Bulletin Board

I. THEMES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

April 2001: Rethinking aid to urban development: lessons for donors. This theme has been chosen to allow those groups that are meant to be the recipients of aid or the channels through which recipients are reached (community-based organizations, NGOs, municipal authorities, national agencies) to reflect on their experience with donors. We have been trying to develop an issue of Environment and Urbanization on this theme for several years as it is one that readers have long prioritized when returning the questionnaires included in earlier issues of the journal. But it is difficult to get articles on this theme, as people working for organizations that depend on aid are obviously reluctant to write critically about their experience and the unequal relationships with aid agencies. This results in a lack of critical reflection about aid in general and about the appropriateness of aid agencies’ institutional structures and funding procedures in particular. We do not intend the April 2001 issue to be “anti-aid” but we do hope it will provide an opportunity for some critical reflections on current policies and practices, and some suggestions for how these can be improved.

Deadline for article submission: December 1st, 2000. Submissions received earlier than this are welcome and, should we receive too many papers, those that arrive first and that are accepted for publication following external reviews will be the ones published in this issue.

October 2001: Special issue to be prepared by Shack/Slum Dwellers International. SDI – Shack/Slum Dwellers International – is a loose network of community organizations in Africa, Asia and, more recently, Latin America, supported by several NGOs including SPARC (India), Asian Coalition for Housing Rights and People’s Dialogue for Land and Shelter (South Africa). A considerable number of the papers in Environment and Urbanization over the last 12 years have been drawn from organizations associated with this new network and we thought it would be of particular interest to readers to have an issue produced by them.

SDI was initiated by pavement women in Mumbai who began by sharing ideas and activities with other groups. From these early beginnings has grown an international movement spanning twelve countries and involving more than 650,000 people. Some of the organizations are strongly affiliated and work together closely – for instance, the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India and the South African Homeless People’s Federation. In other cases, the relationship is looser and simply reflects a common commitment to a people’s housing process.

The main focus of Shack/Slum Dwellers International is to strengthen members’ activities. Invariably, this has a local focus although there is no conscious decision that this should be the level at which the international federation should operate. Rather, the focus emerges from an eagerness to ensure that activities support the ongoing struggles of members to secure land and infrastructure, develop housing and obtain state finance. As a result, this global process is a movement of solidarity and mutual understanding among the urban poor. It is not a global process that focuses on international policies and practices but it is global in outreach and strengthens groups’ capacity to deal with what is oppressive and exploitative within their local environment.

The SDI issue of Environment and Urbanization will include:
- an elaboration of the importance of savings and credit as a means of building strong local organizations;
- an illustration of how the process has taken hold in a number of “new” countries;
- perspectives from a range of development professions and agencies on the significance of SDI;
- a description of the new relations with local authorities and state agencies that the grassroots organizations have been able to negotiate;
• photo-essays on community site development and construction; and
• reflections on the significance of SDI for inclusive urban development.

April 2002: To be determined by responses to a questionnaire to be sent out with the next issue. We would welcome suggestions from readers about future themes – these can then be included in the questionnaire to gauge the priorities of readers.

Two themes already suggested by readers are: “The impact of globalization on cities” and a special issue on “Children and the city”; e-mail us at humans@iied.org

II. THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE TENURE

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has launched a Global Campaign for Secure Tenure as a key part of improving housing and living conditions for low-income groups (for more details on the campaign, see http://www.unchs.org/tenure). It is also a central part of its follow-up to the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (also known as Habitat II or the Cities Summit) held in Istanbul in 1996.

The campaign is being inaugurated in different countries. The first was launched in Mumbai, India, in July 2000. The second, the Southern African launch, was in Durban on October 1st, 2000 and attracted over 10,000 members of the South African Homeless Peoples’ Federation and allied organizations. Representatives from grassroots savings groups from all of South Africa’s provinces travelled to the event in nearly 100 buses and dozens of minibus taxis. Joining them were delegations from urban poor federations in Zimbabwe, Namibia, India and the Philippines. The Filipino government sent its housing minister. A. Jockin and Jesse Robredo, recipients of the prestigious 2000 Magsaysay Award, were also in attendance. International development organizations, including UNCHS, the World Bank and several bilateral development agencies were also represented. Up to 30 further national launches are planned for the next two years.

An essential part of the campaign is the formation of partnerships between UNCHS, civil society organizations and government. This emphasizes the inclusive and city-based nature of the campaign and creates effective partnerships on which concrete actions may be based, lasting beyond the campaign itself. To this end, UNCHS has formed a global alliance with the Shack/Slum Dwellers International network, a grouping of organizations of the urban poor, and their NGO partners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

For more information, contact:
UNCHS (Habitat)
PO Box 30030
Nairobi, Kenya
web: http://www.unchs.org

Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
e-mail: sdi@dialogue.org.za
web: http://www.dialogue.org.za/sdi

SDI-NET is a newsletter that gives members access to news and information about SDI and its constituent organizations. E-mail SDI or visit their web-site if you wish to receive this.

III. NEW DEADLINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Note that deadlines for the submission of papers have been moved back a month – i.e. June 1st for the October issue and December 1st for the April issue. We regret having to do this – but with the increased length of the journal and the greater number of papers, we need another month to manage the journal’s production.
**IV. NEW TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS**
In late April 2000, all London telephone and fax numbers changed. The new numbers for *Environment and Urbanization* at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) are:

International
Tel: (44) 207 388 2117
Fax: (44) 207 388 2826

Within the UK
Tel: 0207 388 2117
Fax: 0207 388 2826

**V. REMINDER REGARDING REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
The new pricing structure which will come into effect in 2001 is as follows:
For subscribers from high-income countries:

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<th>Duration</th>
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<th>Individuals</th>
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<td>£102 or US$170</td>
<td>£44 or US$74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>£148 or US$246</td>
<td>£64 or US$108</td>
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For subscribers from elsewhere – Latin America, Asia (except Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore) and Africa – and also for students:

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<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Two years</td>
<td>£51 or US$85</td>
<td>£22 or US$37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>£74 or US$123</td>
<td>£32 or US$54</td>
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