



## **Alumnews**

### **December 2005**

#### **Chair's letter**

Dear All

With so much going on I think it is best that my letter be short (there is logic to this!). Elsewhere in the newsletter you will read about the progress on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events which will involve numerous Roundtables, the first of which has just been completed in Santiago under the convenorship of Emanuel de Kadt and chair of Osvaldo Sunkel.

An Alumni Bulletin on decentralisation is now in the last stages of production under the editorship of **John Virtue (MA Gov 02)** and we wish him and his contributors all the best as they pull everything together.

Looking ahead to the next newsletter, we will be saying something about progress on the Teaching Review which is leading to a radical restructuring of the degree programme and for which we would appreciate your ideas and comments.

Finally, it only leaves me to send my best wishes at this end of year period to all of you in whatever part of the world and to hope that 2006 brings you changes only for the better.

**Richard Longhurst (DP80)**  
Chair

### **IDS40 – Fortieth Anniversary Activities**

#### **IDS40 – get involved!**

In 2006 IDS will celebrate 40 years since it was founded by Barbara Castle, then UK Minister for Overseas Development. We are hosting a whole series of events to mark the occasion, to celebrate our community, and to consider what the next 40 years might bring for IDS

The centrepiece of our anniversary programme will be a series of roundtable events, hosted by alumni and IDS partners all around the world, to consider what the future of development research might be. What are the challenges facing the development community, and how will development research (in all its forms) need to change in order to meet those challenges?

We hope to hold 40 roundtables in 40 countries. Three have already taken place – in Chile, Mozambique and Thailand – and others are planned in Brazil, Ireland, Kenya, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Washington (IADB), New York (UNIFEM) and UK (Institute of Commonwealth Studies). Each has been different so far, and we expect that each one will be – they may vary in size, formality, duration and number of participants. The most important thing is to bring people together to reflect and to look forwards. And the outcomes from each roundtable will feed into a conference to be held at IDS from 20 to 22 September 2006.

A whole host of other activities is planned throughout the year:

- **New Year, New Look** – watch out for the new IDS visual identity in January
- **Essay Competition** – for IDS alumni and students. Winners will be invited to attend the IDS40 conference (full details to be announced in January)

- **Icons and Iconoclasts** – well-known development thinkers will be invited to IDS to talk about what inspires them, their motivations and aspirations.
- **Brighton Festival Lecture** series (in association with SPRU) – focusing on the role of science and technology in development
- **IDS archive on-line** – some of the early and most influential work from IDS will be digitised and made available via the website.
- **And more...** check out the IDS website for more details (from January).

If you want to know more, or would like to attend or hold a roundtable meeting, please contact Nabila: [alumni@ids.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ids.ac.uk)

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#### 40 Roundtables in 40 Countries...

### Chile, 29 November 2005

The first IDS40 roundtable was held in Santiago on 29 November. Former IDS Fellows Emanuel de Kadt and Osvaldo Sunkel brought IDS alumni together at Osvaldo's offices to discuss what are the main issues facing Chile today, what new problems can be expected over the next 40 years, and which issues the research community should focus on. **Gonzalo Falabella (DP81)**, **Andres Marinakis (MP12)**, **Ana Paola Teixeira (MP13)**, **Francisco Vio (DP80)** and **Guillermo Wormald (MP2, DP77)** joined Emanuel and Osvaldo in a lively discussion.

Participants agreed that Chile's development path had been widely misinterpreted, particularly outside the country: 'In fact, during the past 40 years the country has gone through two drastic upheavals and a set of multiple reforms: it has nationalised copper, carried out drastic land reform, and opened up the economy to international market forces. Central in understanding Chile is the need for *differentiation*: some policies worked very well, others didn't, and their effects were distinct for different population groups and different parts of the territory'. In the light of the loss of 'certainties' about the neo-liberal approach, participants also suggested that some ideas, such as redistribution with growth, were ready for reconsideration.

### Thailand, 30 November 2005

Brighton-based development consultancy IMA International (one of our partners which often runs short courses at IDS) organised a roundtable in Bangkok, attended by development professionals from 13 countries, including 2 IDS alumni. Discussing key constraints to achieving sustainable development by 2015 and beyond, participants suggested that forces jeopardising a sustainable future include the danger of getting stuck in old development paradigms and not taking into account religion, wars between and within countries, and cultural beliefs. It was suggested that key constraints on development in Thailand were a shortage of skilled professionals in science, technology and engineering which hindered the country's capacity for innovation, and the challenges of moving from a middle level economy to a higher level.

On the question of how research needs to reinvent itself to support those seeking just development, it was suggested that the research agenda needs to be demand led - set by the developing countries to ensure that the themes and issues researched are those most relevant to developing countries' emerging needs.

The participants thought the process of holding Roundtables across the world to feed into the 2006 conference was an excellent idea and the framework provided by the questions enabled a lively and focussed discussion.

### Mozambique, 11 December 2005

During his recent visit to Mozambique to attend the CODESRIA conference, Professor Sir Richard Jolly chaired an IDS40 roundtable discussion in Maputo, attended by **Xavier Cirera (DP04)**, **Alexandra Hughes (MP23)**, **Caitlin Porter (MA Gov 02)** and **Pedro Martins (MA Development**

**Economics, 2001-2002, Sussex).** Together they identified a number of shocks likely to occur in Mozambique over the next 40 years which would constrain its development, including the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, a future reduction in the level of foreign aid, climatic shocks and political instability.

On the question of how development research can reinvent itself to support those seeking just development, some felt IDS should to develop stronger links with research institutes in developing countries. Others cautioned against a tendency to think everything from the South is good: 'It was suggested that "ideas are ideas" and it doesn't matter where they come from.'

Find out more: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni/IDS40alumnipage.htm>

## Other News

### MP23

**Sarah White** graduated from IDS with an MPhil in Development Studies in 2001 and now works in the office of Gareth Thomas MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development. On Boxing Day last year she escaped unharmed from the tsunami in Sri Lanka, which killed more than 250,000 people in Asia. In August this year, she returned to see how the people of Sri Lanka were coping with the aftermath. Read about Sarah's trip online at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/TsunamiSarahWhite.html>

### MP24

**Janie Elliott Bini** sent in her news in November: "**Alessandro (Bini, MP24)** and I are still in Burkina Faso where I'm now working for Plan International, a child-centred development organisation, as their grants and resource mobilisation manager and finally enjoying a challenging and stimulating job that feels really worthwhile. After working here for 2 years with a shockingly bad British NGO in a local association, my faith in the positive potential of the development machine was very severely tested! In Burkina education indicators are alarmingly low and Plan concentrates a lot of its work in school construction and education programmes. We also do a lot of work on maternal and child health, child rights and child participation, and have recently started up a kids' radio station. I don't know of any alumni in the West African region and would really love to hear from alumni, students and staff from IDS. I'm always happy to meet up with visitors. My email address is available from Nabila."

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## New Year, New Look

At the start of our Fortieth Anniversary year, IDS is very pleased to launch our new visual identity. The new design will bring a fresh, modern and more cohesive look to IDS, and will help to give us a more distinctive presence. Our visual identity is more than just a new logo – it is based on the Institute's vision and values and is a statement of what we are: confident and dynamic, forward-thinking and outward-looking, inclusive, committed to working in partnership and dedicated to challenging conventional thinking on development. Look out for the new logo, new Yellow Monday design, and the January issue of the IDS Bulletin.

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## IDS Bulletin – Alumni issue

The alumni issue of the IDS *Bulletin* uses specific case studies to examine the assumption that decentralisation reforms will improve service delivery with an emphasis on pro-poor outcomes. The *Bulletin* will be out in 2006. The *Bulletin* is edited by **John Virtue (MA Gov 02)**; authors include **Jonathan Caseley (DP04)**, **Priya Deshingkar (DP92)**, **Jennifer Jalal (DP02)**, **Julian Salazar (MA Gov 03, DPhil)**, **Alex Shankland (MP20, DPhil)** and **Luc Spyckerelle (MP10)**. Alumni can buy the *Bulletin* at the reduced price of £9.95.

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**Internship Programme** If you or your organisation would be interested in recruiting interns who have recently completed their studies at IDS, please email the Alumni Office. More details are online at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/alumni/PGInternship05.doc>

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**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.

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

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**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](mailto:alumni@ids.ac.uk). **Please let Nabila know if you change your email address or know of any other members who have done so.**

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