

The Australian Development Studies Network

Newsletter No.1

Date: 16 April, 1984

Dear Colleague,

Late last year the Development Studies Centre of the Australian National University hosted a workshop on 'Australian Universities Relations with Developing Countries' for staff from a broad range of disciplines from most of Australia's 19 universities, the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, the Australian Council for International Agricultural Research, the Australian Universities' International Development Program, the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee and the Australian Committee of Directors and Principals in Advanced Education (see Annex A for names of participants). As might be expected from the diverse range of expertise, discussion was far-ranging and not always highly focused. Nonetheless, those attending expressed the view that they found the gathering useful as a forum for an interchange of ideas between people with a commitment to assist the developing countries of our region. The discussion during the two day gathering was organized around the following topics:

1. Training Issues

With the establishment of the Jackson and Goldring reviews, the present quality of training for and in development is becoming an issue. The discussion ranged widely, but some central themes emerged.

- It was strongly argued that screening procedures, bridging courses and 'consolation' degrees were needed for students from developing countries, and so were specially 'enriched' courses that would be more relevant to development than normal Australian college and university courses.

- A degree structure culminating in a PhD was needed rather than terminal masters' degree courses. The roles of coursework and dissertation in graduate training were discussed.
- Conflicts between the need for specialization in development related courses and the building of 'centres of excellence' on the one hand, and the spreading of students 'equitably' among institutions were discussed.
- The relationship between private and aided students and the provision of education as an export oriented service industry was discussed. The regulation of entry, selection difficulties resulting from it, and the appropriateness of the welfare services provided to aided students, were discussed.
- The relationship of study in Australia with assistance to tertiary education in developing countries was discussed.
- Tertiary, full-time award courses versus 'short term' courses as training options were considered.

2. Direction for Development Studies

In the past, development research (which was seen as being intimately tied to teaching) was largely equated in Australia with agricultural research. This had led to the establishment of ACIAR, resulting in both an infrastructure and funding for this area of development studies. Australia, however, also had or was developing expertise in a number of other areas related to development, notably:

- demography
- the economics of development
- health sciences
- some aspects of engineering (road design and construction)
- urbanisation.

Such disciplines should be developed, in conjunction with learning and technical assistance, as further areas of specialization and excellence in Australia.

3. Institutional Issues

The final session again ranged over a variety of issues / with particular attention to:

- Focussing Australian interest by region versus diversification of interest.
- Focussing interest in Australian 'centres of excellence'.
- Training of Australians in development.
- Criteria for the establishment of 'comparative advantage' by Australia.
- Special attention to training and research participation by women, particularly with regard to countries which discriminated against women.
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dimensions of development.

Two main conclusions were drawn:

(i) A 'Development Studies Network' should begin within Australia and this should have as a central feature a newsletter, originally to be the responsibility of the Development Studies Centre. The newsletter would aim to inform staff of tertiary institutions and others interested in development issues at an analytical level about principal issues and events of interest.

(ii) The Development Studies Centre would, in collaboration with other institutions, organise periodic general and specialized meetings on development studies. ANZAAS meetings would be used as a venue.

54TH ANZAAS CONFERENCE, 1984

In line with the recommendation of the meeting we have been negotiating with the organisers of this year's ANZAAS to hold a Symposium on the topic 'Aid and Development : poverty alleviation or stimulus to growth'. The Symposium will be held in the Florey Lecture Theatre of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU campus, on the morning of Thursday, 17 May commencing at 9.30 am. There will be two sessions - the second concluding at about 12.30 pm.

The four main speakers will be:

Professor Michael Lipton,
Institute of Development Studies,
Sussex.

Mr Nick Hope,
Economic Analysis & Projections Department,
World Bank.

Mr Neil Batt,
Member of the Committee to Review
Australia's Overseas Aid Program.

Dr John Birch, Chairman,
Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

Because the Symposium coincides with the ANZAAS meeting, it is likely that those interested in development studies will also wish to participate in a range of other discussions, seminars, etc., and may be reluctant to continue on to the afternoon of Thursday 17th to discuss further issues relative to the development of the network. Nonetheless, we believe that this is a valuable opportunity for us to get together and those of you who are able to meet on an informal basis are invited to do so at the Development Studies Centre at 2 pm. The Centre is located in 'I' Block, adjoining the Menzies Library - queries as to location should be raised with the Reception Desk in the Coombs Building.

We are disappointed that, because the 1984 Asian Studies Conference being held in Adelaide coincides with ANZAAS, some colleagues will be unable to join us on the 17th - one of the penalties of not being able to be in two places at once!

ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK

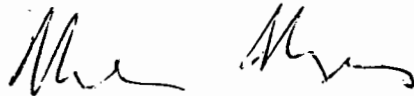
Pending organisation of the Symposium, we have delayed any other initiatives as a follow-up to the proposals evolving from last year's meeting, particularly the newsletter. We propose to discuss these on the afternoon of the 17th and hope to see a reasonable turn out on that occasion.

In response to a request for an exchange in information at the meeting last year, Professor Jack Cannon of the School of Chemistry, University of Western Australia, has provided details of an agreement and cooperation between UWA and the Prince of

Songkla University, Thailand. This can be made available to enquirers, also details of the University of Melbourne's Martin Program in Development Technologies as provided by Dr Don Martin.

To those of you not attending the Symposium but interested in the future activities of the Network, please register your name and address with us so that the next Newsletter can be sent to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Helen Hughes', written in a cursive style.

Helen Hughes

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Cover by ANU Graphic Design, Marika Behr.

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA

NAME	INSTITUTION
<u>UNIVERSITIES</u>	
Dr R. Knight	Waite Agricultural Research Institute, ADELAIDE.
Dr R. Johnson	Tropical Veterinary Science, JAMES COOK.
Dr C. Gertzel	Politics Department, FLINDERS.
Dr W.R. Stent	Economics Department, LA TROBE.
Dr M. Dunkley	School of Education, MACQUARIE.
Dr D.S. Mansell	Civil Engineering Faculty, MELBOURNE.
Dr J.A. McDonnell	Centre for Continuing Education MONASH.
Professor M.L. Treadgold	Economics Department, NEW ENGLAND.
Dr J.A. Black	Civil Engineering, NEW SOUTH WALES.
Dr P.L. Rogers	Biotechnology, NEW SOUTH WALES.
Dr D.E. Byth	Agriculture Department, QUEENSLAND.
Professor S. Domicelj	Plan Research Centre, Department of Architecture, SYDNEY.
Dr J. Lea	Department of Architecture, SYDNEY
Dr R.J.K. Chapman	Department of Political Science, TASMANIA
Dr J.R. Cannon,	Department of Organic Chemistry, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
Dr C. Brown	Modern Asian Studies Department, GRIFFITH, QUEENSLAND.
<u>AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY</u>	
Dr P. McCawley,	Economics Department, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU.
Professor D. Griffin	Forestry Department, The Faculties, ANU.
Dr G. W. Jones	Demography Department, Research School of Social Sciences, ANU
Professor R.G. Ward	Director, Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU.

NAME	INSTITUTION
<u>OBSERVERS</u>	
Dr D.P. Chaudhri	Director, Master of Agricultural Development Economics Program, Development Studies Centre, ANU.
Dr D. Lucas	Co-ordinator, Master of Arts (Demography) Program, Development Studies Centre, ANU.
<u>OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS</u>	
Professor J. McWilliam	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra.
Dr J. Ryan	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra.
Mrs J. Hastings,	Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra.
Dr Ruth Pfanner	Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra.
Mr C.E.T. Terrell	Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra.
Mr J. Wolfe	Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra.
Mr J.R. Scutt	College of Advanced Education, Canberra.
Professor D. Lim	Aid Review Committee, Canberra.
Mr G. Pearce	Aid Review Committee, Canberra.
Professor D. Tribe	Australian Universities' International Development Program, Canberra.
Mrs Ruth Daroesman	Australian Universities' International Development Program, Canberra.
Dr S. Richardson,	Canberra College of Advanced Education.
Dr Bob Dun	Australian Development Assistance Bureau, Canberra.
Professor H. Hughes	Executive Director, Development Studies Centre, ANU.
Mr R.V. Cole	Administrative Secretary, Development Studies Centre, ANU.

Ms S. Boyle	Departmental Secretary, Development Studies Centre, ANU.
Dr E.K. Fisk	Former Executive Director, Development Studies Centre, ANU.
Mr G. Leach	Aid Review Committee, Canberra.
Dr R. Manning	Aid Review Committee, Canberra.
Mr F. Hambley	Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, Canberra.
Dr J. Remenyi	Social Sciences Department, Geelong.