutting manner. How can a private stakeholder, even if it is a multinational company, become involved in this battle for the good of regions?

The challenges involved in enhancing the resilience of cities go beyond technical and technological issues and belong to an overall process of urban development. We should not think solely about risk management: it is the city of tomorrow we need to create. At COP 23 in Bonn, we organized a conference on resilience where we addressed social issues. This is also the thrust of the «100 Resilient Cities» programme, of which Veolia

is a partner, and which was launched by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2013 in major cities around the world.

Its members include cities in Africa, Asia, South America, the United States and Europe, for example Paris. We have developed an approach to help cities prevent and cope with disasters. A pilot project was conducted in New Orleans, the first city to adopt a resilience plan, in order to develop and test this methodology. The ultimate aim is to help make cities more attractive.

With our comprehensive proposition - energy, water and waste management - we can propose to study the interconnections between services, from the perspective of the circular economy.

Can you give us an example of your holistic approach?

With a population of 3.5 million and Africa's second largest township, Durban provides a good example of how we are addressing these challenges. Tensions over water are increasing for industrial, domestic and agricultural uses. Initially, in 1999, we were only operating wastewater treatment plants. We then proposed a new model to municipal authorities whereby treated wastewater is sold to industry. The aim is to avoid depleting resources.

98% of wastewater is thus recycled. It should also be noted that some of the profits from this sale go to a fund intended to promote access to water for people in difficulty.

Interview by Marianne Durand

Durban : 40 000 cubic metres of water saved every day

© Photothèque Veolia



► The involvement of civil society, as seen by Emelyn E. Bermundo, Special Advisor, Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment (TAMPEI), a Philippine NGO. TAMPEI provides support to communities of inhabitants.

Until the 1970s, social movements in Asia were weak, but rising inequality and insecurity have fuelled political and social unrest. To meet these challenges, NGOs started to become involved in urban management, and they have finally succeeded in influencing urban development and gaining a degree of recognition.

In the Philippines, these civil society organizations (CSOs) mostly emerged in the 1980s, the product of the renewal of political activism that came about under Marcos. They campaign for government reforms, human rights, economic restructuring and poverty

reduction. In parallel, other grassroots organizations emerged as a result of the proliferation of slums, resulting from the rural exodus and population displacement caused by armed conflicts, the construction of infrastructure and natural disasters. They quickly gained legitimacy on the basis of their experience in the field.

However, despite their best efforts, the CSOs still have difficulty becoming part of government structures. Bureaucracy and power games prevent them from achieving recognition by the authorities. However, these

obstacles have never undermined their vitality, in particular due to the Government's insufficient involvement in tackling urban problems.

The homeless federation's action in favour of housing

The Homeless People's Federation Of The Philippines Inc. (HPFPI), which was formed in 1998 with community savings groups, is a particular example of this type of approach. It helps low-income community organizations become self-sufficient and encourages the creation of other savings groups.

Four other organizations support HPFPI's initiatives:

- 1) The Philippine Action For Community-Led Shelter Initiatives provides residents with legal, financial and skills development assistance.
 - 2) The Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI) is a group of professionals, mostly architects and engineers, who provide technical support for the creation of housing.
 - 3) Linkbuild, which is a social enterprise that provides development finance and builds homes for HPFPI member structures.
 - 4) CORE-ACS, a microfinance NGO, offers accessible loans to low-income families
- These organizations have been working on housing for years, striving to improve the living conditions of communities, create partnerships with the Government and other institutions, lobby for a pro-poor housing policy and encourage the inclusion and participation of citizens in government bodies. Their efforts are bearing fruit: community participation on housing boards, collecting concrete data from «informal residents» in order to inform neighbourhood planning, supporting municipal authorities, influencing study programmes, recognition by local and international organisations.
- The HPFPI's experience shows that CSOs can become major actors in urban development.

© Bertille Noisetie



Manila: Young smugglers entering a shanty town

► Robert de La Rochefoucauld made his career in AFD's urban development departments. He gives a chronological presentation of the rise of the donor in this area.



AFD has led numerous projects in Rio, notably with IAU-IDF and APUR

© Xavier Crépin

The World Bank was the first donor to tackle urban issues - in the early 1970s - undertaking the rehabilitation of precarious neighbourhoods and the production of minimally equipped housing developments. Its aim was to help developing countries make up their lost ground as far as urban growth was concerned. At the time, French development aid was mainly a provider of technical assistance, focusing on urban planning, which was less costly than operational projects.

Until the early 1990s, AFD (then the Caisse centrale de coopération économique) granted loans with a financial return (when the financed facility generated income capable of repaying loans). It was mainly focused on rural and agricultural development, but also had some involvement in the urban sphere through the provision of commercial urban public services.

1990 – 2000, poverty reduction

The 1990s were marked by the impact of structural adjustment in LDCs and poverty reduction. This was a decade of transition for AFD. The devaluation of the CFA franc (1994) and the indebtedness of the least developed countries were responsible for the introduction of the transfer of the subsidies awarded by France. Moreover, loans were no longer provided solely on the basis of their financial return. In addition, the fight against poverty led to renewed interest in cities, the first places to be affected.

AFD financed urban facilities and services, such as markets, bus stations and urban transport. During this period, AFD launched «labour-intensive urban projects» that employed low-skilled local workers.

2000-2030, urban development and adaptation to climate change

Under the leadership of its director Jean-Michel Severino, the institution gained strength in the 2000s: it became the pivotal operator with the ambition of increasing its committed capital by a factor of 10 between 2000 and 2020 (12.7 billion). Where a project worth 10 million Euros was previously exceptional, AFD now rarely commits to one worth less than 5 million, as these are deemed to be unprofitable. It has reverted to granting loans and extended its operations to BRICs and emerging countries, initially with a remit that was confined to the environment. The preservation of global public goods and the battle against climate change have constituted AFD's roadmap since 2000. In the long term, 100% of the projects and programmes supported by AFD must be climate compatible.

In this context, urban issues are taking on a new dimension, as cities are the main emitters of greenhouse gases. The creation of a division specialising in the city in 2006 and the sums committed to financing the sustainable city, which stood at 950 million in 2016 (12% of the Agency's annual funding commitment), are two tangible indicators of this growing importance. However, while they have increased its influence, these developments have also profoundly modified its action in urban areas. The donor has become less of a project maker and is now more in the position of a financier of programmes for local authorities with large borrowing capacities (Hanoi, Rio de Janeiro) and local authority banks (Turkey, South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco).

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADP

THE URBAN WORLD, 50 YEARS OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

The architect and urban planner Xavier Crépin, is a professor at Sciences Po, and was the President of AdP from 1990 to 1994. His career has combined field experience with the mobilization stakeholders alongside the State and economic operators. He describes 50 years of changing ideas about the global urban movement.

The acceleration of urbanization that began after the Second World War, especially in the South, was identified by authors such as Georges Balandier, with his 1956 publication «Sociologie des Brazzavilles noires». The topic's arrival on the political agenda involved a long process, and it now occupies a position at the forefront of global issues.

The urbanization process first came in for criticism in the North. Jane Jacobs, in «The Death and Life of Great American Cities», published in 1961, was responsible for one of the first attacks on the modernist movement and urban renewal. This author influenced 20th century urban planning in North America and beyond.

In 1968, Henri Lefèbvre published *Le Droit à la ville* (The Right to the City), which described the social issues and remains immensely topical to this day. This book, together with «The Urban Revolution», influenced the first urban projects of the World Bank starting in 1972 and the Vancouver Habitat I Conference, making the connection between the poor/dangerous classes and uncontrolled urbanization.

Not only do cities pose a political threat, but States do not recognise them as places of co-production between the authorities, the dominant actors and the inhabitants themselves. John F.C. Turner published «Housing by People» in 1982, drawing attention to autoproduction by the people. This theme is central to Jean-François Tribillon and Gustave Massiah's book «Villes en développement», published in 1988.

In 1996, Saskia Sassen's «The Global City» drew attention to the progression towards the empowerment of cities and their growing role on the world stage. This work places the city at the leading edge of progress and global economic development.

However, the link between urbanization and economic development was put up for debate at the first «World Summit of the City» (Habitat II) in the 1996 book «Dynamique de l'urbanisation de l'Afrique au sud du Sahara» which was supervised by Michel Arnaud. This urbanization process is to an equal extent a question of settlement as demographic transition.

This disconnect between urbanization and economic growth in Africa is central to the



Presentation of «Villes en Devenir» (Cities in the Making) in Chinese, in Nanjing

© Xavier Crépin

work of the World Bank, coordinated by Michael Cohen and published, in 1990 in «Urban Policy and Economic Development». This process was analysed by Christine Kessides in 2000, in «The Urban Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa» and more recently in 2017 in the report «Africa's Cities: Opening Doors to the World», published by the World Bank and several donors.

In addition to understanding the urbanization process, acting on behalf of cities by involving all stakeholders is a priority. Annik Osmont and Charles Goldblum published «Villes et citoyens dans la mondialisation» in 2003, in which they linked urban governance and urban development.

In 2006, applying a unified approach to the ordinary city, Jennifer Robinson, in her book «Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development» appeals for the separation between cities in the North and the South to be transcended.

Sharing this unified approach to cities, by offering decision-makers and stakeholders keys for understanding and acting, is the subject of the collective work «Villes en Devenir» published in 2007 by ISTED, under the direction of Xavier Crépin.

Having paid scant attention to urban issues before 2007-2009, in 2011 the European

Union published «Cities of Tomorrow, challenges, visions and ways forward», in which it made the case for sustainable cities. Its conclusions were incorporated into The New Urban Agenda adopted in October 2016 in Quito during the Habitat III conference, in response to the need for the security, resilience, inclusiveness and sustainability of cities.

Faced with the risk arising from uncontrolled urbanisation, is planning and financing to adapt cities to the combined effects of climate change and other natural and man-made hazards once again becoming a priority? The 2016 book on Urban Resilience and Disasters in Asia coordinated by Rajib Shaw widens the scope for solutions in the most urbanised and vulnerable part of the world.

Michel Lussault, in «Hyper-lieux, les nouvelles géographies de la mondialisation», published in 2017 contrasts a world which is both not only more globalised and homogeneous, but also increasingly localised and heterogeneous, to that described by Françoise Choay, who announced in «The Death of the City» in 1994 in which the City was seen as being replaced by the reign of urban engineering. This tension is a component of the new forces of urbanization, which will need to be addressed in the coming years.

JOINT INTERVIEW

One of them took over from the other as editor-in-chief of this newsletter. Aurélie Landon and Géraldine Barbé talk here about their commitment to AdP.

Aurélie Landon: In 2015, I joined the team of the AdP Villes en Développement newsletter, working alongside Marcel Belliot whom I later replaced as editor-in-chief. With Benjamin Michelin, the director of the publication, and Eloïse Pelaud then Marianne Durand, the editorial secretary, we had several objectives. The first was to ensure the continued publication of this Newsletter, as for a time it was menaced by financial difficulties. We therefore called on new partners, modernised the layout and changed the themes by focusing on emerging trends and issues.

Géraldine Barbé: I will take over from Aurélie as Editor-in-Chief in September 2018. I hope that my involvement in the newsletter will help maintain and strengthen the existing momentum, enabling all professionals in the sector to identify with this small-scale but excellent publication.

When I joined the association in 2013, I was still a young professional returning from my first experience in the field in Senegal. I became a member because I wanted to join a network in order to meet professionals working on developing cities and to keep abreast



On the left Aurélie Landon and on the right Géraldine Barbé

of current debates and thinking in this sector. Over the years and as my career took shape, I have felt the need to become more involved in the association's activities. For me, it was a question of seeing my practical experience against the background of the questions that drive our professions: tools, methods or approaches...

AL: In particular, I coordinated the issue on collaborative cities, that dedicated to migrants and refugees and that on taking gender into account in the city. Gender is also at the heart of our thinking inside AdP. The place of women in the association is as important as that of young people. Until now, the distribution of roles in the association has barely reflected the increasing number

of women in the development professions that has occurred in recent decades. Besides devoting an issue to it, we have also endeavoured to increase the presence of women on the editorial board and make sure female authors contribute to each newsletter.

GB : «My» first newsletter, which will be published in September, deals with a very topical issue: urbanisation and financialisation. And if women will still have a very minor presence, it will not be my fault, since the issue is based solely on presentations made during the last annual study day!

ADP: AN INTEGRATION MANUAL FOR A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

The point of view of Ferdinand Boutet

My first board meetings at AdP in 2013 impressed me somewhat. As a young newly qualified, professional, I remember coming here with a classmate, Pierre Renault, a member of AdP, who is now based in Tehran. We had submitted proposals to increase the involvement of younger members in the association: a newsletter on the theme of the training and integration of young professionals, an area dedicated to new young members on the Internet website, a special low membership fee for them, more effective mentoring of younger professionals by seniors... Implicitly, the idea was to set aside a bit of space for young people.

Our attempt was initially met with what we took for a degree of resistance on the part of existing members who, we thought, seemed unsure about the legitimacy of our proposals. With hindsight, it is not surpri-

sing that our spontaneous and somewhat clumsy demands caused some irritation. But although we perceived AdP as a closed world, we were determined to become part of it in order to involve young professionals and help them start their working lives - with unconcealed self-interest.

It took time to create a dynamic: a diagnosis was made with the young people in the network based on a questionnaire, and we then needed to analyse the results and set up projects... This campaign led to the creation of video prizes for young professionals and the improvement of the intake process. Since then, I have joined the board and participate in the running of the association, contributing to several projects.

This integration process can be confusing. But on reflection, having to persist, argue and



debate with members in order to understand the challenges facing the profession and the history of the association has allowed me to move forward and make myself known. And, that is where the investment justified itself - the network has spread my name around. This allowed me to be recognized, and sometimes recommended. In a field where two-thirds of professional opportunities never go beyond the network level, this involvement is essential.

Today, the misunderstandings of the early days are of course forgotten and my relations with the board members are much better, as is my professional situation. Co-optation has paid off!

THE RISE OF EXPERTISE IN THE SOUTH, A GOAL OF DEVELOPMENT AID

His many international assignments are combined with his experience in high-level public administration, acquired in central government and decentralised services or local authorities. François Noisette takes a close look at intervention and expertise in the countries of the South. This senior French government civil engineer, who is a specialist in sustainable development and land use planning, chaired AdP from 1996 to 2003.

The emergence and the increasing sophistication of expertise in the South are a response to a long-standing objective of international cooperation. Indeed, «When a man is hungry, it is better to teach him to fish than to give him a fish». Cooperation means providing good training and support. Obviously, the successes of emerging countries, particularly in East Asia, open up debates on competition when they relate to technology and innovation. On the other hand, good performance with regard to engineering and operational capabilities in Latin American countries attracted European investors and entrepreneurs as early as the 1920s.

An objective supported by French professionals

In French-speaking Africa, beginning in the 1960s, French expertise was coordinated by the Secretariat for Urban Planning and the Residential Environment (SMUH). It initiated a tradition of publishing reference manuals and distributing them through a periodical which was the predecessor of «Villes en Développement». A large number of development workers were called upon to enhance the expertise of their counterparts, who had often been trained in France too. The structures that took over, the Agency for Development Cooperation and then ISTED, continued this work. Since the 1990s, decentralized cooperation has made a contribution to skills transfer.

At the same time, the creation of the African School of Architecture and Urban Planning (Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l'Architecture et de l'urbanisme), in Lomé in 1975, launched a movement to organize the provision of training for the urban professions in the countries of the South. Now the network of French-language schools and universities has been organized, efforts are currently focused on designing more advanced training, such as MOOCs, participatory training tools that our colleagues in the South use extensively.

Local and regional private expertise is now available in each country. This includes engineering and technical project management



Rabat: creating Chinese portraits during the creation of a planning programme

© INTA

capabilities, as well as interventions at the district level. More complex projects based on a cross-cutting approach require support from international engineering firms. While those based in Western countries or Asia still have the bulk of the market, design offices located around the Mediterranean and in Southern Africa are no longer concealing their ambitions.

Towards the next step

Having received high quality initial training, professionals from the South, working in both the public and private sectors, continue to face new challenges. Existing methods are no longer sufficient to face the challenges of the 21st century: promoting environmentally friendly modes in response to the demand for personal mobility, involving residents in project design, reducing the impact of inequalities through mixed urban land-use, assessing and mitigating environmental damage... What is missing? In the North as in the South, knowing how to abandon universal models and question accepted solutions whose negative impacts are no longer tolerated.

In countries where institutions are still weak and hardly communicate with each other,

let alone with the actors of civil society, this remains very difficult. We must dialogue with elected representatives, harness traditional expertise, and recognise the expectations of the demanding middle classes... Although research provides some analytical insights, there is a need to learn how to act in the field. Our colleagues do not encounter these opportunities in their first positions.

An asset for French expertise

Developing a local partnership base has long been essential in order to operate effectively. As the members of AdP are aware, these partners make it easier to manage contacts and maintain continuity with customers. They provide competitive technical capabilities and tools (surveys, calculations, GIS). Nowadays, the success of a project or a bid depends on finding the right mix of local and international expertise.

Finally, NGOs and international companies have become the ideal places for acquiring field experience in the South. Working in a local design office is a demanding option, not an easy one. This makes it increasingly important to belong to a professional network like AdP.

For our association, meeting this demand is a permanent and ongoing challenge.

ADP, AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS UNDERGOING RENEWAL

The world is his territory and infrastructure his specialty. After an international career in Africa and Asia, Claude Jamati was offered the presidency of AdP in 2004, on his return to France. Under his leadership, which continued until 2011, the association opened up, took on a younger look, strengthened its links and built new partnerships. AdP met him in his mayor's office in Bailly, Yvelines. He remains closely attached to the public sphere.

What do you consider to be the outstanding features of the association's history?

The history of the association reflects French and international institutional history. When AdP was founded, there was a small group of urban planners and development workers. Its first members experienced the consequences of decolonization and the end of institutional cooperation. For a long time, the association lived in a vacuum, in a post-colonial world where the balance of power was immutable. Since then, things have changed very quickly, especially in the area of urban issues, and the association must constantly adapt to these changes.

Your last professional position was as the director of development for Suez's Moroccan operations. When after this you took over the presidency of AdP, what priorities did you set yourself?

AdP has relied heavily on ISTED, the Institute of Equipment and Environmental Sciences and Technology for Development (dissolved in 2010). Xavier Crépin, one of my predecessors and for a long time director of this organization, which was attached to the Ministry of Cooperation, was at the origin of the partnership that enabled us to finance this newsletter. The drafting committee included the supervising ministries of Equipment, Cooperation and Foreign Affairs.

When I arrived, we had to open up, expand and foster convergence between players and between the networks in order to reposition ourselves. This was shortly after the turn of the millennium and the many changes made following the abolition of the Ministry for Cooperation and AFD's ascendancy. We have adapted to the changing context: less institutional cooperation, more links with international institutions, research organizations and decentralized cooperation...

You opened up to other themes and other networks. Which?

Yes, at the same time, our understanding of urban issues has evolved, leading us to adopt a comprehensive approach.

In particular, AdP's activities followed this evolution, which led from «cooperation» to decentralised cooperation, notably through the actions of the large French urban planning agencies. As a result, our collabora-

tion with FNAU (the National Federation of Town Planning Agencies) increased in scale. Marcel Belliot was its representative from 1998 to 2011, before taking over the presidency of AdP. In connection with FNAU, I would like to make a special mention of the IAU-IDF and the Lyon urban planning agency.

The partnership with Codatu (Cooperation for the development and improvement of urban transport) is an example of these convergences that I have sought to develop, in this case on the theme of transport. I would also like to mention Projection, an association of young professionals that acts as an «incubator of ideas and talents», which has contributed to this revitalization.

By increasing our membership from 80 to 200, we have also rejuvenated and feminized our membership.

Your training goals are set out in the association's statutes. How are they achieved?

We have a partnership with Isur¹, the master's degree offered by Sciences Po Rennes since 2006. Under my presidency, we have consolidated this collaboration. Today, several members of the association teach there. In this perspective of training and consolida-

tion, I also wanted to strengthen the position of the «Ville en Développement» documentation centre, which is housed in La Grande Arche, and which effectively embodied the association's role as a forum and hub. I also thought it was important to develop the website. In addition to its function as a showcase and repository, its online directory allows young professionals to form a network and encourages interaction.

So the intellectual riches of the association are based on the capacities of its members?

We all believe in teamwork. Those who propose a topic for consideration are committed to organising the annual event that may ensue. The same goes for the dinner debates, which I have made more frequent, which are organised thanks to the association's many partnerships. The success of these partnerships depends greatly on the men and women who are behind them

Interview by Marianne Durand

1 - The Isur Master's degree (Ingénierie des Services Urbains en Réseaux - Villes en Devenir - Engineering of Networked Urban Services - Cities in the Making, is one of the seven courses that make up the Sciences Po Rennes «public policies» Master's degree. It is accredited by the Rennes École Normale Supérieure and enjoys a partnership with the Institut Mines Télécom Bretagne.

One of the many dinner-debates organized by AdP

© Jacques Gally, 2017



A figure

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This is the number of members AdP Villes en Développement currently has. This figure was much lower in the 1990s when most of its members were directly involved in urban cooperation through technical assistance. This is also why, for a long time, AdP's annual thematic day was held on the first Friday of September. This date meant that development workers could meet their colleagues at the end of their holidays. After a dutiful visit to the Ministry, each returned to their respective field project.

The number of members steadily increased in the years 2000, ensuring the replacement of participants. This reflected a change in the profession of urban planner that now takes different forms and requires different skills - engineers, experts on institutions, geographers, architects, sociologists... It also reflected the involvement of new urban stakeholders (such as NGOs, decentralised cooperation consultants) and a desire to open up the association, to increase its outreach and adapt to institutional changes.

Today, a large number of the founding members are still active as «honorary members». New members are joining thanks to sponsorship which helps to «co-opt» new members and thus ensure a form of accreditation of our members' expertise. They find their feet and in turn contribute to the life of the Association by organising debates or producing this newsletter.

B. Michelon

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Some basics

“DEVELOPING CITIES”



picture showing a slum clearance project in Nairobi

«Villes en Développement», or Developing Cities: although this term can be open to criticism, it is not always too easy to find a better one. Once the word «underdevelopment» had been abandoned, we gradually began to use a more politically correct word: «developing». This reflects the structural and qualitative outcomes of hoped-for growth, combined with the idea of economic and social progress. It finds its origin in a cyclical conception which tends to consider urban «development» as a process of urbanisation/decline/re-urbanisation... In a break with this established system, the «declining city» or the «mature city» (see Raphaël Languillon-Aussel) reflected a new approach. In this context, the term «developing» refers to a conception that no longer necessarily integrates a systemic approach to urban space, whose boundaries are difficult to define today. Furthermore, this norm would seem to be based on a comparison between the «developed cities» of the North and the others. The question of a model could then be raised, based on the expressions «intelligent city», «green city» or «resilient city». This would allow us to no longer see the city as «deve-

loping» but as «developed» according to the standards generated in the North. The current proliferation of such new expressions also reflects a trap of simplistic, even improper, use of the new concepts they encapsulate.

As for the term «cities of the South», it refers even more directly to the geographical divide with, on one side of the globe, the developing countries and, on the other, the developed countries. This North/South divide, which was first described in 1980, also fails to convince, as the contexts have become so different today. This explains why, faced with the divergent transformations affecting cities and urban contexts, the notion of cities «of the Souths» is now sometimes employed (see Jean-Louis Chaléard).

For its fortieth anniversary, transcending this divide, two more up-to-date terms could appeal to AdP: «up and coming cities» (see Jérémie Cavé and Joël Ruet) or «emerging cities» (ISTED, see page 12) which allude to the future of these cities that are undergoing major transformation... without in any way predicting their futures!

B. Michelon

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