



Institute of Development Studies
Sussex

Alumnewsletter

June 2002

Message from Richard Longhurst, Chair, IDS Alumni Association:

Since last October I have been acting as Chair while Kay Sharp has been away in Ethiopia and I will continue for a little while now she is back. I am sure the Chair of the Association will pass between different Committee members, as we have to carry out overseas assignments. At the moment I am firmly London and Brighton-based shuttling back and forth daily for my job at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Committee has been meeting every couple of months or so and our main objective has been to get the e-mail list up to date for the expanded membership. We now have e-mail addresses for about 500 of the 853 Alumni (remember you don't have to pay a subscription to join the Association, membership is automatic for former students). We have asked Course Directors and others to help fill in gaps on our database contact lists and as usual urge you to ask Alumni who are not in our list to contact our Secretary, Diane Frazer-Smith (alumni@ids.ac.uk). (The email directory is available on request from Diane as well as separate lists of each course group.)

This newsletter is based largely on what you have sent in since the Reunion in June of last year. Diane sits at the sharp end of her computer and hopes to receive news from you. We know you are all leading such busy and interesting lives - please spare a few minutes to let us know what you are up to. However, I do realise that we can't just demand news from any of you spread throughout the world. We have been following up from the discussion at the Alumni Reunion trying to carve out a 'niche' for the Association. I think it is fair to say that the Reunion concluded that there were two important reasons for the Association. The first was social, to be able to maintain friendships made at IDS, share news and help each other. The second was to provide some support to those who are about to become Alumni - the current students. The Association will never take off in a significant way unless we can make sure that new and active members are always being drawn in. If I could make a personal

comment, I am knowledgeable about three alumni associations and the situation is the same with the other two. One, a UK college is realising that it has insufficient new members being drawn in, and must now get a proper e-mail list drawn up using a part time paid administrator and the second, a US university, which as you might expect is very professional at cultivating its alumni, with lots of events for them as well as opportunities to reach for your cheque book for undergraduate scholarships.

So please help us give support, advice and information for the new students who are graduating. Help find them jobs, pass on tips and give general support. We want the graduating students to know who works where, and for whom, so that this can help in their job search and career development. Of course, if any of you then wants to write a \$10million cheque for student support and a new wing to the IDS I am sure that Keith Bezanson would not discourage you (just my little joke). Knowing people from your *alma mater* is the best way to get going in any job, institution or town. So please write in and forward this letter to any others you feel might not have heard from us. Then we can move onto the next stage.

Richard Longhurst (DP81)

MA in Governance and Development

The MA in Governance and Development at IDS was the first of its kind, and the fact that similar courses have now begun in other major development institutions attests to its relevance on the current development agenda. The course puts into perspective many of the current trends in development thinking and action. All the 'hot topics' come up - poverty, the role of WTO, rights based approaches, civil society and social movements, legitimacy, participation, voice - all the jargon is covered!

Using the lens of Good Governance the course equips students to handle theoretical and policy issues from international to local level, following the framework of the four pillars of the Good Governance Agenda: effective public management, accountability, transparency and rule of law. Additional options focus in on issues such as conflict management and decentralisation. The policy paper, as the final dissertation, is a reflection of the aim of the course to emphasise practical responses. The range of nationalities and experiences represented by the course participants is one of the strengths of the course and a great learning resource. 18 students were in the first year and 21 in the second. Final numbers for MA Gov 03 are not yet to hand.

The course entry requirement of some practical experience means that many students enter the post MA job field with skills already under their belts, some idea of what area they are specialising in and a range of contacts on which to call. For some, particularly those funded through British Council, the funding they received for the course was conditional on taking a leave of absence from established careers to which they returned. In MA Gov 01 students came from, and returned to, organisations such as Care International, and UNDP, other NGOs and the field of journalism. All of these are now re-established in their work and are applying the principles learnt on the course, or have been able to specialise within their organisation on the basis of their new qualification.

Of those who have turned their MA into a new opportunity, some have combined their previous experience with their governance expertise to secure positions with international development organisations, including the British Red Cross, Médecins sans Frontières and Conservation International. While others have presented their skills on the open market and begun securing consultancy work in the governance field. A couple of students have gone on to further education in their specialised fields, including one in Officer Training for the British Army. For a few, opportunities arose during their time at IDS that have kept them in the Institute or the wider University of Sussex. Though highly competitive, there are always opportunities, often short term, arising within the Institute.

A year on, nearly all of the MA Gov 01 cohort have found employment in the development field combining their skills, experiences, interests and qualifications.

Catherine Gee
MA Gov 01

DPhil News

DP 79 John Wyeth has just written to say: 'I am working in Lesotho with a large project funded from a variety of sources (including World Bank, DFID, GTZ and the African Development Bank). It is called the Agricultural Policy and Capacity Building Project (more snappily (?) known as the "APCBP") and is aimed at improving the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to develop and implement appropriate agricultural policies and deliver services to poor farmers. My own role (taking about 2 years: up to the end of this year) is to give training in techniques of agricultural policy analysis and help carry out a number of specific policy studies. Other areas being covered in the project include financial management and planning, monitoring and evaluation, land management and help with the introduction of a new system of agricultural extension.

I'm here with my wife (anthropologist Priscilla Magrath) and our two kids: Jamie (4 and a half) and Anna (2 and a quarter). They're both at school, and we all like being here a lot, having by now got used to the idea of how cold it gets in (parts of) Africa in the winter! Winter's just starting and we've already had a bit of snow. There'll be more, but it's usually nice and sunny, so the cold is easier to bear than it is in some other countries we could mention . . . !'

DP 81

Richard Longhurst has been working for the last six years at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London in the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Unit, in charge of a small evaluation section. He has been managing evaluation studies and reviews across a wide range of political and development cooperation activities.

DP 84

Mohamed Samater is Head of the Operations Evaluation Office of the Islamic Development Bank and is based in Jeddah. IDB has a membership of 53 countries spread in Asia, Central Asian, Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe, and is an active member in the world donor community. It maintains close collaboration with other development banks such as World Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Development and Reconstruction Bank as well as numerous other bilateral and national development institutions. (www.isdb.org)

DP 88

Tom Hewitt (also **MP7**) wrote to say: 'I've been working at the Open University UK since 1989 teaching and researching in development studies. This year I thought it was time for a change of scenery for a while and so took 12 months' leave of absence to do a job in London with SciDev.Net (see www.scidev.net) which is a science, technology and sustainable development web site covering news and analysis about S&T issues in developing countries. This has been a great change, cycling from Clapham to Oxford Street every day instead of driving an hour each way from Oxford to Milton Keynes, as well as working with journalists who move very fast indeed compared to the academic pace that I have become accustomed to. It has also involved a fair amount of travelling; first to East Africa and then to Latin America. For those of you that are interested, Freddy is now 19 and off to university in October (if she ever returns from the east coast of Australia!).

DP 89

Lori Ann Thrupp (also **MP6**) wrote in May to say: 'I am currently working at the US Environmental Protection Agency, in the regional office in San Francisco, as a policy specialist in the agriculture program (which is non-regulatory). After working

for more than 10 years in international agriculture as Director of Sustainable Agriculture at the World Resources Institute, where I traveled about 40 percent of my time, I got exhausted from all of the travel. I decided for both personal and professional reasons that I wanted to do more domestic (US) work. I worked as a consultant for a year or so, then applied for the EPA work. My job at EPA is good and interesting in many ways, but the bureaucracy is not very conducive to creative work. I'm looking into alternatives now and even am exploring some possibilities for teaching.

I live near Berkeley, with my partner/fiancé Michael Reid, who is African American and works in the human resource field, on recruiting/employment opportunities. I have just completed a monograph called 'Fruits of Progress: Growing Sustainable Farming and Food Systems' published by the World Resources Institute. It is available through www.wri.org.

DP 97

Ann Hudock and **Robin Mearns** were unable to attend the Reunion owing to the birth of Alexander Joseph Mearns on 11 June.

DP 99

Iman Bibars is director of the Association for the Enhancement and Development of Women (ADEW), which was founded in 1987 by 20 young professionals who were concerned, and still are, with the plight of the marginalised - especially women who head their households. ADEW was the first association to work with this group in Egypt, the first who provided credit with no legal papers or collateral. ADEW is also the only feminist NGO that is directly linked to the poor women and at the same time advocates with the policy makers. The national conference in April was the first of its kind and used life testimonies of poor and marginalised women who are married to non-Egyptians and who cannot give their Egyptian nationality to their children. ADEW managed to make an MP introduce a bill in parliament and is now working to support her. This is the first time in Egypt that lobbying for womens' issues takes this image, i.e. that live testimonies are given by the women themselves who talk about their own problems. It was a very successful conference.

Yukiko Yonekura (and MP16) left Japan to work in Cambodia from 1 September. She decided to return to Cambodia to continue to learn, think and apply development theories in this real world. Her new assignment is as Country Director of Japan International Volunteer Centre (JVC).

MP 4

Alexandra Volkoff wrote: 'After graduation from IDS (1981), I went to work at the Canadian International Development Agency, where I worked (including postings to China and Indonesia) for 17 years. Since 1998 I have been in Vienna working for the International Atomic

Energy Agency in the Department of Technical Co-operation.

MP 8

Udo Janz has been based in Sarajevo since September 2000 as Deputy Chief of Mission for UNHCR and intends to stay for at least another two years. He asks anyone coming his way to get in touch, email: janz@unhcr.ch.

MP 10

Tom Lines wrote to say that it was the World Development Movement's AGM and conference in early June and he was elected as the new National Secretary - a voluntary post with a two-year term. He is happy to help with any questions about the organisation.

MP 11

Kay Sharp wrote in May: 'I'm back at IDS, after spending much of the last nine years in Ethiopia. I started a DPhil in October 2000, but I'm currently taking time out from it to work with Stephen Devereux on a research project on 'Destitution in Ethiopia's Northeastern Highlands'. I'm living in Brighton, and would be happy to hear from any former course-mates who are passing through, or who'd just like to drop me an e-mail (K.Sharp@ids.ac.uk).

MP 13

Moss Ngoasheng wrote in June: 'After spending 5 years as Economic Advisor to President Thabo Mbeki (four of these while he was Deputy President), I have now moved into the private sector running an investment company, Safika (meaning 'we have arrived') which I started with a few friends six years ago. Safika has investments in a number of areas, including information and communications technology sectors, medical technology, treasury management systems and radio and printing sector. You may ask why so many areas? Safika may be described as a private equity boutique house. One of our investee companies is run by a Sussex Graduate, Nhlanhla Msomi, who graduated with a BSc Hons. in molecular genetics and has since finished a PhD. Anyway, I'm enjoying the investment game; especially the interactions with the entrepreneurs who run the various businesses.'

MP 14

Hiro Hatashima has just written to say: 'I left Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where I spent more than six good years at the African Development Bank, to join the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector window of the World Bank Group, as an Investment Officer. I spent one year + at the Small & Medium Enterprise Department which is operated jointly by the World Bank and the IFC. I've been coordinating information flows of technical assistance activities handled by special multi-donor SME TA initiatives in Africa, Balkans, Mekong Region, South Pacific and interior China. Starting from May 2002, I moved to

Special Operations Department of the IFC, as an Investment Officer. The department is dedicated for restructuring and recovery of non-performing investments, and I will be covering some projects in Africa.

MP 15

Preeti Shroff-Mehta is a visiting scholar at the Institute for Studies in International Education and Development at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is directing global project efforts that will focus on marginal local knowledges involving women educators, parents, local communities and will build learning innovation networks representing rural and urban communities in India and the US during the pilot phase. Nick has just completed seven demanding years of training in cardio-thoracic surgery, and Naomi, their only child is now six years old. They will relocate to Washington DC in August 2002 where Preeti has been offered the Vice President, Global Development position with the Global Knowledge Alliance organisation, a newly formed global NGO that promotes knowledge building networks across communities and regions. This will include new project development in association with International Development Organisations and trips to South Africa, India, Botswana, South Korea and Vietnam.

MP 17

Glen Robbins is still working for local government in Durban, together with **Ranveer Persad** (MP19). They both work in the economic development arena. Glen has two sons (Matthew 3½ and Benedict 1).

MP 19

Julia Novy-Hildesley wrote: 'I'll be leaving Stanford University and World Wildlife Fund in the new year. I have accepted a job as Managing Director of the Lemelson Foundation. The Foundation is a private philanthropy established by one of the country's most prolific inventors and his family. I will be working with the Foundation Board to develop a new initiative - the Program in Technology for Community Development - in order to mobilize and apply American creativity, inventiveness and innovation to improving the quality of life of people in third world communities by addressing programs in environment, energy, natural resources, and health. I hope to visit my friends and colleagues from IDS to get lots of counsel for this new endeavour! My husband, Will, and I will be moving to Portland, Oregon in late January 2002, where the Foundation offices are located.'

MP 21

Minori Terada wrote from Tokyo on Christmas Day to say she had been working as a Junior Programme Officer in UNDP Vietnam but had unfortunately had to return to Japan owing to poor health. She has now recovered and been reassigned to UNDP Bhutan from the beginning of

2002. She says: 'Bhutan is a very small and unique monarchy between India and China (Tibet). I will work in a Governance unit and engage myself in decentralisation issues. It is such a rare opportunity to set foot in the unexplored country located at the eastern end of the Himalayas. I am looking forward to my new exploration.'

MA News

MA 4

Rosibel Gómez-Zuñiga says: 'I am based in Honduras, working at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration at the Sustainable Development Department, mainly dealing with poverty, health and gender issues. I'm married to an Honduran anthropologist and we have a 2½ year old little girl, Sofia Elena.'

A few weeks ago I coordinated for the Bank and International Conference on Poverty Reduction, so I was in contact with **Richard Jolly** to invite him to participate in our conference, but he was not available. I also invited Paul Streeten so he came to Tegucigalpa, and we had a wonderful time talking about IDS (lots about Hans Singer). From time to time I have news from IDS people, I've seen **Ana Gomez** who is now at USAID, and recently I've some news from **Ricardo Gottschalk**.'

MA 7

Mahmuda Rahman Khan joined DFID Bangladesh in August 2001 as Social Development Adviser.

MA 8

Anwar Shaheen is an Assistant Professor at the Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi. She married a colleague, Dr Syed Jaffar Ahmed, in December 1998 and they have a two year old daughter. Anwar has been doing research, teaching and consultancy work and would love to hear from class fellows and friends who still remember her. Anybody visiting Pakistan is welcome to contact her at email: anwarshaheen@hotmail.com

MA 12

Tanja Bastia wrote to say 'I am trying to keep active in my annual hobby - moving houses - so this year I've moved to Hull in Yorkshire (or Humberside, I am still not sure). My other occupations keep me busy too, I am still doing my PhD on Bolivian migration to Argentina with the University of Wales Swansea and working on a DFID project (Social Development Research Capacity), which takes me to Bolivia a couple of times a year. I will be starting my fieldwork in Argentina (unless all migrants leave because of the crisis!!) in March so I will live there for about six months. My son is keeping well, started school and quickly picked up a Yorkshire accent, which he's added to his Welsh and his Scouse (people still understand him when he speaks English).

Gouthami is working with ActionAid in Rajasthan - a funding agency, working in partnership with local NGOs. Gouthami and her team initiated the office in Rajasthan in April 2000. Their work involves identifying NGOs to fund, and helping them to plan, monitor and evaluate their work and to set up systems for them.

Grace Mukasa is still in Uganda, working with a national membership women's NGO called Action for Development (ACFODE) which does gender advocacy at national and district level through promoting good governance through training and advocacy for women in decision making positions; training and mobilising women and girls to advocate for their legal and human rights; policy analysis and advocacy; training of women leaders in gender budgeting at district and sub-county levels; gender mainstreaming in government departments and NGOs; advocacy for women's access to strategic information and communication technology.

MA14

Meharoon Ghani has just emailed to say: 'It has been one year since Brighton and IDS! Since then, I returned to my previous job with the library for the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services in Victoria, Canada. It has been good to have paid work, but I am bored and actively seeking new opportunities within the field of Gender and Development.

I continue to do various community and volunteer work. I have been conducting workshops on racial discrimination for the local college and university. I have been helping to organize academic lectures and conferences. The most recent is a conference on racialized girls in Victoria for July. Later, in November, I'll be presenting part of my thesis and conducting a workshop at a women's conference in Vancouver. I will be discussing some themes related to violence against women within the South Asian-Canadian community.

I continue to be a dj! My radio show is going well. I have changed the theme from what I did at Sussex URF station from World Beat music to focus specifically on South Asian diaspora in Canada. I highlight artists, musicians, film makers, writers, etc of South Asian descent in Canada who are trying to find a place within the mainstream art/music/literary scene. It has put me in touch with lots of fantastic people!

Rudzani (Rudzi) Khalushi is working at home in South Africa. He has just joined an organisation that is training Civil Society Organisations in terms of capacity building, etc. He says: 'we are engaged in partnership with CARE International South Africa and two other NGO coalitions from the Cape. It is a DFID funded programme on strengthening civil society organisations to form strategic partnerships with government and also helping communities realise their rights in South

Africa. Recently we visited CARE Zambia on a two week study tour to see the work they are doing. That was great for me and I learned a lot from that.'

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Sir Hans Singer
The Life and Work of a Development Economist
D. JOHN SHAW

This is the first biography of the world-famous pioneering development economist, Sir Hans W. Singer. It gives a detailed account of the way in which the 'twists of fate' led him to becoming a leading development economist and contains a thematic synthesis of all his major theoretical conceptual work and of the many initiatives in which he has been involved to solve the problems of developing countries.

D. John Shaw has known and worked with Hans Singer for many years. He has written extensively on development and food aid issues.

Hardback, publishing June 2002, 376 pp. £60. Special discount price of £50 - available from IDS Publications (publications@ids.ac.uk).

IDS is hosting a reception in the Upper Common Room on 12 July to celebrate the publication of this biography.

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For information about the IDS Alumni Association, please contact the Secretary, Diane Frazer-Smith, on alumni@ids.ac.uk

A directory detailing email addresses of all Alumni who wish to be included is available from Diane on request. This is regularly updated. **Please let Diane know if you change your email address or know of any Alumni who have done so.** When writing please also mention your course number or year.