



Institute of
Development Studies

40 YEARS: 1966-2006

Alumnews ***February 2006***

Chair's Letter

Dear All

There is lots going on at the moment in respect of alumni involvement in the 40th anniversary, and other ways of reaching out to you. Therefore here is a mini newsletter to get you up to date on some ongoing events. The first is a new Library service called Online Refdesk. This is designed to answer development studies enquiries and give guidance on search strategies. A pilot is starting very soon and we hope that alumni will be heavily involved as you are subject focussed and have experience of the IDS Library first hand. More details are given in this newsletter.

Next you will soon receive a questionnaire from Professor Sir Richard Jolly to help him with his history of IDS. This is being sent to all former staff and students. Please take some time to respond as it is essential for Richard in this work.

Finally we have just concluded the fourth IDS40 roundtable in Abuja, Nigeria. The roundtable was organised by Nkoyo Toyo (MA Gov 01) and attended by IDS Director Lawrence Haddad and Richard Jolly. We hope to write next month with some more news of the Round Tables being organised by alumni for IDS40.

With best wishes

Richard Longhurst (DP81)

40 Roundtables in 40 Countries...

Nigeria, 8 February 2006

IDS Director Lawrence Haddad reports on the Nigeria roundtable

Richard Jolly and I attended the fourth IDS40 roundtable, held in Abuja, which was organised brilliantly by **Nkoyo Toyo (MA Gov 01)**. About 30 people (including 5 alumni) gathered for the meeting, drawn from the research, NGOs, media, government and donor communities. A full report is being prepared by one of our alumni, but the issues that struck me included:

- **In the short-run:** Issues around the legitimacy of government dominated this section, with the debate around the validity/desirability of a third term for President Obasanjo being seen by many as a test for how well democratic systems and the rule of law have been embedded within Nigerian political society. Other discussions centred on how various income streams—oil revenue, remittances, aid—increased or decreased the legitimacy of government in the eyes of the voters. Clearly the roundtable participants felt that political reform needed to progress as fast as economic reform if the latter was to be sustained.
- **In the medium-run:** There was discussion around whether a military government could re-emerge, what would happen to the Nigerian economy if the price of oil collapsed, and what is the future role of the Nigerian diaspora—will it increase as

others opt out or will it be a crucial driver of ideas, enterprise and resources? There was also a sense that civil society organisations needed to re-align and explore new roles in the post-military environment and press, for example, for a greater stress on citizen empowerment in the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). The issue of whether Nigeria should be looking to the West or to the Far East in the next 10 years was also raised.

- **Implications for research.** There was a sense by some that the issue of citizenship needed to be more fully explored—what should citizens expect of government and vice versa? How can citizens hold government better to account (e.g. through more studies on budget allocation and performance, reviews of country assistance plans, the development of score cards—using existing data—assessing government, NGO and donor actions)? The perceptions around the boundaries of the roles of the private sector and the state needed to be challenged more. Issues of security and energy also need to be explored further (e.g. the privatisation of security, the use and misuse of energy).
- **On the how of research,** it was stressed that organisations such as IDS should be engaging in equal partnerships with Nigerian organisations to develop global centres of excellence in Nigeria. There was a lively debate on the tradeoffs between policy relevance and research for its own sake (the "politics of the belly and the poetics of imagination") and a call on activists and researchers to push each other more to do work that makes change happen. There was a recognition that the Nigerian development research community lacked an association or conference around which to coalesce.

Other roundtables taking place over the next few months include:

April

UK, London, Monday 3 April

Organiser: Institute of Commonwealth Studies

Ireland, Dublin, Tuesday 25 April

Organiser: Mary McKeown (MP14), University College Dublin

Colombia, Saturday 29 April

Organiser: Jacques Mérat (MA Gov 02)

India, Delhi, Saturday 29-Sunday 30 April

Organiser: Surendra Vetrivel (DP84), Arjun Khajuria (MP25)

Australia, New South Wales, date tbc

Organiser: Marc Williams, University of New South Wales

May

Ghana, Thursday 4 May

Organiser: Takyiwaa Manuh, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

South Africa, Thursday 4 May

Organiser: Mike Morris (DP81), University of Cape Town

Brazil, São Paulo, Thursday 25-Friday 26 May

Organiser: Zander Navarro (IDS Fellow), Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (IDS Partner)

India, Bangalore, date tbc

Organiser: Institute for Social and Economic Change

India, Chennai, date tbc

Organiser: C.K. Gariyali (IDS Short Course participant)

June

Kenya, Wednesday 14 June

Organiser: Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi

Cambodia, Thursday 22 June

Organiser: Cambodia Development Resource Institute

UK, Leeds, Friday 30 June

Organiser: Ruth Pearson (DP81), University of Leeds

Roundtables will also take place in Bangladesh, Canada, China, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, USA and a host of other countries. It's not too late to get involved. See the website for details: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni/IDS40alumnipage.htm> If you would like to organise a roundtable in your country/region please contact Nabila at alumni@ids.ac.uk

Other IDS40 Events

Icons and Iconoclasts seminar series

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/aboutids/anniv/IconsAndIconoclasts.html>

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, IDS is hosting a seminar series called Icons and Iconoclasts. The series will bring groundbreaking researchers and activists to IDS to talk about what's inspired their work and what they see as the key challenges for international development in the next 40 years. The first seminar in the series will be **Deniz Kandiyoti** in conversation with Naila Kabeer on Tuesday 14 March, 5.30-7pm at IDS.

**Brighton Fringe Festival, Controversies in science, technology and global development
IDS/SPRU joint lectures**

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/aboutids/anniv/festival.html>

Vaccine Anxieties

6:30pm, Thursday 18 May 2006

Jubilee Library, Brighton

Climate Changing Lives

6:30pm, Thursday 25 May 2006

Jubilee Library, Brighton

Find out more: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/aboutids/anniv/events.html>

BLDS launches free online enquiry service for IDS Alumni

Do you need help finding development information online? Would you like tips on search strategies, bibliographic guidance and more? The IDS Library (BLDS) invites you to take part in its new global online reference and enquiry service. The BLDS Online Reference Desk has been developed to help our online users enjoy the same quality of service that they can expect from visiting the Library in person and help them make the most of our wide range of up-to-date reference material and key resources.

This is a pilot project which will run from February 20th to May 26th, 2006 during which time we will gauge the character and volume of enquiry demand with a view to establishing a permanent online enquiry service for development studies, based at IDS, which we hope to

roll out later this summer.

As a contribution to the IDS 40th Anniversary year in 2006, IDS Alumni and a few partner institutions in the global South have been specially selected for this pilot stage. Should you make use of this service during this trial period, we may also be seeking, by phone or email, some extra information about you, your satisfaction with the service and suggestions for its future shape. In return, you'll get help with internet search strategies and constructing bibliographies using the skills of IDS information specialists who'll be ready and able to give you a quick and focussed response.

To use the service, **available from February 20th**, access the online request form at <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/blds/refserv/reqform.html> using the following login details: **userid:** reference and **password:** winter.

We hope you find it useful. If you have any questions about the pilot service, please do not hesitate to contact BLDS at blds@ids.ac.uk

BLDS has other services to help remote users. We are developing subject guides to offer a range of pre-designed searches. Having found what you are looking for you can order a copy from the document delivery service and then stay up-to-date by subscribing to subject-specific BLDS Updates, free emails alerting you to the latest additions to the library in your field of interest. Subscribe online at <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/blds/updates/>

MPhil News

MP4

Bernardo Mendez Lugo was featured in the East Bay Business Times on 3 February 2006. To read about his work as Consul for trade and business promotion the Mexican consulate in San Francisco visit: <http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2006/02/06/smallb1.html>

MP9

Harriet Lamb, Executive Director of the Fairtrade Foundation, was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to business in the 2006 New Year Honours List.

MP12

Ricardo Lagos Weber has been appointed as Ministro Secretario General de Gobierno (Secretary of State) under Chile's new Michelle Bachelet government.

MP13

Ranjani Krishnamurthy has written with news of a book that she has co-edited with Neera Burra and Joy Ranadive: "Linking the Triad: Micro credit, poverty and women's empowerment", SAGE, 2005. Reviews are welcome! If you would like to contact Ranjani, please email alumni@ids.ac.uk

MA News

MA12

Gouthami Kalavakolanu has sent in information about her work as Executive Director of the Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS, Kutch Women's Development Organisation) in Gujarat, India. KMVS have initiated an Endogenous Tourism Project in Hodka, Kachchh, supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and UNDP:

Hodka village is famous for its crafts and its craftspeople receive many visitors each year from all parts of the world who come to learn their craft, share ideas or simply to appreciate craft. This has been capitalised upon by UNDP, who have chosen Hodka as one of their 31 sites in India for an Endogenous Tourism Project owned, built and managed by the community. The project has been initiated with a resort, the Shaam-e-Sarhad (Sunset on the Border). Accommodation here is in beautiful tents or the traditional bhunga, a conical mud structure. While the ambience is rustic, the comfort is that of any modern hotel with attached bathrooms

and running water. The kitchen provides traditional Kachchhi and Gujarati food.

Shaam-e-Sarhad can accommodate 26 persons comfortably. It is an ideal location for undisturbed work as there is no television on site and phone access is limited. Day trips can be organised to nearby attractions such as Kala Dungar, Flamingo City, the Rann, etc. with local guides who are fully conversant with the history and culture of the area and take pride in sharing it with visitors. The Project will move on to facilitating home stays with crafts persons imitating the ancient Gurukul system so that those interested can learn crafts to the level that they desire – over a week or over a year.

While the members of the community are still learning how to run the Project, professional support is being provided by trained staff through KMVS and its sister organisations. KMVS has been active in Kachchh since 1989, working with women on their social, economic, financial and political empowerment.

To find out more about the Hodka Project and the Shaam-e-Sarhad Resort, go to the website www.hodka.in or write to us at info@hodka.in

Alumnews is your chance to find out about the latest events at IDS, as well as to catch up on news from your classmates. Send in your news and opinions to the Alumni Office.

Email for life IDS offers a permanent e-mail address for alumni, with an option to redirect mail to another e-mail address. Sign up: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni/Alumniemailaddress-form.doc>

Planning a trip to IDS? Let us know in advance so we can organise a **meeting with current students** for you to share your experiences since leaving IDS. So far this year, students have attended sessions by **Caitlin Porter (MA Gov 02), Jeremy Armon (MP17), Sonomi Tanaka (MA8), Shandana Mohmand (MA Gov 02), Miguel Loureiro (MA Gov 02), Arjun Khajuria (MP25) and Romilly Greenhill (MP21)**. Contact the Alumni Office for more information.

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Keep in touch! A directory detailing email addresses of all Alumni who wish to be included is available on request from alumni@ids.ac.uk. **Please let Nabila know if you change your email address or know of any other members who have done so.**