

Editorial

First of all let me introduce myself as the new editor of the EADI Newsletter. My name is Carla Purtschert-Voss and I have been working for EADI since September 2000 in a part-time position as research assistant. You'll find more details on my CV under the headline "News from EADI and Partners".

The EADI Newsletter has undergone a facelift. Following extensive discussions and recommendations from various groups, we aim to make it more interesting and attractive and to publish it more often. In line with the current trend "science goes public" the Newsletter, with its new layout and stronger orientation to current issues in development policy, should reach a much wider target audience and draw attention to EADI. Each issue will feature one central topic.

It is certainly no surprise that this first issue of the Newsletter from Bonn deals with the topic of "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Global Development". Exactly one year ago the Global Development Network (GDN) was launched here in Bonn as an initiative of the World Bank. The main aim of the GDN is to promote relevant research in developing countries and to enable a dialogue between science and politics. Furthermore, scientists from developing countries will have improved access to research carried out in the industrialised countries.

Without a doubt ICT offers us great possibilities. The question of global digital opportunities was confirmed in July this year at the G-8 Summit in Okinawa, Japan. But whether or not "cybercake" (Ann Pettifor) really can feed the hungry will remain a controversial issue in development policy for years to come. New challenges for development research and training are emerging in this field. In the wake of this development the German Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development, Heidmarie Wiczorek-Zeul, has demanded that the necessary steps be taken and new concepts in development co-operation formulated. The EADI Newsletter will support this process and assist our members in their work by providing up-to-date information.

The new digital communication technologies also benefit EADI in its own development

as a network. We are putting all our efforts into addressing these challenges and the rapid changes in the field of ICT. ELAND (European Libraries Network for Development) and the joint database system are the most important projects to date which we will be introducing in this newsletter. Susanne Busse gives us an update on our own Web strategy and we have also reprinted the "Manchester Declaration" of 9 March 2000 drawn up by our "Co-operation in Development and Area Studies Training Working Group".

This year sees EADI's 25th anniversary, which is a reason to celebrate! 25 years is a notable age for a network which has always sought to bridge research in the East and West. We would like to present you with a retrospective account of these years. An extract from the book by our former EADI Deputy Executive Secretary, Elaine Pettit-Côté, provides you with an insight into EADI's lively history.

Naturally ongoing work of our association will also feature prominently. Reports from the Working Groups and other EADI activities will be part of the newsletter. In this issue, we are focussing on the results of the meeting of the Information Management Working Group in Bergen, Norway last September. And, as usual you will find brief news from members and partners and book reviews.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published in March 2001 featuring the central issue: "Development Policy – What Future?" Short contributions dealing with this topic are welcome. Please contact the editor before sending in your article. Deadline is 12 January 2001. We also welcome your feedback. ■

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Sharing Knowledge

Since the middle of the 90s, information and communication technologies (ICT) and their impact on global development have moved to the top of the agenda of the international debate. The emergence of the information society and the IT-driven developments in all regions and almost all spheres of life have also led to the recognition of a digital divide. This is not necessarily to be equated with the traditional division between developing and developed countries, the North and the South, as there

are also great differences within regions and countries.

The World Bank has been among the pioneers to adopt these modern technologies for their own internal communication and management system. In addition, the World Bank plays a proactive role in developing and promoting initiatives to bridge the digital divide and to make existing knowledge globally accessible. A pilot scheme has been the InfoDev Programme, founded in 1995 with its

secretariat in the World Bank and an annual budget of US\$5 million, which is now internationally acclaimed as innovative and deserving large-scale financial support to scale-up the operation. The more specifically labelled G-K initiatives ('global' and 'knowledge' being the identifying catchwords) encompass a Global Learning Initiative, a Global Distance Learning programme, the Global Development Gateway and the Global Development Network, GDN.

Bridging Knowledge and Policy: The "GDN" — just another G-K product of the World Bank?

In December 1999, the World Bank, together with a host of partners, organised an inaugural conference in Bonn, Germany, to launch the Global Development Network (GDN). The title of this conference: GDN 99 – Bridging Knowledge and Policy. About 600 researchers, policy makers and representatives of more than 300 organisations from over 100 countries worldwide participated in the conference and had the opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences and thoughts about development issues and extend or strengthen networks. Detailed reports and all the contributions on this event have been made available by the World Bank Institute via the internet and can be accessed at www.gdnet.org/ or through: www.worldbank.org/devforum/forum_gdnet.html.

The Second Annual Global Development Conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from December 11–13, 2000. "Beyond Economics: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Development" is the title of this forthcoming event and partly reflects the criticism expressed by some quarters in the discussions at the Bonn conference, namely that it was dominated too much by the economic aspects of development. Months before the Bonn conference, the World Bank had undertaken a survey of 500 research and policy institutes throughout the developing

world to accurately gauge the demand for possible products and activities that the GDN might provide and that are best supplied on a global level. The following activities were identified:

- An annual Global Development Conference,
- Global Research Projects (e.g. on growth in several regions),
- Global Development Awards,
- Regional Research Competitions (for research grants),
- A comprehensive Data Initiative (to increase access to data on development issues worldwide).
- An Interactive Web Strategy (to increase the linkages between the regional networks),
- Providing scholarships, training, staff exchanges, and
- Assisting research institutes in evaluating their programs.

At the beginning, the GDN was founded with the following seven regional research networks spanning the developing world:

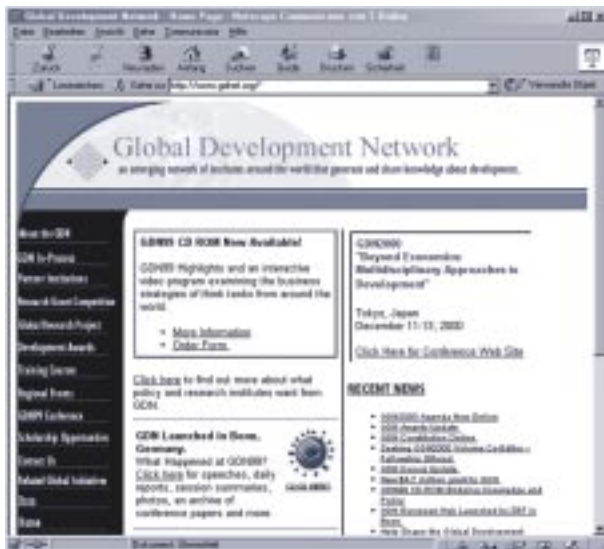
1. African Economic Research Forum: Nairobi: 1991
2. Economic Research Forum: Cairo: 1993
3. Latin America and Caribbean Economic Association: Santiago: 1995
4. Centre for Graduate Research and Education: Prague: 1997

5. Economic Education Research Consortium: Moscow: 1997
6. South Asian Network of Economic Institutes: Delhi: 1998
7. East Asian Development Network: Singapore: 1999

It is mainly through these networks that the GDN team of the World Bank plans to accomplish its mission of creating the global products and to build the capacity of research institutions and policy think tanks, especially in developing countries. In order to expand its scope to be truly global, the GDN is now also seeking to establish networks in the OECD countries, namely Europe, Asia/Pacific and North America. These networks are to support the GDN in its endeavour to strengthen the capacity of knowledge generation and dissemination in low-income countries and countries in transition.

The GDN: a challenge for EADI?

According to the results from a recent World Bank survey among policy makers in developing countries, there is a strong demand for more input from local researchers. More than two thirds of the respondents expressed a need for more input from local, as opposed to interna-



effectively – supported by new technologies. This also requires strengthened links with other networks. Existing network experiences within Europe and elsewhere should be utilised in building a stronger European development network. There is definitely a key role for EADI and our members to complement the efforts of other

Thus, a strong institutional base like the GDN and its European Hub should aim to address these issues and increase research co-operation in regional or global projects. Raising joint funding for emerging partnerships of co-operating research institutes of the network will be an additional task. Based on new technology, new services are possible and needed, including a more efficient exchange of data and information, making publications available without delay, increasing the access of research to everybody and responding quickly to the arising needs of a development community worldwide. This is an area where EADI can offer the services of our virtual libraries project, the European Libraries Network for Development (EL@ND). (Thomas Lawo)

tional, researchers into the policy-making process. To strengthen the research capacity of the local research community in developing countries, more funds need to be made available. At the same time, some support and professional guidance through researchers from developed countries has been requested by researchers in developing countries. In the past, institutional deficiencies, lack of knowledge and few opportunities to access have led to an insufficient use of existing expertise from researchers and institutes within Europe in capacity building in developing countries. The establishment of a European Hub of the GDN could be a good way to complement existing efforts of various associations and networks, including EADI, to engage in projects which are carried out jointly with or partly under the guidance of European researchers.

The accumulated knowledge and the vast empirical and methodological expertise of the European development research community with its long-term experience is not used to its fullest potential in the international development policy debate and hands-on application. Since multidisciplinary research, both academic and applied, has a long tradition in Europe and strong institutional backing from universities and established research foundations, the results are expected to be considerable and of a high quality. Therefore, the European involvement in research in developing and transition countries needs to be strengthened.

In addition, the added potential of networking for exchange of knowledge, data and staff within Europe as well as between Europe and the developing world and the transforming economies need to be utilised much more

actors in this field. As a community of practice, we would even have a sense of obligation to seek the collaboration of others to meet high standards and then to maintain them.

There is also a growing overload of development policy makers with 'information' of unchecked quality which may in fact lead to increasingly uninformed decision making and confusion in the media and among the general public. Therefore, it is necessary to get the best of European development research linked and accessible for policy advice. To achieve this, transparent quality standards and evaluation and review systems need to be developed and implemented.

The unit costs of development research in Europe are comparatively high, because of often small individual research programmes, the lack of transparency and the use of outdated technologies. This may adversely affect the competitiveness of European development research in the long run.

Establishment of a GDN secretariat in Bonn/Germany

To give some formal structure to the GDN and its European Hub, a secretariat has been appointed. For the initial three years, the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, has been nominated by the World Bank as the Hub secretariat of the Global Development Network. The ZEF is located in Bonn, which is well placed to play a key role in facilitating the promising networking with its emerging role as the "Centre for International Cooperation" (UN-Organisations, German development organisations) and as a development-related research centre (University, ZEF-Bonn, DIE, DSE, EADI), as well as a centre for modern communications technologies and related business (e.g., Deutsche Telekom).

Civil Society and the Global Development Gateway

Participants at the Brussels Meeting

Asia-Urbs – Alison Eades (<http://www.asia-urbs.com/>)

EADI – Thomas Lawo (<http://www.eadi.org>)

ECDPM – Peter Ballantyne, Georg Hitzenberger (<http://www.oneworld.org/ecdpm/>)

EU NGDO Liaison Committee – Valerie Van Belle, James Mackie (<http://www.oneworld.org/liaison/>)

Euforic – Huub Mudde (<http://www.euforic.org>)

European Commission – Amos Tincani (<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/>)

IBISCUS – Daniel Baudin (<http://www.ibiscus.fr>)

OneWorld – Peter Armstrong, Rene Plaetevoet, Chris Addison (<http://www.oneworld.net>)

Oxfam GB – Margaret Pickering (<http://www.oxfam.org.uk>)

Organisation Internationale de Politique Simultanée - Georges Drouet (<http://www.simpol.org/>)

Civil Society and the Global Development Gateway

Notes from a Meeting, Brussels, 20 October 2000

In July 2000, representatives of civil society groups in Europe met with World Bank staff in a consultation on a proposed global development gateway on the Internet (<http://www.oneworld.net/europe/en/news/gdg/>). Some concerns were raised then regarding the way in which the project was being established and developed. Since July, numerous other consultations have been organised by the gateway team (<http://www.worldbank.org/gateway/consultations.htm>), Bellanet has hosted an online discussion (<http://www.bellanet.org/gdgprinciples/>), and the whole notion is currently being discussed on the GKD discussion list (http://www.worldbank.org/devforum/forum_gateway.html).

On 20 October, a small group of interested 'European' actors met briefly in Brussels to review progress, exchange ideas, and try to set out a more proactive approach to the gateway project. The meeting was held in the offices of DG Development of the European Commission.

Current Concerns

Participants were generally extremely positive regarding the potential contributions of ICT's and the Internet to the development process. Each also saw the potential benefits and usefulness of some kind of global development gateway. However, regarding the currently evolving 'global development gateway' project led by the World Bank, participants raised four main concerns:

- 1. Needs.** It is difficult to see how the proposed gateway will address many of the needs that civil society actors, especially those in the South, actually have.
- 2. Governance.** Despite the setting up of an independent GDG foundation to run the project, the real potential for ownership by civil society is very limited.
- 3. Architecture.** The rather centralised approach to setting up and managing the gateway was not welcomed, as neither favouring partnership nor perhaps being the best technical solution. Other ways exist to achieve a similar result.

4. Capacity building. By focusing on the production of an Internet product, there is a danger that the capacity building process, especially in the South, will be overlooked. Choosing for products over process risks excluding many civil society actors.

None of these were new and the discussion highlighted the way that the GDG project is moving extremely fast in certain areas, but is not perceived to be addressing some of the basic issues raised by civil society actors. We sought therefore to focus on proactive ways to influence the process.

Some Proposals

It was argued by the European Commission participant that a gateway of the kind proposed by the World Bank is likely to be useful to certain communities or constituencies. He highlighted especially the potential value of such a resource for the donor community.

The basic point is that we (and the GDG also) should be careful not to generalise about all needs and all constituencies. Instead, it could be more useful to advocate multiple strategies and multiple gateways, each based around its own constituencies/communities. These could be self-organising and self-governing, but linked together through the use of common technical tools, standards, etc. A simple 'meta-gateway' might be a front window into all the parts. Communities of practice (focusing on issues and themes) offer one way to do this. Existing networks and representative platform of all kinds of actors are others. This is a very different architecture from the one currently being pursued for the gateway. Such a differentiated and decentralised approach builds on what exists. It mobilises capacities and helps to build new ones. It shares ownership and encourages representative governance at the most appropriate levels. It changes the focus of attention from the web page to process to share knowledge.

The **basic 'message'** is therefore to seek to transform the gateway from a single entity or product into a multi-stakeholder platform or process that enables other groups of actors to

work together in the ways that best suit them. What can we do?

Promote extensive civil society consultations. It is important to focus on the demands and needs of civil society actors before discussing a specific information exchange mechanism. It was agreed that a wide-ranging global consultation by civil society actors on the Internet/ICT's and development should be organised. The aim would be to identify consensus among the different groups on their needs, strategies, and options in this area, especially but not exclusively regarding a global development gateway. Consultation processes at various levels would be matched by a 'stock taking' of existing initiatives and experiences.

Raise awareness of civil society actors. At the same time, and recognising that the GDG team is unlikely to wait for the results of a global consultation, participants agreed that continuing pressure is needed to influence the GDG team and the donor community. Individual organisations will soon need to decide on their stance regarding the gateway and the extent and nature of any engagement they may have. It is important that they are well informed before deciding anything. A first action is to broaden the awareness of civil society actors regarding the gateway. A start can be made with European networks and platforms to spread the message, explaining the potential benefits of the gateway plus the concerns raised.

Build capacities. Finally, with or without a global gateway, actors in the South face immediate challenges to participate effectively in an 'information society' and to cross the so-called digital divide. Their northern partners have a valuable role to play in this and continued attention should be given to projects that help strengthen information management and knowledge sharing skills in the South. The existence of well-informed and ICT-aware civil society groups in the South is the best way to ensure that proposals from Washington can be responded to in appropriate ways.

(Peter Ballantyne)

(EL@ND) – European Libraries Network for Development

A New Key to Information on Development Policy and Co-operation

The EL@ND project shows how nine organisations in Europe are working together to improve access to millions of information resources that are needed to implement a multidisciplinary approach to development.

Nowadays, faced with an ever-growing agenda, development research institutes and think tanks are called on to focus on their 'core businesses' and to define and develop clear niches where they can deliver an added value and make a difference. One result is that institutions are becoming more specialised, concentrating on a few topics or disciplines, perhaps a geographical area, and even on certain roles. As the research becomes more specialised, so the scope of the institute's products and supporting resources (such as libraries) also become more specialised.

Such specialisation is necessary at the

institutional level. To address increasingly complex and inter-connected development challenges, however, the development community needs to find innovative and sustainable ways to work across institutions and disciplines. This applies to both the researchers and to their allied information and knowledge managers.

While the notion of information specialists and libraries working together and sharing resources is not new, there is now a new urgency to find concrete and effective ways to share information resources that are scattered across the world. Adopting multidisciplinary approaches to development requires that the specialised knowledge and information of our specialised institutions be linked and made accessible without regard to discipline. While World Bank-led initiatives like the Global Development Network (GDN) and the Global Development Gateway (GDG) are steps in this direction, each research institute and network needs to participate in the search for solutions.

In Europe, members of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) have been working together on information exchange issues for more than twenty years. The current focus of EADI's information 'community' is a joint venture called the European Libraries Network for Development (el@nd). Currently involving nine development institutions in Europe (see "*EL@ND in brief*"), the aim of the initiative is to improve access by European and other research and policy communities to the information resources held in each of the institutions.

The outputs of the initiative are a multilingual tool to search the databases of participating institutions for a current total of over 2 million records (bibliographic, projects, organisations, events, etc.), a joint system to track information on journals holdings, a document delivery system, and a model for co-operation that can be shared with partners from the South.

A decentralised strategy has been adopted in which each organisation is responsible for its own databases and collections, each contributing to the wider initiative, and some taking

on added leadership roles where they have a comparative advantage. The philosophy behind the project is to build on what already exists and to encourage organisations to join and participate on their own terms and with as few institutional or other 'entry' costs as possible. We feel that there is a lot of benefit to be gained from such co-operative approaches and that they could be used by the GDN as it seeks to foster such initiatives on a global level.

A prototype system is accessible on the Internet at <http://www.eadi.org/eland/>. The EL@ND Consortium intends to exhibit the project on the occasion of the "Global Knowledge Fair" from 11–12 December 2000 in Tokyo, Japan, accompanying the Second Annual Global Development Network Conference "Beyond Economics: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Development". The exhibition will introduce the model and demonstrate the prototype, seeking ideas and feedback from potential users and partners in the GDN community. A particular priority is to seek ways to further develop the tool with other GDN members and to clarify how such an approach fits with other services and models developed elsewhere.

Contact:
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Johannes Kleinschmidt, DSE
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The EL@ND Consortium

The following organisations form the initial partners core group:

CDR – Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen; www.cdr.dk

DSE – Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung, Bonn; www.dse.de

EADI – European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, Bonn; www.eadi.org

ECDPM – European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht; www.oneworld.org/ecdpm

Fundació **CIDOB** – Centre d'Informació i Documentació Internacionals a Barcelona; www.cidob.org

IBISCUS, Système d'information sur les pays en développement, Paris; www.ibiscus.fr

IDS – Institute of Development Studies, Brighton; www.ids.ac.uk/ids

IUED – Institut universitaire d'études du développement, Genève; www.unige.ch/iued

OWE – OneWorld Europe, Maastricht; www.oneworld.org/europe



Flyer available in the EADI Secretariat, Bonn

EADI Information Management Working Group 2000

25th Meeting, Bergen/Norway September 2000

This year's meeting was a kind of EADI birthday special. As the association turns 25, and looking back to the beginnings with conferences in Ghent (1974) and the official 1st General Conference in Linz (1975), the working groups have covered an equally long path.

EADI as an established and professional partnership for development relies on information sharing and active networking. Collaborative efforts reduce duplication, increase transparency and work against the fragmentation of development research and aid at large. Our work is more effective if the results of past ef-

forts are readily available to the development community. Technology now permits information sharing in ways that were impossible and not even dreamt of 25 years ago. The working group focussed on different aspects of the ongoing high-speed and high-tech changes that affect our work and ways of collaboration.

The Information Management Working Group met this year in Bergen. The following contributions are excerpts from a very personal "Unofficial report" written by Sheila Allcock and from a more elaborate "Summary report" written by Sarah Cummings, the outgoing co-

convenor of this group.

The new team to lead the group was selected at the meeting:

Daniel Baudin, Executive Director of IBISCUS/ Paris, as convenor, June Stephen, Information Services Manager of OXFAM and the past convenor, Svend Erik Lindberg-Hansen of CDR/Copenhagen as co-convenors.

Full reports of this meeting will appear in "Information Development" in 2001 and electronically at EUFORIC. The full text can also be found on our EADI website. **I**

Keeping Pace with Development Information

EADI — Information Management Working Group met at Bergen/Norway in September 2000

The Information Management Working Group held its 25th consecutive annual meeting at the Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen, Norway, from 6-9 September 2000. This meeting, with the theme 'Keeping Pace with Development Information...', was attended by some 50 information professionals who had travelled from all over Europe, and beyond, to discuss the current issues most affecting information for development. The Information Management Working Group, a working group of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), is the European forum for discussing information for development. This official Bergen report by Sarah Cummings will be supplemented by the so-called "unofficial short report" of the meeting by Sheila Allcock, former long-term convenor of the working group.

Introduced by Klaus-Peter Kalinowski-Jagau of the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ), the keynote speaker was Anriette

Esterhuysen, Executive Director of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), and representative of SANGONET in South Africa. She argued that the nature of the research relations between North and South poses a dilemma. Many development actors in the South feel they are being used as 'research subjects' or 'case studies' rather than setting the agenda for international development finance and discourse. The way the research agenda is set, the dominance of Northern-trained researchers and paradigms, and the manner in which the research results are distributed effectively exclude the Southern researchers from the dialogue on development. Although information and communication technologies (ICTs) can facilitate horizontal dialogue, they are often used to extract knowledge which is then distributed on some Northern database, inaccessible to those in the South.

Anriette concluded by arguing that this process should be changed. Information cannot be static: it should be linked to action to become knowledge. It is important to maintain

critical thinking. The North and the South should set agendas together and build local content. In addition, capacity building should be based on work on the ground. Finally, small local collections, evaluated critically, are more important than giant gateways.

As a second keynote speaker Daniel Baudin, Executive Director of IBISCUS, provided a European view on these issues. He argued that attitudes need to be changed. Internet-based global networking should move away from centralised gateways and institutionalised hierarchies to networks of equal partners. To illustrate this, Daniel provided the example of the IBISCUS network, focussing on its research dissemination and capacity building activities.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT I

On the second day, the programme started with the session 'What is Knowledge Management and What is it Not?' Svend Erik Lindberg-Hansen of the Centre for Development Research (CDR), Denmark, introduced the session, arguing that

20% of knowledge is in documents and 80% in the expertise of people. Does knowledge management represent a truly new approach or is it 'old wine in new bottles'?

Call for a New Organisational Design

Karl Kalseth, partner in NSI Konsult of Oslo and past Director of Information and Knowledge Management at Norsk Hydro, provided an overview of knowledge management. Karl is a consultant, advisor, and coach for top management and librarians. Introducing himself as a 'knowledge gardener', he defined knowledge management as the principles and the processes that manage internal and external, explicit and tacit information in a business strategic perspective or to serve a specific purpose. One of the most significant characteristics is that a knowledge management strategy needs to come from top management. It is also strongly linked to the concept of a learning organisation, namely an organisation skilled in creating, acquiring and transferring knowledge and modifying its behaviour to reflect new knowledge and insights. Knowledge management calls for a new organisational design based on networks rather than hierarchies.

This presentation sparked a vigorous debate about whether knowledge management is a fashion with little content, whether it is the same as what has been done before but with more attractive packaging (old wine in new bottles), or whether it represents a real revolution in approach. The general consensus was that convincing top management of the value of knowledge management can only lead to the placing of higher value on the skills of individuals and on information itself, the building block of knowledge. Just as James Deane of Panos at last year's meeting recommended that developing countries should increasingly value the 'knowledge in people's heads', so Karl outlines a way that this approach can be used to inform our work.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT II

The second knowledge management session was moderated by Karl Kalseth. In it, two members of the Information Management Working Group outlined their institutions' approaches to knowledge management.

Maintaining Knowledge — A Knowledge Management Project

Winnie Kongshaug of Danida reviewed the experience of implementing a knowledge management strategy. The objective of the knowledge management strategy was to make practical use of knowledge through sharing and managing staff knowledge. It was designed to help overcome the problem faced by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs when all staff are moved to new posts at the beginning of September, aiming to exploit the knowledge they have acquired to allow the new appointees to continue their work without a difficult period when they are trying to get to grips with their new jobs and the facilities of the Ministry. A working group was established, comprising librarians, IT staff, the head of the archiving department, a representative of the financial department, and others. The group started this September and aims to have drawn up its plans by December. The project components comprise: a one-day seminar to present knowledge management to the group running the project; identifying fields of activity; identifying which offices are working on the same issue in order to encourage cross fertilisation; and the identification of 'communities of practice'. The working group will round off the preparation in December with a discussion on knowledge sharing; how to encourage co-operation between individuals rather than competition; and development of a reward system for sharing knowledge. The knowledge management project itself will start at the beginning of next year (2001).

"OXFAM — Learning Organisation" — Strategic Plan

June Stephen, Information Services Manager at Oxfam, made a presentation on knowledge management in Oxfam. Oxfam is a major UK development and relief charity with 120 offices around the world. In 1998, a Fundamental Review of Strategic Intent recognised the increasing importance of effective knowledge management. A Knowledge Management Programme was established in May

2000 and the Strategic Plan defined Oxfam as a 'learning organisation'. For Oxfam, knowledge management is defined as creating, managing, applying and sharing (internally and externally) both explicit and tacit knowledge in order to 'make a difference' in overcoming poverty and suffering.

The Knowledge Management Project is sponsored by a Director. There is a core group accountable for programme delivery with a larger reference group which acts as a 'community of practice'. Knowledge management is a priority at corporate management level with a budget of GBP 200,000 allocated over a three-year period. It has been established as a 'core competency'. In addition, research has been commissioned on sharing knowledge with the South.

Three knowledge management activities are planned for the future as part of the Oxfam programme: analysis of the impact and scalability of existing initiatives as regards HIV/AIDS and land rights; knowledge mapping in humanitarian response work; and developing a knowledge management strategy for Oxfam shop managers. June concludes that knowledge management takes time and energy. It must be integrated into daily work practice and performance. Senior managers must provide the example of a new culture.

XML/IDML

Chris Addison, Director of OneWorld Europe, presented and discussed the new development of HTML (hypertext markup language) to XML (extended markup language). As a core member of the IDML (international development markup language) initiative, he describes its evolution. Chris' presentation is available at 'News' on the web site of our working group.



ELAND

Johannes Kleinschmidt of the German Foundation for Development (DSE) and Daniel Baudin of IBISCUS, members of the core group behind the European Library Network for Development (ELAND), presented the initiative as it stands today, including the bibliographic search facility developed over the summer of 2000. The session also considered the plans to further develop ELAND, covering users, data types and the position of the initiative in the evolving landscape of development information. Their presentation on ELAND 2000 is also available at 'News' on the web site of this working group.

RETRIEVAL STRATEGIES

This session was chaired by Sheila Allcock, Librarian and Information Services Manager at the International Development Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, at the University of Oxford, UK. She is the editor of the excellent Bowker-Saur guide to development information, published in 1999. Sheila introduced the speakers who presented key resources in different subject areas.

Sarah Cummings of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) reviewed electronic resources on women and gender. An overview of these resources had been made available to the meeting by Minke Valk and Henk van Dam of the Gender Resource Unit of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). Such a list is needed because a web search of women and gender yields 21 million web sites. Gateway sites, such as ELDIS, are very useful in this regard. Relevant web sites can be divided into those concerned with women and those by women with an emancipatory or empowerment purpose.

Håkan Gidloff, Documentalist and System Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden, made a presentation on Africa-related Internet resources. Only a few years ago, most of the sources with information on African countries and topics were, with the exception of South Africa, situated in the North. During the last couple of years, a growing number of African countries have been connected to the Internet with many active Internet Service Providers enriching the Web with indigenous, African-produced information. Library and documentation professionals are playing an increasing



role in developing tools for selecting and evaluating Internet resources in particular disciplines and subject areas. These tools and directories can be found at "A Guide to Africa" on the Internet, edited and maintained by Håkan.

Finally, Karen Lise Thylstrup of the Danish Centre for Human Rights presented web sites on the topic of human rights.

FROM INFORMATION TO IMPACT

This session was chaired by Kate Toft Madsen of the CDR.

The impact of social science research This paper was presented by Inge Tvedten of the CMI. He argued that social scientists and documentalists on development issues produce and manage large quantities of written material every year. 'Does What We do Matter?' Inge considered this rhetorical question by reflecting on the important relationship between producers and users of knowledge. The power of knowledge is closely related to the power of the individuals and institutions with access to it. He considers the challenge of making our work relevant and accessible to decision makers in the South. Using his own experience from Angola, where relevant social science information is practically inaccessible, and Namibia, where such information is in abundance, he argues for the importance of institutional co-operation between South and North. The closer the research output is to the people concerned, the more likely it is that the voices of those in the South will be heard.

ID21 (Information for Development in the 21st Century)

Isabel Vogel of ID21 at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK, presented some preliminary ideas on the design of an online feedback methodology modelled on focus groups, with the aim of eliciting feedback and comments from colleagues. ID21 has been communicating development research to a global audience of policy makers for over three years.

However, despite the increasing uptake of ID21 and similar services, evaluating the ways in which this type of information feeds into policy processes remains elusive. Isabel first discussed the background to assessing the impact of information projects, followed by a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the focus group approach. Finally, some of the methodological challenges involved in designing an online feedback tool are outlined. Information services, researchers and funders alike need to find ways to assess the impact of research on the policy process; validate research by assessing how research findings have been applied; and identify gaps in research knowledge from a decision makers point of view.

KEEPING UP WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS

This session, chaired by Sarah Cummings, covered changes which have been taking place within the working group's own organisations

and networks, with an extra focus on the host region, Scandinavia. It was completed by an Open Forum in which informal presentations were made on the situation in a few countries.

Helle Leth Møller of the Danish MS (NGO) Library made a short presentation on NorDoc, the informal and unstructured Nordic Countries Development Librarian Network. She was followed by Anja Møller Rasmussen of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who reviewed the activities of the new Danish international committee, which has just started to investigate development research, particularly the DANIDA-funded parts, as follow-up to the newly drafted Danish strategy called 'Partnership 2000'.

Next, Gerard van Westrienen of the Centre for International Research and Advisory Networks (CIRAN), part of the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), presented the Indigenous Knowledge Network and PRISMA, the Netherlands Gateway to development-related research and higher education. He was followed by Håkan Gidloff, who described the new initiative 'Africanists in the Nordic Countries'. He was then complemented by Gerard, who explained the role of the 'Africanists in Europe' directory and possible co-operation with the Information Management Working Group.

These formal presentation were then followed by short reviews of the situation in Ireland (Sally Corcoran of the Development Studies Library, Dublin), the UK (June Stephen), the Netherlands (Sarah Cummings), and France (Danielle Bouhajib).

THE BUSINESS MEETING

Goodbyes

Svend Erik began this part of the meeting by asking for recognition of Sheila Allcock, as this may be her last attendance at the Information Management Working Group Meeting. Sheila is a past convenor and has been a regular participant. We all wish her well and hope to see her again sometime in the future.

The convenorship

Two of the co-convenors, Klaus-Peter and Sarah, have resigned with immediate effect although they will still be active participants in the reporting of this meeting. During the conference dinner on Thursday evening, Svend Erik thanked them for their work over the past years

'Unofficial Report' of the Bergen 2000 Meeting

I have been asked to write an "unofficial" report of this conference, to be printed with the official rapporteur's account, so this is a subjective view of one person's reactions to the event. I have been involved with the EADI Information Working Group since 1979 and this will probably be the last conference I attend.

Highlights of the first day for me were the welcome from CMI1's Director, Gunnar Sorbo, who really seemed to be aware of the role of the Library both in the Institute and in its partnerships and the thought-provoking address from the "South" given by Anriette Esterhuysen from South Africa. She is the Executive Director of APC 2 – South Africa and gave us an analysis of the key problems as she sees them of dominance by researchers and academics from the "North". Local knowledge is used as "raw material" to fit into pre-conceived theoretical paradigms, and even South-South dialogue is often mediated by northern institutions.

In my opinion the theoretical session on knowledge management on the morning of the second day was not as relevant to the participants as the concrete case studies given by Winnie Kongshaug of Danida and June Stephen of Oxfam. In the afternoon there were some useful practical sessions, given by members of the Working Group, but I began to feel a sense of "deja-vu" during some of the discussions about information retrieval, keywords and thesauri. Svend-Erik Lindberg-Hansen's phrase of "old wine in new bottles" seemed particularly apposite.

On the third day it was good to hear from the new Executive Secretary, Thomas Lawo, that the Working Groups and Convenors will have a greater impact on the decision making process in EADI, and I was pleased that he was an active participant in all our sessions. The "holy grail" of proving that information has an impact on successful development was pursued later that morning, but it remains remarkably difficult to prove the existence of such an impact to potential funding organisations. In the afternoon we had descriptions of new developments in different countries,

and a remarkably expeditious business meeting.

I shall remember Bergen for the contrast



between the elements (i.e. the driving rain) outside and the welcome inside. The programme ran like clockwork, and the shuttle bus between the hotels and the CMI was always on time, as were the sessions. I suspect that the knowledge that we had to get a bus at a certain time concentrated the minds of con-

tributors to debates, and I recommend this policy to those planning future conferences! The coffee breaks had the best choice of food of any EADI conference I can remember, including fresh fruit, often in short supply at conferences. The conference dinner, with Norwegian food including reindeer, very tender, was a highlight. The return through the Bergen monsoon to the hotels certainly sobered us up after the drinks we had consumed!

We mistakenly thought that this weather was exceptional, but the following evening the monsoon was repeated, and the excursion Norway in a nutshell, which many of us took on the Saturday, was also very wet. Despite this, we were able to appreciate the grandeur of the mountains and fjords, although some people found the bus trip to a vantage point up a winding road with a sheer drop on one side to be rather too exciting!

As regards the conference itself, I think that the relevance of most of the sessions was because we had speakers from amongst our ranks – people who actually work in libraries and information centres. I hope those planning future conferences will look to home-grown talent for speakers in "how-to" sessions, as well as outsiders to stimulate debate. I am pleased to go out on a high note, and especially happy to know that the baton can be passed to the safe hands of new, young, enthusiastic convenors for at least the next 25 years!

Sheila Allcock
International Development Centre
University of Oxford

and offered a farewell present. June Stephen and Daniel Baudin will fill their places. Daniel will become the Convenor, and Svend Erik and June will be co-convenors.

Next year's venue and timing

Possible venues for next year's meeting include Dublin, Oxford and Bordeaux. Bordeaux is the preferred venue as it will mark the creation of an Aquitaine Group on Development Information and will recognise the growing participation of the Francophone members of the working group.

Reporting

This year's proceedings will be published in the journal 'Information Development' as in previous years. Other journals will be approach-

ed to publish the short version of the report. An electronic version will appear on Euforic as in previous years. Sarah will be co-ordinating the reporting.

Somewhat belatedly, the 1999 proceedings will appear as a Special Issue in the December 2000 issue of 'Information Development'. Short reports have already appeared in the 'INASP Newsletter' and 'FID Review'.

Thanks

Svend Erik thanked Kirsti Hagen Andersen and all members of the CMI Library for the organisation of the meeting. All agreed that the meeting had been superbly organised with excellent facilities and smooth logistics. Not only had the meeting been well organised, but all members of the Library had been very friendly and welcoming, responding positively to all requests for access to e-mails, telephones

and faxes. Social highlights included the wonderful conference dinner and the tour of the fjords after the closure of the meeting. CMI was also thanked for hosting the meeting. Klaus-Peter added thanks to CMI and Kirsti, in particular, for funding and help in organising the attendance of the excellent keynote speaker from South Africa. Thanks, too, in this regard to the Norwegian Embassy in South Africa. Finally, Daniel Baudin asked for a vote of thanks for Svend Erik in recognition of his convenorship of the group over the past three years.

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25 Years EADI — Happy Birthday!

by Elaine Petitat-Côté

The year 2000 will stand out as a landmark for EADI: not only does the Association turn 25 this year, thus confirming its long-term purpose and statute in development issues in Europe and beyond; but also, with the move of the Secretariat to Bonn, EADI is experiencing a rebirth of sorts. The Association – simultaneously a dynamic young adult and a newborn babe in arms – has indeed two excellent reasons to celebrate. And celebrate it will... But next year, in the next Newsletter.

However we would like to convey, with pride and joy, our birthday greetings to EADI now, if only to mark the date.

And to do so, we have chosen to reproduce below excerpts of the introduction to *The EADI Story: Networking Over the Years, 1975-2000* published on the occasion of the Paris Gene-

ral Conference one year ago. You may want to read the volume and can order it through the Secretariat.¹



"This book, like EADI itself, has a rather eventful story to tell. During the 1995 spring meeting of the EADI interim committee – which seems to be sometime ago – it was realised that this year was a very special year in the history of the association as it would soon be celebrating its twentieth birthday. Clearly, something out of the ordinary

had to mark the occasion and ideas started coming out of all directions: from the more academic seminar, or article, or paper, to the less demanding press release, from the informality of a party to the more dignified idea of a cocktail and speeches. In fact, someone even mentioned a book. We eventually found a consensus and decided that the Secretariat would

prepare a special December issue of the Newsletter in which EADI's past and present presidents would write a short piece recounting their memories at the helm of the association.

One thing led to another and things being as they are, the September 1995 birthday passed by unmentioned and the presidential pieces never reached the Secretariat in time for the December issue of the Newsletter.

This did not matter since 1996 would also be an important year because EADI would turn 21 years old. We would celebrate its coming of age, and the 1996 Vienna General Conference would be a perfect occasion to present what had by then become, at least in the minds of some, a small historical brochure made of the texts of the presidents – collected at last – and a few documents relating to EADI's founding and pre-founding meetings.

Conference years are particularly busy years for the Secretariat. 1996 was no exception, and as one can easily imagine, several imperious

demands forced us to put the brochure aside once again. To compensate however, a special panel session entitled *Looking Back Twenty Years in Development Studies*, was organised on the last morning of the Vienna General Conference, with a panel consisting of Just Faaland, Giulio Fossi, Richard Jolly, Hans Singer and Marja Liisa Swantz. The revised plan was to integrate one, two, or all of their texts into the EADI brochure, which seemed to be getting more and more voluminous by the day.

In 1997 the Secretariat moved from one IUED building to another and we did what everyone else does at such times. We sorted out our papers, got rid of what we could, reorganised our archives and in the process, found a wealth of documents that we unravelled and put into good working order. And some of them we decided to use for what was clearly becoming a myth: the idea, by then, was to prepare a book...

Working on it was fun though finding time to do so was sometimes a nightmare. It took months to get going, more months to complete, about a year to be improved, and a few last months to be finalised. The 9th EADI General Conference is about to take place and so, once again, we are in a Conference year. The Secretariat is moving to Bonn at the end of December 1999, and we feel that a Geneva book is a way of moving along with it. But above all, the association will soon turn 25 and it would have been a shame to miss the occasion.

There are four parts to this book. The first is an overview of how the network has evolved and functioned over the 25-year period since its foundation. This is not a history of the ideas that were discussed in EADI circles and devel-

opment institutes in Europe and beyond during the last quarter of a century. Nor is it a history of the issues that concerned member institutes or that working groups took up as their task. A comprehensive history is yet to be written from the EADI archives. The first part is, instead, a more basic and general description of the directions which the association took, the ways it proceeded to move and what it accomplished over time. In the second part we have reproduced the report by Jef van Bilsen published after the Linz Conference in 1975, which describes the setting up of the association during the year 1974–75...

The third part of this volume comprises the texts that each of EADI's presidents wrote for the first, 1995–1996, version of this history. It is the actors' account of their experiences and impressions. We have added the text that Dudley Seers, EADI's first president, presented at the foundation meeting of the association. He states his vision of the balance between North and South and explains his reasons for setting up a European association. The other EADI presidents all describe their impressions during their reigns, the paths the association was then following, its difficulties, as well as some of their favorite stories.

Last, but certainly not least, the volume includes a theoretical part comprising three texts. The first, prepared by several authors (Samir Amin, Giulio Fossi, Richard Jolly, Enrique Oteiza, and Poona Wignaraja), dates back to 1974. How should Northern and Southern researchers and academics collaborate in an era in which the North is no longer master to the South?

The ideal path they describe could, at first glance, have been written today. The second

text, another Dudley Seers creation, was published in the *IDS Bulletin* in 1997, and appears here to run parallel to the first. It underlines the necessity for European researchers and development studies academics to reverse their conventional understanding of the world and to consider the lessons to be learnt from the South as essential for their understanding of their own world. Hans Singer's text on the relevance of Keynesianism today for development issues, was written for the EADI General

Conference in Vienna. Singer refers here to two issues derived from Keynes' thinking – disguised unemployment and self-sustaining economic growth over time – which he states as examples of other lessons that today's development economists have to learn and take into account. Singer's approach, that of a "development economist", may appear to be traditional, while his analysis and vision are as forward-looking and modern as ever."



So Happy Birthday EADI! Our very best wishes!

EXPO 2000

German Development Policy Draws a Positive Conclusion

For the first time the world exhibition EXPO 2000 focused on development policy. The Agenda 21 and sustainable development, the two main focuses of the exhibition, offered a good opportunity for the development community

to draw attention to itself.

The EXPO's mission statement was based upon the Agenda 21, the attempt drastically to improve living conditions for all people without destroying those of future generations.

EXPO 2000 was the first mega communications event of its kind to provide such opportunities for people to meet, for experiences to be exchanged and for presentations to be given to millions of visitors. "Participation in a World

Exposition was something completely new for German Development Policy," explained Andreas von Schumann, spokesperson of the One World Initiative. "Never before have we had such an opportunity to reach so many people in such a short space of time and in such an in-depth way. In doing so, we have been able to collect a lot of experience and are very satisfied with the outcome." The One World Initiative group brings together different German governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Some of them are also EADI members.

The One World Signet

Even before EXPO 2000 the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), development policy institutions and NGOs joined together under one roof, namely as part of the One World signet that has become the trademark for development policy involvement at EXPO 2000.

Our One World has never shown its presence at a World Exposition the way it did at EXPO 2000. Around two thirds of the participating nations were emerging countries and countries with transition economies. More than a hundred of them were supported by the One World Initiative. They accounted for a great deal of the attractiveness of this mega-event. This was confirmed by diverse surveys which gave the Africa Hall and the pavilions of Bhutan, Nepal and Yemen top attractiveness ratings right from the beginning. Smaller presentations in the halls, like those by the Philippines, Moldavia, Eritrea and Albania were also extremely popular.

Attraction for Visitors

In a survey carried out by the One World Initiative, many visitors said that EXPO 2000 had

Valdivia Cosmology, Ecuador (1,500 a.C.)



given them their first opportunity to gain an impression of a country previously unknown to them, or that they had been able to widen their perspective.



This positive reaction shows for many countries it was well worth taking part. "I believe the visitors really learnt something about my country," said Abdul Hakim Al-Sayaghi, Pavilion Director of Yemen.

Visitors took great interest in the countries' cultural diversity and natural riches, their problems and the often very impressive solutions. Many country presentations addressed "sustainable development" in line with the thematic message of EXPO 2000. The Brazilian and Ecuadorian pavilions, for example, met with a very good response. They demonstrated what architectural masterpieces can be built from renewable resources – and even allowed visitors to be interactively involved in the process.

Projects Around the World

Another important aspect as far as development policy is concerned were the "Projects Around the World". The One World Initiative identified 300 of the 487 international initiatives worldwide. Most were on show at EXPO 2000. Seven projects supported by German development co-operation were located in the "Basic Needs" presentation in the Thematic Area.

Global House

The BMZ demonstrated how development co-operation works by presenting 41 projects in its One World Exhibition in the Global House organised by the German Agency for Technical

Co-operation (GTZ), also a member of EADI. "Projects Around the World" gave NGOs their first opportunity to participate in a World Exposition. This new element is to become a network of sustainable development and aims to be a permanent feature. Japan, host of the next EXPO in 2005, has already stated its interest.

Global Dialogue

Many projects around the world were exhibited in the so-called Global House and accompanied by ten Global Dialogues, one of which was entitled "Fighting Poverty", another "The Role of the Village in the 21st Century: Crops, Jobs and Livelihood" organised by the German EADI member Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn. Villagers from different regions of the world had been invited to discuss today's problems of rural life, feeding humankind and innovative solutions.

More than one hundred activists from Africa, Asia and Latin America came to EXPO 2000 to take part in discussions and debates with representatives from politics, trade and industry and the sciences. This novel exchange of views is also to be continued.

One World Initiative Set to Carry On!

The colourful cultural programme, like the 500 events in the Africa Hall, attracted millions of visitors. EXPO 2000 was able successfully to awaken a very positive interest in emerging countries. Development policy came across vividly in a new manner. "The challenge we are facing is to preserve this beyond the World Exposition," said von Schumann. "Continuing to use the One World Signet as well as other instruments that have proven their worth, such as the One World website and the One World Information Service, will be a first step in this direction."