

UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi



Research Fellowships Programme
in **2002**: Results Achieved

"I believe that the foundations of education consist in fostering the life force, a cooperative and helping spirit and a heart which respects our natural environment" Keizo Obuchi, former Prime Minister of Japan

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former Prime Minister of Japan
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Keizo Obuchi Research Fellows-2001

Preface

Keizo Obuchi, the former Prime Minister of Japan, was a peace builder. He firmly believed that a century of peace could be built by gathering together the collective wisdom of all peoples.

I had the privilege of knowing Keizo Obuchi since our secondary school days. I remember how after graduating from Waseda University he told me that he could learn much more about the world by seeing it for himself. So, in 1963, he visited 38 countries over a period of nine months, circumnavigating the globe and taking odd jobs as he went along. During his travels, he learned the profoundly important lesson of how to communicate with all sides and bring people together.

Afterwards, convinced that the future was in the hands of the people, he decided to run for the House of Representatives. His election at the age of 26 made him the youngest legislator in Japanese history. For over 36 years he worked in the political arena where he was known as a man of integrity, honesty and modesty.

I was always impressed by his effective statesmanship and personal warmth. He was a willing listener and extremely skilled in personal relations. He was a visionary, a strong and vibrant leader.

As Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi touched hearts around the world in simple and human ways. He was soft-spoken and charismatic. He was known in the international arena for his total commitment to development issues, dialogue among civilizations, the safeguarding of the global environment, peaceful conflict resolution and information and communication technologies. Keizo Obuchi firmly believed that to achieve success, countries had to boost their human resource capacities, especially by investing in the younger generations, guardians of the future. Sharing this belief I created the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme in his honour. With the generous support of the Japanese Government, we have been able to award 20 fellowships a year since 2001 to deserving candidates from developing countries and countries in transition. As a human being Keizo Obuchi was thoughtful, unassuming and humble as well as a tender, caring and beloved husband and father.

In April 2004, at UNESCO Headquarters, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Fellowships Programme, I had the privilege of honouring the memory of Keizo Obuchi in presence of Mrs Chizuko Obuchi, widow of the former Prime Minister, and their daughter Akiko Obuchi.

At the ceremony, Mrs Obuchi, expressed her appreciation to UNESCO for its efforts to honour her late husband's spirit through the "UNESCO/ Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme" and hoped that it would "contribute to the capacity-building of the younger generations in the world."

This booklet presents an overview of the results of the twenty fellowships awarded during the 2002 cycle, symbolizing the continuity of Keizo Obuchi's efforts to help build a peaceful world for the present and future.

Just as Keizo Obuchi's statue in Okinawa, Japan resembles him, speaking to the people with a gentle look on his face and hands reaching outward, the booklet reminds us that his unconditional love for people and his commitment to peace and development are kept alive through the fellowship programme. We offer this booklet to the Obuchi family in fond memory and admiration of a great friend, a peace builder and extraordinary human being.



Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General, UNESCO
28 February 2005



Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO
Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister of Japan
2000





Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister

Who was Keizo Obuchi and why this programme?

Mr Keizo Obuchi, former Prime Minister of Japan, was born on 25 June 1937 in Nakanojo, Japan and sadly passed away on 14 May 2000 at the age of 62. The son of a politician, he resolved to become a politician himself. Soft-spoken and charismatic, he was known as a man of modesty and integrity. He built a reputation as an exemplary official and was a particularly adept negotiator. A member of Japan's Diet (Parliament) for over thirty years, he served as Japan's Foreign Minister in 1997 until he was elected Prime Minister in July 1998. Mr Obuchi was known in the international arena for his commitment to development issues and his resolve to put Japan at the forefront of countries involved in consolidating the efforts of the international community to further progress in the social and economic development of humankind.

The Government of Japan has committed itself to cooperating with UNESCO in enhancing capacity-building of human resources in developing countries. It is in that framework, under a Funds-in-Trust Project and the UNESCO Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme, that the Government of Japan has, since 2001, generously financed 20 research fellowships each year for a period of eight years, in memory of the late Mr Keizo Obuchi.

With a view to keeping alive and honouring the spirit of former Prime Minister Obuchi and his belief in "people building the next era", these fellowships are awarded to deserving candidates from developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), who were eager to undertake research on one or more of the topics. The aim of the fellowships is to support innovative and imaginative post-graduate research in the areas of development to which former Prime Minister Obuchi was committed and which coincide with areas of particular interest to UNESCO, namely:

- **Environment**
- **Intercultural Dialogue**
- **Information and Communication Technologies**
- **Peaceful Conflict Resolution**

Who is eligible?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The respective National Commission for UNESCO of the invited developing Member State must endorse any candidature submitted for consideration (applications from individuals cannot be entertained).
- Candidates under this Programme must be post-graduate researchers, already holding either a M.A. or M.Sc. and wishing to pursue research work outside their own country (preferably in their own region), with a view to enhancing knowledge in one of the four specific fields listed earlier.
- Candidates must be no more than 40 years of age.
- Candidates must be persons of high intellectual promise who may be expected to make significant contributions to their country upon their return.
- The selected fellows must carry out the research studies outside of their own country under the auspices of an academic supervisor in a host institution.

Who selects the beneficiaries?

Selection Committees composed of experts in the four areas listed above make recommendations for the final decision of the Director-General of UNESCO. Applications are judged on the basis of the merits of each application and its pertinence to the UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme.

What did they receive and what they will receive?

For the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 cycles, each selected beneficiary was awarded US \$7,500 to cover the costs of undertaking research study abroad.

Due to the success of the programme, the Japanese authorities have decided to increase the maximum amount of the fellowship, which will be determined according to the duration and place of research (between US \$6,000 and US \$10,000). The maximum amount may not exceed **US \$10,000**

What are the expected results of this programme?

To date, the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme has contributed to:

- Strengthening UNESCO's capacity-building activities.
- Upgrading our knowledge of state-of-the-art developments.
- Facilitating the transfer and sharing of knowledge, the exchange of information, and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC).
- Supporting innovation, research and information in a number of fields of the Organization's competence.
- Promoting the forging of links and contacts.
- Ensuring a "multiplier effect" as knowledge acquired abroad is brought home.
- Fostering friendship, international understanding and peace among the beneficiaries and in the host countries.

Why this booklet?

The purpose of this booklet is to provide a brief overview of the results of the research undertaken by the 20 fellowship beneficiaries selected for the 2002 cycle:

Who are they?

What research did they do?

What did they achieve?

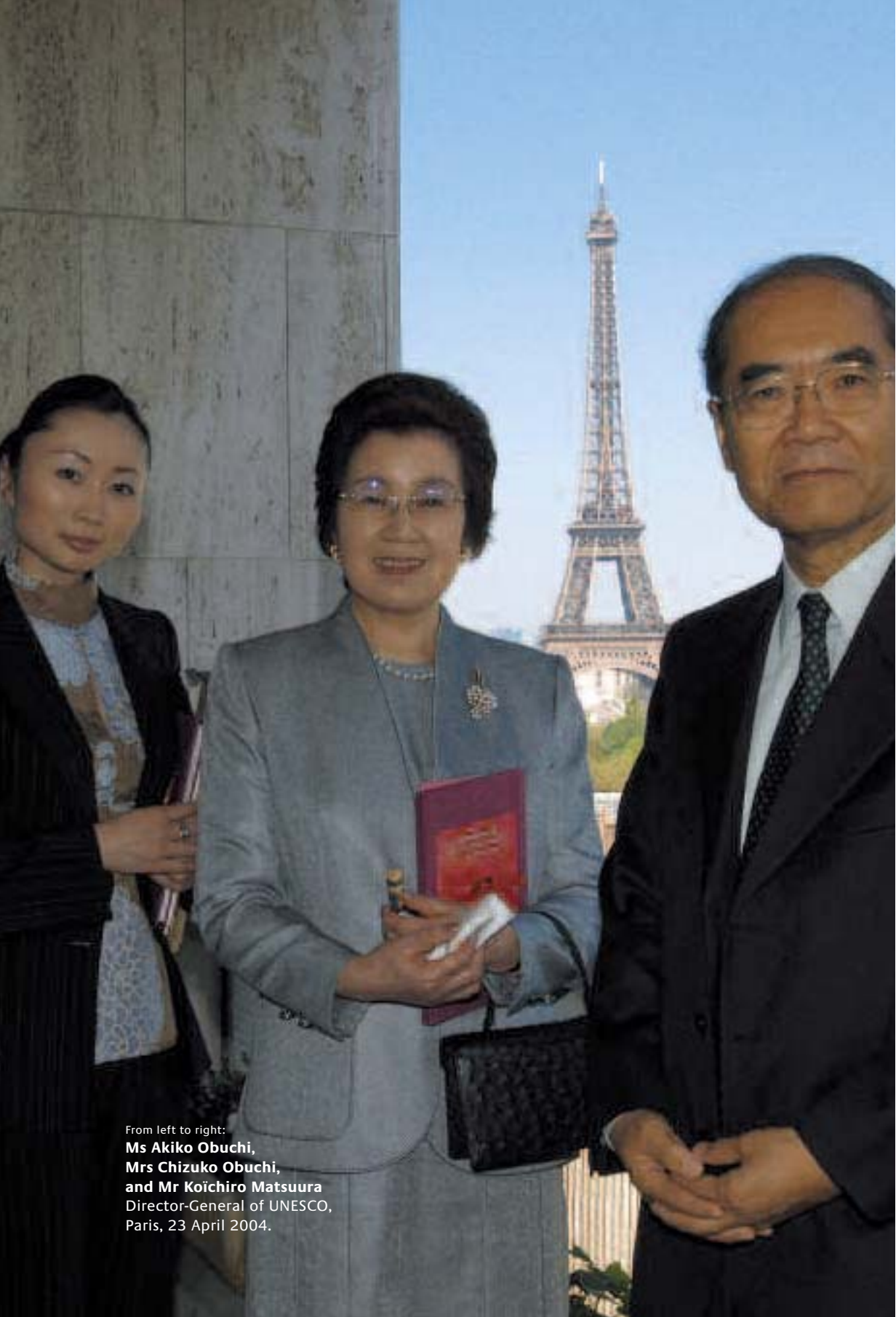
“To ensure that the new era brings a bright world rich in hope for ourselves and future generations, I am resolved to bring together the wisdom of the people to build the next era, based on the creed of hard hands and a soft heart.”

Keizo Obuchi

then Prime Minister [From Policy Speech to the 143rd Session of the Japanese DIET Tokyo, 7 august 1998]



Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister
testing a land mine-detection device
in Cambodia, one of the most mine
infested countries in the world.
11 January 2000



From left to right:
Ms Akiko Obuchi,
Mrs Chizuko Obuchi,
and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO,
Paris, 23 April 2004.

To honour the memory of Keizo Obuchi, former Prime Minister of Japan, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, paid tribute, on Friday 23 April 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters, to the former Prime Minister of Japan, the late Keizo Obuchi, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the implementation of the “UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme”.

The ceremony took place in presence of Mrs Takako Matsuura, Mrs Chizuko Obuchi, the widow of the former Prime Minister and their daughter Akiko Obuchi.



From left to right: Ms Akiko Obuchi, Mrs Chizuko Obuchi, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, and Mrs Takako Matsuura.

To date, the total contribution to UNESCO in the form of Funds-in-Trust from the Japanese Government amounts to US\$791,680, covering two phases of the Programme (2001-2002 cycle and 2003-2004 cycle), enabling UNESCO to award fellowships to 60 research fellows from 43 countries during the period 2001-2003. Twenty fellows for 2004 have been chosen by the selection committee and endorsed by Mr Matsuura himself and have recently begun their research.



Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

During the ceremony, Mr Matsuura declared:

“Keizo Obuchi had a firm belief that the key to success in every country is to consolidate the capacity-building of the nation’s human resources, especially by investing resources in the younger generation, since the future will be borne by them. Sharing this belief I created the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme in his honour.

With the generous support of the Japanese Government, we have been able to award 20 fellowships a year since 2001 to deserving candidates from developing countries and countries in transition.”



From left to right: Mrs Takako Matsuura, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Ms Igbal Salah and Mrs Chizuko Obuchi



From left to right: Mrs Takako Matsuura, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Mr Mikhail Ivanov, Mrs Chizuko Obuchi and Ms Akiko Obuchi

Two fellows of the 2003 programme, both studying in Germany in April 2004, Ms Igbal Salah Mohammed Ali, of Sudan, and Mr Mikhail V. Ivanov, of the Kyrgyz Republic, were invited to participate in the ceremony and expressed their gratitude to the Keizo Obuchi Fellowships Programme.

Ms Igbal Salah Mohammed Ali

Born on 3 October 1970, Omdurman, Sudan

Last degree obtained:

M.Sc in Hydrology at the National University of Ireland, Galway

Scholarly work and publications:

Application and Modification of the Probability Distributed Soil Moisture Storage Capacity Model (PDM):
Master's Thesis, National University Ireland, Galway, Ireland, 1998.

Field of Research studies:
Environment

Research on:
The application of remote sensing techniques and numerical models management of the Nile River ecosystem

Research undertaken:
from November 2003 to May 2004

Mr. Mikhail V. Ivanov

Born on 17 June 1980, Kyrgyz Republic

Last degree obtained:

Diploma on International Relations (with Honours) at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University, Faculty of International Relations

Scholarly work and publications:

10 years independence of the Kyrgyz Republic: achievements and prospects. In collected articles "Kyrgyzstan: 10 years of independence. Political analyses." (p. 13-15), Bishkek, 2002.

Psychology of modern electorate. In collected articles "Politics through the prism of psychology", (p. 21-23), Bishkek, 2002.

Field of Research studies:
Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Research on:
The Problem of New Security Challenges and Possibility of Conflict Resolution and Prevention in the Central Asia region

Research undertaken:
from November 2003 to May 2004

Statement by Mrs Igbal Salah Mohamad Ali

“It is well known that UNESCO plays a major role in the developing countries through the different programs carried out under its auspices which enhance the degree of awareness of the changeable situations in our world. I am very glad to participate in this special event to honour the memory of former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi who made significant contributions in various political fields during his career.

I would like to express my indebtedness to the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship which allowed me to do research on “The Application of Remote Sensing Techniques and Numerical Models to the Blue Nile Basin Management”.

Nowadays water seems to be one of the important sectors, which draws the attention of experts worldwide.

It is a fact that freshwater resources are limited and this fact leads directly to the importance of good and effective management of the existing water resources in order to ensure the desirable sustainable development.

This research therefore deals with one of the main water resources in my country, the Blue Nile, the most changeable tributary of the Nile River.

Management of the Blue Nile Basin involves high seasonality of the river flow, high sediment load and reducing capacities of existing reservoirs. The Blue Nile and Atbara rivers, originating from the Ethiopian highlands, are the main sources of the Nile floods.

Absence of timely information on rainfall over the Ethiopian highlands, and of a reliable monitoring and forecasting system makes Sudan vulnerable to devastating floods. Losses cannot be avoided when major floods occur but can be reduced if sufficient lead-time or warning time is available to inform authorities and individuals about the events and action to be taken in advance. Lead time can be extended by considering rainfall over the Blue Nile Basin (area 176.000 Km²) using estimated rainfall given by TAMSAT CCD/Rainfall estimation method, which uses the thermal Infra-Red (TIR) channel on the METEOSAT Satellite.

The Rainfall Runoff model TOPMODEL (Beven and Kirby, 1979) has been chosen for this study to simulate the process of water movement through the catchment. TOPMODEL is a versatile hydrological model at catchment scale based on a simple topographic description and runoff mechanisms including both saturation excess and infiltration excess runoff. Two different approaches of TOPMODEL have been tested as well as Transfer function model.

The findings of this research are expected to enhance the Flood Early Warning System used by the Sudanese authorities to forecast and manage the floods of the Blue Nile River. Any development in this System will ensure maximum prevention from the devastating damage that floods can cause in Sudan.

Therefore, on my return home I will transfer the knowledge I gained from my research to all future works.”

Statement by **Mr Mikhail Ivanov**

“I am very pleased to participate in this Special Event in honour of former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and to express personally my gratitude to all who made this fellowship programme possible.

Thanks to this programme, young scientists from all over the world have an excellent opportunity to make their own contribution to the most important areas of development, identified by former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. The fellowship named after Keizo Obuchi, who had a reputation as a sharp negotiator and consensus builder, imposes special responsibility on its fellows to undertake impartial research and lets them receive the necessary experience.

In my research I try to investigate the dependence of possible regional conflicts on new international security challenges, which emerged in the last decade, coinciding with the creation of new independent states in Central Asia, and created more threats to stability and security in the region.

First of all there is the problem of international terrorism and extremism. This problem is equally acute all around the world, as evidenced by the recent tragic events in Madrid, which showed once more that this threat has no borders. This issue has also proved to be the most dangerous to stability of the Central Asian region after the terrorist acts in one of its states – Uzbekistan – on 29 March of this year.

The threat of international terrorism leads to aggravation of interstate relations in the region and revival of other interstate problems, such as territorial, ethnic and resource conflicts.

That is why it is so important to show that the situation in the Central Asian region cannot be improved by single state efforts and using a uni-directional approach.

The Central Asian states can achieve the necessary conditions for stable development only through creation of a regional multi-track strategies system of common threats counteraction and conflict resolution.

In this sense the region needs the help of international organizations in order to create such mechanisms and provide sustainable development in all the Central Asian states and neighbouring countries.

Kyrgyzstan as well as other countries in the region need investigations of this problem.

One aspect of this problem is the issue of possible means of cooperation in the region.

I would like to express once again my gratitude for the opportunity to undertake this research, because it gives me and other fellows very important experience in research activity. In the future I will actively continue research in this field.

I hope that this research undertaken thanks to the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme will be a contribution in the sphere of creation of adequate systems of cooperation and reduction of potential conflict in Central Asia. In this regard the activity of UNESCO and the Japanese Government proves once again the importance of international cooperation and assistance for the sake of peaceful global development.”

Mrs Obuchi, for her part, expressed her appreciation to UNESCO “for its efforts to honour her late husband's spirit through the UNESCO /Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme” and hoped that the programme would “contribute to the capacity-building of the younger generations in the world.”



From left to right: Ms Minako Kono, Mrs Matsuura, Mr Matsuura, Mrs Obuchi and Ms Obuchi

“In fond memory of a fine leader and good friend, and as a token of appreciation for Keizo Obuchi's remarkable contribution to peace and development.”

Quotation of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura

In closing, Mr Matsuura offered to the Obuchi family the booklet UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme 2001: Results Achieved, published to mark the third anniversary of the Programme.



From left to right ▲▼: Mrs Matsuura, Mr Matsuura, Mrs Obuchi and Ms Obuchi





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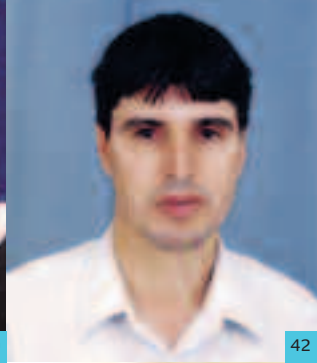
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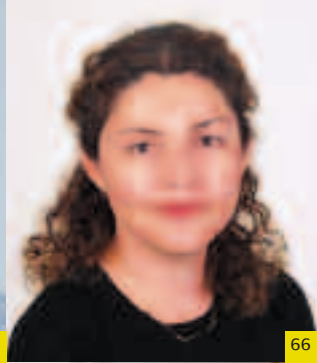
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76



78

The Twenty UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research Fellows 2002

26 Environnement

30	Azerbaijan	Ismail Mukhtar Zeynalov	The impact of natural and human factors on climate change in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea.
32	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Ri Gwon Chol and Ri Ho Yong	Management and Rational Utilization of Water Resources and Establishment of Policies for Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources.
34	Egypt	Ahmed Moustafa Moussa	Environmental and Evaluation Monitoring for Lake Nasser.
36	Myanmar	Htun Ko	The Variation in the Drainage Basin Morphometry within Sittoung Valley.
38	Togo	Tchéngnon Abotchi	Demographic Pressure and Water Resource Management in the lower Ouémé Valley, Southern Benin.
40	Palestinian Authority	Mona Mohamad Hassan Mohsen	Assessment of Pesticides Usage in the Gaza Strip and Survey of the Residual Pesticides in the Groundwater.
42	Palestinian Authority	Khalid Ahmed Qahman	Three-dimensional Simulation of seawater intrusion in Heterogeneous Aquifer.

44 Intercultural Dialogue

48	Chile	Manuel Alejandro Bilbao Zepeda	The Concept of Intercultural Dialogue from the Perspective of Contemporary Anthropology and Clinical Psychopathology.
50	Colombia	Carlos Arturo Salamanca Villamizar	The architectural practice in the local contexts.
52	Republic of Korea	Seong-Yong Park	Study on New Approaches of Cultural Tourism for the Promotion of Inter-Cultural Dialogue.

54 Information and Communication Technologies

58	Croatia	Jakov Kitarović	Internet Communications Over Powerlines.
60	Ecuador	Janio Lincon Jadán Guerrero	New Information Retrieval Techniques and New Multimedia Systems Generation.
62	Kenya	Florence Nzisa Nzwilli Muinde	The role of open access Journal systems in research capacity development.
64	Russian Federation	Alexei Moroz	Development of Dynamic Web Publishing Technology.
66	Venezuela	Luz Marina Pérez	The contribution of Information and Communication Technologies to the development of education, science and culture.

68 Peaceful Conflict Resolution

72	Bangladesh	A.H.M. Shamsul Muktadir	Conflict Management between Bangladesh and Pakistan.
74	Cuba	MaríaCarla Alzugaray Rodríguez	Establishing Community-Based Mediation Services in Cuba: Possibilities and Benefits
76	Kazakhstan	Venera Galyamova	The characteristics of the ethnic policy of the Government of the People's Republic of China.
78	Sierra Leone	Leslie Arthur Wilmot Shyllon	Religious Collaboration in Conflict Resolution: The Sierra Leone Experience

“...Sustainable development... is linked as much with notions of peace, human rights and fairness as it is with theories of ecology or global warming... Sustainable development certainly involves the natural sciences, economics and policy-making, it is also and, I would say, primarily a matter of culture: it is concerned with the values held by a particular society and the ways in which populations perceive their relationship with others and with the natural world. It therefore requires us to acknowledge the inter-dependent relationship between human needs and the natural environment...”

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

[on the occasion of the symposium on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, National Museum of Natural History, Paris, 14 April 2004]

“The orientation of... society towards mass production, mass consumption and mass waste is imposing a major burden on the global environment. There is an urgent need to realign the ways of... society and create a ‘recycling society’ underpinned by the recycling of materials across all levels of socio-economic activity, namely production, distribution, consumption and disposal.”

Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister

[From Policy Speech to the 147th Session of the Japanese DIET Tokyo, 28 January 2000]

“This interesting program has given me valuable knowledge and the necessary confidence to pursue my scientific work ”

“This fellowship has increased my knowledge in the fields of sediment transport, numerical analysis and modelling, enabling me to make progress on my PhD and in my academic carrier.”

“I owe special thanks to this research sponsor: research funds from the UNESCO/ Keizo Obuchi fellowship Program, cycle 2002. I believe this opportunity enhanced my capability and performance as a researcher in the field of water and environment.”

Fellow

Ismail Mukhtar Zeynalov

Beneficiary country

Azerbaijan

Country of study

Russian Federation



**Born on 27 June 1978
in Baku, Azerbaijan**

Last degree obtained

Sumgait State University,
Azerbaijan: Master's degree
in Safety of Vital activity,
Specialised in Engineering
protection of the
environment (22 June 2001).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Research of influencing factors
on changes of climate over
Absheron, Materials of the 3rd
International Conference:
Sumgait, 14-16 November
2000.*

*The role of the carbon dioxide
in climate change. Materials
of the 3rd International
Conference of Environment
and Maintenance of Vital
Activity, Sumgait,
14-16 November 2000.*

Contact

ismail_anasa@aport2000.ru

Place of Research

Moscow State University,
Moscow, Russian
Federation

Research undertaken

from 6 October 2002
to 6 June 2003

The impact of natural and human factors on climate change in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea

Under the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships programme – 2002, I carried out research for a period of seven months at Moscow State University on “The impact of natural and human factors on climate change in Azerbaijan and the Caspian Sea”.

In the course of this research, data were collected on the various components of the radiation balance in Azerbaijan, and available data from satellite and land-based observation systems were collected and systematized for climatological applications. All the data were compiled from the Internet, chiefly from NASA webpages. Data collection from land stations was done through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) service. Also used were materials from the Climate Diagnostics Center (CDC) and five land stations in Azerbaijan: Bakı (Baku), Lənkəran (Lenkaran), Qabala (Gabala), Zaqatala (Zagatala), and Gəncə (Gyanja). Satellite information was gathered through the Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution (OSDPD).

All available materials were collected concerning average monthly observations for 1982-2002 for the entire territory of Azerbaijan (38°-42°N, 44°-52°E). On the basis of these data, the average monthly values and standard deviations for the following characteristics were calculated: outgoing long-wave radiation (daytime and nighttime, with and without cloud cover); cloud cover (daytime and nighttime); absorbed solar radiation reaching the earth's surface (with and without cloud cover); maximum and minimum temperatures at ground level, atmospheric pressure, and wind speed.

The results obtained for Azerbaijan are new: for the first time, selected climate characteristics obtained from various observation systems for a given zone are presented in the form of coordinated measures of the year-to-year variability of those parameters. Expanding the time series of the data obtained and comparing the results obtained for Azerbaijan with those for other regions of the globe should validate the practical value of the research carried out. The results obtained from the analysis in time and space should lead to enhanced understanding and predictability of climate change.

Ismail Mukhtar Zeynalov, 17 July 2003

Fellows

Ri Ho Yong (1) and Ri Gwon Chol (2)

Beneficiary country

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Country of study

The People’s Republic of China



1

**Born on 13 April 1974
in Pyongyang, Democratic
People’s Republic of Korea**

Last degree obtained

Kim Il Sung University,
Pyongyang, Democratic
People’s Republic of Korea:
Master of Science in Geology
(1997).



2

**Born on 25 February 1968
in Pyongyang, Democratic
People’s Republic of Korea**

Last degree obtained

Hamhung Hydraulic
University, Hamhung,
Democratic People’s
Republic of Korea: Master of
Science in Geology (1992).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

Ri Ho Yong:

*Research on flooding forecast
method in rainy season,
Democratic People’s Republic
of Korea, 1998-2000.*

*Report on the assessment of
erosion and sedimentation in
Daedong river, Meteorology
and Hydrology, Democratic
People’s Republic of Korea,
vol. 3, 11 p-13 p, 2001.*

Ri Gwon Chol:

*Research on the assessment of
water resources amounts in
Democratic People’s Republic
of Korea, 1995-2000.*

*Report on the assessment
of water quality in our rivers,
the Democratic People’s
Republic of Korea,
Meteorology and Hydrology,
vol. 12, 32 p-35 p, 2001.*

Contact

shma@co.chesin.com

Place of Research

International Research and
Training Center on Erosion
and Sedimentation, (IRTCES)
Beijing, The People’s
Republic of China

Research undertaken

from September
to December 2002

Management and Rational Utilization of Water Resources and Establishment of Policies for Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources: Flood Forecasting Model Based on Artificial Neural Network

The Daedong River is one of the longest in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its sub system is very developed and complicated. The Daedong River Basin is one of the most developed regions in the D.P.R. of Korea. The Daedong River is located in the middle and southern part of the D.P.R of Korea and extends to the Korean West Sea. It contains a lot of tributaries with watershed larger than 1000 km². In the vast watershed of the Daedong River various geomorphologic patterns exist, such as extremely high mountains, hills and mountains. The Daedong River has a vast watershed and large floods, which threaten the main cities. The flood season of the Daedong River is from June to September. Under normal conditions flooding occurs from July to August. The precipitation is plentiful with an average annual rainfall of more than 1000mm. Floods are mainly caused by rainstorms and are closely related to the low pressure. The duration of a large flood is not so long and the peak value is very high, therefore it causes enormous damage to life and property. During the major flood season rainfall is frequent, heavy and of short duration in the vast area of the Daedong River. The large and small floods usually occur more than three times a year in the Daedong River Basin. Recently the largest flood peak was about 20000 m³/_s in the middle reaches. In order to protect the people from the floods many levees and dams have been constructed on the main stream and their tributaries since 1945.

The Artificial Neural Network (ANN) was used to forecast flooding in the Daedong River Basin. ANN is a kind of method which may simulate the structure and functionality of human brains and can recognize and deal with non-linear problems. A very important feature of ANN is its adaptive nature, which learns from the historical data in dealing with non-linear problems. It learns about its environment through an interactive procedure known as training, which in turn adjusts the coefficients of the network. The flood forecast model is trained using Back Propagation algorithm. The samples are recorded data of water level and discharge from 1960s to 1980s. Then the 1990s data was used to verify the results. The model is used for forecasting the peak value of discharge and water level in the Daedong River. Meanwhile, the peak value of discharge and water level were calculated by both instantaneous unit hydrograph and Maskingam method as well. From the results obtained, the ANN model appears to be an effective tool for stream-flow forecasting. Compared with transitional hydrological models, it is shown that the ANN model can maintain the reliability and high accuracy of real time flood forecasting.

Gwon Chol RI, and Ri Ho Yong , 3 September 2003

Fellow

Ahmed Moustafa Moussa

Beneficiary country

Egypt

Country of study

United States of America



**Born on 4 October 1970
in Giza, Egypt**

Last degree obtained

Ain Shams University,
Irrigation and Hydraulics
Department, Cairo, Egypt:
Master of Science in Civil
Engineering (January 2002).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Environmental Evaluation
for High Dam in Aswan:
From its construction
to the present: Alexandria,
Egypt, 2001.*

*Numerical Simulation for
Reach Four Flood Response:
Cairo, Egypt, 2002.*

Contact

ahmed_moussa@hotmail.com

Place of Research

The University of Mississippi
National Center for
Computational Hydroscience
and Engineering (NCCHE)
Mississippi, U.S.A.

Research undertaken

from March to June 2003

Environmental and Evaluation Monitoring for Lake Nasser

Lake Nasser is considered one of the biggest man-made lakes in the world. The length of the lake is about 500 km and its average width is about 12 km and its surface area is about 6000 km². Lake Nasser is the natural bank to store water for both Egypt and Sudan. This report concentrates on the Sudanese part of Lake Nasser, since most of the lake sediments are located within this part. This Sudanese part extends from cross section number (23) at 487 km from High Aswan Dam (HAD) to cross section number (22) at 337.5 km from High Aswan Dam (about 150 km). This research includes 15 cross sections covering all the Sudanese part from 1999 to 2001.

This research includes the study of flow, water velocity, sediment and water quality. The analysis was performed using the collected data and the 2D model developed by the National Center for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering (NCCHE). This research shows that the average velocity decreases from north to south, due to effect of back water curve and the increase of lake width from south to north.

Computing the thickness of deposition for all cross sections from the beginning of storage in 1966 until now, it was found that the maximum thickness of deposition is at the lowest point (thawlage) at cross section number (D) at 372 km upstream from HAD, cross section number (6) at 394 km upstream from HAD and cross section number (3) at 378 km upstream from HAD. These are 60.37, 57.95, 57.71 m respectively, meaning an average deposition of 1.78, 1.70, 1.52 m annually.

The average deposition thickness decreases gradually from north to south. The lake width is narrow along the distance between the entrance and cross section number (6) at 394 km upstream from HAD. It ranges between 300 and 1000 m and the depth

averages between 6.45 and 19.7 m in this area. This makes the water capable of carrying the sediment for long distances.

The watercourse increases suddenly to become about 2.25 km wide at cross section number (28), at 368 km upstream from HAD.

It continues until the width becomes about more than 10 km at cross section number (26) at 352 km upstream from HAD. Also, the water depth increases to (27.8, 33.7 m) causing the water velocity to decrease and the water then becomes unable to carry the sediments any further. This causes sediment deposition in the area between cross section number (D) at 372 km upstream from HAD and cross section number (6) at 394 km upstream from HAD and cross section number (3) at 378 km upstream from HAD. The sedimentation thickness then decreases north of these cross sections.

All water quality parameters, which include, first, the physical characteristics (physical parameters define those characteristics of water that respond to the senses of sight, touch, taste or smell, for example, pH and electrical conductivity) and, secondly, the chemical characteristics (water is the universal solvent, and chemical constituents are related to the solvent capabilities of water); for example, Dissolved Oxygen, Total Dissolved Solids, Nitrate and Silica show that the values of the measured parameters are within the international standard.

Ahmed Moustafa Moussa, 19 December 2003

Fellow

Htun Ko

Beneficiary country

Myanmar

Country of study

Japan



**Born on 2 July 1966
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Last degree obtained

Yangon University, Yangon,
Myanmar: Master of Arts
in Geography (September
1996).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Advertising Behaviour
in Yangon City:* Yangon
University, Commemoration
of Diamond Jubilee, 1995.

*Morphometric Analysis of
Chindwin River Basin:*
Myanmar Art and Science
Academy Journal, Vol:1, N°1,
Myanmar, November 2002.

Contact

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Place of Research

Tokyo Metropolitan
University
Department of Geography
Tokyo, Japan

Research undertaken

from November 2002
to April 2003

The Variation in the Drainage Basin Morphometry within Sittoung Valley

In a drainage basin area, soils, vegetation canopy, climatic conditions and geology that are environmental aspects of a basin area are external processes that affect the morphometric characteristics of the river basin. Usually, the physical and human morphometric features within the basin area act as the form elements of the river basin. An understanding of this process-form relationship is of practical significance on watershed management, river management and design. The objectives of this paper are to find the best fit variables of the morphometric properties and to reveal the importance of exterior links that can control watershed management in the river basin. Myanmar possesses four large rivers, namely, the Ayeyarwady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung Rivers. The Sittoung river basin is constituted by Bago Yoma mountain in the west, an alluvial plain in the central part and the Shan plateau in the east of the river basin. It originates near Yemethin district (Lat: 20°15'N) and flows through into the Gulf of Mottama (Lat: 17°15'N). The common method of channel network extraction is the pruning method based on identification of a threshold area that is the minimum support area request to drain to a point for a channel to form. Due to rough ground resolution of available DEM for study area, TIN (Triangulated Irregular Networks) features were computed from original DEM and had to be converted to grid image with elevation value as a DEM of study area which has been given a fine resolution.

For our main purpose, the simple quantitative technique was used to find the best-fit variable of morphometries. If it was accepted that the rainfall distribution in an investigated area controls the catchments form elements as an external process, the Constancy of Channel Maintenance and drainage density of 1st order basin should be balanced in the upstream area to sustain the watershed. Nowadays, the construction and completion of dams and reservoirs are found on some upstream areas of the Sittoung drainage basin. From the economic point of view, there are many advantages such as irrigation and prevention of flooding to urban areas due to the construction of dams and reservoirs. But this may not only disturb the continuity of the upstream catchment area but also increase stream erosion in the downstream area of the drainage basin. Therefore, analyses of inter-relation between climo-geoecosystems, socio-economic, cultural regime and human responses on the watershed equilibrium will be addressed in future study.

Htun Ko, 15 May 2003

Fellow

Tchéngnon Abotchi

Beneficiary country

Togo

Country of study

Benin**Scholarly work and Publications**

Dynamisme Économique et Évolution du Milieu Rural dans l'est de la Région des plateaux au Togo.
(Doctoral Thesis, 1997).

Articles publiés dans des revues scientifiques nationales, (*Travaux et recherches géographiques, N°spécial, 1998; Annales de l'U.B., [Université de Lomé - précédemment Université du Bénin]*) Tome XVIII, 1998; et internationales (*Cahiers d'outre-Mer, N° 192, 1995; Bulletin de la Société Belge d'Études Géographiques, N°1, 1996; Afrique 2000, N°24, 1996; Étude de la Population Africaine, N°15, 2000; Revue Belge de Géographie, N°1, 2002*).



**Born on 10 May 1963
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Last degree obtained

Université Michel Montaigne-Bordeaux 3, Bordeaux, France: Doctorat de Géographie (June 1997).

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Place of Research

Laboratoire de biogéographie d'expertise environnementale (LABEE)
"Université d'Abomey-Calavi", Cotonou, Benin

Research undertaken

From 6 November 2002
to 6 August 2003

Demographic Pressure and Water Resource Management in the lower Ouémé Valley, Southern Benin

Southern Benin, and in particular the Ouémé (Weme) Valley, possess considerable atmospheric, surface and underground water resources owing to the abundant rainfall in the region's subequatorial climate, a dense hydrographic network (with the Sô and Ouémé rivers and their tributaries, Lake Nokoué and Porto-Novo Lagoon) and a geological structure conducive to the development of aquifers. Local communities are familiar with these three types of water resources and use them to meet their daily needs. The water resources have variable qualities and therefore sometimes different advantages and disadvantages according to the use made of them (domestic use, use for economic purposes, and so on) but all three are used by the various sociocultural groups living in the region, the largest of which are the Tofin (23%), Weme (18.5%), Gun (17.5%), Ayo (13%) and Yoruba (12.5%).

Despite the abundance of water resources, the region does have very serious water problems in three respects – potable water supply, harnessing of water for economic and social purposes, and water-borne diseases. In fact, these problems are the outcome of water resource management methods. Whether with respect to supply, conservation, protection or purification, and whatever the type of potable water resource, water management here is marked by knowledge but also, and above all, by beliefs, taboos, rites and folk practices which limit its effectiveness. Hence there are problems of potable water needs not being met of forced labour, of exploiting river, lake and lagoon resources, and health problems related to lack of hygiene and environmental pollution.

These problems are increasingly aggravated by continuous population growth and strong demographic pressure in the region. They have led the country's authorities and NGOs to undertake in recent years the construction of wells, tanks and boreholes in the villages. However, there are management problems with this infrastructure too, which lead rapidly to health problems and, in the event of breakdown, to abandonment.

All these problems mean that another way must be envisaged of managing water resources in the Lower Ouémé.

What is required is participatory, integrated management taking into account all living conditions and with four main axes:

- Meeting the needs of villagers for potable water,
- Purifying the environment and promoting hygiene,
- Enhancing the economic and social value of resources,
- Enhancing the value of endogenous knowledge.

The implementation of all these measures requires funding. It is therefore necessary for the communities concerned to contribute both to funding and to the designing of the programmes to be introduced. That is what is required in order to solve the problems connected to water in this rural region.

Tchégnon Abotchi, 17 December 2003

Translated from French by UNESCO

Fellow

Mona Mohamad Hassan Mohsen

Beneficiary territory

Palestinian Authority

Country and territory of study

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
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**Born on 5 March 1974
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Last degree obtained

Al-Azhar University of Gaza,
(The Palestinian Authority):
Master of Science in
Chemistry (January 2000).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Synthesis of ETS-10 Zeolites
and Ion exchange Isotherm:*
University of Manchester,
Institute of Science and
Technology (UMIST), U.K,
1999.

*Participation in the Land
base pollution sources project
(MID POL), Ministry
of Environmental Affairs,
Palestinian Authority, 2001.*

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Place of Research

- Birmingham University,
Birmingham, U.K
- and Palestinian Association
for Chemical Science in Gaza,
The Palestinian Authority

Research undertaken

from November 2002
to June 2003

Assessment of pesticides Usage in the Gaza Strip and Survey of the Residual Pesticides in the Groundwater

This research involved extensive investigation into pesticide problems in the Gaza Strip. The questionnaire analysis demonstrated the severe problems that farmers have in dealing with pesticides, which have dangerous health and environmental impacts.

More than 900 metric tons of formulated pesticides are used annually in the Gaza Strip, mainly organochlorinated, organophosphated, carbamates and pyrethroids. Most of the pesticides are manufactured in Israel and the others are imported into Israel from companies in the West. Nevertheless, approximately sixteen of the dangerous agricultural pesticides that are restricted, cancelled or banned in most developed countries, including Israel, are allowed to enter the Gaza Strip and are still widely used. Moreover, methyl bromide, which is regarded as one of the most dangerous fumigants, is applied directly to the soil and its average use is about 505.5 ton/year, which is about 54% of total pesticide usage in the Gaza Strip.

Due to lack of awareness, farmers engage in dangerous practices, as described below:

- Farmers do not wear protective clothing while spraying because of the high cost of such clothing;
- Farmers mix pesticides with their hands without taking any precautions or wearing any gloves;
- Some farmers use old spraying equipment because they cannot afford to replace it;
- Very often, farmers use the wrong pesticides or unsuitable pesticides at the wrong time;
- Farmers eat, drink and smoke while handling and applying pesticides.
- Some farmers mix together several pesticides hoping to produce a stronger and more effective formula.

- Storage and disposal of pesticides are uncontrolled; pesticide containers are not kept in safe places away from children and empty containers are discarded on farmland without proper disposal procedures.

Many detailed diagnostic studies have been made to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination problem where inorganic pollutants have been detected for several cations and anions, but no serious studies have been conducted on the contamination of water by residual pesticides. Results showed contamination of 14 wells by pesticides especially by the organochlorines DDT and Endosulfan. Most of the contaminated wells were in the southern governorships of Rafah and Khan Younis which are characterized by the extensive agriculture areas and heavily use of pesticides.

Before the autonomy agreement in 1994, there was no regulations or controls regarding the importing of pesticides from Israel; all pesticides were labelled in Hebrew, which Arab farmers could not read, leading to many dangerous practices in application, storage and disposal. Since there is no monitoring of the chemical composition of the pesticides containers, sale of expired and impure pesticides is widespread among farmers.

The formulation of relevant laws and regulations to ensure good management of agrochemicals was an important step, however, implementation of those regulations is still rather weak, or does not exist at all. This is due to an absence of equipment and qualified persons and a lack of cooperation among farmers, traders and agricultural officials. Accordingly, there is a serious need for concerted and genuine efforts to implement those regulations in order to control environmental pollution and to protect public health.

Fellow

Khalid Ahmed Qahman

Beneficiary territory

Palestinian Authority

Country of study

Morocco

Scholarly work and Publications

Paper about Monitoring of Seawater Intrusion in the Gaza Strip:

Proceedings of the First International Seawater Intrusion Conference, Morocco 2001.

Three-dimensional numerical models of seawater intrusion in Gaza Aquifer, Palestine:

Proc 18th Salt Water Intrusion Meeting, Cartagena, Spain, 31 May-3 June 2004. QAHMAN K. and LARABI. A.

Optimal and Sustainable Extraction of Groundwater in Coastal Aquifers,

Manuscript: Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment Journal, October 2004 (under publication). QAHMAN K., LARABI A., OUAZAR D., NAJI A., and CHENG A. H.-D.



Born on 5 September 1967 in Beit Lahia, Palestinian Authority

Last degree obtained

IHE Delft, (Netherlands): Master of Science in Hydrological Engineering (April 1998).

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Place of Research

Mohamed V University
Rabat, Morocco

Research undertaken

From October 2002
to July 2003

Three-dimensional Simulation of seawater intrusion in Heterogeneous Aquifer, with Application to the Coastal Aquifer of Gaza Strip, Palestine

The Gaza Coastal Aquifer is historically the only natural source of water supply in the Gaza Strip. Water is presently accessed through pumping of more than 3000 wells, with a total estimated annual production in 1999 of about 140 million cubic meters (MCM). Total production presently exceeds natural recharge, and there is a net deficit in the aquifer water balance. Current rates of aquifer abstraction are unsustainable, and deterioration of groundwater quality is documented in many parts of the Gaza Strip. The strip is underlain by a shallow sandy aquifer that extends north up to Haifa, and south into Sinai coast. The Gaza aquifer is composed of Quaternary deposits that include layers of loess, dune sand, calcareous sandstone, silt, and clay. It forms a seaward sloping plain, which ranges in thickness from about 40-50 m near the eastern border with Israel to 150-200 m at the shore. Clay layers, which begin at the coast and feather out approximately 4 km from the sea, separate the main aquifer into various sub-aquifers near the shore. The base of the aquifer is the low-permeability Saqiya Formation (Tertiary age), and approximately 1 km thick wedge of marine clay, shale, and marl.

Typical trends in chloride time series, hydro-chemical classification method (Styfsand) and groundwater flow lines were used to identify the salinization sources in the shallow part of the Gaza Strip aquifer. The results of identification indicate that most of the coastal wells in the north and the south are located within area of flow from the sea towards the aquifer, which means that seawater intrusion is the dominant factor of salinization of the groundwater within this area.

SEAWAT computer code was used to simulate the seawater intrusion along a cross-section in the southern part of the Gaza strip near Khan-Younis. The results of the cross sectional model were compared with previous results simulated by SUTRA code with the same data. The simulation result by SEAWAT showed good agreement with the SUTRA results. Accordingly, three dimensional simulation using SEAWAT code was done for the Gaza aquifer. The extent of saltwater intrusion toe was simulated more than 3000m, 2000, 2500 in the lower sub-aquifer in the north, the middle, the south of the Gaza strip by the year 2003 respectively.

Two management scenarios were presented to predict the future abstraction from the aquifer. The first is the worst-case scenario which assume that pumping from the aquifer will reach 200 MCM by year 2020, and the second scenario assumes that the abstraction will be decreased to keep considerable discharge amount to the sea with about 11 MCM/y. The result of simulation shows that the second scenario can improve the aquifer situation and improve the groundwater levels in the aquifer.

This study concludes that the deterioration of groundwater quality in the Gaza aquifer is mainly the result of the seawater intrusion into the aquifer and the local up-coning. This is due to the lowering of fresh water level in relation to excessive groundwater abstraction. Immediate action must be taken to decrease the over-pumping of the aquifer and to improve the water quality of the aquifer. Appropriate investments and studies should be made to ensure that each of the major components of the water budget of the Gaza aquifer are adequately quantified. Finally, interaction between modeling, monitoring and management of the Gaza aquifer is strongly recommended.

“The dialogue among civilizations is a process that, in the broadest sense, is educational in character. It is a process through which people with differences learn about what they have in common and learn to respect the other’s right to be different... intercultural dialogue is vital for cultivating the defences of peace in the minds of men and women around the world. It is the duty of all of us, in fact.”

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

[on “Dialogue among Civilizations and Universal Values” on the occasion of his visit to Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 18 May 2004]

“I believe that we should make the 21st century a human-centered century... In order to build such a future, that is to say such a ‘tomorrow’, the most important thing is for the intellectuals to gather by crossing national borders and sharing their confidence in the future based on common aspirations emerging from their intellectual dialogue.”

Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister

[From Opening Remarks at a meeting on “Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia’s Tomorrow” Tokyo, 2 December 1998]

Intercultural Dialogue

“This research enabled us to visualize the process of symbolic building which implies the presence of violence in the construction of adolescent subjectivity. Violence can act as an organizer of the conflicts occurring during puberty and adolescence. Problems may occur during the construction of adolescence subjectivity when the culture develops forms of denial for the ritualization of such violence. In cases where this ritualization cannot be appropriately expressed, we observe the formation of marginal sacrifice spaces in young people a frequent situation within the so-called ‘minority ethnic groups’.”

What the fellows say

Fellow

Manuel Alejandro Bilbao Zepeda

Beneficiary country

Chile

Country of study

France



**Born on 7 May 1968
in Santiago de Chile, Chile**

Last degree obtained

*Université Paris 7- Denis
Diderot, France :
Docteur en Psychopathologie
fondamentale et psychanalyse
(1999-2002).*

**Scholarly work
and publications**

Drugs and Family,
Institute of Drug dependency,
magazine of the Complutense
University of Madrid, 2000.

*Lexical- Practical Aspects of
a Model in Drug dependency,*
Chilean Magazine in Neuro-
Psychiatry, 2001.

Psychoanalysis and genetics,
L'harmattan, Paris, 2004
(to be published).

Contact

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Place of Research

Université de Paris 7
Denis Diderot, U.F.R.
Sciences Humaines
Cliniques
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Research undertaken

from January
to October 2003

The Concept of Intercultural Dialogue from the Perspective of Contemporary Anthropology and Clinical Psychopathology

Considering the difficulties related to the concept of Socio-Cultural variability, this research aims at studying those social aspects involved in the phenomena of violence and cultural disintegration suffered by young people moving from rural to urban areas. It presents the socio-cultural aspects affecting the current violence of youth as manifestations of the difficulties currently entailed by the concept of interculturality. If intercultural dialogue means the acknowledgement of cultural differences, we need to reflect on the consequences that denial of such differences might generate, especially in groups of young people. Finally, and in relation to the consequences of this denial, we reflect on the manifestations of youth violence, differentiating between acted-out violence and psychical violence in adolescents. Such differentiation allows the identification of different levels necessary for reflecting on the violent conduct occurring during adolescence. At the same time, such differentiation provides important key points for reflect on the forms this psychical violence may take if the necessary social outlet is not found as means of expression. It is at this point that the intercultural aspect may provide excellent elements for an analysis of the “marginal integration” of certain young people in occidental cultures. Hence, some rituals for this kind of violence may be seen in certain social grids that would take the form of marginality and social exclusion. Violent conduct, drug dependency, risky conduct are all examples of these rituals of violence that may, under certain conditions, have a social status of marginality and exclusion, when culture denies the calling that violence makes towards the whole culture.

On the other hand, this analysis shows that sacrifice and ritual constructions of the so-called pre-capitalist or pre-industrial cultures are also culturally developed in capitalist or industrialized societies. Research on the articulation between clinical psychopathology and socio-cultural anthropology allows a singular development for the research of social variables affecting young people when talking about intercultural conditions, emphasizing the great importance that phenomena of ritualization and sacrifice may have during adolescence.

Reflecting on the cultural phenomena that may be found in adolescent violence, we try to visualize the procedure of symbolic building that implies the presence of this violence for the construction of an adolescent subjectivity. Therefore, violence can be not only an element of destruction, either self-aggression or aggression toward others, since it can act as an organizer of the conflicts occurring during puberty and adolescence. Hence, some problems may be observed during the construction of adolescent subjectivity when culture develops forms of denial for ritualization of such violence. In cases where this ritualization cannot be appropriately expressed, we observe the configuration of marginal sacrifice spaces in the young, a frequent situation within the so-called “minority ethnic groups”.

Finally, the research develops certain ideas for reflection on the emergence of youth violence not only in the articulation youth-culture, because it develops certain ideas on the presence of violence in the inner circle of family groups. This is not about reflecting on adolescent violence experienced by the young person him/herself and submitted to the approval of the cultural aspect, but on the adolescent acting in three dimensions: individual, social and the family imaginary.

fellow

Carlos Arturo Salamanca Villamizar

Beneficiary country

Colombia

Country of study

France

Scholarly work and publications

Historias Nunca contadas sobre la Historia y la Organización Política de las Comunidades Tobas: Buenos Aires: Ediciones del Tatú, 2001, Israel Alegre y Timoteo Francia; comp. Carlos Salamanca y Florencia Tola.

The Anthropological Practice of Architecture: The production of the other: Prensa Scripta etnológica, Centro Argentino de Etnología Americana, 2001.

La brujería como discurso político entre los tobas del Chaco argentino: Mexico: Desacatos, 2001.

Expressions architecturales de la multiculturalité: En presse. Paris: Architecture d'Aujourd'hui, 2004.



Born on 8 October 1973 in Bogotá, Colombia

Last degree obtained

École de Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris (France): *D.E.A. en Ethnologie et Anthropologie (2000).*

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Place of Research

École d'Architecture de Paris la Villette (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie / Architecture) Paris, France

Research undertaken

from May to December 2003

The architectural practice in the local contexts

In this research, we set out to understand the spatial situation of cities, neighborhoods and agricultural colonies of the Argentinean Chaco from a historical, local and multicultural perspective. The location of districts and indigenous colonies in marginalized zones of difficult access and communication imposes a spatial politics that must take into account ethnic differentiation. The economic crises affect directly the poorest regions.

Poverty, added to the marginalization in aboriginal districts, produced in 2002 some cases of conflict, which are usually interpreted from a simplist perspective that gives rise to and/or increases the interethnic local tension.

The action and the speech of independent aboriginal organizations, as well as the analyses we made in the zone, show that the conditions of marginal existence are an obstacle for the establishment of intercultural dialogue.

The poor hygienic or technical conditions of human spaces are more responsible for the exclusion, marginalization and poverty than the supposed technical or aesthetic social incapacity in the production, use, adjustment and maintenance of the space. Thus, the accomplishment of architectural projects becomes a reproductive cause of marginalization and inequality, since the construction and adaptation of the space, far from being social conquests and accomplishments, usually are tools of political clientelism and domination. Moreover, history is not alien to the disputes for visibility or to the emergence of differences. Cultural heritage is an important item in analysis of intercultural relations. The settlers, as protagonist, and the colonization, as epic story, are present everywhere in monuments, sculptures and museums. Indigenous people, however, are relegated to a "glorious past", they are exalted in their crafts and exhibitions, receive a tribute in the names given to cities and places, theme parks, public spaces, and in the recent alternative tourism, where the valuation

of difference frequently becomes an exotic spectacle. In fact, governmental actions aiming at integrating the indigenous communities in the elaboration of their own stories, their own version of history, and at allowing their visibility in present contexts, are very scanty.

The study of some housing and infrastructure programs designed for aboriginal people allowed us to observe that, although there is interest in recognizing the ethnic particularities in the relationship with space, this recognition (with some interesting exceptions) is lacking concrete advances in relation to the methodologies of intervention and the participation of the users in the planning and design of the projects.

In the local contexts, the architect declares himself responsible for social practices. The exclusive concentration in him of these responsibilities is arbitrary and contrary to the necessity of building participative, autonomous and responsible societies. Social inequality and limited access to university, which are facts of life in Latin America, mean that only some individuals can be architects.

This research also allowed us to go beyond the idea of architecture as an academic discipline and to discover that it is a fundamental form of social, economic and cultural action and reproduction. Recognition of differences contradicts the tendency to homogenize societies and cultures that are utterly diverse, a tendency that is built on the supposed existence of a common basis of production and organization of the space. Recognition of differences also questions the architect's monopoly as the unique owner of technical or aesthetic knowledge, placing a limit on the political and social legitimacy of the architect and his architectural project.

It also opens to different sectors the possibility of claiming the right that their space and the social activity that produces it be coherent with their ethnic difference and identity.

Fellow

Seong-Yong Park

Beneficiary country

Republic of Korea

Country of study

Australia



**Born on 3 August 1962
in Incheon, Republic
of Korea**

Last degree obtained

KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, Republic of Korea: Master of Business Administration (Strategy and Global Management) (December 2001).

**Scholarly work
and publications**

The Changing Values of Music: In Search of New Creativity: Korea UNESCO News, monthly periodical, October 2000.

Strategies to promoting the Preservation of Intangible Heritage and Desirable Directions for International Cooperation in this Field: Korea UNESCO News, monthly periodical, February 1997.

The World Heritage and its Attendant Problems: Book, Sol Press, December, 1996.

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Place of Research

Griffith University, Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy, Brisbane, Australia

Research undertaken

from June to November 2003

Study on New Approaches of Cultural Tourism for the Promotion of Inter-Cultural Dialogue

By taking part in UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme, 2002, I had an opportunity to conduct academic research in the field of promoting intercultural dialogue, from June to November 2003 at the school of Arts, Media and Culture, Griffith University, in Brisbane, Australia. The topic of my research was “Cultural Tourism to Promote the Inter-cultural Dialogue” focusing on the case of Queensland in Australia.

Taking into account the present state of racial, ethnic and religious conflicts within the international community, I believe that the promotion of cultural diversity is one of most critical means of enhancing peace in our world. The basic idea of my research was initiated by exploring an opportunity to learn about how sustainable cultural tourism contributes to the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Cultural tourism has been recognized as an important way of enhancing cultural understanding as well as fostering the local development of each society. While tourism is generally economic-oriented, cultural tourism helps both to utilize cultural resources for local development and to encourage inter-cultural dialogue. The state of Queensland in Australia was chosen as the focus of the research because it is well-known for its cultural tourism resources together with the multi-cultural background of this society, as well as being fortunate in having an outstanding natural environment. During my research, there were field trips to and case studies of several tourism areas including North Queensland, Gold Coast and South-east Queensland, meeting with experts and scholars and participation in festivals, etc. Throughout the research, I endeavoured to define a concept and scope for cultural tourism and its role in promoting intercultural dialogue.

I also analysed the current situation of cultural tourism and policies and the activities of relevant governmental organizations in Queensland. In my final report, I introduced the “Cultural Tourism Quality Model” which provides a useful basis for an assessment framework in the process of cultural tourism monitoring. I believe that this kind of Quality Model could be a basic and practical tool for monitoring cultural tourism and helping to develop sustainable cultural tourism at the local level—even though some parts of this model can be complemented or modified to meet different needs from different tourism environments. In concluding the research, I offer some insights to help each community achieve and develop sustainable cultural tourism as a critical factor in encouraging cultural diversity and inter-cultural dialogue.

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” (Marcel Proust) On hearing this quotation, I asked myself whether a desirable cultural tourism and intercultural dialogue may be started from looking for something which will stimulate people to have ‘new eyes’.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the UNESCO Fellowships Section, colleagues in KNCU (Korean National Commission for UNESCO), and Griffith University. Special thanks go to Dr. Robin Trotter and Mr. Kwon HUH for their insightful guidance on my research work.

Seong-Yong Park, 27 February 2004

“One of UNESCO’s core missions is to promote the free exchange of ideas and scientific knowledge. Another is to maintain, increase and diffuse scientific knowledge. These missions have never been more relevant than today. ICTs are opening up new horizons for human development through the exchange of scientific knowledge, the expansion of education and training, and the promotion of creativity and intercultural dialogue.”

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

[on the occasion of the Round Table on Science, the Information Society and the Millennium Development Goals, during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva, Switzerland, 11 December 2003]

“One of the significant changes in the human environment in recent history is the information technology (IT) revolution and the process of globalisation in which IT plays a pivotal role. The so-called ‘digital divide’... is creating disparity among developed and developing countries, and disparities within our own society... I would like to engage in frank and unreserved discussion... on this wave of information technology that will bring great changes.”

Keizo Obuchi
then Prime Minister

[Statement at the Discussion Group on the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit, Tokyo, Japan, 28 February 2000]

Information & Communication Technologies

“All students should be able to participate in the knowledge society through an affordable Internet connection.”

“It was a gratifying experience which permitted me to learn more to serve better”

“I can now competently exploit modern ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) to network, research and share information on pertinent professional issues and concerns”

“Great opportunity for professional experience and cultural exchange”

“Participating in the UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research fellowships Programme has been the experience of a lifetime”

What the fellows say

Information & Communication Technologies

Fellow

Jakov Kitarović

Beneficiary country

Croatia

Country of study

United States of America



Born on 4 October 1968
in Rijeka, Croatia

Last degree obtained

University of Zagreb, Croatia:
Master of Science in the
area of Technical Sciences,
field: Electrical Engineering-
Radio-communication
and Professional Electronics
(1998).

Scholarly work and Publications

*Vulnerability Assessment of
GPS for Marine applications:*
in Elmar Conference
Proceedings, 2001.

*Differential GPS as a solution
of improved accuracy of
radiolocation systems:*
in Croatia, Ibid, 1997.

Contact

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Place of Research

George Washington
University,
Department of Electrical
and Computer Engineering,
Digital Media RF Laboratory,
Washington D.C, U.S.A.

Research undertaken

from September 2002
to March 2003

Internet Communications Over Powerlines

Powerlines were not originally intended for the transmission of communication signals. Therefore, a useful scheme has to overcome obstacles that arise from the existing powerline network. Power transformers that transform high and medium voltage coming from power plants and power distribution centers to low voltage used in our households represent major obstacles.

The communication channel provided by the powerline network is a very hostile one. It varies both in frequency and in time, has varying impedance and suffers from relatively high levels of noise and attenuation.

Different modulation and coding techniques can be used to transmit broadband signals through the powerline network. Problems arise when we try to transmit signals through a medium voltage/low voltage transformer that acts as a low pass filter, limiting the use of high frequencies and causing bottlenecks for broadband information flow.

An innovative approach to low voltage Internet access has been proposed by researchers at the Digital Media Lab of George Washington University. This method uses the ASK modulation scheme combined with the Finite Alphabet (FA) property of binary signals and the Loading Impedance (LI) technique that allows the received signal to be separated blindly. The scheme uses a low modulation frequency to avoid frequency cut-off by the transformer.

All network users use the same ASK modulating frequency and transmit at the same time. Their signals differ only by the amplitude level that has to be set individually. By applying the underdetermined blind signal separation (uBSS) algorithm, every individual signal can be recognized and separated by the receiver from the sum of all received signals. In this way, different users of the network can communicate simultaneously and the task of multiple access is provided by a relatively simple blind separation technique.

I hope that the research I conducted under the UNESCO Keizo Obuchi fellowship, as well as the research conducted by the Digital Media Lab of George Washington University, will result in improved powerline internet access. This research offers inhabitants of remote areas the prospect of being connected to the Internet and to the world by means of powerlines, eliminating the need to install additional wiring, thus opening up possibilities for them to establish connections to the world and educational opportunities in the most cost-effective way.

Jakov Kitarović, 4 May 2003

Information & Communication Technologies

Fellow

Janio Lincon Jadán Guerrero

Beneficiary country

Ecuador

Country of study

Costa Rica



**Born on 6 May 1968
in Ambato, Ecuador**

Last degree obtained

University of Costa-Rica,
Costa Rica: Master of
Science in Information
Technologies (1998-2000).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Compresión Fractal
de Imágenes: Memorias
de la XIX Convención
Centroamericana y Panamá
del IEEE (CONCAPAN
XIX), Nicaragua,
November 1999.*

*Sistema de Detección
de Intrusos incorporando
características biométricas:
Memorias del Día
Internacional de Seguridad
en Cómputo (DISC 99),
México, October 1999;
and in the Magazine
Engineering, University of
Costa Rica, January 2000.*

Contact

jjadan@jbmconsultores.com

Place of Research

University of Costa Rica,
Graduate Program in
Computer and Information
Sciences, San José de Costa
Rica, Costa Rica

Research undertaken

from February
to August 2003

New Information Retrieval Techniques and New Multimedia Systems Generation in order to facilitate the Learning of the Students

This project was developed at the Computer Science School of the University of Costa Rica. Its purpose is to provide a framework for the application of knowledge from different areas. It includes theory from the following fields: information retrieval, multimedia and web development. Our aim is to create automated tools to organize and classify research papers while providing a platform where students can learn by creating software agents that will work on behalf of their users.

The platform we present has a double purpose. The first is to support research by providing tools to organize bibliographic material. The other is to provide an experimental framework where students can replace human tasks by automated agents.

The system aims to provide a user-friendly tool that enables the researcher to handle scientific papers, bibliographic information, notes and summaries related to them. The tool automatically produces the list of reference associated with every research project to which the user subscribes. This tool is more a traditional information retrieval tool.

As part of the Information Retrieval class, students produce small projects and experiments in the field. This is how the project enriches the learning process. Students use the theory, techniques and algorithms to solve real problems and use their findings to improve the tool. By introducing agent technology based on Information Retrieval Techniques, the graduate students have a framework to do their research in the field. The idea is to gradually add agents to take care of the tasks normally associated with the human user. Examples of the agents we are to produce are: an agent to gather the papers available on-line regarding a user information need, another agent will add notes and do automatic summarization of the papers and the final agent will automatically create categories and classify papers providing different graphical interfaces to browse and find information.

The first product obtained as a prototype tool to help researchers organize their references and other bibliographic material is the BibEcci. The usefulness of this kind of tool became evident when helping to organize our own references for the project. Users can create projects and they can collect and organize research papers. The references section of any paper being written can be automatically generated using this tool.

On the other hand this tool can be easily intergraded into new modules. Some IR techniques can be used to create agents and integrate them into this platform.

Finally, a paper on BibEcci was written to reflect the goals achieved at this point and the next steps that have to be followed. It reflects the trends and the forthcoming research that has just begun.

Janio Lincon Jadán Guerrero, 26 August 2003

Information & Communication Technologies

Fellow

Florence Nzisa Nzwilli Muinde

Beneficiary country

Kenya

Country of study

Canada



**Born on 28 August 1965
in Makueni, Kenya**

Last degree obtained

Kenyatta University, Kenya:
Master of Education on
Library Studies (October
1998).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*A survey of School Libraries
in the Central Division of
Machakos District to Establish
how well their Resources
met the needs of the Current
Education System: Master
project Research, Kenya,
1998.*

*A Baseline survey on Certain
Public Schools to establish
their poverty Level:*

This facilitated the Ministry
of Education ADID DFID
Britain to allocate Funds for
textbooks purchase, Kenya,
1998.

Contact

fmuinde@yahoo.com

Place of Research

University of British
Columbia, Department
of Language and Literacy
Education, Vancouver,
Canada

Research undertaken

from September 2002
to June 2003

The role of open access journal systems in research capacity development: case of Kenya

The research focused on exploring possibilities of using new publishing technologies to enhance research capacity development through publishing and sharing of information related to research findings in the public sector, and in particular the university and research institutes. It attempted to determine the prospects for greater participation in the international network for the creation and distribution of knowledge by exploring the prospects and processes, issues and hopes involved in launching an online scholarly journal. In particular, the research concerned itself with investigating the role of online journal publishing in research capacity development in African universities, with particular reference to Kenya. Specifically, the research project investigated whether the OJS, an open access publishing and management journal system developed by the University of British Columbia, Canada, could be used to boost research capacity through sharing of knowledge/information, local and international.

The study was guided by the following specific objectives :

- To establish from the perspective of the scholarly community - teaching staff, students, librarians and policymakers- the potential for electronic journals to contribute to both information exchange and research capacity development.
- To explore the technical and economic feasibility of supporting electronic journals that can contribute to knowledge circulation/ sharing among scholars and other stakeholders.
- To find out whether such an electronic journal can facilitate local knowledge creation within a global exchange of knowledge, as well as foster networking among peers.

The hypothesis behind the research was that from a technical, economic, social, and intellectual perspective, new publishing technologies could provide a means of improving Kenya's research capacity by contributing to local knowledge development, as well as a larger global exchange of knowledge.

The expected outcome of the research project was :

- An informed analysis of the challenges, possibilities and obstacles to overcome in pursuing online scholarly publishing in African universities as a means of improving the universities' research capacities and providing greater participation in global knowledge systems. This analysis would serve as a guide for establishing new online journals in different fields, as well as for building better publishing software.
- An informed and active body of scholarly researchers, actively participating in knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination, and professional debates/discussions in the relevant fields of knowledge.
- Improved networking among faculty, professionals and policymakers with a focus on scholarly and local works in education.
- Greater global visibility for African scholarly publishing, and particularly Kenyan knowledge products and scholarly contributions. It is hoped that the e-journal would give the stakeholders the means and voice to be heard.

Florence Nzisa Nzwilli Miunde, 8 August 2003

Field of study:

Information & Communication Technologies

Fellow

Alexei Moroz

Beneficiary country

Russian Federation

Country of study

United Kingdom



**Born on 14 January 1977
in Moscow, Russian
Federation**

Last degree obtained

Moscow Power Engineering Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation: Master's degree in Engineering. (2000)

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

Using MATLAB functions in Java Applications, The Scientific and Practical Magazine "Exponenta Pro" – The Mathematics in Applications, Russian Edition, 2004.

"Three Layer Architecture with Java in Enterprise Applications", internal BT presentation, 2003.

Distance Education Problem Analysis, Scientific magazine "Pedagogical Informatics", N3, MGOPU, 2002.

Contact

alex_real@mail.ru

Place of Research

The Nottingham Trent University School of Engineering, Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Research undertaken

From May to August 2003

Development of Dynamic Web Publishing Technology for Distance Education in Russia

A short description of my three months educational training work on a research project at the Faculty of Construction, Computing and Technology (<http://facct.ntu.ac.uk>), Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom is given below:

Project Objectives

- To become familiar with web content update systems and web content publishing systems as applied to distance learning systems.
- To assess the possibilities for creating a universal web content management system to be used in educational institutes.
- To determine the feasibility of applying such a system in distance education.
- To investigate the application of the system by non-IT specialists who are specialists in their business field.
- To create a data model and a basic prototype for a web content management system to be used in educational institutes.
- To determine the possibility of using the developed system as a distance Internet service.

Project Synopsis

There were four stages identified in this project. In the first stage, familiarization with a class of web content management systems was essential. Therefore the task of identification and classification of web content management systems was carried out. Subsequently, a conclusion about the applicability of such systems was drawn.

In the second stage of the project, a formalized prototype of the web publishing system, based on the conclusion drawn in the first stage, was created. Then, a practical data model of prototype based on DB MySQL was created in the third stage of the project.

Finally, the prototype of the system using java technologies (J2EE/J2SE) was created in the fourth stage of the project. The prototype was created using three-layer architecture with splitting of an application into thin client, application server and DB.

Conclusions

The feasibility study on the application of web content management systems for distance education was the subject of my research in Nottingham Trent University. A prototype was developed and a data model, which allows supporting complex web resources, was created. Using the system developed, it is easy to create and support web resources for educational institutes. The system helps to resolve the main problem of supporting web resources – split IT and design work from business area. At present, web resource development and support are extremely important aspects of the development of educational institutes.

This scholarship gave me the opportunity to experience another culture and to understand the way web management systems are developed in Europe. This helped me to understand the structure of such systems in western countries, including the UK, and the purposes for which they are created. It was a good opportunity for me to practice the English language and improve my communication skills, which helped me a lot in my professional development.

Alexei Moroz, 29 July 2003

Information & Communication Technologies

Fellow

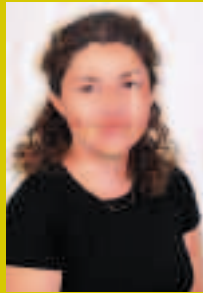
Luz Marina Pérez

Beneficiary country

Venezuela

Country of study

Spain



**Born on 29 May 1965
in Caracas, Venezuela**

Last degree obtained

University Simón Bolívar,
Caracas, Venezuela:
*Especialista en Informática
Educativa*” (1997-1999).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Acercándonos al Petróleo-
Educativo Programme using
the computer: CENAMEC,
Boletín Multidisciplinario
Nº3, Caracas, Venezuela,
1991.*

*Diseño Metodológico
para la Evaluación y Uso
de Materiales Educativos
Computarizados: Congreso
Internacional de Informática
Educativa, UNED, Madrid,
Spain, 1999.*

Contact

luzmarinaperez@hotmail.com

Place of Research

“Universidad Nacional
de Educación a Distancia”
(The National Distance
Education University)
(UNED), Madrid, Spain

Research undertaken

from February
to August 2003

The contribution of Information and Communication Technologies to the development of education, science and culture, and to constructing a knowledge society

This work is aimed at designing a new method for the evaluation and use of Computer-based Educational Materials (MEC, in Spanish) that can supply the skills needed to select quality educational programs, adapted to specific users needs. To achieve this goal, we suggest a strategy based on a group of activities that form a systematic and coherent methodology.

This methodology is a result of documentary research. The present paper responds to the need for teachers and related personnel in Venezuela and elsewhere, who are skilled in using instruments to select and use Information and Communication Technologies (TIC, in Spanish), in particular Computer-based Educational Materials, since, according to some authors, most of them do not have a simple work method to follow, the minimum required to obtain better knowledge of, select and implement Computer-based Educational Materials in the classroom.

The methodology and the instruments suggested by the three first levels of the educational system were tested by a group of seven experts, making relevant comments in order to improve them. They all agreed about the validity and correct application of this new methodology as a useful guide for selecting and using the Computer-based Educational Materials selected.

A new method to evaluate and use Computer-based Educational Materials will be used in the classroom (from October 2003) to instruct teachers. The method will not be complete until we can measure its reliability and impact on all participants in the educational process.

Luz Marina Pérez, 15 August 2003

“(...) a key concern for UNESCO is the promotion of quality education to prevent violence, to strengthen a climate of tolerance and security and to foster the development of values of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding as well as capacities for the non-violent resolution of conflicts.”

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

[at the opening of the Inter-Agency Meeting on “Promoting Peace and Security through Education and Science: Elements for a UN Strategy against Terrorism”, Paris, 26 February 2003]

“In my travels I was most impressed at the way people were courageously pursuing their dreams despite suffering from war, poverty and illness, and I was made very much aware of the need for peoples to join hands across borders to create a more secure and more comfortable world.”

Keizo Obuchi
then Foreign Minister

[from a Statement on Japan and East Asia: Outlook for the New Millennium, Singapore, 4 May 1998]

“My research fellowship in the field of peaceful conflict resolution has helped me start a career as an International Conflict Resolution Practitioner and Peacebuilder”.

“This fellowship has given me the opportunity to broaden my experience and improve my skills related to the conflict resolution training program I coordinate in Cuba”

“This fellowship was not only an excellent chance for me to pursue my interest in and broaden my understanding of China; it has also been a great opportunity for pursuing my scientific research on China in the hope of discovering the peaceful potential of this country.”

What the fellows say

Field of study:

Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Fellow

A.H.M. Shamsul Muktadir

Beneficiary country

Bangladesh

Country of study

Pakistan



**Born on 1st January 1962
in Dinajpur, Bangladesh**

Last degree obtained

Dhaka University
(Bangladesh): Master
of Social Sciences in
International Relations
(1985).

**Scholarly work
and Publications**

*Impact of Foreign Aid on
Bangladesh-SIDA as a Case
of Study (Research Project),
Dhaka, Bangladesh, March
1995.*

*In-House Political and
Economic Research Projects
(unpublished).
Dhaka (1991-1994).*

Contact

shamsul_muktadir@yahoo.com

Place of Research

University of Karachi,
Department of International
Relations, Karachi, Pakistan

Research undertaken

from December 2002
to September 2003

Conflict Management between Bangladesh and Pakistan: Finding Ways of Greater Co-operation

The emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country on 16 December 1971 gave rise to a number of conflict issues between Bangladesh and Pakistan, a few of which still remain unresolved. While those issues persist, attempts to achieve greater cooperation should be carried forward.

This report is based on a study carried out from 28 December 2002 to 28 September 2003 as the main task of a UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship-2002 in Pakistan, which records the practical and first-hand experience of a researcher from Bangladesh.

The report indicates that at present there are two core issues of conflict between Bangladesh and Pakistan. They are:

- Pakistan's lack of de facto recognition that the 1971 war of secession was a war of liberation for Bangladesh;
- settlement of the problem of the legal status of nationals who, since 1971, have been displaced onto the other country's territory, either through arranging repatriation or by absorption within their present larger communities. It may not be possible to obtain from Pakistan de facto recognition of Bangladesh's war of liberation, instead of regarding it as a betrayal of East Pakistan, until democracy is properly institutionalized in Pakistan. The second problem could be resolved by reciprocal declarations offering dual nationality to each country's displaced nationals.

Based on the research, it is recommended that:

- Pakistani and Bangladesh school and college textbooks should be revised to reflect an objective history of the birth of Bangladesh, as a first step toward resolving the conflict between the two countries;
- determination of the legal status of displaced nationals should be regarded as a global humanitarian problem; international assistance should be sought more vigorously to address this humanitarian disaster; and the issue should be dealt with and negotiated on a reciprocal basis.
- Potential areas of greater mutual cooperation exist in the areas of defense, people to people contact, free trade, education, music and art, marine fisheries, scientific research in biotechnology, space, aviation, armaments, nuclear and rocket technology.
- Achieving increased bilateral cooperation would have a positive impact on the management/resolution of the conflict between the two nations.

A.H.M. Shamsul Muktadir, 16 December 2003

Field of study:

Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Fellow

María Carla Alzugaray Rodríguez

Beneficiary country

Cuba

Country of study

Canada



Born on 11 July 1972
in Havana, Cuba

Last degree obtained

Institute of Social Studies,
The Hague, Netherlands:

Master of Arts (Development
Studies) specialization:
Politics of Alternative
Development Strategies
(2000).

Scholarly work and Publications

*Some Tendencies on the
cultural consumption of
the urban population in Cuba:*
Centre “Juan Marinello”,
Havana, Cuba, 1998.

Contact

cfv@cfv.org.cu
carla0772@yahoo.com

Place of Research

Carleton University,
Department of Law, Ottawa,
Canada

Research undertaken

from November 2002
to July 2003

Establishing Community-Based Mediation Services in Cuba: Possibilities and Benefits

This paper is the result of research undertaken in Havana City, Cuba and Ottawa, Canada. The aim was to explore the most feasible institutional framework in which to introduce mediation services at the community level in Cuba in order to manage interpersonal and small group conflicts. The first step in the research was a case study of the Atares urban community in Havana. It identified the most frequent community conflicts; distinguished formal and informal ways that conflict is managed or solved; and, identified local institutions that act as third parties in conflict situations, comparing their functions, responsibilities, accountability and the success of their interventions. The second step involved a comprehensive review of the literature on conflict resolution and mediation, undertaken at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. The third step in the research centered on examining the Neighborhood Coalition for Conflict Resolution established as a community-based organization in Bellevue Manor, Ottawa, and the Felix Varela Program on Alternative Methods for Conflict Resolution, in Havana. Lessons from both experiences helped to identify organizational and methodological issues that must be considered when establishing a community-based mediation service in Cuba. These issues are discussed in Chapter 5 of this report and include such things as identifying a community's conflict resolution needs; deciding on the mandate and the services that will best serve those needs; determining the long-term and short-term goals of the service; deciding on the organizational structure; and, involving community residents from the start as well as representatives from key institutions and service providers.

This research revealed that community conflicts exist in Atares as in any other neighborhood and that issues related to housing conditions, life together, problems with water supply, as well as small crimes and delinquency are frequent. It also found that the local institutions often approached by residents to assist with conflicts were not originally conceived to perform a conflict resolution function. In many instances they fail to find mutually satisfying and lasting solutions. Lack of knowledge and skills prevents them from bringing the contending parties together to find a mutually satisfying solution that preserves the relationship.

Establishing a community-based mediation service in Cuba seems timely. Doing so within an existing organization seems the most feasible option. The Workshops for Comprehensive Transformation of Neighborhoods are being recommended because of their close links to neighborhood residents, their professional staff, and their mission of social transformation. The final chapter of this research report offers a number of suggestions to guide the implementation of a community-based mediation service within this office. Among other issues, it highlights the importance of meeting with community members and representatives of local agencies to articulate their conflict resolution needs, concerns and suggestions. It is also suggested that representatives from local agencies and civil organizations be included in the policy and advisory bodies of the service, and that partnerships with municipal service provider agencies be established. And it emphasizes the need for securing qualified conflict resolution training and supervision.

María Carla Alzugaray Rodríguez, 25 August 2003

Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Fellow

Venera Galyamova

Beneficiary country

Kazakhstan

Country of study

People's Republic of China

Scholarly work and Publications



Some Problems on Political Ideology in the Context of Transformation Process in China: 'Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences' N°2, pp 66-80, 2001 (in Russian).

The state –It is we are! (About Bureaucracy in China): 'Continent' N°17, pp.21-23 September 2001 (in Russian), www.continent.kz

Ethnic separatism in today's Xinjiang: 'Central Asia's Affairs', N°1, 2003 (in English).

The current situation and perspectives of the problem of Ethnic separatism in Xinjiang: 'Kazakhstan-Spectrum', N°1, 2004.

Born on 26 October 1976 in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Last degree obtained

Almaty State University, Kazakhstan: "Historian Orientalist" (1998).

Contact

almatyvenera@yandex.ru
venera@kisi.kz

Place of Research

Office of Political Development
Government of Autonomous Region of Xinjiang-Uighur Urumki, Xinjiang, People's Republic of China

Research undertaken

from September to November 2002

The characteristics of the ethnic policy of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomous Region in the contemporary world: dialogue and methods of population pacification

The research in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous region was carried out in the framework of the project “The characteristics of the policy of the government of People’s Republic of China (PRC) in Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomus Region (XUAR) in the modern times: Dialogue and methods of pacification of the population”. Its goal was to examine in practice the methods of control of ethnic minorities, and to determine the traditional roots and new elements of those methods.

In administering the province of XUAR, the Chinese authorities were forced to utilize special methods, which I have analysed.

In the course of my work, I discovered some features, which confirm that the state of China possesses a traditional character. These include: the conception about “the past greatness/power of the state that must be revived”, a specific political system of PRC that is used by the authorities as an effective instrument for preservation of their own power; traditional political culture that is still extremely conservative, apolitical and patriarchal, etc. But the Chinese state is experiencing transformation and its ethnic policy is also being transformed.

Innovations that can be observed in the policy of the Chinese government at present are very important, although still rather superficial and tentative. At first sight it seems that reforms planned for Xinjiang are predominantly pursuing economic goals (they will have “cultivated” and integrated the region with the rest of the country). But in my opinion, a big shift may be expected sooner in the sphere of culture and in the relations between the state and the society. Even today we are witnessing a new phenomenon: the ethnic culture that influenced completely the individual

consciousness of every member of the ethnic minority of Xinjiang and formed their personal outlook in the past has now changed. Ethnic cultures are now being sidelined, while a massive pop-culture is rapidly being formed and modifications are brought into the personnel selection of the state. I think that the current “spasmodic” development initiated by Beijing in Xinjiang to lead the province to a rapid economic transformation has another important goal - to preserve the existing traditional political culture in its current condition, and to make the transformation of the society unilateral.

On the whole, the emergence of the new political course of action in Xinjiang must be seen as a result of a long-term evolution of the Chinese state. And all those processes in ethnic policy are controlled by the authorities and were chosen by the government for its own empowerment. (...)

Also examined in the course of the research were the general distinctive features of the local political atmosphere in Xinjiang. This atmosphere is created by the particularities of the political process and political culture there. It was precisely this atmosphere and also the strategic plans and goals of the Chinese government that determined the necessity of implementing the current ethnic policy.

Venera Galyamova, 9 November 2002

Field of study:

Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Fellow

Leslie Arthur Wilmot Shyllon

Beneficiary country

Sierra Leone

Country of study

Liberia



**Born on 27 July 1969
in Freetown, Sierra Leone**

Last degree obtained

University of Edinburgh,
School of Divinity, Centre
for the Study of Christianity
in the Non-Western World,
Scotland: Master of
Theology (M.Th.) 1994.

Scholarly work and Publications

*Preparing Youth for
Responsible Adulthood:
The Challenges of the Church:
Paper delivered at the Biennial
Conference of the West African
Association of Theological
Institutions (WAATI), at
Baptist Theological Seminary,
Ogbomoso, Oyo State,
Nigeria, August 2000. This
paper forms part of the book:
Religion, Morality and lea-
dership
in West African Society,
August 2002.*

*The Church in Peace
Initiatives; A Sierra Leone
Perspective: Paper delivered
at All Africa Conference
of Churches (AACC),
Consultative Meeting in Cape
Town, South Africa, Nov. 2001.*

Contact

shyloba@yahoo.co.uk

Place of Research

New African Research
and Development Agency
(NARDA), Monrovia, Liberia

Research undertaken

from January
to April 2003

Religious Collaboration in Conflict Resolution: The Sierra Leone Experience

This paper attempts the bold task of a general exploration of conflict in sub-Saharan Africa and placing the Sierra Leone conflict within existing thinking on conflict and conflict resolution in Africa.

Some key insights

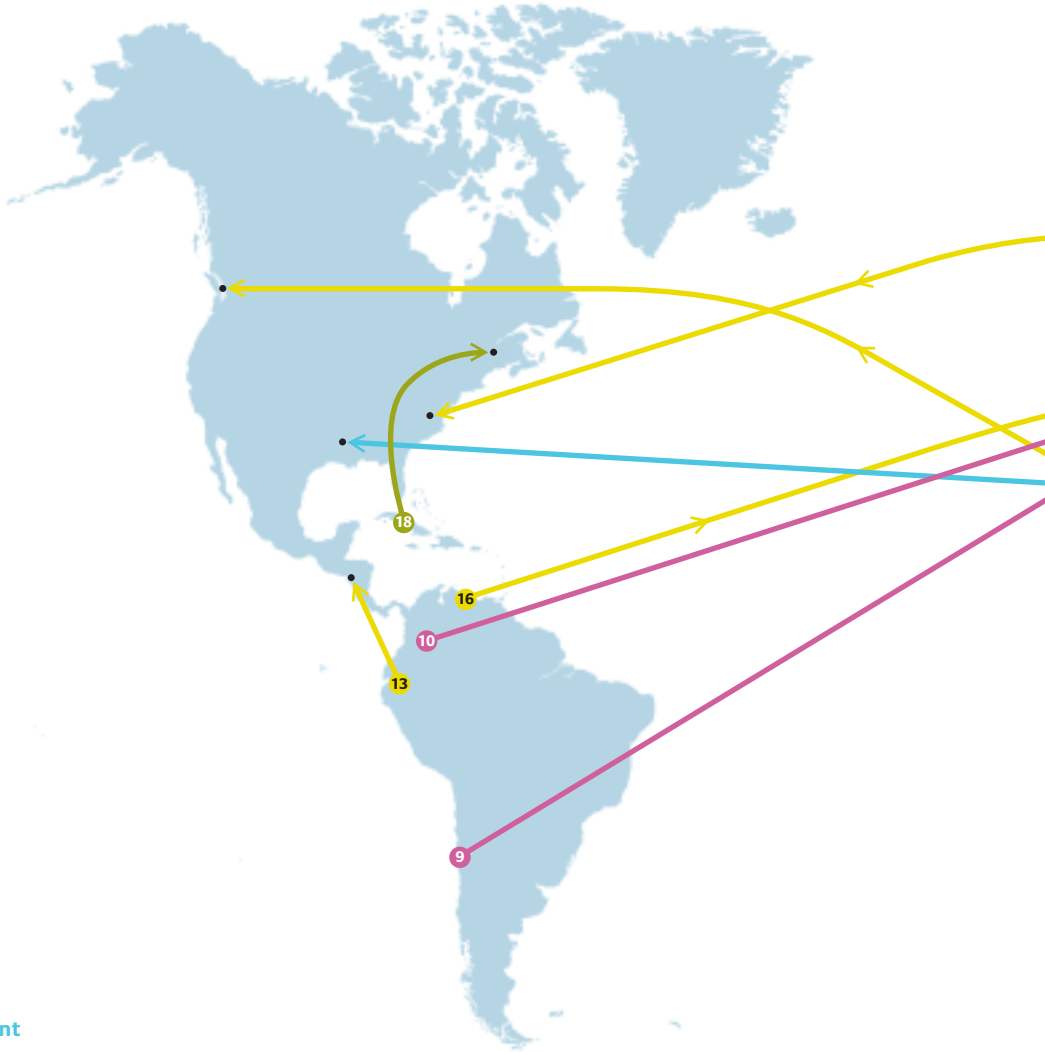
- As a key player among other civil society groups, the Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL) showed remarkable resolve and great initiative in facilitating dialogue and building confidence among the different parties involved in the conflict, both prior to and after the Lome peace talks. It also earned the respect of civil society, the parties to the conflict and the international community. This respectable status was achieved through a series of actions, which included consultative meetings with all key players in the crisis, press releases, experience sharing, prayers and the preaching of God's message of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Another significant and commendable move of IRCSL in their bid for peace was its visit to Monrovia prior to the Lome talks. This initiative helped to recognise and place Charles Taylor as a key player capable of prevailing on the rebels to lay down their arms.
- Even though religious leaders make a practical appeal that justice should be tempered with mercy, peace without justice would be rather meaningless.
- The Peace Agreement in Lome granted amnesty to those who perpetrated grievous and widespread violations of human rights, but this does not mean that amnesty is absolution. The wounds in society can only be healed if truth is confronted, as peace is not resolved in covenants and charters alone, but in the hearts and minds of individuals.
- The right to be heard, which strongly echoes the fundamental principles of natural justice, can provide meaningful inroads for a stable post-conflict society if a 'holistic' hearing is established within the parameters of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Both perpetrators and victims must be given the opportunity to tell their stories.

Useful Recommendations

- Judging from the Sierra Leone situation, religious cooperation can be recommended as a useful mechanism for conflict resolution, in societies which share similar historical and social orientations.
- The creation of an inter-religious working group within the Mano River Basin can be a viable channel for addressing and resolving both potential and actual conflict situations within the region. Where such a situation is appropriate and applicable, religious cooperation by networking, meaningful dialogue and advocacy should be a continuous process. It should be proactive, focusing on conflict prevention, rather than reactive to conflicts when they have begun.
- The nature of religious tolerance and cooperation in the Sierra Leone context serves as a check on fundamentalism and religious bigotry. This value can be exported to other parts of the region as a lesson for safeguarding society from the ills and excesses of religious conflict.
- In every society, whether affluent or developing, religion should serve as the conscience of the people. Thus, religious leaders should always and at all times be the conscience of the people and the voice of the voiceless.

Leslie A. W. Shyllon, 3 May 2003

The UNESCO / Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme 2002. Where did the fellows go?



Environment



fellows' country / territory

Country / territory of study

1 Azerbaijan	Russian Federation
2 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	People's Republic of China
3 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	People's Republic of China
4 Egypt	United States of America
5 Myanmar	Japan
6 Togo	Benin
7 Palestinian Authority	Gaza and United Kingdom
8 Palestinian Authority	Morocco

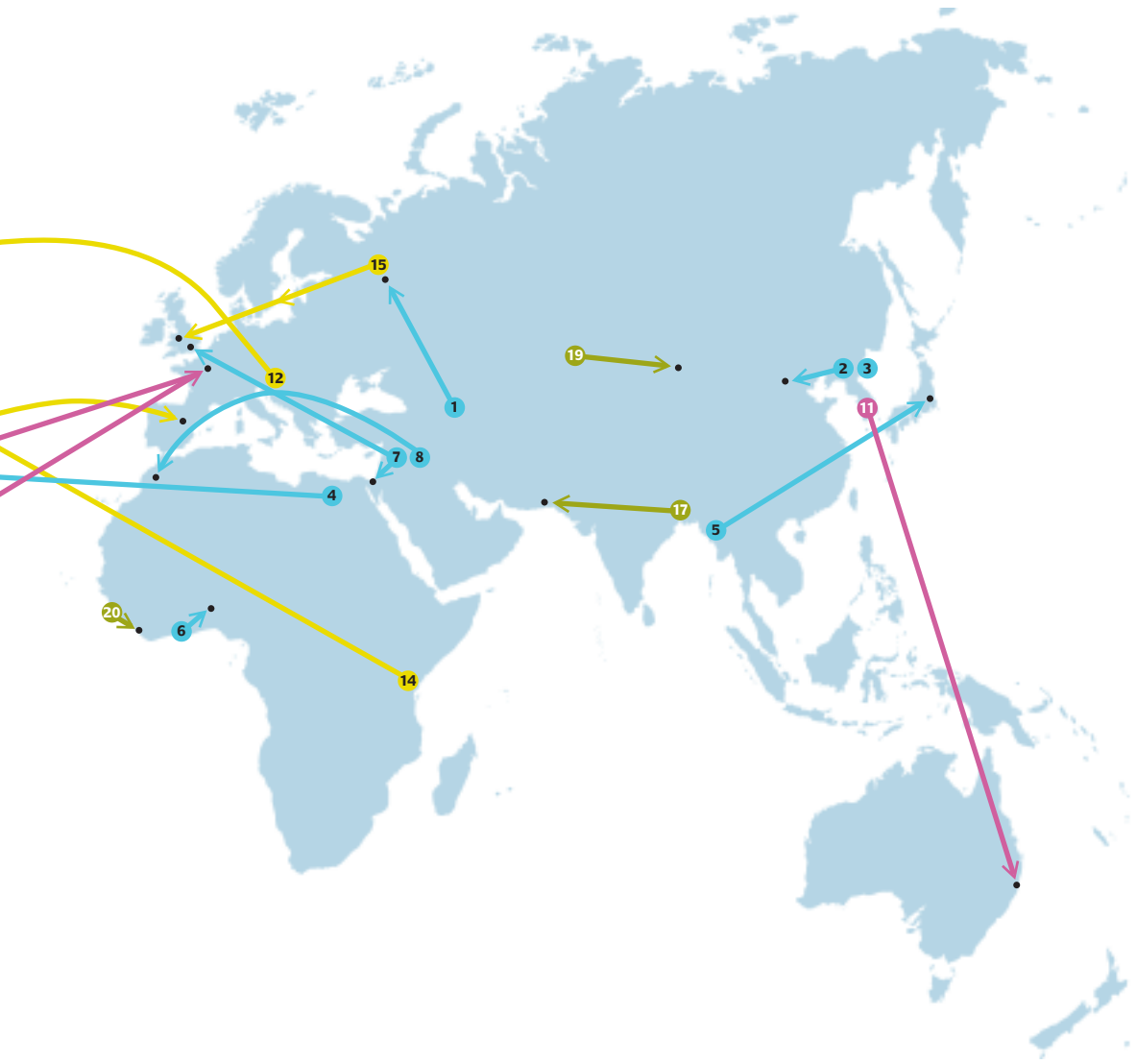
Intercultural Dialogue



fellows' country / territory

Country of study

9 Chile	France
10 Colombia	France
11 Republic of Korea	Australia



Information and Communication Technologies



12	Croatia	United States of America
13	Ecuador	Costa Rica
14	Kenya	Canada
15	Russian Federation	United Kingdom
16	Venezuela	Spain

Peaceful Conflict Resolution



17	Bangladesh	Pakistan
18	Cuba	Canada
19	Kazakhstan	People's Republic of China
20	Sierra Leone	Liberia

2002

	Environment	Intercultural Dialogue	Communication & Information	Peaceful Conflict Resolution	Men	Women	Total	\$ Value
Africa	1	-	1	1	2	1	3	22 500
Arab States	3	-	-	-	2	1	3	22 500
Asia and Pacific	3	1	-	2	5	1	6	45 000
Europe and North America	1	-	2	-	3	-	3	22 500
Latin America and the Caribbean	-	2	2	1	3	2	5	37 500
Total	8	3	5	4	15	5	20	150 000

