

Book Reviews & Book Notes

This section introduces some authored book reviews for the first time, as well as the usual Book Notes.

Two book reviews are included: *Growing Up in an Urbanizing World*, Louise Chawla (editor) and *The Mystery of Capital* by Hernando de Soto. These are followed by Book Notes, which gives short descriptions of recently published books, papers and reports on all subjects relevant to the environment and development. Priority is given to items produced by research groups and NGOs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Book Notes also includes short descriptions of newsletters and journals. Send us a copy of any publication you would like included; we produce Book Notes of publications in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese. Enclose details on prices for those ordering from abroad, and how payment should be made.

The Book Notes in this issue are grouped under the following headings:

- I. Community Development
- II. Demography
- III. Development
- IV. Employment and Livelihoods
- V. Environment
- VI. Governance
- VII. Housing
- VIII. Indicators
- IX. Participation
- X. Poverty
- XI. Sustainable Cities
- XII. Sustainable Development
- XIII. Transport
- XIV. Urban
 - a. General
 - b. Urban change
 - c. City-specific
- XV. Waste
- XVI. Water and Sanitation

Book Reviews

Growing Up in an Urbanizing World

A review of Growing Up in an Urbanizing World, Louise Chawla (editor), 2002, 254 pages, ISBN: 1 85383 828 4. Published by Earthscan Publications and UNESCO Publishing, London and Sterling VA. Available from book stores or direct from Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK; e-mail: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; web site: www.earthscan.co.uk; in the USA, from Stylus Publishing LLC, PO Box 605, Herndon, VA 20172; e-mail: StylusMail@PressWarehouse.com; in Canada, Renouf Publishing Company, 1-5369 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 9J3; e-mail: orderdept@renoufbooks.com. The Earthscan web site also has details of Earthscan representatives and agents in all other countries.

THIS IS A long-awaited account of an international research project which has explored the relationship of children and their urban neighbourhoods, and has looked at ways of drawing on children's creativity and engagement in improving these neighbourhoods.

The research is a revival of the classic Growing Up in Cities project, conceived in the 1970s by urban planner Kevin Lynch. Lynch's work, growing out of the emerging interest in ideals of community and self-realization in the 1970s, sought to explore the qualities in the interaction between urban children and their surroundings that encouraged them to grow into "fully realized persons". Although his work added considerably to our understanding of children's perceptions and experience of their urban surroundings, it was never completed in his mind and, in 1995, environmental psychologist Louise Chawla was inspired to revive the project.

The revival replicates Lynch's work in many ways, following the general guidelines that he developed – that is, to work closely with groups of children in early adolescence living in the same locality, and to explore with them how they thought of, felt about and used their neighbourhoods. But there are also significant differences. Lynch's research sites in Argentina, Australia, Poland and Mexico were, for the most part, relatively stable working-class neighbourhoods. Chawla and her team expanded the number of sites to eight, and included very poor communities in South Africa and India as well as additional sites, all relatively low-income, in the more affluent countries of Norway, the United States and Britain. More critically, perhaps, they took the project into the second stage that Lynch had envisaged but had never reached – that is, working towards participatory local design and policy-making with children. The comparative aspect, initially expected to be a dominant element of the new research, has actually been a relatively minor feature in terms of specific sites since, for a variety of reasons, only two of the original sites were revisited.

The book is introduced by Chawla, who offers a lucid overview of some of the current realities faced by

urban children worldwide, and locates Lynch's original objectives in the context of evolving ideas about children and their rights, and increasing pressures on cities and on the environment generally. She sees the project as being motivated by a vision of engaging the considerable energies of children to effect positive and progressive change in a difficult world.

Each of the eight research teams has contributed a chapter. One of the appealing features of this collection – and of the research generally – is the distinctiveness of each contribution. In spite of sharing a methodology and a perspective on children as active agents, and in spite of the researchers having worked in quite close collaboration (or maybe for that very reason?), these reports are far from being standardized units. They reflect not only an appreciation of the unique circumstances of each site but also an engagement in those circumstances that allowed each project to evolve organically and to take on its own dynamic. This, more than anything, gives credibility to the process described here. Far from being part of a franchise, as it were, the Growing up in Cities process has had the flexibility to become shaped by its various contexts.

There is the Johannesburg project, for instance, which demonstrated the capacity of children's involvement to galvanize action on the part of older community members, and which became an opportunity to track the traumatic experience of eviction and resettlement which is so routine for millions of people in the world, and so seldom seen from the perspective of children. There is the Bangalore research which, among other things, became an exploration of the significant barriers to community-based planning, as it looked at issues of both bureaucratic neglect and NGO accountability. There is the Oakland, California project, in which the "neighbourhood" of a group of immigrant children was limited to the confines of a small apartment complex, and where participation in local processes meant confronting a restrictive management and taking down the fence that separated them from a vacant lot behind their building.

The relative satisfaction that children in these various sites feel with their lives has little to do with their relative economic advantage. In the very poor communities of Satyanagar in Bangalore and Boca Barracas in Buenos Aires, children experience their surroundings as welcoming and friendly, and they feel integrated into the fabric of community life. In Northampton, in the United Kingdom, and Bray Brook in Melbourne, Australia, the focus is on the alienation of young people, who feel they exist on the fringes of an adult world that fails to value them or their priorities. But sentimental nostrums about the richness and inclusiveness of community life in the South don't work here either. The children of Canaanland in Johannesburg also feel alienated – distrusted by adults and fearful of the violence in their surroundings. And children in communities in Norway and Poland feel a relative sense of safety, freedom and social integration.

The second phase of these projects – the process of supporting children to make changes in their own environments – has had mixed success in the various sites. Teams contended repeatedly with city officials who assumed that participation meant allowing children to sing at some civic event, who were eager to exploit the process for their own political ends, or who felt they already knew what children needed. The children expected this – in every site, they expressed their doubts about the willingness of adults to listen to them and take them seriously. The need for motivation and training for local officials became clear, and it has developed, in various forms, as part of the overall process. But when children were listened to, it had a powerful effect, transforming apathy and a sense of inferiority into self-assurance and enthusiastic involvement. Genuine participation, it becomes clear yet again, opens doors for both children and communities.

Sheridan Bartlett

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A New Mystery from de Soto?

A review of The Mystery of Capital, Hernando de Soto, 2001, 276 pages, ISBN: 0 552 99923 Published in the UK by Black Swan, London.

IN HIS FIRST book, *The Other Path*, de Soto advocated the formalization of informal settlements. In his new book, *The Mystery of Capital*, he takes this a step further: formal property ownership, he argues, is the reason capitalism triumphs in the West but fails everywhere else. Unfortunately, de Soto fails to recognize in either publication the existence of 40 years worth of work on this issue by Peruvian and other researchers outside his institution, as well as experiences taking place in Peru and in other countries relevant to this subject.⁽¹⁾

De Soto explains that the poor possess a lot of economic assets, but argues that these assets are “dead capital”, since the “wealth” exists in an incomplete form: houses are built on land without formal ownership and enterprises are not registered. These assets cannot be used in any formal transaction and so cannot be translated into capital. If these assets were formalized, people would gain access to formal credit, be able to invest in home and business, and thereby give a positive boost to the economy as a whole.

In Peru, the work of de Soto and his institute, ILD (the Institute of Liberty and Democracy), has been very influential and inspired the Fujimori government to start a huge regularization policy. In 1996, COFOPRI (Comision de Formalizacion de Propiedad Informal) was established, a highly centralized government organism created to design and execute a programme

for the formalization of urban informal property rights. It removed responsibility and resources from local government and any other public sector institutions and concentrated the power to decide every step in the regularization process in the hands of the COFOPRI. Most of COFOPRI's staff were former staff members of ILD.

Through the Urban Property Rights project, the World Bank supported the national programme with legal and institutional improvements, training and the development of long-term strategies. The project also provided a substantial loan to strengthen the responsible organizations. According to COFOPRI, the project resulted in an improvement of the legal and institutional framework, the stimulation of investment, and socioeconomic improvements within the target population.

But let us look at de Soto's arguments in more detail and compare them with the reality in Peru, after COFOPRI. The situation outlined in the book, on which the whole presentation of de Soto's theory is based, has not been proved in reality and much of the information is vague. For example, de Soto describes 728 steps as being necessary for obtaining a legal title in Lima.⁽²⁾ This is not accurate, at least it was not when the book was published in Peru in 2000 or even for several years prior to that. But no source or year of publication is given for this data in the book. Another example can be found in the discussion of the value of different types of informal housing in Lima.⁽³⁾ Here too, calculations lack the substantiation of sources and dates, and there appears here to be some confusion between the terms cost, value and price. Construction costs can be quantified according to a standard; but this is not necessarily reflected in the price, since price depends a good deal on the existence of a true real-estate market and the location of the plot – which cannot be standardized, even if there were a low-cost housing market, which does not exist in Lima. The term value is even more subject to personal priorities and other factors which are difficult to measure consistently.

So, based on the theories and data used for these arguments, Peruvian society has been confronted with the mass formalization policies of the government, ILD, World Bank and COFOPRI. After six years work and more than 1 million registered land titles, a very small percentage of the people in the target population have credit, which in most cases is from the Banco de Materiales, a government credit system that provides credit to those with secure incomes and which is not based on those who have formal titles. There is not one private bank giving mortgage credit warranted by the titles registered on the RPU, Registro Predial Urbano. So, to date, the main effect of “bringing dead capital to life” through the formalization of informal property, which de Soto predicted, has not occurred. Why not? This is the real mystery, which is unfortunately not revealed by de Soto.

Along with this rather fundamental problem, a few

Book Reviews

problems in policy execution have occurred: the formalization of property has been used, on a very large scale, for political purposes and this has not benefited the poor population.⁽⁴⁾ Such approaches introduce more conflicts into the world than solutions. And this centralized system has not been at all cost efficient; the titling by COFOPRI costs about US\$ 60, while experiences in Peruvian municipalities have shown that this can be done for less than half that amount.⁽⁵⁾

Although the formalization of informal property can have positive effects,⁽⁶⁾ we have to be critical of de Soto's basic idea. His words sound beautiful⁽⁷⁾ but, to date, there has been no sign that the process works in the way that he describes. As Peruvian experience shows, there is no proof that policies based on de Soto's ideas have mobilized "dead capital" or benefited the poor. So before this kind of policy is launched throughout the world, we need independent investigation and discussion of the processes taking place based on de Soto's ideas, and the practical results.⁽⁸⁾

Liliana Miranda

Mrs Miranda is President of ECOCIUDAD, the Executive Secretariat of the Cities for Life Forum and the Peru Urban Management Education Programme (for more information, see www.ciudad.org.pe). Trained as an architect, she previously taught urban planning and management at different Peruvian universities.

NOTES

1. Among the earliest works were those of José Matos Mar in the late 1950s and 1960s (for instance, *Urbanización y Barriadas en América del Sur* and *Urbanización y Barriadas en Lima*). Among the many Peruvian and other researchers who have worked and published on this subject are Gustavo Riofrio, Federico Arnillas, Cecilia Blondet, Mario Solezzi, Julio Calderón, Henry Dietz, Maruja Barrig, Jorge Burga, Jean Claude Driant, Roberto Arroyo, Luis Chirinos, Ana María Becerra, Adolfo Córdova and Lisa Peattie. There was also the work of Bill Mangin and John Turner from the 1960s onwards which emphasized the need to provide legal tenure to the illegal settlements in Lima (and elsewhere) – see, for instance, Mangin, William (1967), "Latin American squatter settlements; a problem and a solution", *Latin American Research Review* Vol 2, No 3, Summer, pages 65-98 and Turner, John F C (1966), *Uncontrolled Urban Settlements: Problems and Policies*, Report for the United Nations Seminar on Urbanization, Pittsburgh.
2. See page 43 of the Spanish edition; page 18 of the English edition.
3. See page 63 of the Spanish edition.
4. The political use of the formalization of property titles by the Fujimori government has been documented in a series of studies, publications and political analyses in Peru. The widely used phrase "one title, one vote" illustrates this situation.
5. The municipality of Lima developed a programme

for the titling of human settlements between 1984 and 1986 with the help of credit from the World Bank. These efforts demonstrated their effectiveness, efficiency and lesser cost without the intervention of organs of central government.

6. A number of studies point out that there are other effects from the formalization of informal property rights: psychological effects in the sense of feelings of security, and a stimulation of investment in housing. It is observed in our countries that people, poor as they are, invest considerable amounts of energy, resources and ingenuity in the construction and improvement of their shelters. But it is also noted that insecurity of tenure and fear of eviction are serious obstacles, preventing housing improvements. Improved land tenure security is, therefore, generally accepted as being the foundation of the gradual approach to housing.

7. For example, the biographical details of the author in the English edition of *The Mystery of Capital* state that: "As President Alberto Fujimori's principal advisor, he initiated Peru's economic reforms and played a leading role in modernizing its economic and political system. In 1993, de Soto drew up and negotiated the strategic plan that reversed Fujimori's coup d'état and returned the country to electoral democracy." But the majority of Peruvians will say that democracy returned in November 2000 and not in 1993, when Fujimori allowed new elections for Congress which enabled him to change the constitution and allowed him to be re-elected, with all the well-known consequences.

8. At this moment, an in-depth study of the effects of the formalization policy on the quality of housing as a result of increased security and access to credit is being undertaken by Petra Hofman at PEGUP. The results of this study are expected in October 2002.

I. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Funds

A special issue of the Asian Coalition for Housing Right's Newsletter on Housing by People in Asia. Available from ACHR, 73 Soi Sonthiwattana 4, Ladprao 110, Bangkok 10310, Thailand; e mail: achr@loxinfo.co.th; web site: www.achr.net

COMMUNITY FUNDS ARE an alternative to traditional formal aid systems, which so often end up squandering resources on projects that fail miserably. As this newsletter puts it, traditional aid tries to impose straight lines on a world that is full of squiggles and zigzags. Traditional aid works with short-term projects that have to realize their outcomes over a few years, whereas real development takes time and learning. The aid world insists on dealing in large sums of money, whereas the poor often need small amounts over longer periods. Community funds make it possible for resources to be pulled through a system by people's actual needs, rather than being pushed through by the bureaucratic requirements of large agencies. Most important of all, community funds require real involvement on the part of communities and, as Arif Hasan is quoted as saying in this newsletter: "*Participation is all about controlling money; if a community can raise funds and manage funds, it has become empowered. And if it can't do that, there is no real participation.*"

This issue explains the concept of community funds, but it also serves as a practical guide for those who wish to set them up, offering pointers, describing risks, explaining the differences between models and sharing lessons learned from experience. Eleven community funds in Africa and Asia are described in some detail and contact addresses are provided for more information.

II. DEMOGRAPHY

India Facts and Figures

Mohan M Mathews, 2001, 360 pages, ISBN: 81 207 2285 X. Published by Sterling Publishers Ltd, L-10 Green Park Extension, New Delhi-110016, India; e-mail: ghai@nde.vsnl.net.in; web site: www.sterlingpublishers.com

THIS BOOK DRAWS on a wide range of sources to provide an insight into modern India. It is not just a compilation of facts but also an analysis of problems and issues. The facts are used to substantiate an underlying message, namely that India is faced with a number of challenges, but has the resources to overcome them and become an egalitarian country.

The first two chapters provide a framework within which to understand the institutional infrastructure of India as well as the social fabric which binds it together. Chapters 3 to 12 provide a social perspective; each

chapter gives a factual overview and describes key government policies linked to the issue in question as well as the international context. For example, the section on Health and Nutrition begins with an historical background to medical practice in India (with reports of brain surgery being carried out successfully in 927 AD) but also explores contemporary shortcomings, and contrasts these with international standards. (India's health expenditure, for instance, is only one-third of the WHO-prescribed minimum.)

Chapters 13 to 22 cover issues related to science, infrastructure, the environment, defence and the economy, pointing to a number of paradoxes. A case in point is the fact that, despite the Indian public distribution system being the largest network of its kind in the world, one-third of all food produced in India is wasted due to poor distribution and storage facilities. Another example is the fact that, despite having one of the lowest rates of pesticide application per hectare, the daily intake of pesticide residue in food is amongst the highest in the world. The final two chapters in the book provide a ranking of India's performance and a list of her participation in international conventions. Web site addresses and names of institutions are provided for further information.

III. DEVELOPMENT

The Companion to Development Studies

Vandana Desai and Robert B Potter (editors), 2002, 540 pages, ISBN: 0 340 76051 6. Arnold, London; web site: www.arnoldpublishers.com

THIS BOOK BRINGS together leading scholars from the so-called "South" and "North" to provide a truly international and interdisciplinary overview of the major issues surrounding development theory and practice in the twenty-first century. It is divided into ten main sections, with a wide range of concisely written overviews of the most important issues in the field.

The first section deals with the nature of development and development studies and the current trends and future options, and the complexity of concepts about poverty and how to measure it in the twenty-first century. It covers different schools of thought, from participatory development and a people-centred, holistic view, to development as economic growth and the post-development school. Section II covers the area of development theories and strategies, and looks at classical dependency theories, neoliberalism and the Latin American structuralists, poverty reduction and structural adjustment strategies, and the changing role of the state and post modernism. Section III deals with rural development, and looks at rural poverty and livelihoods, the concept of food security and the agricultural experimentation of the green revolution. Section IV examines industrialization and employment, and looks

Book Notes

at the new international division of labour, trade and industrial policy in Third World countries, technology and knowledge, energy, tourism, the informal sector and the global issue of child labour. Section V concentrates on urbanization and environmental management issues in the world's cities, and looks at wealth, inequality and deprivation in urban areas and the problem of housing the urban poor. Section VI looks at the hot topic of the environment and Agenda 21, which was drawn up at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 as a non-binding framework for action towards a more sustainable future. It also covers the brown environmental agenda, vulnerability and disasters, and tropical moist forests and savannas.

Section VII deals with gender and population, and has 13 sub-sections covering a wide range of issues ranging from the different gender analysis approaches of WID, GAD and WAD, to feminism and feminist issues in the South, the concept of empowerment and political representation, women in the global economy, and sexual and reproductive rights and population trends. Section VIII concentrates on health and education, and covers malnutrition and nutritional policies, adult literacy, managing health and disease, and the social and economic impacts of HIV/AIDS on development. Section IX deals with the political economy of violence and insecurity. Topics include war and its relationship to famine and development, refugees, complex emergencies, peace-building partnerships and human security. It also looks at risk analysis and reduction of involuntary resettlement, arms control and disarmament in the context of Third World countries, and the role of the United Nations. The concluding section talks about the agents of development in their many forms. For a long time, development activity was the monopoly of the state. However, in the late twentieth century, the state's claim on this monopoly weakened whilst other agencies of development such as the World Bank, the IMF and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) gained a higher profile. The final section covers many issues, from foreign aid and aid conditionality to Third World debt and the role of NGOs – the challenges they face, their relationship with the state, their performance and accountability, and monitoring and evaluating their achievements. One sub-section looks at the role of a northern development NGO (Christian Aid) and another looks at the relevance of strategic planning for UK aid agencies.

The book can be used as a course textbook or be treated as a source of key course readings and discussion pieces in connection with higher-level options and training courses. It is essential reading for students of development studies at all levels, from undergraduate to postgraduate and beyond. It will also be of particular relevance to those in the fields of development studies, politics and economics, international relations, sociology and social policy, anthropology, geography, and for NGO practitioners and those in donor agencies.

IV. EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

To Claim our Rights; Livelihood Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development

Caroline Moser and Andy Norton with Tim Conway, Clare Ferguson and Holly Vizard, 2001, 67 pages, ISBN: 0 85 00 35546. Published by and available from the Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JD, UK.

THIS REPORT WAS prepared in order to discuss the relevance of the human rights agenda to sustainable development within the framework of sustainable livelihoods. It was developed specifically for the World Bank but has a wider relevance to other development agencies. The report begins with an executive summary before moving on to the more substantive sections. A number of short case studies complete the text.

In the introductory section, the authors consider the attitude of the World Bank to human rights and examine the issues related to its commitment to remain outside of political affairs. Section II presents the sustainable livelihood approach and assesses its strengths and weaknesses. There is a similar analysis of the concept of sustainable development and, finally, of human rights. A longer consideration is offered of human rights, perhaps because there is considerably less literature on the subject. The authors summarize some of the key rights approved by the United Nations. They offer brief replies to some key questions that need to be addressed on the implementation of a rights-based agenda.

Section III considers the integration of a rights approach with a sustainable development framework. The authors identify three significant levels: normative, analytical and operational, each of which, they argue, has relevance. Moving to a more detailed analysis, they consider some of the issues involved at each level. This section includes a number of useful summary tables, including an analysis of the nature of different rights regimes (such as international, regional, religious, constitutional and customary) and channels through which rights are contested. Short boxes introduce some of the case study experiences.

Three final sections conclude the report. The first considers the links between the approaches and describes two alternative scenarios for the integration of human rights into sustainable development. The second concluding section argues in favour of such an integration and the final section addresses some additional questions.

Reinventing the City; the Role of Small-scale Enterprise

Dean Pallen, 2001, 91 pages, ISBN: 0 662 65 663-

6. *Published by and available from Canadian International Development, 200 Promenade du Portage, Hull (Quebec), Canada K1A 0G4.*

THIS SHORT REPORT provides a summary of a wide range of literature concerned with micro enterprises in Southern towns and cities. The discussion begins with some questions of definition, a synopsis of the major issues to be considered and a description of the text that follows. Throughout the text, the author draws on illustrations and quotes from different publications in order to assist with an understanding of the issues. A French summary is shortly to be made available by Cida. A list of key points at the end of each chapter increases the value of the report as a teaching guide.

Chapter 2 reviews issues relating to small enterprises and employment. The discussion includes a consideration of home-based entrepreneurs, community-based workspaces and transportation issues, as well as the relationship between urban and rural entrepreneurial activities, housing standards and the role of government. Later sub-sections consider environmental and occupational health issues.

Chapter 3 considers change and innovation in local enterprises, with a specific focus on measures to improve opportunities. The discussion examines participation of the workforce, including women. It also looks at how enterprises are thought to grow and develop and what can be done to assist in this process. Separate sub-sections look at the contribution of local government, NGOs, regulatory systems, small business development and financing.

Chapter 4 discusses how design and planning strategies can assist in small enterprise development. The discussion considers transportation, home-based enterprises and neighbourhood plans. Chapter 5 turns to the environmental and social impacts of small enterprises and how these might be reduced, with ideas from around the world. A brief concluding chapter precedes the reference list of over 120 publications.

V. ENVIRONMENT

Durban's Local Agenda 21 Programme 1994-2001: Tackling Sustainable Development

Debra Roberts and Nicci Diederichs, 2002, 165 pages, ISBN: 0-620-28725-X. Natal Printers, Pinetown. Printed versions can be ordered through Earthprint (<http://www.earthprint.com/>), alternatively contact the authors at the Development Planning Department, eThekweni Municipality, PO Box 680, Durban 4000, South Africa; e-mail: robertsd@cesu.durban.gov.za; web site: www.durban.gov.za/environment

THIS BOOK IS summarized in the paper on Durban's Local Agenda 21 in this issue. In 1994, Durban became

the first city in South Africa to accept the Local Agenda 21 mandate as a corporate responsibility. Since then, Durban has been at the forefront of the Local Agenda 21 experience in South Africa. This book is a frank and open documentation of the lessons learned over the last seven years. The overriding message to emerge is that Local Agenda 21's implicit promise of a more sustainable future for all often obscures the difficulties encountered in reaching this goal.

This book initially explains the context in which this Local Agenda 21 has taken place, that is, global (the Earth Summit and Agenda 21), national (post-apartheid democratization) and local (the establishment of an Environmental Management Branch within the city council). It continues chronologically through the various stages of the process, starting with the assessment and prioritization stage (1994-1996). This phase identified a lack of knowledge regarding the city's environmental status and, realizing that this would inhibit the goal of integrating social, economic and ecological concerns into all development and planning processes within the city, prepared Durban's first State of the Environment and Development Report which was completed in 1996.

The next phase was policy formulation and planning, which took place in the period from 1997-1999. Several strategic projects were initiated during this phase to address the priorities raised during the previous stage. Significant projects included the Durban Metropolitan Environmental Policy Initiative (concerned with local government capacity and the need for restructuring); the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Durban South Basin (developing sustainable development guidelines for an area where heavy industry and residential areas sited close together were causing concern); and the Design of a Durban Metropolitan Open Space System Framework (focusing on the protection and management of the rich natural resource base of the city).

The third phase was a transition and review phase from 1999-2000. It became apparent that a significant transition period was required for changes to be made to the development of Durban as a "Unicity". Five projects were initiated during this period. They were: the Cities Environmental Reports on the Internet (CEROI) project; documentation of the process as part of a report into Local Agenda 21 initiatives in Africa; a project on awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level; an education and outreach initiative promotional event; and the creation of an interim environmental management structure.

The fourth phase, 2000-2002 which was still in progress at the time of writing, was concerned with the transition from a metropolitan to a Unicity administration consisting of a metropolitan council with metropolitan rather than local council sub-structures. This has considerably extended Durban's borders. Three projects were initiated, building on those established in the previous phase, namely a review of environmental

Book Notes

performance in local government, the preparation of a Unicity environmental services management plan, and the Cities for Climate Protection project.

The report ends with Durban's lessons in the framework of UNESCO's "wise practice" guidelines, 15 steps to guide the process of implementing sustainable development activity, from ensuring long-term benefits at the outset to documentation and evaluation.

This report will be of interest to anyone working with Local Agenda 21 issues as it gives a "warts and all" perspective of a long and difficult process from within local government, including sections at the end of each chapter on lessons learned.

Green Rating Project: Environmental Rating of the Indian Automobile Sector

Centre for Science and Environment, 2001, 240 pages. Published by and available from the Centre for Science and Environment, 41

Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062, India; e-mail: cse@cseindia.org; website: www.cseindia.org

THIS STUDY CONSIDERS the automobile industry in India and its environmental performance. Nine chapters cover various aspects of the industry in extremely thorough technical detail, illustrated by many charts, tables and graphs which give the results of all the factors tested.

The book starts with a short chapter which sets the scene on automobiles and pollution. A brief history is followed by an account of automobile pollution and its health implications. The great Indian dream is to own a vehicle which, thanks to government policies in favour of motorization, is fast becoming achievable. However, one person dies every hour in Delhi as a result of ambient air pollution, and air quality in Indian cities has never been worse. The reasons given for this are poor technology and a lack of government willingness to investigate alternatives, a shift from rail to road and bad urban planning. Production patterns are also explained and the trend for outsourcing is shown to have a detrimental effect on the environment.

Chapter 2 looks at the life cycle of the automobile and analyzes many of the industrial processes of production as well as the performance of the finished vehicle. Raw material extraction and emissions during disposal are not covered. Chapter 3 covers the results of green ratings tests, and these show that the average overall score obtained by the Indian automobile industry is slightly better than the average performance of the sector generally. All the companies taking part are listed and the best and worst companies are highlighted under various performance categories.

Chapter 4 highlights best and worst practices in a bench-marking exercise. Chapter 5 is concerned with emissions and fuel efficiency, and assesses how Indian companies perform, broken down by vehicle and engine type. Fuel economy is also considered here as it

is a key factor influencing the buyer, with obvious benefits for the environment.

Chapter 6 presents the major findings of the green ratings project for the automobile sector, which can be summarized in one phrase – far from satisfactory. Chapter 7 deals with recent developments in automotive technologies, including improvements in engine design as well as exhaust after-treatment systems and other pollution control technologies.

Chapter 8 covers alternative fuels and vehicles, which still remain only a tiny segment of the vehicle industry and market. Advantages and disadvantages of natural gas, alcohol, hydrogen, liquefied petroleum, electricity, solar power and bio-diesel amongst others are considered and compared. The book finishes with a long list of recommendations for consumers, for policy makers, for the automobile industry and during production.

Planning for a Better Urban Living Environment in Asia

Anthony Gar-On Yeh and Mee Kam Ng (editors), 2001, 400 pages, ISBN: 1 85972 223 7. Published by Ashgate Publishing Ltd, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR, UK; e-mail: info@ashgatepub.co.uk; web site: <http://www.ashgate.com>; price £47.50.

ASIA IS HOME to over 40 per cent of the world's urban population and has its share of urban problems – including environmental degradation, housing shortages and traffic congestion.

This book is an effort by Asian planners to look at urban development and planning challenges. The 19 chapters taken together assume little prior knowledge and provide a good overview of the complexity of the problems. The chapters are grouped by themes relating to the environment, housing, urban and regional planning, conservation and redevelopment, and planning education.

Two chapters place pedestrians at the centre of concern. Seven chapters are devoted to housing. One of these describes how a plan in South Korea to relieve the housing problem affected the housing market and the macro-economy. Another focuses on increasing the affordability of housing to lower-income households without increasing the level of expenditure. Two chapters explore the unique socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of particular countries. Several chapters look at specific case studies, for instance, Chapter 17 describes the conversion of a nobleman's residence in Indonesia to a residential community, providing a solution to meeting social needs within an evolving economy while keeping intact traditional Javanese architecture. The focus of the last three chapters is on planning education in Asia. Arguments raised and supported throughout the book stress that Asian planners and educators must acknowledge and address the unique local context.

Poles Apart: Global Environmental Negotiations

Anil Agarwal, Sunita Narain, Anju Sharma and Achila Imchen (editors), 2001, 400 pages, ISBN: 81 86906 29 0. Published by and available from Centre for Science and Environment, 41 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 062, India; e-mail: cse@cseindia.org; web site: www.cseindia.org

THE SOUTH IS becoming increasingly powerless to negotiate conditions for climate change, given the strength of protection for the economic interests of the North. Indeed, global environmental negotiations are forcing the South to take on repeated and costly technical transitions whilst the most persistent polluter, the US, has withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol.

However, the countries of the South have not always been skilled negotiators and have, in many cases, failed to devolve power while preparing and implementing national action plans, as well as sidelining themselves in the global arena by not participating enough in the early stages. Today, the global institutional framework for the environment is in crisis and Northern governments have been stepping up their demands for a World Environment Organization (WEO), reassembled perhaps from a strengthened United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Despite historical evidence, the countries of the South have dared to hope that the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) will finally address their development concerns through processes such as the creation of a global fund and programme to empower the globally "marginalized" to deal with their "ecological poverty". They also hope that local and global democracy, which is the most essential component of sustainable development, can be strengthened; that an enabling framework can be set up which would help the world leap into frontier technologies that are environmentally sound and equal; and that liability and penalty systems for toxic modes of development can be created.

The book is divided into two sections. The main part of the book, which comprises the first five chapters, covers five major conventions and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in detail; the second part is concerned with briefer updates on other existing conventions.

The first chapter, entitled "Mediocre Model", covers the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) and the Montreal Protocol (1987). It describes how, due to pressure from manufacturers who produce CFCs, the Vienna convention in 1985 did not even mention ozone depleting substances (ODS), becoming instead an umbrella agreement on monitoring, research and data exchanges.

In 1987, the Montreal Protocol set reduction targets for eight ODS. Since then, the protocol has been amended four times to include other substances. Many

countries of the South were pressurized into joining the protocol, although they had not been part of the initial negotiations and there were several discriminatory provisions. The establishment of a "multilateral fund" to help them meet their commitments, and a few amendments were all the changes that could be made. In addition, the alternatives to ODS agreed under the protocol proved to be problematic, either being no better or causing global warming. This protocol also fails as a model for other environmental treaties since it does not assign any penalties for the overuse or abuse of the global commons.

The second chapter, "Dirty Business", covers the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989). This arose as, in the 1980s, there were numerous cases of industrialized countries dumping hazardous wastes in the South. Increasing awareness led to calls for a global treaty to regulate this behaviour. However, many environmentalists and Southern countries did not find the treaty strong enough, as it still allowed restricted trade rather than an outright ban. After much pushing, in 1995 a complete ban on hazardous waste trade was implemented between OECD and non-OECD countries.

There is opposition to the ban by some, including the World Trade Organization, because it also covers wastes which are recycled and can be used for industrial purposes. The convention has adopted a landmark protocol on compensation and liability for damages incurred in transboundary trade. However, there is as yet no acknowledgement of the role of waste generation.

The third chapter, "PIC Your Poison", is concerned with the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (1998). This chapter shows how increasing awareness in the North in the 1970s led to regulations on pesticides which resulted in manufacturers directing their goods at markets in the South where regulations were lax. There was a shift in Southern agricultural practices in the 1960s, resulting in increased demand for agrochemicals, even those that were banned or restricted in the North. Deaths occurred as a result and widespread concern resulted in a series of non-binding resolutions in the UN fora of the 1980s, whereby a voluntary Prior Informed Consent (PIC) was required. Due to increased pressure, the requirement for a PIC soon became legally binding but, due to lobbying by industry and some Northern governments, did not go beyond the scope of a voluntary procedure or become an outright ban.

Chapter 4, "Power to the People", deals with the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (1998). This chapter explains how the scales are tilted in favour of secrecy which leads to "élite" democracies where a powerful few decide on policies that reflect only their interests. This

Book Notes

is particularly true where economic stakes are high. In 1995, in Sofia, environment ministers from the UN Economic Commission on Europe (UNECE) formally endorsed the Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Decision-making, also called the Aarhus Convention. These guidelines seek to render the process of environmental decision-making more transparent and accountable. However, NGOs were unhappy that it gave governments excessive discretion and allowed broad exemptions. There was also a lack of a substantial compliance mechanism. However, on the positive side, it establishes rights to information, participation and justice, although Southern governments are still presented with a *fait accompli*.

The fifth and final chapter, "Talk Shop", covers the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, established in 1993. The CSD was created to oversee the implementation of programmes set out at the Earth Summit (Rio 1992), but was not given decision-making powers, essentially rendering it another UN talk shop. The inequitable global order has hampered CSD's capacity to become an effective monitoring agent, Northern countries want to provide compensation only on their own terms and very few have complied with Earth Summit requirements to provide 0.7 per cent of their GDP as aid.

The five-year review of the Earth Summit in 1997 found that the world's environmental problems have worsened in spite of Agenda 21, and the global environmental agenda remains largely unfunded. CSD is losing credibility as an effective institution and there is increasing doubt as to whether it will continue to exist after WSSD.

The second half of the book, called "Update", provides briefer updates on the following conventions:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change/Kyoto Protocol
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly Africa
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- International Negotiations on Forests
- International Negotiations on Trade and Environment
- Proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment
- Global Environment Facility
- Evolving Institutional Framework in the UN for Environment and Development

The whole book gives a comprehensive picture at every level of global environmental negotiation. The wealth of detailed information included in this book makes it thoroughly informative for the expert, whilst sub-headings, case studies, summaries and entertaining cartoons make it an ideal browsing volume for those who may not specialize in this field but want to know more.

Environmental Planning: The Conservation and Development of Biophysical Resources

Paul Selman, 2000, 308 pages, ISBN: 0 7619 6460 6. Sage Publications, London (second edition).

AS THE AUTHOR points out in the introduction, both the terms "environment" and "planning" are capable of expansion to the point of meaninglessness. Planning may be seen as a generic activity of purposeful anticipation of, and provision for, the future. In this second edition, Selman defines environmental planning as being concerned with society's stewardship of the earth's resources. He recognizes that it is difficult to set boundaries in a text on environmental planning and that the scope is somewhat arbitrary. The main emphasis in this instance has been given to the planning and management of land and water use in industrial (and post-industrial) society and its relationship to near-surface natural environmental systems. However, these boundaries are permeable, allowing references to the economic principles which underpin natural resource transfers, social perceptions of the environment, and the political and technological forces which shape environmental planning options.

The book seeks to provide an overview of the principals behind the planning of rural and urban environments. It focuses on general ideas rather than on specific practices. Particular topics include: environmentally-friendly agriculture; multi-purpose forestry; the management of designated areas; urban wildlife; land resource evaluation; and environmental impact assessment. Individual chapters introduce different approaches to resource planning in the countryside and the city, with an underlying stress on the importance of sustainable development.

The book begins by providing an understanding of the context in which environmental issues have assumed a central role in planning decisions in recent years. The second chapter reviews the range of influences on environmental planning practice, highlighting that it is clearly the product of a variety of ecological, physical, economic, social and political contingencies.

The third chapter focuses on the pertinent spheres of general environmental policy and legislation within which planners operate. This reflects the need of planners to be aware of the policy context of environmental actions, the opportunities for integrating environmental action and the legislation and administration underpinning environmental action. Chapter 4 focuses specifically on the management of natural resources (broadly summarized in terms of productive and protective uses) in the countryside. The next chapter looks at what is emerging as an important basis for understanding the nature and dynamics of the wider countryside, namely landscape ecology. Chapter 6, on urban ecological planning, recognizes that sophisticated modern society rises far above the constraints imposed by the local place and

the stresses of seasonality, by subsidizing its ecological economy with large-scale energy and material transfers. The increasing rate of urbanization, combined with the notoriety of the urban ecological footprint, contributes the framework for understanding the importance of environmental planning.

The final chapter covers two areas that are important in the practical arena for effective environmental planning: the types of information available and the types of techniques that can assist planners in reaching decisions. The discussion focuses on information regarding natural resources and environmental quality, integrating both lay knowledge and the methods for optimizing environmental investment decisions.

In spite of the acknowledgment that planning does not necessarily imply a particular professional affiliation, there is an underlying assumption in this book that town planners have a pivotal role to play in environmental protection. The book has a number of UK-specific examples although, without a doubt, it remains of general relevance. It does not assume prior knowledge on the part of the reader and hence serves as a sound introductory text to the principles behind the planning of rural and urban environments.

VI. GOVERNANCE

Urban Governance Around the World

Blair A Ruble, Richard E Stren, Joseph S Tulchin with Diana H Varat (editors), 2001, 180 pages. Published by Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20004, USA; fax: (1) 202 691 4001; web site: www.wilsoncenter.org

THIS PUBLICATION IS a compilation of papers presented at a workshop on Urban Governance in Major World Cities, organized by the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in December, 2000. As suggested by the title, the book looks at the emergence of a new reality (large urban areas) and the subsequent new challenge it creates (urban governance) within the world of development. Richard Stren, one of the book's editors, describes the structures of governance erected to respond to the problems of urban areas as "Godzilla".

The book is divided into two main sections. The first, aptly named "Urban Governance: snapshots from around the globe", looks at four examples of governance in cities in Third World countries. The second section has four more detailed and lengthier essays, followed by short, related policy papers. The common thread running through these articles is their analysis of the problem of urban governance with respect to globalization, decentralization and the notion of democracy or participation. There are a variety of geopolitical perspectives, representing academia and practice.

The first section begins with the Mumbai case study.

The author focuses on two major urban problems, namely transport and slums, highlighting the contradictions which arise from the twin objectives of autonomy and the importance of highlighting the urban agenda in the national political arena. The Abidjan example highlights the struggle of the metropolitan government in existence since 1980, specifically with regard to their policy of decentralization and the subsequent consequences it has had for the provision of health services. The complications arising from the influence of politics on planning are illustrated with the example of squatter settlements in Sao Paulo. Decentralization, seen here as a natural step with a population of over 17 million inhabitants, has had limited success, but points the way to the future. The Kyiv example appears to offer little hope as there is a lack of political will to design and implement genuine reform, along with low institutional capacity on the part of municipal authorities and poor civil society participation.

The second section begins with an essay on South Africa. It focuses on two major challenges to urban governance in Johannesburg: the transition from a multi-racial to a non-racial government and the desire to make Johannesburg a "world-class city". The article highlights the increasing use of global rhetoric and the new inequalities it creates. It also explores how the divergent goals of traditional planning may be made congruent with the concept of "high modernism". A related policy paper focuses on the issue of competitiveness in cities in the North and South, and the unanticipated consequences for the poorer cities.

The local context of the nexus between politics and governance is addressed in more detail in the case study of Metro Manila. Within the highly structured system of governance from the national to the local level, the city-region is still governed by a patchwork of agencies and governments. An historical and cultural perspective is provided which also highlights the relationship between government and civil society. The theme of participation within the Chilean context is the focus of the policy paper which follows.

Tokyo is the largest urban region in the world, with 30 million inhabitants spread out over 11 prefectures. In chapter 7, the issue of decentralization is explored along with the resource crunch which hinders the local wards of the city from dealing with the issues of disposal, housing and traffic congestion. Ideas about municipal confederation and other reforms are explored. The policy paper which follows focuses on appropriate governance as an objective function and a goal rooted in normative thinking, using as an example the work on housing indicators for performance.

In the last chapter, the Harvey Molotochs model of the growth machine, originally developed for American cities, is applied to Santiago, Chile. Here, the nexus between business, citizens and government interests is explored in the process of infrastructural growth. The example of the organization, Ciudad Viva, is used to

Book Notes

highlight the increasing importance of local citizens protesting against the unequal outcomes of development. The final policy piece, by Steven Friedman, suggests the possibility of a local governance that would concentrate on representing the views of constituents to those who would actually respond to them.

Associational Life in African Cities; Popular Responses to the Urban Crisis

Arne Tostensen, Inge Tvedten and Mariken Vaa (editors), 2001, 324 pages, ISBN: 91 7106 465 6. Published by Nordic Africa Institute, PO Box 1703 S-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden; E-mail: nai@nai.uu.se/orders@nai.uu.se. Available in the UK from the Africa Book Centre Ltd, 38 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 8JT; e-mail: orders@africabookcentre.com

THIS BOOK EXPLORES the growing importance of civil society in Africa. Case studies from 16 countries provide evidence of the growing role of associational life in Africa. Rather than concentrating on a specific city, country or region, this book argues that the trend is continental. The definition of civil society is explored and considered within the context of Africa. The rise in citizens' associations is traced to dual processes of rapid urbanization and the declining role of the state. Lacking support for the unprecedented growth, cities are suffering from increased poverty, environmental hazards and health risks. Simply put, cities lack the infrastructure and organization to support growth. Consequently, civil society has organized to fill in some of the gaps left by the government. In some cases, the services provided by associational life extend beyond the traditional roles of the state. The book consists of papers that address the structure, contributions and challenges of the rise of associational life in Africa. They are grouped into five main categories:

Informal networks. Case studies explore nearly invisible informal sectors that operate within cities and across borders. These mutual-help networks contribute to the alleviation of poverty through providing assistance in securing both material and immaterial benefits.

Religion and identity. These contributions explore the role that religious institutions have played in providing an identity to populations unsettled through urbanization and colonialism. In addition, the capacity of religious organizations to funnel money for welfare provision is explored. The rising role of religious institutions as service providers is changing institutional identity.

Land and housing. This section explores the related rise of informal settlements and civil society, as citizen organizations tackle issues such as land acquisition. The studies also investigate the position of local government and the relationships that are formed between civil organizations and the state.

Infrastructure and services. The neglect of basic service

provision such as road repair and waste removal has led to the mobilization of communities. Rather than protest the neglect, citizens have organized to provide for their own communities.

Emerging initiatives. In this section, the complex relationships that exist between associational organizations, donors and the government are explored. Contributions consider the future of service provision within Africa and parameters within which civil organizations can successfully operate.

Citizen organization, as defined in the book, encompasses every type of organization within the range of the family and the state. Case studies include the contributions of non-government organizations, community-based organizations and informal networks. Arising from diverse needs, civil organizations serve a wide spectrum of populations. Whilst some groups are defined by specific affiliations, others loosely serve people within a certain locality. The book argues for the incorporation of civil organization into planning efforts, since cooperation amongst the different levels of actors can contribute to a more effective means of service distribution throughout Africa.

VII. HOUSING

Urban Poverty Alleviation through Environmental Upgrading in Rio de Janeiro: Favela Bairro

Jorge Fiori, Liz Riley and Ronaldo Ramirez, 2000, 107 pages. Published by and available from the Development Planning Unit, University College London, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0ED, UK; e-mail: dpu@ucl.ac.uk; web site: www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu

THIS REPORT PRESENTS the outcome of research undertaken in 1999-2000 to examine the conceptual framework underpinning what the authors argue is a new generation of housing policies aiming at the alleviation of poverty. The Rio de Janeiro squatter settlement upgrading programme (Favela Bairro) in Brazil was chosen as a model to assess the implementation of those characteristics distinctive of the emerging housing strategy.

Rather than being an evaluation of the performance of the programme, the aim of this report is to inform policy makers, practitioners, academics and interested parties of the objectives and operations of an innovative programme.

The Favela Bairro programme aims at upgrading all medium-sized squatter settlements in the city of Rio de Janeiro by 2004, to reduce social exclusion and improve living conditions. This report explores the characteristics and conceptual basis of the new housing policy framework and examines how it is being implemented. Another objective of the research was to enhance knowledge and understanding of how poverty allevia-

tion objectives are being developed and put into practice. Thus, a thorough description of how poverty has been understood and defined over the past decades is presented. Furthermore, the distinctive components that characterize the new policy approach to urban poverty are explained, these being: the acknowledgement of the heterogeneity of the poor; the multi-sectoral nature of projects; community participation; partnership and devolution to policy and institutional levels; municipalization; and city scale.

The evolution of housing policies is detailed and located within a global policy context in which upgrading policies have emerged and evolved. From conventional to non-conventional policies, "...towards the new generation of housing policies for poverty alleviation", the report highlights the methodological approach which is now emerging as a way of embracing multiple specific contexts.

The second part of the report is dedicated to the analysis of the Favela Bairro programme. Housing policies in Rio de Janeiro have evolved greatly in the past decades and the Favela Bairro programme is representative of a shift by municipal governments toward large-scale, multi-sectoral and systematic interventions for the reduction of urban poverty. The programme itself is explained in great detail – its objectives, its development and implementation, and the institutional context in which it has evolved. The analysis of several projects being implemented as part of the Favela Bairro demonstrates the successes and obstacles faced by specific cases which have undergone the implementation of the multi-sectoral approach to poverty alleviation.

Finally, the research findings are presented, highlighting the complexity of the approach. Despite the specific context of Favela Bairro, the lessons learnt are not only of interest to the programme practitioners but, above all, to policy makers and practitioners from different Third World country contexts. The report concludes with recommendations for policy makers and, more specifically for researchers, suggesting areas where further studies would be valuable for enhancing understanding of housing policies as a tool for poverty alleviation and eradication.

Understanding Housing Finance

Peter King, 2001, 176 pages, ISBN: 0 415 23548 0. Published by Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE, UK; price £17.99. For orders contact Taylor and Frances, e-mail: salesorder.tandf@itps.co.uk

THIS BOOK OFFERS a succinct and clear presentation of changes to the system of providing housing finance in England. Whilst there is a particular focus on the last 20 years, one chapter provides an historical sweep of changes in the provision of owner-occupied and rental housing during the twentieth century. The author seeks to use a political approach, with a focus on changing

policies towards institutions and financing strategies, rather than simply a description of financial systems.

Chapter 1 is introductory and explains the meaning and sources of housing finance. Chapter 2 considers alternative ways of financing housing through the state and the market. The author differentiates between object and subject subsidies; the former subsidizes the buildings or provision of housing and the latter subsidizes the users. The discussion describes the significance of different subsidy strategies. Chapter 3 then considers the development of housing subsidies in England and Chapter 4 specifically considers the emerging role of local authorities. Chapter 5 turns to housing associations, voluntary organizations that have become alternative providers of social housing. Chapter 6 looks at the private rental market and Chapter 7 considers owner occupation. The author seeks to explain the financing strategies used by the government to ensure adequate housing, and the success of the strategies that have been used. Chapter 8 considers the housing benefit system that is currently being used to ensure that the poor have access to the housing they require.

The final chapters look at the present and the future. The author stresses that there is little difference between the present Labour government and the previous Conservative administration. He argues that housing provision in the UK has been characterized by four persistent (but not always consistent) themes: owner-occupation and the capacity of people to afford their own housing; centralization and the unwillingness of central government to enable local authorities to make their own choices about housing provision and management; liberalization and the importance of supporting housing markets; and finally, individualization, with support for the increasing ability of households to make their own choices about housing provision.

VIII. INDICATORS

Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators: A New Tool for Assessing National Trends

Hazel Henderson, Jon Lickerman and Patrice Flynn (editors), 2000, 370 pages, ISBN: 0 967 6891 0 4. Published by Calvert Group Ltd, 4550 Montgomery Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA.

THE CALVERT-HENDERSON Quality of Life Indicators represent a first national (USA) comprehensive effort to redefine overall quality of life using a systems approach. It was created jointly by a multi-disciplinary group of practitioners and scholars from government agencies, for-profit firms and non-profit organizations that saw the need for more practical and sophisticated metrics of societal conditions. The Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators allow individuals and/or

Book Notes

groups to access in one place a comprehensive picture of the overall well-being of the nation. This is facilitated in a manner that is easy to understand and use, statistically verifiable, grounded in theoretical and empirical knowledge about each domain, and rigorous in its treatment of the subject matter.

The twelve quality of life indicators are education, employment, energy, environment, health, human rights, income, infrastructure, national security, public safety, recreation and shelter. Each of the 12 is examined in detail in separate chapters. The research methodology and a biographical sketch of the authors is included in a separate chapter. Historical and contemporary efforts to assess the nation's progress and well-being influenced the design and development of the Calvert-Henderson indicators. These therefore deal with the application of statistics to the measurement of environmental, societal and economic conditions over time. The project rests on the wealth of knowledge gained from four major fields of research: the field of sustainable development or environmental indicators; the vast literature on social indicators; the solid research and analysis on economic indicators in the United States; and the body of information on socially responsible investing (SRI).

The Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators' approach is unique in that it was designed and implemented by a multi-disciplinary group of researchers, scholars and practitioners with considerable expertise in creating and using indicators in their respective fields of study. The ultimate product is a result of the work that took place in close collaboration with editors on the conceptual models that frame the issues. Furthermore, the indicators unbundle central social, economic and environmental issues into 12 distinctive domains of quality of life instead of single composite index. The indicators also reveal the underlying trends and deeper processes that accompany the daily reported news events. Lastly, the indicators also identify interfaces with other domains, allowing a systemic overview of our society which is often concealed by aggregation of traditional indices.

Basically, the goal of these indicators is to inform and present a framework through which one can understand and assess salient national trends, using rigorous empirical techniques and reliable data. Each indicator provides a road map into its subject, explaining leading concepts and detailing national trends through time-series data. National statistical information is presented on a host of variables included in each indicator. Information is provided in language accessible to those not necessarily schooled in the fields examined. By placing statistics in this context, the report hopes to increase citizen understanding, in turn increasing citizen influence and effectiveness.

Also unique to this project is the development of a model for each indicator that serves as a frame through which the underlying phenomena can be clearly organized, examined and understood. The model outlines

and prioritizes key concepts and relationships that are central to understanding each domain. The models reveal explicitly what is and what is not included in the indicator, the type of data presented and how to expand upon the information.

The Calvert-Henderson models reflect the unique nature of scholarly research and data collection in each field of study. For example, while the human rights indicator is grounded in the US Constitution and case law, the environment model focuses on economic and industrial processes and their contributions to environmental quality through the lens of two key indicators – air and water quality – that can be monitored over time.

The intent is that the indicators will serve as sophisticated primers on the respective topics. The book should therefore be of relevance to multiple audiences, including community groups, social scientists, journalists and even elected and appointed leaders.

IX. PARTICIPATION

Networks of Knowledge: Collaborative Innovation in International Learning

Janice Gross Stein, Richard Stren, Joy Fitzgibbon and Melissa MacLean, 2001, 150 pages, ISBN: 0 8020 8371 4. University of Toronto Press, Toronto.

THE "NETWORK" IS a pervasive organizational image in the new millennium. As described by Manuel Castells, networks contribute to the new social morphology of our societies. This book focuses on one particular kind – the knowledge network – whose primary mandate is to create and disseminate knowledge. The book's interest lies in the complex, subtle and synergistic relationships between institutions such as universities, which generate knowledge in well-understood and well-established ways, and networks that produce knowledge through broader social processes. The central concern is how knowledge-based networks should be constructed and supported. Within a broader analysis of the origins, contributions and sustainability of knowledge networks, the particular focus is on the impact of knowledge on civil society, both local and global, and on development and development assistance.

The starting point of the book lay in a preliminary empirical probe into the contributions that Canadian universities were making to development networks. It revealed that their contributions to local development efforts were indeed meaningful and practical, through network relationships that cross disciplines and communities. These networks had contributed to the creation of fascinating, innovative development projects. Sparked by deliberate strategies that linked the best of theory with deeply rooted local experiences and marked by intellectual creativity and energy, these networks were producing new kinds of knowledge and projects that would not otherwise be produced. Thus,

the book uses in its analysis university-based networks as exemplars of producers and disseminators of knowledge in a connected world.

The five chosen networks are: the Canadian Ageing Research Network (CARNET); the Canada International Scientific Exchange Programme in Otolaryngology (CISEPO); the Coastal Resources Research Network (CoRR); the Global Urban Research Initiative (GURI); and the Learning for Environmental Action Programme (LEAP). Acknowledging that the chosen networks were not representative, the criteria for choosing were the need to have been in existence for more than a year, to have recourse to external sources of funding, to be international in scope (with the exception of CARNET) and, finally, to have records of their objectives, memberships and processes. The evidence presented in the book comes from interviews with directors and members of the five networks studied.

There is no definite consensus on what a network is. For the purpose of this volume, it is defined as a spatially-diffuse structure, often an aggregation of individuals and organizations, linked by a shared interest in and concern for a puzzling problem. The emphasis is on the repetitive interactions among members as well as their converging interests and an absence of hierarchy resulting from their horizontal structure.

It is argued that, essentially, the knowledge-based networks make three contributions to the processes of knowledge production. They generate new knowledge (a function of the interdisciplinary quality of networks chosen); they generate operational knowledge (this is related to the mixture of academic and non-academic work that the networks perform); and, finally, they disseminate knowledge globally (this is related to the constant interaction between distant colleagues and global disciplines on the one hand and local activities on the other).

The book includes a brief profile of each of the aforementioned five knowledge networks, including their origins and objectives. They are compared in terms of their governance, patterns of coordination and decision-making, criteria for membership, the research they have conducted, the knowledge they have shared and their sustainability in the shadow of states and markets. The authors then go on to address the more difficult conceptual and practical problems of measuring and assessing the effectiveness of knowledge networks, considering the relationship of global networks to more established, hierarchical organizations and assessing the contributions that knowledge networks can make to development and development assistance.

X. POVERTY

Choices for the Poor: Lessons from National Poverty Strategies

Alejandro Grinspun (editor), 2001, 370 pages, ISBN 92 1 126138 4. Published by UNDP, UN sales

number E.01.III.B.6

FOLLOWING THE 1995 World Social Summit, UNDP launched the Poverty Strategies Initiative with the aim of leveraging pro-poor changes in national policy across countries in the South. A wide range of programmes and activities were undertaken in more than 100 countries under the initiative, with variations reflecting national requirements and each country's stage in the preparation of poverty strategies. The main groups of activities included:

- qualitative poverty assessments and profiles of specific vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, unemployed youth, persons infected with HIV/AIDS, women and street children;
- household surveys and poverty maps to improve, and in some countries to create, databases on poverty, construct indicators and highlight regional disparities;
- in countries where the necessary policy conditions appeared to be present, the initiative supported the definition of policy priorities and institutional mechanisms for their implementation; and
- social sector expenditure reviews were conducted in almost 30 countries.

This book results from a comprehensive external evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative, conducted in 1999-2000. Part I investigates a number of issues which affect policy formulation, drawing on a review of the literature and on policy and strategy documents sponsored by the initiative in 32 countries. The section starts with a review of concepts, analytical approaches and methods used to define and measure poverty and vulnerability, with an emphasis on complexity and context-specificity. This is followed by a detailed description of how poverty is experienced at the household level, and the various strategies adopted by poor and vulnerable groups – such as the mobilization of additional labour, often including children, the lengthening of working hours and the diversification of income sources. An important point here is that the resilience of the poor has definite limits, and that coping strategies can, in the long term, affect social reproduction and undermine households' ability to move out of poverty. Another chapter focuses on the importance of rural-urban interdependencies, such as migration and intra-family transfers, for the livelihoods of both rural and urban poor groups. Given that most poverty research and policies tend to treat rural and urban spheres as distinct sectors, this is a welcome contribution to the literature. As the author stresses, neglecting rural-urban linkages reduces the understanding of poverty and impairs the design of policies to promote broad-based economic growth and better-balanced regional development. Fostering better relations between urban centres and rural areas, and between centre and periphery, calls for decentralization, as discussed in the following chapter. However, effective decentralization needs to address existing power

Book Notes

structures and increase participation of poor groups in decision-making. Creating and strengthening civil society is a vital element of participatory local governance. The last chapters in this section explore policy formulation and implementation in the former socialist countries, and the impact of fiscal austerity programmes on poor countries' ability to finance basic health and education services.

Part II of the book reviews the experience of 18 countries involved in the Poverty Strategies Initiative, and includes chapters on West Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, South and East Asia, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.

XI. SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Territorio, Sociedad y Desarrollo Sostenable; Estudios de sostenibilidad ambiental urbana, espacio editorial

Roberto Fernández, Adriana Allen, Mónica Burmester, Mirta Malvares Miguez, Lía Navarro, Ana Olszewski and Marisa Sagua, 1999, 350 pages, ISBN: 950 8. Published by Centro de Investigaciones Ambientales, Buenos Aires (CIAM) and distributed by Espacio Editorial, Bolívar 547-3 of.1 (1066) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

THIS BOOK PRESENTS the results of the research project SADU (Environmental Sustainability of Urban Development) taking place in Mar de Plata, Argentina. It consists of an analysis of the problems associated with urban development by considering all four dimensions of sustainability – political, social, ecological and productive. Moreover, it reviews the four main issues in urban policies – governance, productivity/competitiveness, human development and ecological sustainability – from an environmental viewpoint.

The first chapter provides the methodological and conceptual framework. The author highlights both the pitfalls and the opportunities of an integrated approach to urban environmental planning and management. However, this emphasis is mainly on the potential and the wide-ranging implications of using such an approach in this current period of crisis of conventional planning and of decline in local and national institutional capacity.

A correct understanding of what is meant by “nature” and “ecological sustainability” in an urban context is crucial for the research subject, and Chapter 2 is devoted to this purpose. The author discriminates between primary and secondary nature, and between natural resources and urban environmental services. The transition from the former to the latter is described as the result of technological mediation and transformation processes. This anthropogenic distortion generates the existence of risks that threaten urban sustainability as a whole. The interaction between

society and nature is also the subject of the next chapter, which analyzes the socio-environmental impact of structural adjustment on the fishing industry in Mar de Plata. Ongoing globalization processes are recognized as being at odds with sustainability, since they concede an excessive importance to economic issues at the expense of social and environmental ones.

Productive sustainability is further explored in Chapter 4, which undertakes an environmental assessment of fruit and vegetable farming in the peri-urban belt of the city. This constitutes a critical subject matter since the peri-urban areas are among the most conflictive ones in terms of the use of environmental resources.

Chapter 5 examines the political dimension of sustainability. The consideration of issues such as democracy and decentralization leads to the notion of governance as the key concept in the context of the constraints posed by globalization. The municipal policies in Mar de Plata are explored in terms of the environmental impact of current processes and in relation to community-based organizations.

The first part of Chapter 6 sets the background for an analysis of social sustainability, with an evaluation of the social capital of the city. The second part of the chapter focuses on the issue of social vulnerability while the following chapter deals with poverty. With regard to the former, the existence of socio-territorial stratification of social vulnerability is acknowledged. Concerning the latter, the author points out the need to redefine concepts such as urban environment and poverty as well as the need to create new politico-territorial units within cities in order to overcome current constraints.

Due to its interdisciplinary approach, this book will be of interest to scholars from a wide range of disciplines with an interest in urban issues and development. Policy makers wishing to implement the sustainability agenda will also find this volume useful.

Implementing the Habitat Agenda: In Search of Urban Sustainability

Patrick Wakely, Nicolas You, Sonja Meijer, Anna Soave, Julian Walker, Jesus Navarrete, Elizabeth Riley, Tamsin Ramasut and Irene Wong, 2001, 196 pages, ISBN: 874502 00 5. Published by and available from the Development Planning Unit, University College London, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0ED, United Kingdom; www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu

THROUGH MULTIPLE CASE studies, this volume illustrates successful and progressive examples of practices with regard to housing and sustainable urban development. A wide selection of internationally chosen initiatives at local, municipal and central government levels demonstrates the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda, adopted in the Habitat II conference on human settlements held in Istanbul in 1996. Running in parallel to these case

studies is a narrative which describes the context in which the Agenda evolved and the implementation of its strategic objectives: “sustainable urban development”, “shelter for all” and “transfer of experience”. Conceived as a source book on interesting practices, this document targets professionals and decision makers as well as a larger public with concerns about poverty reduction, urban sustainability, good governance and social justice.

The book introduces the context in which the Habitat Agenda and its Global Plan for Action emerged from the Habitat II conference. It describes the contemporary challenges confronted by urban areas in a rapidly changing world, these being of a social, economic or environmental nature.

The second part highlights one of the objectives of the Global Plan for Action, namely, sustainable urban development. It explores the various forms of sustainability, their implication in the city and ways of promoting them. Economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability is about promoting transformations of cities that respond to the present needs without hampering future resources, and the rights for future generations to benefit from pleasant, harmonious and just urban environments. Approaches to reducing urban poverty, social exclusion and inequalities are supported through special concerns for the informal sector, partnerships and participatory governance.

Chapter 3 examines the second objective of the Global Plan for Action, that is, adequate shelter for all. It stresses the close link between adequate housing and citizens' health and quality of life. Recognized as a right by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the provision of adequate housing has since witnessed changing approaches from governments. The authors support the enabling approach as a step towards providing adequate shelter for all through a variety of housing initiatives from the individual, community or private sectors. Issues of democratic and participatory governance, access to land and security of tenure, services and infrastructure, housing finance and technical assistance are discussed in this chapter.

The final chapter reflects the basis on which the previous principles of the Global Plan for Action were founded, namely, the transfer of experience. Through the principles of decentralization, empowerment, partnership and participation, the ultimate goal is that people, their communities and cities are able to tackle some of the most pressing problems associated with urbanization. The goal of transferability is to learn from successful and innovative approaches and disseminate these as a source of inspiration for further urban interventions. It also stresses the importance of scaling up locally-based initiatives.

Throughout the book, 84 case studies illustrate wide-ranging approaches and processes to problem-solving and good governance. These highlight issues adopted by the United Nations for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, such as shelter, social devel-

opment and the eradication of poverty, environmental management, economic development and urban governance. Contact information and sources are available, so that further information about each case study can be found easily.

The book succeeds in stressing the importance of context to successfully implementing change in an urban context. It also demonstrates how people, through bottom-up initiatives, have been effective in putting into practice the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, when compared to the lesser collaboration of governments in that regard.

XII. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Safeguarding Our Common Future: Rethinking Sustainable Development

Ingrid Leman Stefanovic, 2000, 234 pages, ISBN: 0-7914-4652-2. Published by State University of New York Press, a volume in the SUNY series on Environmental and Architectural Phenomenology; web site: www.sunypress.edu

THE ABSENCE OF a philosophical base threatens the viability of successful implementation of current environmental policies. Despite the escalation of sustainability-based initiatives, the situation is not necessarily improving. Using Heidegger's philosophy of phenomenological ontology and ethics, this book encourages the use of new tools for sustainable development planning. Phenomenological thought illuminates the fundamental ways in which people think about life and the ways in which this informs their interaction with other people, cities and the environment. The ethical and metaphysical positions that guide our interpretation of the environment can be incorporated into planning efforts. By introducing philosophy into sustainable development planning, the challenge of changing popular behaviour and systems can be considered. By incorporating a deliberate method of integrating human thought and interactions into future planning, the possibility of affecting wide-scale change can be considered. The introduction of philosophical considerations can increase understanding and result in constructive and productive development.

The book is divided into three sections. The first explores the challenges of current sustainable development initiatives. In the second section, phenomenological thought is introduced as a tool for broadening the potential of future sustainable development efforts. The final section provides guidelines for the incorporation of phenomenological thought into sustainable development initiatives. A critical evaluation of current methods reveals that grand schemes and declarations are too simplistic. The complicated and changing relationships that people have with the world around them necessitate more specific aims and actions. Additionally, the common comfort in the conception that temporal

Book Notes

change results in progress towards increased sustainability is revealed as misleading. Instead, the element of time is considered as a force that contributes to growing and changing understanding and relationships. Consequently, sustainable development measures must be flexible enough to allow for change without assuming that the passing of time will necessarily lead to progress. This book maintains the necessity of accommodating the inherent complexity of human understanding and interactions. The application of phenomenological thought can provide the basis for discovering a common thread from which to build a constructive and holistic path towards sustainable development.

XIII. TRANSPORT

Urban Transport, Environment and Equity: The Case for Developing Countries

Eduardo A Vasconcellos, 2001, 344 pages, ISBN: 1 85383 727 X. Published by Earthscan and available from book stores or direct from Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK; e-mail: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; web site: www.earthscan.co.uk. In the USA, Stylus Publishing LLC, PO Box 605, Herdon, VA 20172, USA; e-mail: StylusMail@PressWarehouse.com. In Canada, Renouf Publishing Company, 1-5369 Canotek Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 9J3, Canada; e-mail: orderdept@renoufbooks.com. The Earthscan web site also has details of Earthscan representatives and agents in all other countries.

THIS BOOK BEGINS by outlining major concerns about transport planning in the South, particularly with regard to accessibility, the supply of public transport, accidents, discomfort, pollution and congestion. The author suggests that additional problems are caused by rapid urban growth which, in many cases, has not been planned for, and by the use of approaches to transport that originate in the North in very different social and economic circumstances. The author argues that this has resulted in the growing dominance of the automobile at the expense of public transport. He suggests that many planners and transport specialists show little concern with this reality, seeing it simply as an outcome of the market and consumer choices. However, he also argues for an alternative explanation of current conditions, and for alternative transport solutions that better secure social and environmental objectives.

The book is divided into three major parts along with an introduction and conclusion. Part II summarizes the current situation with regard to transport in the South. Part III, the longest, is divided into 13 chapters and considers a number of specific aspects, includ-

ing explanations of current performance, a discussion of alternative forms of transport and the exploration of transport-related problems. Part IV moves forward to consider new policies, proposals and principles. In Parts IV and V, the author stresses the importance of pro-poor transport policies with subsidized provision as necessary.

The author is Brazilian and much of the text uses Brazilian examples to illustrate the points. However, the discussion also draws on examples from a wide range of Southern countries in order to compare and contrast experience, and presents a succinct overview. The argument is wide-ranging, drawing on political and social theory to explain transport outcomes in an holistic fashion. The text offers an introduction to the theory of transport planning that may well be of interest to a wide audience.

Street Reclaiming: Creating Livable Streets and Vibrant Communities

David Engwicht, 1999, 207 pages, ISBN: 0 86571 404 5. Published by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC VOR 1X0, Canada; web site: <http://www.newsociety.com>; price CAN\$24.95, US\$18.95. Available in the UK through Jon Carpenter Publishing, the Spendlove Centre, Charlbury, OX7 3PQ; tel: 01689 870 437.

NOWADAYS, CARS PLAY a greater part than ever in our lives, and traffic is a growing problem for the urban quality of life. Not only is traffic increasing but streets and cities are also progressively being designed to meet the needs of cars rather than those of citizens. Increasingly, this is taking away space which was once at the heart of community life and where social and economic activities took place. This book is about acknowledging the potential offered by streets but also about finding ways of restoring them to the centre of urban life and community growth. It offers simple solutions for street-reclaiming, on the basis that car traffic "erodes" quality of life with security, noise and pollution problems.

In the past, streets were privileged living environments, a place for social, economic and community activities. This book argues that the potential is still there and can be reclaimed. The author proposes the "5R" rule of traffic reduction as the basis for reclaiming the streets. These are: replacing car trips with other means of transport; removing unnecessary trips; reducing trip lengths; re-using saved space; and reciprocating for mutual benefit. The ultimate goal of street reclamation is to reduce the volume, the speed and the amount of space allocated to cars.

The book is written to be accessible not only to decision makers and designers but also to urban citizens, for whom a detailed programme for implementation is suggested. It demonstrates how progress can be achieved in a relatively short period of time with minimum levels of organization.

To better tackle the root causes of traffic problems, myths supporting the current approaches to urban and transport planning are challenged. Street-reclaiming, as an innovative approach, brings about hope for those who seek to recover the city space they have seen monopolized by cars. It is not only about restoring lost traditions but mostly about preparing our cities to "face the challenges of the future".

Divorce Your Car: Ending the Love Affair with the Automobile

Katie Alvord, 2000, 242 pages, ISBN: 0 86571 408 8. Published by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island BC, VOR 1X0, Canada. Available from bookshops or from the publisher. In the UK, Jon Carpenter Publishing, Alder House, Market Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PH; credit card orders in the UK: 01689 870437; price £13.99.

THIS BOOK UNTANGLES the romance from the reality of the automobile in order to expose dependency and serve as a practical guide for the establishment of a car-free, or car-light, life. The impact of the automobile on life and the environment is detailed in order to reveal the heavy cost of society's collective marriage to the automobile culture. Attention is drawn to the unequal sacrifices that are made, in turn, for the limited benefits of driving. By providing useful tools, information and testimonials, the book can serve as a handbook for people considering a less dependent relationship with the car. The book is divided into three sections: the history of automobile culture; the harmful effects of the automobile; and practical advice for those living without a car. The heavy burden of automobiles is weighed against the romance and resulting dependency on the car.

Supported by external mechanisms, the love affair with the car dominated twentieth century development in North America. This book reveals how the advent of the car led to the decline of alternative forms of transportation in North American cities. The infrastructure necessary for the expansion of the automobile market changed the landscape and led to a decline in the feasibility of mass transport. Housing spread outwards, with the development of auto-dependent suburbs. The automobile industry, heavily supported by governments, leveraged many of these changes. All the while, the marketing of the automobile captured popular imagination while fuelling consumption and desire. Initially considered as a means of making life more civilized, luxurious and orderly, the automobile became a ubiquitous mode of transportation. As we now know, this advance was not without costs.

The second section explores the high costs of the automobile on the individual and collective life, and the environment. Mass consumption of automobiles leads to air and land pollution. While emissions poison the air, masses of obsolete automobiles burden the

landscape. In addition, automobiles stimulate the reckless use of oil, which is a non-renewable resource, and hazardous oil spills create environmental catastrophes. The effects of cars on daily life are also examined. Some of the less attractive products of the automobile are noise, road congestion and sprawl. Use of the automobile has led to a severe drop in daily activity, as people depend on their cars for journeys that may take them very short distances. Critically, the growing phenomenon of road rage is contributing to stress and aggressive behaviour. Meanwhile, automobile casualties have become a leading cause of death in many countries. In addition to providing information on the hazards of the automobile, the book highlights the tremendous personal expense of driving. Tools are provided for readers to assess the diverse costs of driving in their own lives.

In addition to revealing the need for decreased car dependency, the book offers opportunities for action. As a practical guide, creative solutions are provided for facing the challenges of living car-free within a car-dependent society. Real life stories illustrate the ways in which people have separated from their cars, explored alternative forms of transportation and enjoyed the freedom of living without a car. Separate chapters extol the joys of walking, bike-riding and effective public transportation; alternative fuels are offered as possibilities for the car dependent; and lifestyle changes, such as telecommuting, are considered as a means of reducing travel and possibly decreasing automobile dependency.

XIV. URBAN

a. General

The Urban Moment: Cosmopolitan Essays on the Late 20th Century City

Robert A Beauregard and Sophie Body-Gebdrot (editors), 1999, 295 pages, ISBN: 0 7619 1485 4. Published by Sage Publications, London; order through bookstores or direct from order@sagepub.com

THIS VOLUME ADDRESSES what could be one of the most fundamental and critical questions in urban theory, that of the future of cities. The book comprises 12 essays offering European, North American and South African perspectives of the present and the future and will be of interest to urban studies scholars as well as to those in sociological, political or cultural disciplines in an urban context.

The book challenges the actual climate of confusion found in urban scholarship by exploring alternative ways of representing the contemporary city (Part I); by analyzing the ways in which globalization materializes in cities and changes their social and physical struc-

Book Notes

tures (Part II); by examining the prospects for democracy and civic engagement (Part III); and by looking ahead to the future and providing some ideas about what a "good city" should look like (Part IV).

Part I deals with the representational dilemma faced by urban theory. Some authors (Chapter 2) offer a post-modern urbanism that transcends the modernism of the Chicago School of urban sociology. Boyer (Chapter 3) argues that the fixed grid of the modern city is now being replaced by a multi-dimensional net of cyberspace due to the introduction of computer networks. Moreover, Chapter 4 discusses the fact that the world is now entering the post-city era characterized by a delinking of the physical locations from the sociocultural realities. Part II comprises three essays that explore the new role of cities in the actual process of globalization. Sassen (Chapter 5) argues the existence of the so-called "global cities" in a world system that transcends national barriers because of being hard-wired into financial and corporate hierarchies. This view is challenged in the next chapter, where the author stresses the manifestation of globalization in social interactions rather than in electronic transmissions. Chapter 7 represents the only contribution from a Third World country and, for this reason, it helps to put the European and North American debate about cities in perspective. The author poses relevant questions concerning the extent to which western urban models and theories can be applied in cities in low income economies and more specifically in the case of South Africa.

Regarding the more social aspects of cities, Part III addresses issues of citizenship, urban democracy and governance and social mobilization in the context of cities. In Chapter 8, Martinotti addresses the notion of citizenship and its disarticulation as well as the influence of social morphology on urban governance. Taking New York City as a case study, the author of the next chapter discusses how a top-down "revanchism" against the minorities and the dispossessed can in fact trigger social responses that need to seek alternative ways for the future. The implicit social cohesion of this argument is not naturally present in the comparative analysis between the US and Germany presented in Chapter 10.

The last group of essays of this volume seeks to provide some prescriptive visions of cities. Ruby offers four scenarios for the future, with urban solidarity as the main tool to build a liveable city (Chapter 11). The author of the next chapter compares New York City and Amsterdam and concludes that the best model available is the European one – in terms of justice, sustainability and democracy. In the final chapter, Sennett retakes the issue of democracy and stresses the importance of democratic places for the cities of the future while he, ironically, looks with nostalgia at the cities of the past: Athens, Jerusalem and Paris.

b. Urban change

World Urbanization Prospects; the 1999 Revision

United Nations, 2001, 260 pages, ISBN: 92 1 151352 9. Published by the United Nations, New York. Available from bookshops or write to the United Nations Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

BROUGHT OUT BY the Population Division of the United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects* is a biannual publication which presents a revised and updated estimate, as well as a projection, of the rural and urban populations of all the countries in the world and their urban agglomerations. The 1999 revision covers the period 1950-2030 and comprehensively documents the urban and rural populations of the world in terms of 21 regions and five major areas.

The chapters devoted to the analysis of the report are divided into two groups. The first (Chapters 2 to 4) revolves around a discussion of urban and rural population growth and urbanization trends, whilst the second group (Chapters 5 and 6) focuses on the dynamics of city growth and its implications for urban hierarchy. The use of graphs and tables enables a lucid understanding of the report, which is informative and detailed.

Chapter 1 provides in point form a summary of the key findings of the report, followed by a short note on the organization and content of the report. In Chapter 2, the contrasting trends of world urbanization and rural population growth are highlighted at the global level between different regions. Through the exploration of the rate of urbanization and counter-urbanization, the patterns of urban and rural growth are shown for the major areas. Chapter 3 proceeds to analyze these trends at the global level, and also looks in detail at the urban and rural population growth as well as the proportion of urban population, i.e. the urbanization rate. Chapter 4 describes patterns of urbanization at the country level and introduces the temporal element. This provides a framework for grasping interesting facts. For example, by 2030, of the 17 countries that are expected to account for 75 per cent of the world's rural population, only five are likely to experience rural growth rates above 1 per cent. This chapter also looks at the size and growth of the urban rural populations, respectively.

Chapter 5, entitled "The Urban Hierarchy", explores the concept of urban agglomeration, where large numbers of people are concentrated in relatively small urbanized spaces. The data reveal the paradox that despite the development of the aforementioned agglomerations, rural areas still account for the largest share of the world population. Divided into two main sub-sections, this chapter focuses on the urban hierarchy by major area and on the distribution of urban increment by city size. Chapter 6, entitled "Population Growth in Cities", analyzes the importance of the initial

size of the city to the population growth rate. A comparative analysis is carried out between cities with various growth rates to establish an inverse relationship between the two factors, although exceptions do exist.

Chapter 7 unpacks the assumptions and adaptations made with respect to the procedures for estimating and projecting the population of urban areas and urban agglomerations. As indicated, the quality of the estimates and projections which are made is highly dependent upon the quality of the basic information for calculating the urban proportion. This chapter therefore highlights some of the variations that may arise from using different national sources, and illustrates how different realities make it undesirable to adopt uniform criteria. For example, a stipulation that any areal unit with at least 5,000 inhabitants be considered urban is not appropriate in populous countries such as China or India, where rural settlements with none of the characteristics of urban areas often have large numbers of inhabitants. Chapter 8 contains information on the sources of data used in estimating and projecting the population of urban areas and of urban agglomerations. The annex at the end of the book provides detailed results of the *World Urbanization Prospects*.

c. City-specific

Living in India's Slums: A Case Study of Bangalore

Hans Schenk (editor), 2001, 288 pages, ISBN: 81 7304 270 5. IDPAD, Delhi. Published by Ajay Kumar Jain for Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 4753/23 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002; price Rs600.

ILLEGAL AND DEPRIVED living areas have increased rapidly all around the world with problems becoming more complex. Despite its image as a prosperous city, the case of Bangalore in India is no different. Physical deficiencies, economic exploitation and social degradation are becoming increasingly visible. This book brings together the work of different authors from a research team of Dutch and Indian anthropologists, sociologists, geographers and urban planners who have analyzed different aspects of slum life in Bangalore. From different angles, the various papers contribute to the analysis of the physical and environmental aspects of the habitat in relation to the socio-economic conditions of the residents. Special attention is given to the social situation of slum dwellers in relation to the wider urban society. The book also looks at the attempts that have been made to improve the living conditions in slums, and the role of the stakeholders, and examines the reasons why most of these projects have failed to reach their objective of sustainable improvements. Together, the combination of papers offers a broad analysis and understanding of the life in the slums of Bangalore in the 1990s.

Chapter 1 introduces the historical development of slums in the Indian context and the national and local actions and policies developed for tackling this phenomenon. It provides the conceptual framework within which the research was carried out. Throughout the book, various aspects of slum living are analyzed, each paper focusing on a specific issue. These include economic and social insecurity, illegality, employment, provision of basic services and infrastructure, gender, pollution, governance and housing policies.

Bangalore, the capital of the state of Karnataka, is among the fastest-growing cities in India, and Chapter 2 offers an overview of this expanding city. Chapter 3 describes a typology of the existing situation and an analysis of statistical information. The following chapter seeks to identify changing processes and characteristics over a period of two decades through a comparative analysis of slum households in the city. Chapter 5 analyzes perceptions and cognitions, with a comparative study of 12 slums. The paper challenges the relationship between awareness levels in slums and concerns with the non-material aspects of development usually associated with voluntary organizations' interventions.

As a result of increasing urban density within the municipal limits, most rural migrants or evicted urban dwellers settle in the transitional zone situated between the urban and rural areas. Chapter 6 examines the slums located in this "fringe habitat of Bangalore". The following chapter presents a portrait of poor women living and working in a slum, who are often the victims of disparities and inequalities not only in daily life but also in development processes. It stresses the importance of integrating this reality into interventions and policies to allow sustainable improvements of living conditions. Chapter 8 is about water supply and distribution, an important issue in most Indian slums. As women and children are more affected by habitat and environmental hazards in a slum, it is critical not only to be conscious of gender-specific vulnerability but also to take action in order to resolve problems. These issues are followed up in the next chapter, which considers water and sanitation from a gender perspective. Chapter 10 explores the home-based manufacturing activities taking place in slums, which play an important role in supporting the poor in their struggle for survival but also contribute to the urban economy; the next chapter examines the incidence of two highly polluting industrial areas on the adjacent slum areas' quality of life.

Chapter 12 deals with government authorities and their role and activities in the improvement and clearance of slums. The book concludes by presenting the research findings, the authors' ultimate goal being to increase the understanding of the problematics in Bangalore's slums and their relevance to policy-making, but also to encourage socially-driven policy action that would lead to the successful improvement of slum habitats.

Book Notes

Rediscovering Dharavi; Stories from Asia's Largest Slum

Kalpna Sharma, 2000, 209 pages, ISBN: 0 14 100023 6. Penguin Books, New Delhi, London and New York.

DHARAVI, KNOWN AS Asia's largest slum, covers 175 hectares in Mumbai and is home to almost a million people. Kalpna Sharma's account of this city-within-a-city traces its history from the time when it was one of Bombay's original fishing communities, through the period when large parts of this swampy area were reclaimed for construction through the dumping of garbage, to its present incarnation as a vast and productive settlement in the heart of the city.

Dharavi's history is closely linked to the migratory patterns that have shaped the larger city and to the policies of demolition and relocation that the city followed for many years. The first migrants to join the village's fisherfolk were people from Maharashtra, who settled in south Bombay and were later pushed out to Dharavi as the city grew. Later settlers from further afield moved directly to Dharavi – chiefly tanners from Tamil Nadu and garment workers from Uttar Pradesh but also people from Gujarat, from Andhra Pradesh, from Karnataka and Kerala. Dharavi is a mix of neighbourhoods – some consisting solely of people from one area and reproducing the distinct look and life of that area, but others mixing northerners and southerners, Muslims, Hindus and Christians. The author points out that, while many slums are mixtures of communities and religious groups, few places contain the extraordinary mix of Dharavi.

What also distinguishes Dharavi is its amazing productivity. The place is like a vast unregulated industrial estate and almost everyone there has work – in leather factories, foundries, bakeries, garment factories and soap factories among other enterprises, many of which have grown from small home-based livelihoods into major ventures. Although working conditions can be hazardous, unsanitary and exploitative, many thousands have prospered here.

Dharavi is typical of many informal settlements in the gradual evolution of its housing and infrastructure over time. Mud and thatch huts have gradually been replaced by concrete low-rise dwellings and high-rise buildings constructed by government and private enterprises. Where infrastructure once was non-existent, many households now have electricity and indoor taps. But there is also much that has not changed and thousands of people live in untenable conditions in areas that are extremely difficult to upgrade because of their density. One of the central issues tackled here is the challenge of creating adequate living conditions for the urban poor, and the book tracks some of the many schemes that have been undertaken by a range of groups to redevelop various parts of Dharavi.

Sharma reminds us that solutions to the complex issues in a slum like Dharavi are best arrived at by stop-

ping, looking and listening. Her account is much enriched by the many stories of individual residents of Dharavi, which enable us to do just that.

The Lhasa Atlas: Traditional Tibetan Architecture and Townscape

Knud Larsen, and Amund Sinding-Larsen, 2001, 170 pages, ISBN: 0 906026 57 1. Serindia Publications, London. Available through Thames and Hudson.

THIS GRAPHICALLY RICH and beautifully designed book is at once an atlas of Lhasa, an history, a description of its architecture and townscape, a full account of conservation efforts and a detailed walking guide to the city. It contains old maps and new ones, specially produced line drawings, satellite photographs, reproductions of paintings, and numerous photographs, both recent and dating back to the 1930s. The text covers, in great detail, both the patterns and features of the Lhasa townscape, the principles and details of Tibetan architecture, and specific descriptions of numerous Lhasa buildings and efforts to preserve them.

XV. WASTE

Down to Earth: Solid Waste Disposal for Low-income Countries

Mansoor Ali, Andrew Cotton, Ken Westlake, 1999, 111 pages, ISBN: 0 906055 66 0. Published by and available from Loughborough Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, UK; also available online at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/dte/contents>

THIS BOOK PRESENTS the findings of the project "Appropriate Landfilling of Solid Waste" funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and aims to provide broad guidance for the selection of adequate options for solid waste disposal in cities in low-income countries. By reviewing and analyzing case study material from the cities of Karachi and Faisalabad in Pakistan, and Addis Ababa and Arba Minch in Ethiopia, the authors seek to make up for the current lack of material regarding options which are both appropriate to and affordable by low income countries. This book will be of interest to policy makers and professional staff of urban governments, development agencies and non-governmental organizations in low-income countries.

The first of the five sections of the book is a short but precise introduction to the research. Here, the limitations of a purely technical and piecemeal approach to solid waste disposal are stressed. This has strong implications for the set of guidelines that constitute the core of this volume. In addition, the authors' emphasis on

building on existing municipal capacity also represents a move away from unrealistic and unsustainable solutions.

The various options for the disposal of municipal solid waste are explored in Section II. This section describes the key constraints that should be addressed if safe disposal is to be attained (municipal capacity; political commitment; finance and cost recovery; technical guidelines; institutional roles and responsibilities; and location of the site). By tackling the constraints in these areas, an urban system for solid waste disposal could move gradually from its current practice towards more controlled, but still affordable, options such as sanitary landfilling, composting and incineration.

Section III presents a framework for selecting appropriate options for the disposal of municipal solid waste. The available options can be assessed in terms of their effectiveness with respect to desirable features relating to five dimensions, namely, technical, institutional, financial, social and environmental. Each issue will be dealt with through a sub-framework consisting of three questions regarding the necessary information or data – what? why? where? In a very important sense, the authors stress that this framework should be complemented by the use of bibliography and “fine-tuned” with local specificity.

Section IV examines the application of this framework to the case study of Karachi, Pakistan. Here, the strong interdependence between the various actors and the process of solid waste management becomes evident, especially when the role of the informal sector is recognized with regard to the “recycling economy” and the changing composition of waste and its influence on the choice of an adequate solution. In this sense, landfill provides the best opportunity for the utilization of re-saleable waste and therefore the best option for avoiding disruption in the livelihoods and possibilities for additional income of poor people.

The final section is dedicated to a review of available landfill guidelines in a risk assessment framework. This section gives an overview of the principles of landfill design and operation, including the new concept of sustainable landfill, so that practitioners can understand the importance of controlling landfill-associated risks and can choose the best option for the considered situation. Risk control mechanisms through operational planning, design and aftercare are also reviewed. The text is accompanied by boxes and tables, offering the possibility of engaging in a more superficial or in a deeper reading.

XVI. WATER AND SANITATION

Working with Communities

Arif Hasan, 2001, 200 pages, ISBN: 969 8380 52 3. Published by and available from City Press, 316 Madina City Mall, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi 74400, Pakistan; e-mail:

city_press@email.com; web site:
www.PakistaniBooks.com

THE ORANGI PILOT Project (OPP) is one of the best-known examples of large-scale NGO programmes in Asia. The Project’s early work and main centre is in the district of Orangi in the city of Karachi. In recent years, there has been considerable interest in encouraging the spread of its methods and techniques to other areas in Karachi and cities in Pakistan. This book is written by Arif Hasan, a long-term consultant to the OPP, and he reports on and analyzes the success of these initiatives.

The volume begins with a summary of the evolution and present components of the Orangi Pilot Project. The sanitation programme is considered by many to be of particular significance and the replication of the project has concentrated on this aspect of their work. The following chapter is entitled “Replications that never happened or fizzled out” and it looks at experiences in Lahore, Gujranwala, Okara, Sialkot and Muzaffargarh. The replications in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi are considered more successful and they are analyzed in some detail in Chapters 3 and 4. Chapter 5 considers a number of recent replications. Chapter 6 then examines the Youth Training Programme that has aimed to train young people in the technical services required for sanitation provision. Chapter 7 looks back at Orangi itself and considers how the sanitation programme has inspired or catalyzed a number of other changes. A final chapter summarizes the lessons for OPP from these experiences. A number of appendices provide more information about the projects discussed.

Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment, 2000 Report

WHO and UNICEF, 2000, 80 pages, ISBN: 92 4 156202 1. Published by and available from Publications, World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; price in the North Sw.fr 35, in the South Sw.fr 24.50.

THIS REPORT PRESENTS the findings of the fourth assessment undertaken by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). This volume updates and consolidates findings of earlier reports (1991, 1993, 1996) regarding global coverage estimates and it goes further by providing crucial information about the performance of the sector in relation to financial aspects, target-setting and constraints that hinder further advancements (Section III). This report therefore constitutes a valuable source of information for all those who wish to know where the water and sanitation sector now stands and how it is changing over time. More specifically, the information is valuable for supporting decisions relating to investment, planning, management and quality of service in the sector at a national and international level. Moreover, the special

Book Notes

relevance of this report lies in the fact that the water supply and sanitation coverage data generated by the JMP form the reference data for the UN system.

Despite the continuity in relation to past reports, the 2000 assessment also represents a shift in methodology and in approach. The use of household survey data together with country questionnaires for the collection of data allows the disaggregation of global coverage data into regions as well as the breakdown of the different means of provision. Past reports' black and white picture of "served" or "unserved" is then transformed into a more detailed coverage classification according to the technological sophistication of the facility.

In the introduction, the 2000 assessment stresses the relationship between the lack of provision for water and sanitation and the economic and health burden associated with it, especially in the case of the poorest of the poor. Attempts to improve the coverage figures are deemed essential for any poverty alleviation strategy.

The global trends (Section II) presented in the report show that in spite of an increase in the coverage estimates for rural water supply and sanitation throughout the 1990s, the present situation is worse in rural areas than in cities. On the other hand, the provision of sanitation in urban areas has also increased during the 1990s while that of water supply has slightly declined due to rapid urbanization. Therefore, as a consequence of current projections for urban population growth, the future challenges and main problems are going to be in cities, especially in those of Africa and Asia. Section IV of the report is therefore exclusively dedicated to the issue of water supply and sanitation in big cities. Section V explores the challenges, future needs and prospects. With 2015 and 2025 as targets in mind, the report highlights both the magnitude and the significance of the task to be undertaken in the years to come. In this sense, the report identifies some major challenges for the future: keeping pace with the projected population growth; closing the coverage and service gap (especially that of sanitation which lags behind water supply); ensuring both functional and environmental sustainability; and improving the quality of services. Crucial for all these challenges is the development of improved sector monitoring.

Finally, in the last six sections, the report engages in the disaggregated examination of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Europe and North America. In each of the sections, the report provides information about the evolution during the 1990s, the current coverage estimates and the future.