

Fifth Africa Training Course Successfully Held

The Fifth Africa Training Course on Local and Regional Development Planning and Management, held from 6 October to 17 November 1999 at the Kenya Commercial Bank Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya was successfully completed. The course was jointly organized by the UNCRD Africa Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kenya Office, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kenya. The training programme is funded by JICA and the Government of Japan through the South-South Cooperation Fund and has a principal objective of providing mid-career planners with the requisite knowledge and analytical skills in formulating and implementing effective local and regional development policies and plans.

Thirty-one participants attended the training course from fifteen African

countries, namely, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Twenty-three per cent of the participants were women. The

course, which was both participatory and output-oriented, was structured around nine modules consisting of lectures, panel discussions, workshops, field studies, and computer gaming simulation. The modules covered the domains of theory, analysis, synthesis, and project planning and implementation in local and regional development planning and management. Thematic areas of the modules were on: concepts and issues of development; fundamentals of regional development; sectoral issues and planning; field study; development administration and analysis of micro-base for local and regional development; exchange of Africa-Asia experiences; project planning, management, and evaluation; gaming simulation; and re-entry planning, and course evaluation.

The training staff consisted of UNCRD experts as well as scholars and



Participants and resource persons

policy-makers invited from selected universities and institutions in Africa and Asia. During the training course, participants were divided into three working groups and assigned to identify key issues, tasks, and skills from each day's lectures and synthesize the outcomes. The morning and afternoon sessions for each day were devoted to lectures followed by group work in the late afternoon. Saturdays were devoted to synthesis and presentations of the working groups' output. Lecturers and resource persons responsible for the week's inputs also attended the Saturday synthesis sessions and gave comments on the presentations of the participants to fill any gaps that may have arisen during the lecture presentations. This approach ensures the internalization of training, yields tangible output, and has proven to be more effective than conventional training methodologies.

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Computer gaming simulation session

UNCRD's Operations Strategy Tops Fourteenth Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Against the backdrop of the changing role of the United Nations and the changes taking place in the global economy and in the developing countries, the fourteenth meeting of the UNCRD Advisory Committee was a defining moment in the Centre's history. The meeting was held from 15 to 17 December 1999, in Nagoya.

The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that UNCRD aggressively pursue its operations consolidation, streamlined management, and the more efficient use of resources.

In an attempt to help the Centre find its own niche in the multiplicity of available options, especially within existing financial constraints, the committee members agreed that UNCRD should continue to sharpen its focus.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to considering the UNCRD Director's Report and the substantive staff members' brief reports.

Central to the discussions was the need to increase the range of the Centre's collaborative activities — including training involving the private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), business, and local government; South-South cooperation; and the support and extension of the work of the UNCRD Africa Office and the Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the course of the discussions, the committee recognized the Centre's emphasis on training which, it was felt, needed to be greatly strengthened and sustained. To achieve this, the committee recommended that UNCRD should find ways to enhance the training of trainers and strengthen its institutional linkages in recipient countries. The committee also noted the Centre's new Human Security orientation and the orientation of research activities to the training agenda.

Emphasizing the critical importance of cooperation between UNCRD and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), the committee recommended that the Centre's training and research activities should be in line with UN/DESA's mandate to provide support in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

Citing the need for sustainability and strong institutional support for the Centre, the committee recommended that UNCRD further explore additional external funding sources, besides in-kind contributions from multilateral financial development institutions. The committee members agreed that community collaboration is a crucial element for promoting regional development, and UNCRD should expand its outreach activities in Japan through partnerships with other United Nations organizations and the local community.

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Africa Training Course

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The UNCRD Africa Office also undertook various innovative activities to improve and strengthen the fifth Africa training course:

(1) This year, the Africa training course benefited from the involvement of JICA in the training programme. JICA experts shared their vast experience in development in Africa with the participants. JICA also facilitated the participation of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) with whom it has had a partnership for over twenty years. It is encouraging to note that JICA, JKUAT, and the UNCRD Africa Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen further collaboration in the field of training. The collaboration will benefit all partner institutions as each has unique experience in different development areas as multilateral and bilateral organizations and academic institutions; and

(2) Under the Africa-Asia Exchange Module, in which the UNCRD Africa Office facilitates the exchange of ideas and experiences between Africa and Asia on local and regional development, the Office commissioned eight case studies, which were used during the exchange programme. During the Africa-Asia exchange sessions of the fourth Africa training course, participants felt that the Asian resource persons spoke only about the Asian experience without incorporating or relating to experiences in Af-

rica. Similarly, African resource persons also talked about the African experience without incorporating the Asian perspective. This was due to the lack of experience of each continent's development process. To address this problem, the UNCRD Africa Office, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore and BAPPENAS of Indonesia, organized a study tour for two African scholars from the University of Nairobi who are also module coordinators of the Africa training course in the area of urban and regional development planning and management, from 23 February to 3 March 1999 to visit Singapore and Indonesia. As a follow-up to the study tour to Asia, UNCRD in collaboration with the University of Nairobi and the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) of Tanzania, organized a return study tour for one resource person from Asia in the area of urban and regional development planning and management, from 15 to 21 August 1999, to visit Kenya and Tanzania.

The eight case studies (five from Africa and three from Asia) are being compiled and will be published for use as a textbook for future training programmes. The five case studies from Africa are drawn from Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, and two from Kenya. The three Asian case studies are from the Philippines, and from Singapore (two). This has led to the production of appropriate, effective, and efficient training materials and the transfer of ideas and experiences between the two regions. It has also strengthened institutional linkages between African and Asian training and research institutions.

The closing ceremony was attended by His Excellency M. Aoki, Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, the Deputy Resident Representative, JICA, Kenya, a representative of JKUAT, module coordinators, and other invited guests. Ambassador Aoki presented the certificates to the participants. In his closing remarks, he applauded the participation of JICA and JKUAT in the Africa training programme and reaffirmed the Government of Japan's commitment to support African countries to promote social and economic development. ■

Staff involved: Asfaw Kumssa, Coordinator; Peter M. Ngau, Pascaliah J. Omiya, Hiroki Miyoshi, Akio Otake, Francesca A. Odero, and Winifred M. Ondieki.



Ambassador Aoki presenting certificate

UNCRD Observers Attend UN/ESCAP HRD Course



Two UNCRD staff members, Antonio L. Fernandez and M. Ashraf Hossain, attended the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP) Human Resource Development (HRD) Course for Poverty Alleviation (Pilot Phase), which was held in Bangkok from 11 to 16 July 1999, as observers.

The course was designed to test training course modules and identify users and collaborating institutions. The observers thereby had the opportunity to examine how value-based social development and a people-centred approach to poverty alleviation can be promoted.

The pilot training course is targeted towards the capacity-building of national institutions and development practitioners in the public, private, and NGO sectors for the planning and promotion of HRD in areas such as education, skills development, employment, and health for the poor. The six-day course was comprised of eleven modules which were closely linked with human security — one of UNCRD's principal

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Advisory Committee Meeting

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The meeting was attended by seven Advisory Committee members (Sang-Chuel Choe, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University; Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr., Faculty of Social Science, University of Botswana; John F. Jones, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver; Julio Kuroiwa H., Facultad de Ingenieria Civil, Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria, Lima; Surin Setamanit, Institute of Environmental Research, Chulalongkorn University; Mikio Tajima, School of Policy Studies, Kwansai Gakuin University; and Emiel Wegelin, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam). It was also attended by two *ex-officio* members (Lai Shian-Lung, Chief, Economic and Social Development Management Branch (ESDMB), UN/DESA; and Yo Kimura, Director, UNCRD); three observers (Masaharu Yoshida, Director; and Hiroshi Nishimura, both of the United Nations Administration Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan; and Viatcheslav Tcherkassov, Economic Affairs Officer, ESDMB, UN/DESA); and ten observers from UNCRD. Jones was reelected as committee chair. ■

To all our readers

UNCRD Director and Staff extend greetings for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

UN/ESCAP HRD Course

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focus areas. The first three "core curriculum modules" highlighted "value-based social development," "rethinking development models," and "identifying skills for social development," respectively. The remaining eight modules were devoted to poverty-related issues. The course's key discussion points were topics such as sustaining human security, social integration, human rights and fundamental freedoms, sex versus gender, gender and development, people's participation, micro-enterprises development and major obstacles, poverty polarization, and adult learning. In addition to discussions, the course also included skill-based case studies and simulation exercises.

The main objectives of UNCRD's involvement were to widen the two observers' own experience on poverty issues, expand the knowledge and understanding of managerial issues, and gain new insights for UNCRD's future training courses. Their attendance was part of a knowledge-building exercise under the project "Participatory Approaches to Development: Meso-level Strategies". It also created the opportunity to expand UNCRD's network of HRD institutions in various countries. The resource persons of the HRD course came from training institutions in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and the UK and were involved in drafting the modules. High-ranking development practitioners invited from various countries also served in this capacity. The course thus provided the opportunity to learn not only from these resource persons but also from the participants who were themselves experienced practitioners.

UNCRD is listed as one of UN/ESCAP's Centres of Excellence for HRD Research and Training. Copies of the complete training materials will be disseminated in early 2000.

Staff involved: Antonio L. Fernandez, Training Coordinator, and M. Ashraf Hossain. ■

Training Course on Planning System for Regional Development

The Training Course on Planning System for Regional Development was held from 22 to 28 July 1999 in Yunnan Province, in collaboration with the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). This was the first time for UNCRD to implement a course dealing with the integration of environmental and disaster management into regional development plans.

The course's objectives were: (a) to introduce the experiences of various countries in integrating environmental and disaster management into regional development planning ac-



Training course participants

tivities; and (b) to help strengthen and promote the coordination and cooperation among different levels of governments, among governments, the private sector, and citizens.

Twenty-seven participants from various provincial-level bureaus and research institutions, and the Department of Planning, Ministry of Land and Resources, concerned with environmental and disaster management and planning, attended the training course. Resource persons from overseas included Terry G. McGee, University of British Columbia, former UNCRD Director Hideki Kaji, Ryosuke Aota of the ADRC, Bai Xuenmei, Institute for Global Environmental Studies, and Masatoshi Kitagawa, Mie Prefectural Government. Chinese experts shared their knowledge and practical experiences.

In Kunming, the site of this year's Horticultural Expo and where Yunnan Province's bioresources sector is booming, two representatives of the Japan Association for the Aichi 2005 World Exposition discussed the theme of the forthcoming event. The China Seismological Bureau arranged fieldtrips to Dali and Lijiang. Each site is of significance in that an earlier UNCRD environmental study dealt with Lake Erhai in Dali, while Lijiang, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, has made significant progress in instituting measures related to building safety and urban conservation following the major earthquake which struck the city in 1997.

Prior to the training course, the International Forum on Sustainable Regional Development towards the 21st Century in China was held on 19-20 July 1999 in Beijing. The forum assembled personnel from research institutions, and central and local government agencies in Beijing. Abraham Uno of Norway's National Institute of Technology delivered a presentation on environmental policy in Europe. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delivered a keynote speech.

Copies of "Making Regional Development in China Sustainable" (UNCRD Proceedings Series; no. 38) were distributed to participants of both the Forum and the Training Course. This publication contains papers and reports from the Study Programme completed by eleven Chinese academicians and practitioners in Japan in November 1998. Envisioned as resource material for future training courses, the handouts from the course are planned for publication in early 2000. These are all part of the collaborative efforts by CAST and UNCRD to disseminate what can be learned from the Japanese experience. Collaboration between CAST

and UNCRD will continue until 2001. ■

Staff involved: Antonio L. Fernandez, Training Coordinator; Chen Li-hua, Linsheng Gu, and Hideyo Suzuki.

JICA-UNCRD Training Course for Viet Nam



Preparing Action Plan

As part of Japan's bilateral technical cooperation with Viet Nam, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has requested UNCRD, through a subcontract, to organize a training course to provide Vietnamese officials from both central and local governments with knowledge and skills that will enable them to deal more effectively with urban development.

Beginning a five-year programme, the first training course on "planning and management of urban development" was held from 20 September to 20 October 1999 in Nagoya and other locations in Japan. The course provided eight mid-level officials from the central and local governments with access to the development experiences of Japan and developing countries. The participants were from the Haiphong People's Committee, Construction Departments of Baria-Vung Tao and Binh Dinh Provinces, Construction Departments of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Institute of Urban and Rural Construction Planning of Danang City, Ministry of Construction, and the Development Strategy Institute of the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Simultaneous Vietnamese interpretation was provided throughout the course. Each afternoon was devoted mostly to small group discussions and panel discussions. Fieldtrips were made to Rainbow Town (a waterfront subcentre) in Tokyo, Kokubo Industrial Park, Tama New Town, and Tsukuba Science Town in the Kanto region, and Shidami Human Science Town Project and Toyota City in the Chubu region.

Individual and group action plans were drawn up by the participants. One group produced an action plan for human resource development, while another group dealt with actions related to urban development laws and regulations. A mission is scheduled in July 2000 to follow up on the action plans. A seminar is

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Viet Nam
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also being considered to receive feedback from as many stakeholders as possible.

To continue the five-year programme, UNCRD intends to reassess training needs and review the proposed training agenda based on the action plan submitted by the course participants. UNCRD will design courses, each having a different set of goals and target groups. ■

Staff involved: Antonio L. Fernandez, Training Coordinator; Katsuaki Takai, Tomonori Kusumi, and Hideyo Suzuki.

JICA-UNCRD Training Course for Chile



As part of its five-year working schedule, UNCRD will hold its initial training course to meet the needs of expanding urban demands in the Republic of Chile through the JICA-UNCRD Course in Urban Strategic Management and Metropolitanization, to be held from 24 January to 6 March 2000, in Nagoya and other locations in Japan.

A reconnaissance mission to Chile was made from 9 to 17 November 1999 to Santiago, Iquique, and other cities. The JICA/UNCRD team consisted of Fumihiko Okiura, Nagoya International Training Center, Claudia Hoshino, UNCRD Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Katsuaki Takai and Maki Hattori, UNCRD Nagoya Office.

The training objectives identified were: (a) to familiarize participants with the administrative system of metropolises, and medium- and small-sized cities; (b) to introduce cases on how various urban problems such as transportation and environment are dealt with; and (c) to derive lessons from the Japanese experience about modalities of citizen participation.

Fifteen mid-level officers from both the central and local governments concerned with urban planning and management, including coordination and implementation, are expected to attend. ■

Staff involved: Antonio L. Fernandez, Training Coordinator; Katsuaki Takai, Maki Hattori, and Eiko Ohsumi.

Twenty-Eighth International Training Course in Regional Development

Since 1972, UNCRD has trained nearly 800 professionals from approximately seventy countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean through its annual training course held in Japan. Development agencies — both international and bilateral — have utilized these courses to help strengthen staff capacities in government departments and development projects in countries where they support ongoing development projects.

The Twenty-Eighth International Training Course in Regional Development will be held from 11 May to 19 June 2000, and will reflect the change in orientation as the Centre focuses on two areas, *viz.*, human security and environment.

The Course is geared to mid-level professional staff from local governments (local, provincial, district, state, city, and municipal authorities), and public autonomous bodies (local and regional development boards and authorities) in developing countries. UNCRD is offering fifteen United Nations fellowships with five additional places for those who can obtain funding from other development agencies.

This year's Course objectives are to: (a) create an awareness about development issues at different government levels, particularly those concerning human security and environment; (b) explore alternatives through an examination of current development practices and sharing of experiences and ideas; and (c) develop foresight concerning development through exposure to the Japanese experience.

In addition to lectures, case studies, and field visits, the course is structured in a way which encourages participants to share their ideas and experiences through small group discussions, workshops, and panel discussions. During the first half of the Course, each participant will introduce his/her experiences through presentations based on a case study which is part of the application requirements. Towards the end of the Course, each participant will prepare an individual re-entry plan.

For further information, contact Antonio L. Fernandez by fax (+81-52) 561-9458. For updates, please view the UNCRD homepage: <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/> ■

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UNCRD Newsletter, Calendar of Activities, and Complete Catalogue of UNCRD Publications are available.

Land and Forest Tenure Reforms and Community-based Upland Resource Management

A Technical Workshop on Land and Forest Tenure Reforms and Community-based Resource Management in the Upland Areas of the Mekong Region was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 8 to 10 September 1999 under the joint auspices of UNCRD and the Lao-Japan Forestry Cooperation Unit, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR. The findings of phase 1 of the UNCRD research-cum-training project on Community-based Resource Management and Livelihood Improvement in the Upland Areas of the Mekong region were presented at this workshop which included reviews of land and forest tenure reforms implemented in the Mekong region countries.

Ten resource managers and researchers participated in the workshop. In the first session, the framework of the research-cum-training project as well as guidelines for workshop discussion were presented. This was followed by the presentation of four case studies from China, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam, that focused on the following issues: (a) the nature and extent of land and forest tenure reforms implemented in the upland areas of the Mekong region and their impacts on the participation of local communities in upland resource management; (b) the changes introduced in agriculture and forestry support services and their delivery mechanisms; (c) emerging practices of community-based resource management; and (d) the opportunities and challenges for community-based resource management and livelihood improvement.

Supporting papers were presented on participatory forest management in Lao PDR and Japan as well as on findings from a household survey conducted in selected villages in the Mekong region countries on land titling and farm improvement and gender relations.

The presentations generated useful discussion on capacity-building concerns in enhancing community-based resource management. Generally, the communities in the upland areas are composed of minority groups who have benefited least from economic reforms and growth in other parts of the country. Where attempts have been made to bring them into the mainstream, their livelihoods have been adversely affected.

Common findings from the case studies indicate, firstly, that a decided shift has taken place from state to community management of natural resources and, secondly, that good management is closely related to local initiatives. Projects that are linked to community needs and

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Land and Forest Tenure Reforms (Continued from page 4)

community organizations yield better results. In the Mekong region countries, long-established communities are known to have accumulated experience and wisdom regarding land and forest resource management. Where these indigenous knowledge systems are recognized and incorporated into policies for resource management, as in China and Japan, greater sustainability is observed in resource use.

The Mekong region countries are still in the initial phase of the shift to community-based management where greater efforts are being made to learn participatory methods and incorporate traditional systems of resource management. There is a need to move to the next phase of integrating these methods into collaborative management practices. This requires greater political commitment, rethinking of policies and practices, and increased cooperation between the state and the community. To facilitate the transition from state to community management of natural resources, change agents need to be identified from among the government agencies and/or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Action plans must be drawn up to facilitate the transition within realistic time frames. Risk resistance and conflict management mechanisms need to be evolved to address conflicts between the state agencies and the community, and among the communities. Accountability of partners in collaborative management and strong leadership in the community and respective state agencies are key features in enhancing community-based resource management.

In the last session of the workshop, the research framework and work plan for phase 2 (1999/2000) of the project, which focuses on capacity-building for community-based resource management and livelihood improvement in the upland areas of the Mekong region, was introduced. A field study visit to the Forest Conservation and Afforestation Project (FORCAP) in Vang Vieng, Vientiane Province brought into perspective several of the issues discussed during the workshop. ■

Staff involved: Kenji Oya, Coordinator; Devyani Mani, Rika Kato, and Kiyoshi Yoshioka.

Training Workshop on Provincial Development Planning and Management

A training workshop on provincial development planning and management will be held at Thalat, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR from 24 January to 4 February 2000 under the joint auspices of UNCRD and the Lao PDR State Planning Committee (SPC). The training workshop is a follow-up to the UNCRD/SPC training course in regional development planning held from 25 January to 4 February 1999. It also follows up on the training needs assessment conducted during May-June 1999, which proposed a training strategy with emphasis on: (a) practice-oriented training; (b) training of trainers; and (c) linking "off-the-job training" and "on-the-job training".

The primary purpose of the training workshop is to assist the core group of planning officials in Lao PDR in the formulation of a five-year national training programme for provincial development planning and management, which is to be launched as an integral part of Lao PDR's *Five-year Socioeconomic Development Plan (2001-2005)*. The training workshop is therefore designed to enable the participants to gain insights into the dynamics of local development in the context of national development. As part of the training workshop, an intensive planning exercise using the logical framework approach will be conducted to enable the participants to make use of those participatory planning methods that do not rely on sophisticated data analysis but rather emphasize planning and project management under data and resource constraints. The outcome of the training workshop will be used as the basis for the preparation of training materials. A total of twenty planning officials drawn

from the SPC, central ministries, and planning departments of provincial authorities will take part in the training workshop. ■

Staff involved: Kenji Oya, Josefa S. Edralin, Antonio L. Fernandez, Devyani Mani, and M. Ashraf Hossain.

International Workshop on GIS Application

The advent of reasonably priced powerful computers has made geographic information systems (GISs) more accessible for personal use. In addition, spatial data for GIS can be easily handled by making them commercially available and by establishing a unified standard of GIS data formats and software. These developments have made it possible for anyone to familiarize themselves with GIS technology which has been widely installed at both central and local government levels to display various data. However, its potential for supporting policy formulations or planning processes has not yet been fully realized. This can be attributed to the vague procedures and techniques regarding the application of GIS technologies. To apply GIS more extensively, e.g., to urban planning processes, it is necessary to establish a basic framework to collect and analyse various statistical data.

China has a strong interest in, and demand for, GIS and has been operating the system at the local level. Each institution, however, has encountered difficulties in investing in spatial data preparation with a unified standard as to which item to collect, at what intervals, and in which data format. This has also made it difficult to exchange and share data and knowledge obtained for GIS analysis among institutions because of the incompatibility of data format and of different criteria for data acquisition. GIS in China has been used only to display geographical features, and difficulties have been encountered when attempting to use it to support wider policy formulations and planning processes.

Against this background, UNCRD and the Ministry of Construction, Government of China, organized the International Workshop on GIS Application in Urban Planning and Management, from 22 to 24 November 1999 in Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province, China. Approximately seventy-one people, including fifty-nine participants from twenty provinces in China, participated in this workshop, which: (a) discussed possible coordination between GIS and spatial data base in China's urban planning processes; (b) discussed methods of data-base management; (c) facilitated a general exchange of information and experiences among experts and scholars; and (d) provided a forum for Chinese urban planners to learn from other countries' experiences in the field of urban planning applications.

The presentations and discussions covered technical and administrative issues related to GIS. Technical issues included spatial data collection, management, updates, accuracy, and dissemination, while administrative issues included sector-oriented administration, data-sharing, training of GIS experts, cost effectiveness, and privacy and copyright issues. In conclusion, the 1999 Workshop advocated the staging of further international GIS workshops and the increased training of GIS engineers. In this aspect, UNCRD is considering: (a) providing information on training courses through the UNCRD Homepage; and (b) providing virtual training courses in GIS through UNCRD's Distance Learning Programme, which is currently in the development stage. ■

Staff involved: Yasunori Minagawa, Coordinator; Kenichi Ishibashi, Hiroyuki Ozaki, Teofilo Monge Rufin, Jr., Linsheng Gu, and Rie Momono.



UNCRD Exchanges Mission Teams with CSB



Since drawing up a concrete project plan in 1998, UNCRD and the China Seismological Bureau (CSB) have been undertaking research into the legal systems of Japan and China, respectively. UNCRD organized a team for this project with the aid of the Urban Disaster Research Institute, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), among others.

This team finalized an interim report in September 1999 and dispatched a mission to the CSB from 13 to 17 October 1999, during which discussions were held on research progress into the Japanese legal system, in particular, the historical background. Discussion also focused on how the present systems were modified by the local governments of Hyogo, Kobe, and Tokyo in response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995. The UNCRD team presented a four-point basis for evaluating the respective legal systems — life security, housing, other infrastructure, and livelihood. In turn, the CSB representative reported on the Chinese legal system, concerning such aspects as building design codes, disaster education, emergency rescue, and insurance. Having identified the major differences in social context between the two societies, with reference to their legal systems, each team agreed to compare the legal systems on the basis of ten aspects in the Chinese analysis with special focus on emergency rescue systems, structural design codes, observation systems of ground motions, earthquake insurance, and financial issues following an earthquake. Noting the difference in the social frameworks surrounding the legal systems in China and Japan, the necessity was recognized for the CSB team to investigate the action plans of Japanese local governments, in addition to the legal systems themselves. Finally, the members discussed the international workshop to be held in Beijing in May 2000.

The CSB team visited Japan from 7 to 18 November 1999 to investigate the government's action plans for earthquake disasters as well as to assemble information on the legal system. They visited Hyogo Prefectural Government, UNCRD (Nagoya), Nagoya City Government, Shizuoka Prefectural Government, the National

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United Nations Day Commemorative Programme

UNCRD held the following three events to commemorate United Nations Day 1999:

(1) "United Nations Seminar — Requirements for Working at an International Organization". This seminar, cosponsored by the Aichi International Association (AIA) was held on 9 October 1999 at Aichi Plaza, Nagoya and attracted 160 participants from a wide variety of backgrounds. Designed to enable young people to hear directly of the experiences of personnel working in international organizations, the seminar included keynote speeches by Yoichi Niiya, Assistant Director of the Recruitment Center for International Relations, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Yo Kimura, UNCRD Director. These were followed by a panel discussion involving Niiya, Kimura, Ryoko Sakuma (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-International Environmental Training Centre (IETC), Osaka), and Yasumitsu Doken (United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Tokyo). During the conclusion of this seminar, Kimura stated that participants were warmly encouraged to consider careers in international organizations.



(2) UNCRD Photo Exhibition. An exhibition of photographs of various UNCRD activities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America was staged at Uni Mall Marine Plaza in central Nagoya from 10 to 24 October 1999 which aimed to publicize the wide range of work undertaken by the Centre. The exhibition was staffed by UNCRD External Affairs Office personnel, UN researchers, and volunteers who disseminated information on UNCRD programmes. Approximately 1,000 people viewed the exhibition during its two-week duration.



(3) "Symposium on UN Education in Nagoya 1999 — How to Educate People about the United Nations at School, in the Community, and in the Home". This symposium was held in the Annex Hall at Nagoya International Center (NIC) on 30 October 1999. Cosponsored by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Tokyo, and NIC, the symposium attracted 190 participants comprising university students, schoolteachers, NGO activists, and members of the general public. A keynote speech, "Human Security — Towards the Revitalization of the United Nations," delivered by Toshiki Mogami, a professor from the International Christian University (ICU), outlined the growing importance of the concept of human security in UN activities. The presentation which followed, by Jun Izumi, a professor from Asahi University, expounded on the results of a questionnaire survey, "How the Local Community Views the UN". The ensuing panel discussion, which featured Mogami, Izumi, Yasuko Senoo (UNIC, Tokyo), Kazuaki Morita (Meiwa High School), and Kimura, was moderated by Katsuhiko Sakai, Editor-in-Chief of Chunichi Sports, Chunichi Shimbun (Newspaper Company).



All three events were supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, together with the Aichi, Mie, and Gifu Prefectural Governments, Nagoya City Government, and the Boards of Education of Aichi, Mie, and Gifu Prefectures, the Board of Education of Nagoya City, and the Chunichi Shimbun.

Questionnaires distributed at both the seminar and the symposium elicited positive and encouraging responses which indicated that such events are highly appreciated and would be similarly supported in future. UNCRD will continue to organize various activities in order to simultaneously increase the visibility of the UN and UNCRD in the local community and to deepen the understanding among young people of careers within international organizations.

Through these activities, UNCRD is continuing to further the internationalization of this region. ■

Staff Involved: Kazuhiko Terao, Coordinator; Hiroko Shimomura, Keiko Wakisaka, Kazuko Kawaguchi, and Ai Matsubayashi.

Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

New UNCRD Staff

Air and Climate Protection for Latin American Cities

One of the greatest environmental challenges being faced by Latin American cities is that of air pollution which affects the overall quality of life, worsens health conditions, and causes loss of productivity. The growth of automobiles, increased industrial production, and reduction of green areas and vegetation due to the physical expansion of cities — all associated with rapid urbanization — are some of the factors related to this problem. The worsening of air pollution and the increase of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission in Latin American cities are also contributing to changes in the global climate.

These challenges have been tackled in different ways, including technological improvements for cleaner vehicles and higher fuel standards, more efficient public transport systems, increased costs for automobile use, environmental education, and land-use planning and management. However, few have approached the theme in an integrated manner.

In 1997, the World Bank Institute (WBI) launched the Clean Air Initiative for Latin American Cities in an effort to bring together leaders from the public and private sectors, academic institutions, NGOs, and international and regional agencies to improve the air quality of the cities of the region. As a contribution to the Initiative, UNCRD, in partnership with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), initiated in 1998 a project on "Case Studies on Practical and Policy Innovations on Air and Climate Protection through the Integrated Management of Transport, Land Use, and Energy Consumption". This activity, also envisaged as the continuation of the joint programme initiated in 1996 between UNCRD, the WBI, and ICLEI, aims to contribute to a knowledge-sharing programme among institutions in the region and disseminate to participating cities best practices on the integration of policies supporting the reduction of air con-



Workshop group working session

taminants and promotion of improved air quality and climate benefits. Special emphasis is placed on the integrated and efficient management of transportation (public and/or private), land use, energy, and city-wide air quality.

The project included a technical workshop held on 4-5 November 1999, in Valdivia, Chile, which provided an opportunity to exchange information, and to generate new insights to complete and complement each specific case study in an appropriate format to be used as training material. It also provided a chance to discuss options for the establishment of alliances to develop training courses and web sites, based on a methodology highlighting the main lessons drawn by the case studies.

Workshop participants included representatives of the study teams that are developing the selected case studies, invited specialists in environmental and distance learning aspects, and representatives of ICLEI and UNCRD. Working groups focused on the analysis and evaluation of each case study related to the extent to which each experience is contributing towards integrating the main issues addressed by the project (i.e., transport, land use, and pollution control); the lessons learned in the process; and the specific results obtained in its implementation according to selected indicators of efficiency (e.g., reduction of travel time and air contaminants, operational productivity, resource mobilization, and management of local budgets); equity (e.g., benefit and affordability of measures particularly to low-income groups); and sustainability (e.g., responsiveness to local conditions and levels of development, replicability of measures, and long-lasting changes in organizational and institutional frameworks).

Case study material (ten cases) will be published in a textbook and disseminated through the web site of the Clean Air Initiative and other interactive web sites, and used by UNCRD and other institutions for distance learning and training purposes.

UNCRD/CSB Mission Teams

(Continued from page 6)

Land Agency (NLA), Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Home Affairs, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and Marine and Fire Insurance Association of Japan, Inc.

Both the UNCRD and CSB teams are now preparing final reports to be exchanged during the forthcoming final international workshop in Beijing. ■

Staff involved: Michiyo Sugai, Kiyoshi Kobuna, Ikuko Watanabe, and Linsheng Gu.

Expert



Takashi MURAGAKI

Takashi Muragaki (Japan) joined UNCRD in November 1999 as Senior Operations Advisor. During twenty years of service at the World Bank, he was engaged in technical assistance programmes for Middle Eastern countries for thirteen years, which included a two-year assignment at the field office in Saudi Arabia. He was also involved in strategic business planning at the Comptroller Office and Information Solutions Group for seven years. His expertise is in the areas of public sector management and business process reengineering.

He graduated from Kyoto University (B.A. in Economics) in 1963, and the graduate school of George Washington University (M.A. in Information Science) in 1979.

National Experts



Rei KAWABE

Rei Kawabe (Japan) began working at UNCRD as a National Expert in December 1999. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Electronics from Daido Institute of Technology. Prior to joining UNCRD, she worked at NEC where she designed electronic devices for five years. At UNCRD, she is involved in the management of the LAN system as well as all other computer-related activities.



Keiko NOJI

Keiko Noji (Japan) joined UNCRD as a National Expert in September 1999. She has a B.A. in Sociology from Nagoya University and a master's degree in development policy and administration from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She has worked as a project coordinator of a Japanese NGO in Rwanda and has also engaged in planning and implementing local development projects and emergency relief activities, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda. Before coming to UNCRD, she worked for a communication media components manufacturer. At UNCRD, she is involved in the activities of the Training Office and the Human Security research project.

(Continued on page 8)

Staff involved: Claudia Hoshino, Coordinator, and Maria Helena Rodriguez.

New Staff

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UN Researcher



Rajib SHAW

Rajib Shaw (India) joined UNCRD as a UN Researcher in November 1999. A geologist by training, Shaw obtained a master's degree from Allahabad University, India and Yokohama National University, Japan, and D. Sc. degree from Osaka City University. He worked at the OYO Corporation, Japan as a consultant before joining UNCRD. His main work involves disaster management projects in the developing countries, with special emphasis on the RADIUS project. At UNCRD, he is involved in various research projects, especially those related to school earthquake safety.

UNCRD Publications

Periodicals

Regional Development Dialogue (RDD)

(semiannual)

(US\$40 for Developed countries;

US\$30 for Developing countries)

Vol. 20, no. 2, Autumn 1999 ("Decentralized Planning and Financing of Rural Development in Asia," edited by Harvey Demaine and Hans Detlef Kammeier)

Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 1999 ("Poverty Alleviation and Regional Development," edited by Emiel A. Wegelin)

Regional Development Studies (RDS)

(a refereed journal published annually)

(US\$20 for Developed countries;

US\$15 for Developing countries)

Vol. 6, 2000 (forthcoming)

Vol. 5, 1999

UNCRD Proceedings Series

(US\$20 for Developed countries;

US\$15 for Developing countries)

No. 38: Making Regional Development in China Sustainable (Proceedings of the Study Programme on Urban Planning and Regional Development for China, 8-22 November 1998)

No. 37: Global Forum on Regional Development Policy (Proceedings of the Global Forum on Regional Development Policy, 1-4 December 1998, Nagoya, Japan)

No. 36: Private Finance Initiatives: Cases on Current Practices and Experiences in Selected Developed and Developing Countries (Proceedings of the International Symposium on Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) for Infrastructure and Urban Development, 26-27 October 1998, Tokyo, Japan)

No. 35: Urban Earthquake Hazard Reduction (Proceedings of the 6th Japan/United States Workshop on Urban Earthquake Hazard Reduction, 12-14 January 1999, Kobe, Japan)

UNCRD Research Report Series

(US\$20 for Developed countries;

US\$15 for Developing countries)

No. 37: Implementing ISO 14001-based Environmental Management Systems in East and Southeast Asian Countries, edited by Matouq Mohammed and Oya Kenji

No. 35: Financing Metropolitan Development: Public-Private Sector Roles, edited by Josefa S. Edralin and Devyani Mani

No. 34: Research Report on Qayen Earthquake in Iran, May 1997

No. 33: ISO 14001 and Regional Environmental Management: A Case Study of Central Japan, by Matouq Mohammed

No. 32: Community-based Resource Management and Livelihood Improvement in the Upland Areas of Lao PDR (forthcoming)

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No. 2: PANGAEA: Gaming Simulation Exercise for Sustainable Regional Development

No. 1: REPLEX: Regional Development Planning Exercise

UNCRD Calendar of Activities

January-June 2000

◆ 24 January 2000, Thalat, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR

Dialogue on Training Needs Assessment for Provincial Development Planning and Management in Lao PDR

◆ 24 January-6 March, Nagoya and other locations in Japan

JICA-UNCRD Course on Strategic Management of Urban Systems and Metropolitanization for the Republic of Chile (sponsored by JICA)

◆ 24 January-4 February, Thalat, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR

Second Training Course in Provincial Development Planning and Management

◆ 3 February, Jakarta, Indonesia

Earthquake Disaster Risk Index Symposium (sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Indonesia)

◆ 7 February, Bandung, Indonesia

Earthquake Disaster Risk Index Symposium (sponsored by the Institute of Bandung and UNESCO)

◆ 9 February, New Delhi, India

Earthquake Disaster Risk Index Symposium (sponsored by the National Center for Disaster Management, Government of India)

◆ 12 February, Mumbai, India

Earthquake Disaster Risk Index Symposium (sponsored by the Mumbai Municipality Government and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai)

◆ 28 February, Nagoya

Session on "Housing and Urban Environment" — one-day programme for the JICA Training Course in Housing Policy for the Republic of South Africa

◆ 11 March, Nagoya

Follow-up Seminar for the United Nations Day Commemorative Programme

◆ 27 March-21 April, Nagoya and other locations in Japan

Research-cum-training Programme on Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement in Upland Communities

◆ 11 May-19 June, Nagoya and other locations in Japan

Twenty-Eighth International Training Course in Regional Development

Published by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) since 1975, the *UNCRD Newsletter* is a semi-annual publication containing news of research and training projects, and publications in regional development and related fields. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat or of the UNCRD.

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