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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



UNCRD is just entering its fourth decade of operations since its inception in 1971, and is continuing to carry out its objective of assisting the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean through its research and training activities as well as through its advisory services and information dissemination. The period covered by this issue of the UNCRD Annual Report, June 2001 to July 2002, witnessed a further consolidation of the Centre's programmes and operations, consonant with this objective and reflecting the changing realities both in Japan and our client constituency in the world at large.

Continuing the streamlining of its activities while making optimum use of its resources, the Centre has retained the areas of human security and environment as the principal focus of its research and training programmes. Training has incorporated the findings of ongoing research projects in these areas while reflecting greater emphasis on case studies and field study visits. The Centre's core training courses remain the International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC) and the Africa Training Course on Local and Regional Development (ATC), while a second Thematic Training Course (TTC), on Human Security and Regional Development, was also conducted during this period. The five-year partnership programme with JICA has continued with further country-specific training courses, for Viet Nam and Chile, being conducted at the Nagoya Office. JICA support has also been forthcoming for the Africa programme and training in Lao PDR. Meanwhile, in-country training courses (ICTs) have been given increasing emphasis with new courses in India, conducted by the Hyogo Office, and Colombia, conducted by the Latin America Office,

being of particular note. Two ICTs in China were also held while the Africa Office continued its ICT programmes in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Research has become fully linked with the training and development support operations and, to this end, the number of in-country training workshops has been expanded. The research-cum-training projects undertaken by the human security and environment teams have included such workshops in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. As a result of a roundtable meeting held in Cambodia, a partnership programme on decentralized governance was set up between the Municipality of Phnom Penh and the Philippine cities of Naga and Makati, exemplifying the concept of South-South cooperation. Recognizing the growing importance of information and communication technologies in regional development, a new research-cum-training project was inaugurated to document best practices in the application of such technologies for human security and local development. Case study work in India, the venue for a number of best practice examples, is ongoing.

The need for UNCRD to undertake customer-oriented projects and activities remains paramount and periodic review of all activities will be undertaken to ensure that the Centre is responding as effectively as possible to prevailing needs. Future directions will involve closer collaboration with academic and research institutions, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as other UN and international organizations.

In carrying out the UNCRD mandate, we would continue to seek the further cooperation and assistance from all involved parties and express our gratitude for the invaluable advice and support received until now.

Kazunobu Onogawa  
Director

# A REVIEW OF UNCRD ACTIVITIES, JULY 2001-JUNE 2002



Established in 1971 as the only United Nations (UN) organization promoting regional development in developing and transitional economies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) has recently been undergoing important changes in its organizational structure (see figure 1). The Centre is directly linked with the Socio-Economic Policy and Development Management Branch (after 1 November 2002, Socio-Economic Policy Advisory Service Branch), Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN (SPD/MB/DSPD/DESA/UN) (see figure 2). An Advisory Committee advises UNCRD on overall policy and directions. The Committee meets every two years. The fifteenth meeting was held from 3 to 5 October 2001, in Nagoya.

## TRAINING PROGRAMME

The training programme — comprising the international training courses, the thematic training course (TTC), country-specific training courses, and in-country training workshops — has moved from lecture-oriented sessions towards learning from actual cases and field study visits.

### International Training Courses

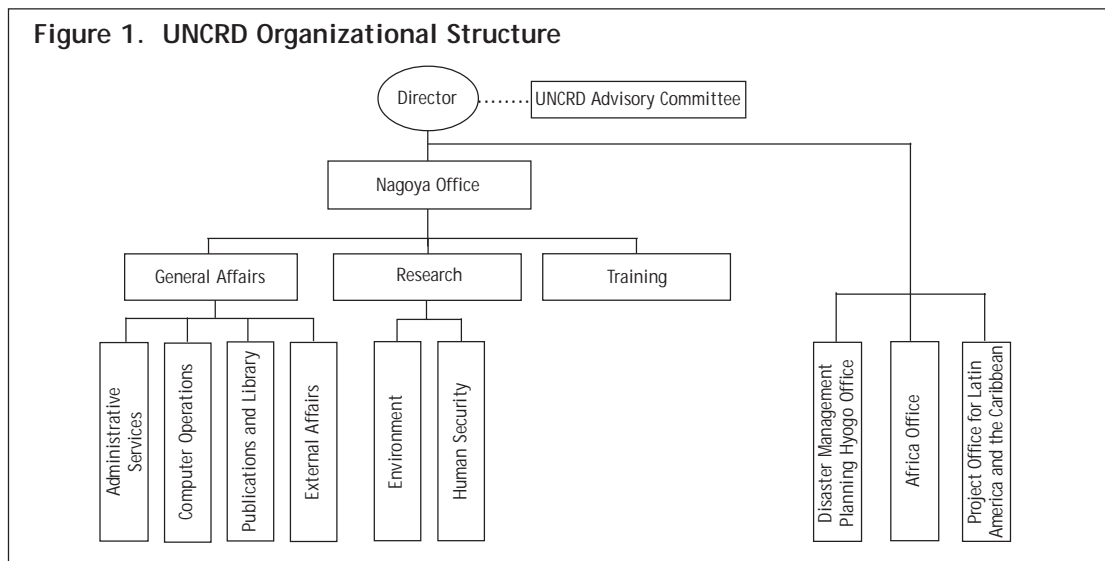
UNCRD conducted a follow-up evaluation of six international training courses in regional development (ITC, 1995-2000) in mid-2001, which,

in terms of evaluation design went far beyond assessing the course content's relevance to the individual trainee's job performance, to exploring the ITC's fit or congruence with the training needs and priorities of the trainee's own country as well as his/her organization's requirements.

The training activities carried out by UNCRD during the reporting period were as follows:

- Seventh Africa Training Course on Local and Regional Development, 24 October-24 November 2001, in Nairobi, Kenya (jointly organized by the UNCRD Africa Office, UN/DESA, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kenya, and attended by twenty-eight participants from thirteen African countries).
- Second Thematic Training Course (TTC 2) (Theme: "Human Security and Regional Development"), 1-30 November 2001, in Nagoya, Japan. In two parts: Part I: Training Course for Mid-Level Career Professionals, 1-23 November 2001 (attended by seventeen participants from twelve countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America); and Part II: Policy Workshop on Designing a Programme for Human Security, 26-30 November 2001 (attended by ten policymakers from the central ministries and local governments to which the mid-level career professionals belonged).
- Second International Training Course on Sustainable Urban Development and Disaster Management, 3-14 December 2001, in Shanghai, People's Republic of China (hereinafter, China) (jointly sponsored by UNCRD and the Shanghai Municipal Government, and attended by twenty-four participants from Asian countries).
- Thirtieth International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC 30), 16 May-26 June 2002, in Nagoya (organized and conducted by UNCRD, with seventeen partici-

**Figure 1. UNCRD Organizational Structure**



pants from sixteen countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East).

### UNCRD/JICA Training Courses for Chile and Viet Nam

Following the signing of agreements between UNCRD and the Chile and Viet Nam country offices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) about three years ago, UNCRD began conducting courses for these countries. Recent courses:

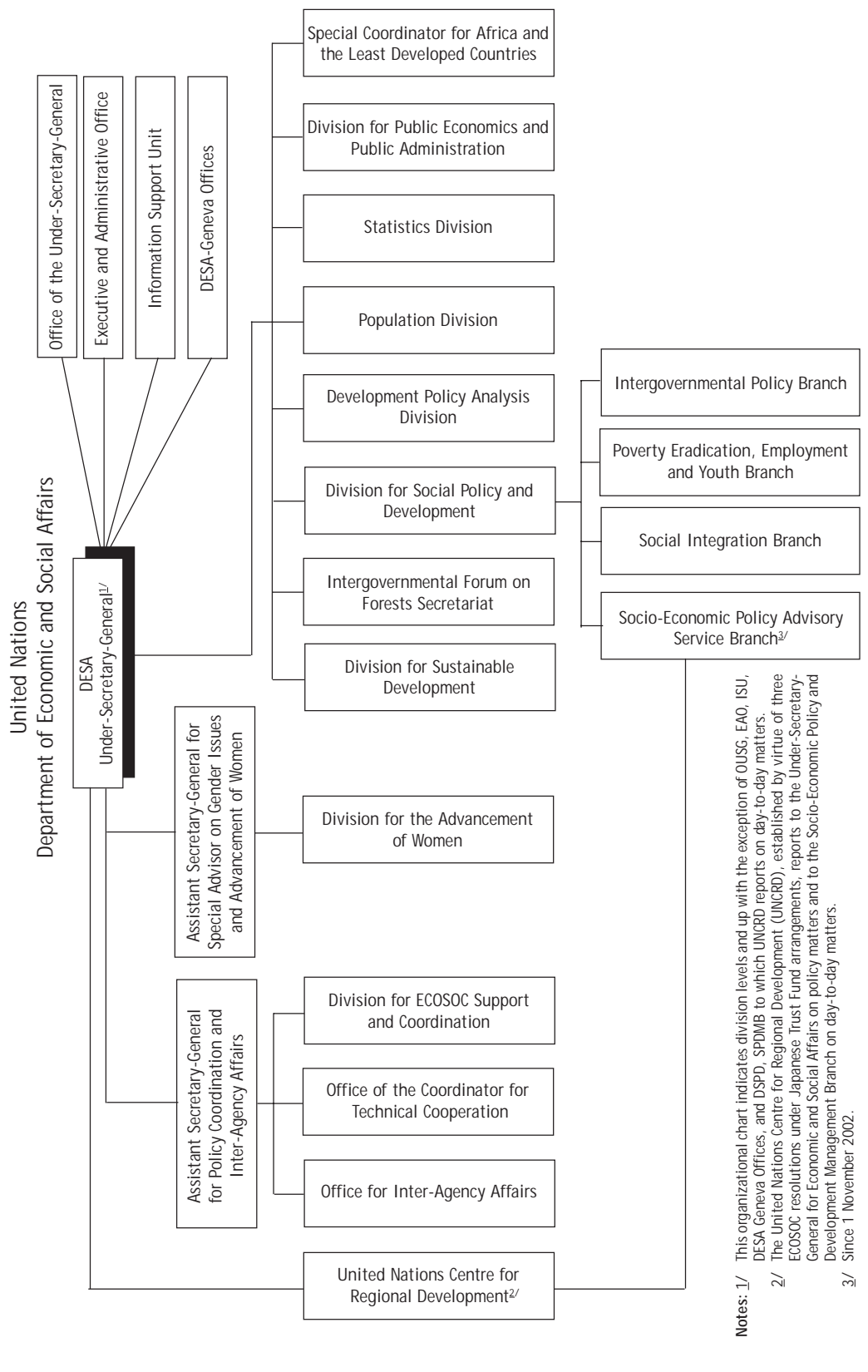
- Third UNCRD/JICA Training Course on Strategic Management of Urban Systems and Metropolitanization for the Republic of Chile, 25 September-23 October 2001, in Nagoya (focusing on regional development and urban environmental management) (conducted by UNCRD, in collaboration with JICA, and attended by thirteen mid-level officials from central and local governments).
- Third JICA/UNCRD Training Course in Planning and Management of Urban Development for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 3 February-11 March 2002, in Nagoya (organized by UNCRD in collaboration with JICA, with seven national and local government officials as participants).

### In-Country Training Courses and Workshops

Recent courses and workshops aimed at building capacity in priority areas are as follows:

- Training Course on Provincial Development Planning and Management in Western China, 2-6 September 2001, in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China (organized jointly by UNCRD and the Department of Urban and Rural Planning, Ministry of Construction, with sixty participants from twelve western provinces and autonomous regions).
- Fifth Training Workshop on District Development Plan Formulation and Review, 4-6 September 2001, in Nyandarua District, Kenya (organized by the UNCRD Africa Office and the Government of Kenya, with forty-three planners attending).
- Training Course in Environmental Management, 8-12 October 2001, in Legazpi City, Bicol Region, Philippines (conducted by UNCRD in cooperation with Region V, Office of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Government of the Philippines, and attended by thirty-seven participants).
- First Training Workshop on Metropolitan Development and Management Strategy, 5-6 December 2001, in Nairobi, Kenya (organized by the UNCRD Africa Office, in collaboration with the Nairobi City Council; with fifty-six civil leaders and forty-three officers as participants).
- First CPC-UNCRD-JICA Training Workshop on Provincial Development Planning and Management, 21 January-2 February 2002, in Thalat, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR (organized under the joint auspices of UNCRD, the Committee for Planning and Cooperation

Figure 2. Relationship between UNCRD and UN/DESA



(CPC) of the Government of Lao PDR, and JICA, and attended by twenty-five officials from eleven provinces and the Department of General Planning, CPC).

- First Training Course on Earthquake-Safer Building Practices, 16 December 2001, in Gujarat, India (conducted by the UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office).
- Training Course on Land Planning and Integrated Rural Development in Western China, 18-22 March 2002, in Xian City, Shaanxi Province, China (organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR), and the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and conducted by UNCRD).
- First Training Course on Regional Development Management, 15-27 April 2002, in Bogotá, Colombia (organized by the UNCRD Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in cooperation with the City of Bogotá, the State of Cundinamarca, the Autonomous Regional Corporation of Cundinamarca (CAR), and the National Planning Department, Government of Colombia; and attended by seventy officials from these entities).
- Training Workshop on Project Planning and Management in Oromia Region, Ethiopia, 13 May-4 June 2002 (conducted by the UNCRD Africa Office, with twenty-nine participants).

### **South-South Cooperation in Training**

UNCRD has been intensifying its efforts to orient training activities towards South-South cooperation. This arrangement will hopefully increase the flow of technical and financial assistance from the more developed to the less developed countries of the South. Examples are listed below:

- Japan-Chile-Colombia Triangular Coopera-

tion Training Course on Strategic Management of Metropolitan Areas for Latin American Countries, 29-31 October 2001, in Bogotá, Colombia (organized by the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AgCI) and the Colombian International Cooperation Agency (ACCI), in cooperation with the Ministry of Development, Government of Colombia, and UNCRD; and attended by 100 participants from twenty-one countries in Latin America and the Caribbean).

- Malaysia-UNCRD Joint Training Course in Information and Communication Technologies, 4-15 March 2002, in Kuala Lumpur (organized by the UNCRD Africa Office, in collaboration with the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme; with thirteen African planners and administrators and five Malaysian planners as participants).
- Thailand-UNCRD Joint Training Course in Information Technology, 22 April-4 May 2002, in Bangkok (organized by the UNCRD Africa Office, in collaboration with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA); with twenty African and Asian planners and administrators).
- Cambodia-Philippine Partnership on Decentralized Governance for Human Security (Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between the Municipality of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and the cities of Makati and Naga, Philippines, during the Round-table Meeting, 24-26 April 2002; followed by action learning/field study visits to Makati and Naga, 2-15 June 2002).
- Singapore-UNCRD Joint Training Course in Urban and Regional Development Planning and Management, 10-22 June 2002, in Singapore (jointly organized by the UNCRD Africa Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Singapore, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore; with



*Nagoya International Center (NIC) Building*

eight participants from Africa). This constituted Phase 2 of a technical cooperation programme launched in 2001 by the Africa Office and the Government of Singapore.

## RESEARCH PROGRAMME

### UNCRD Nagoya Office

Research activities have moved from desk to field research. Field research has helped to build the skills of researchers as it has enabled them to explore and analyse the situation firsthand. It also increased opportunities for local counterparts to participate in the research activities. These research projects have provided training materials for the ITC, TTC, country-specific courses, and in-country training courses and workshops, for example:

- Second Training Workshop on Vulnerability Assessment for Human Security and Local Development, 6-7 August 2001, in Vientiane, Lao PDR (organized by UNCRD and attended by six national and local planning officials) — as part of the Human Security Project in Lao PDR.
- Training Workshop on Participatory Action Research and Planning for Food Security, 6-11 August 2001, in Phnom Penh (organized by UNCRD and the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), and attended by fifty representatives from four ministries, two provincial departments (Agriculture; and Rural Development), the Provincial School of Agriculture, and RUA) — as part of the Human Security Project in Cambodia.
- Capacity-building Workshop on Human Security and Regional Development, 8-10 May 2002, in Vientiane, Lao PDR (jointly conducted by the Department of General Planning, CPC and UNCRD, with forty-seven par-

ticipants) — as part of the Human Security Project in Lao PDR.

- A Project on Incorporating Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Human Security in Local Development was launched in July 2001.

### UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office



The Office has continued to undertake research projects relating to natural disasters. The results were presented at the following:

- Symposium on the School Earthquake Safety Initiative (SESI), 21 January 2002, in Kobe (organized by the Office in collaboration with Hyogo Prefectural Government, *Yomiuri Shimbun* (newspaper), NTT Data, and NTT Data Community Produce).
- Workshop on Gujarat Earthquake Experiences, 30 January 2002, in Ahmedabad, India (organized by UNCRD and the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, GSDMA).
- International Workshop on an Earthquake-Safer World in the 21st Century II, 21-22 February 2002, in Kobe (organized by the Office in collaboration with Hyogo Prefectural Government, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, NTT Data, and NTT Data Community Produce) — as part of the Project on Sustainable Development through Disaster Management.

### UNCRD Africa Office

As part of its Research Project on Decentralization for Local and Regional Development, the



Africa Office has commissioned case studies on the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in fostering good governance and development. These were discussed at a workshop, held on 3-4 December 2001, in Kampala, Uganda.

### **UNCRD Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**



As part of Phase 1 of its Project on Human Security and Regional Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the LAC Office organized two workshops (on 23 March 2001; and on 5-7 September 2001, both in Bogotá, Colombia).

### **UNCRD'S OUTREACH**

UNCRD placed increasing emphasis on external affairs and information dissemination as a means of supporting training and research, mobilizing resources, and increasing public awareness of its presence.

#### **External Affairs Office**

The Office concentrated on community relations activities. Among its recent activities were:

- United Nations Day Commemorative Programme entitled, "Let Us Discuss among Our-

selves: Building a Culture of Peace" — Symposium, 25 October 2001 (200 participants); and Seminar on International Organizations, 10 November 2001 (180 participants), both organized by UNCRD, and cosponsored by the UNCRD Cooperation Association, UNIC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Japan, and *Chunichi Shimbun* newspaper.

- Participation in ECO STOCK 2002 festival, 1-2 June 2002, at Shonai Ryokuchi Koen, Nagoya (as part of preparatory activities for EXPO 2005 to be held in Aichi Prefecture).
- Continuing to build partnerships with local community volunteers.

### **UNCRD Publications**

The Publications Office has continued to publish the *UNCRD Newsletter* (semiannual), *UNCRD Annual Report*, *Regional Development Dialogue (RDD)* (semiannual), and *Regional Development Studies (RDS)* (annual). A Bibliography and Index of UNCRD Publications has been prepared by Penrose Library, University of Denver, and published by UNCRD. It is also available online at: <http://www.virtualref.com/uncrd/>.

### **UNCRD Library**

UNCRD has continued to refine its collection of books, UN and government documents, periodicals, and newsletters from developed and developing countries and from relevant international organizations.

### **UNCRD Homepage**

UNCRD has created a World Wide Web site: <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/>. It gives an overview of current programmes and activities, and access to the publications catalogue. It also provides the table of contents of recent issues of *RDD* and *RDS*.