



MANAGEMENT
OF SOCIAL
TRANSFORMATIONS

Newsletter
10
2001



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The Role of the Social and Human Sciences in the Fight Against Poverty

Globalization today is not innocuous. Its characteristics – the expansion and strengthening of market relationships and rapid scientific and technological progress – are complex processes that have both positive and negative effects on our societies. Whilst the exchange of goods, investments, human resources, information and knowledge is accelerated, newly-created wealth is unfairly distributed, aggravating inequality and poverty. Globalization also plays a major role in the standardisation of cultures, to the detriment of cultural diversity, one of the very veins of dynamism within our societies. Consequently, the effect of globalization on people's everyday lives is being increasingly challenged at an international level.

Poverty is not just economic, it is social, political and cultural. It undermines human rights – economic (the right to work and have an adequate income), social (access to health care and education), political (freedom of thought, expression and association) and cultural (the right to maintain one's cultural identity and be involved in a community's cultural life). Poverty results from the violation of these rights, rights that must be respected to ensure the dignity of all. This is why poverty-related issues must be tackled through an approach based on the effective implementation of human rights and the associated obligations of States and the international community.



Reducing poverty has at last become an international priority. UNESCO engages to fight against poverty in partnership with its Member States, civil society and other UN agencies. As an intellectual forum and a standard-setter, UNESCO's job is to assist, through research and action, in describing the process of impoverishment in various social contexts, pinpointing the obstacles to eliminating it and recommending suitable educational, scientific and socio-economic policies. As Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences, in charge of coordinating and leading the anti-poverty programme, I have undertaken

"Today's world?"
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to engage the UNESCO secretariat in an effort to boost intersectoral cooperation as well as cooperation between institutions within the UN system.

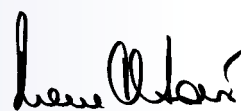
The task of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, with its social science, human rights, philosophy and ethics research capacities, is to design and recommend strategies and policies that will engage national actors such as the government, civil society (NGOs, the private sector) and the academic community, in finding solutions to the problems that threaten human rights.

The MOST Programme intends to encourage the work of research/action in order to better understand and analyse the issues and social and economic systems involved. The job of MOST, as an international scientific programme, is to provide the necessary support to the academic community in its work of producing knowledge about social transformations, to help to convey the findings to decision-makers and social consumers and to coordinate research networks to boost exchanges between those working in the field of development. Based on such work, MOST aims to make recommendations so as to draw political decision-makers and social agents into the battle against inequality and poverty.

Biographical note:

Pierre Sané assumed his post as UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences on 7 May 2001.

Prior to this, from October 1992, he was the Secretary-General of Amnesty International. Before joining Amnesty, he worked for 15 years with the International Development Research Centre, a Canadian development aid organisation, first as regional director for Central and West Africa and then for Eastern and Southern Africa.



Pierre SANÉ

UNESCO Field Offices, National MOST Liaison Committees and UNESCO National Commissions are invited to submit to the Editor information on MOST activities for publication in upcoming editions of the Newsletter. Deadline for submission: 31 January 2002.

Ministries, NGOs, research councils, research institutions, universities and other UN Agencies working with social science research projects also may send information to the Editor for inclusion in this publication. This publication is distributed to Universities, Research Councils, Development Agencies and UN Agencies world-wide. It appears in English, French and Spanish.

The CD-ROM edition of the MOST Clearing House

Attached to this Newsletter, you will find the first CD-ROM edition of the UNESCO MOST Clearing House. It contains the complete website of the MOST Programme and presents all online available publications, including over 50 Discussion and Policy papers, the databases on constitutional linguistic and religious rights, the collections of Best Practices in development and in indigenous knowledge, the earlier issues of the Newsletter and the full collection of articles of the MOST e-Journal on Multicultural Societies.

Getting started

To start the CD-ROM, insert it into the CD-ROM Player of your computer (PC and Macintosh). The CD-ROM should start automatically.

Troubleshooting

In case the Autostart is switched off, go into the CD-ROM directory where you can directly start the CD-ROM by clicking on the "Start.htm" file.

Order the CD-ROM

You may also order the CD-ROM free of charge directly from: ssmost@unesco.org or from the MOST Programme, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France [PDG/HP]

Disclaimer: Please note that the content of the CD-ROM is not available in all six UNESCO official languages.





AN INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

LAUNCH AT THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE!

UNESCO Publications and Earthscan are launching a book and a training manual at UNESCO's 31st General Conference (15 October – 3 November 2001).

The first, entitled "Growing up in an Urbanizing World" features eight case studies of groups of young adolescents who have evaluated conditions for youth in their urban environments in Argentina, Australia, England, India, Norway, Poland, South Africa and the United States, as well as several examples of action taken to improve environmental conditions.

The second, entitled "Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth" is a do-it-yourself manual of methods for youth to work together with adults to assess their neighbourhoods, define priorities for improvements, and bring about change. The books were written in the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Agenda 21 from the United Nations Earth Summit and the Habitat Agenda from the Habitat II City Summit.

Delegates to the General Conference are invited to check their programme for the date of the Reception, during which the author of the manual will be present. For further information, check the Growing Up in Cities website at www.unesco.org/most/growing.htm. Click on the book titles under "Publications."

[NA & Louise Chawla, International Coordinator, Growing Up in Cities]

UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme started in 1994, designed as an experience in social science that was innovative in several respects: i) it was the first intergovernmental social science research and policy programme to be created in a UN Specialized Agency; ii) it aimed at fostering interdisciplinary and comparative research on important areas such as multicultural societies, international migrations, cities and urbanisation, local-global linkages, poverty, governance and sustainability, that was defined to be truly international by design, conceptualisation, methodology and participation, and (iii) its over-arching long-term objective was to enhance the linkages between social science research and policy-making, as well as various social and economic actors, such as NGOs, the media and the private sector.

The major modality in developing the programme was the setting up of large regional and international networks involving researchers and various users of social science, particularly city authorities and NGOs. Some 18 networks have been operating since 1995. MOST also has been participating in more operationally-oriented development projects, providing expertise in its domains, as well as engaging in capacity-building.

The first phase of MOST, from 1994 to 2001 is near completion. An external mid-evaluation was conducted in 1998, and a more complete one, covering the whole of the first phase, will be conducted as of Autumn 2001. The second phase will span 2002-2009.

MOST has been usefully contributing – albeit modestly, given the disproportion between its resources and the wide range of demands and challenges – to fostering international research and policy-making on social transformations. Indeed, there is now an increasing awareness about the necessity for social science research to become more international, since the issues on which our disciplines work are becoming increasingly global and a number of major decisions influencing the daily lives of citizens are made at the global level.

We are confident that in its second phase, MOST will continue to be an effective instrument to foster the production of policy-relevant knowledge on social transformation.

Ali KAZANCIGIL
Executive Secretary, MOST Programme

News from **mST** Projects and Comparative Research Networks (CRNs)

● Multicultural and Multi-ethnic Societies

Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN)

For a complete overview of MOST activities under this heading visit: <http://www.unesco.org/most/most1.htm>

The APMRN Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Ford Foundation has decided to allocate US \$6,000 to each of the following projects:

- North Korean Defectors: their life and well-being after defection; project coordinated by the Korean Migration Research Network.
- Policy Study on Displaced Persons in the Era of Regional Autonomy: Case Study on displaced Persons in Pontianak, West

Kalimantan; project coordinated by Agus Dwiyanto, Population Studies Centre, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta Malaysia.

- Political Violence and Migration: Recent Acehnese Migration to Malaysia; project coordinated by Dr. Diana Wong, National University of Malaysia.

Additionally, the Foundation has awarded US\$2,500 to Robyn M. Rodriguez (Berkeley/Ateneo de Manila) for research into the issue of striking Filipino workers in Brunei, and USD\$1,500 to Dr Cynthia Hunter (Macquarie University, Sydney) to assist her

“Multi-colored, multi-cultural yet united”
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The Dades Valley
(Morocco)
© J. Morohashi

research into health risks to internally displaced persons in Kalimantan.

The reports from these research projects will be edited and printed in Wollongong, Australia. The APMRN and the Secretariat has committed part of the Ford Foundation Unallocated Budget to cover these associated costs. Congratulations to all successful applicants and thanks to all who submitted research proposals. For more information, please refer to <http://www.unesco.org/most/apmrn.htm>.

The APMRN is expanding into South Asia. We are pleased to welcome the following:

India:

Binod Khadria
Professor of Economics
and Chairperson
Zakir Husain Centre
for Educational Studies
School of Social
Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru
University
New Delhi 110067 India

Sri Lanka:

Dr. Malathi de Alwis
International Centre
for Ethnic Studies
8 Kynsey Terrace
Colombo 8 Sri Lanka

Bangladesh

Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui
Associate Professor
in Political Science
And Director, Research
Refugee and
Migratory Movements
Research Unit
University of Dhaka
Dhaka, 1000, Bangladesh

**Discussion paper on
Managing cultural, ethnic
and religious diversity**

The project on 'Managing cultural, ethnic and religious diversity' was concluded in 2001 with a publication of Discussion paper n° 50, 'Managing cultural, ethnic and religious diversities on local, state and international levels in Central Europe: the case of Slovakia' by Dov Ronen. [PDG]

**Monitoring of Ethnic Relations:
Russian Federation, Central Asia,
Eastern Europe**

Four new case studies have taken place following the general project model for monitoring of ethnic relations: Republic of Chuvashia, Republic of Udmurtia, Stavropol

Krai and Tomsk Oblast. The monographs of these Republics and regions are available in Russian only. A comparative overview with policy recommendations based on the data collection and analysis of ethnic relations in 18 countries/republics/regions of the former Soviet Union will be published end 2001. [PDG]

**Indigenous Knowledge
and Sustainable Livelihoods
in Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) / Integrated Action Research and Development (IARD) implements a MOST project to develop a manual and a core trainer team on the use of indigenous knowledge in improving livelihoods. Regional training workshops are taking place from June 2001 to March 2002 in 8 regions in Bangladesh (Dhaka, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Khulna, Barishal, Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Sylhet), inviting experts from different disciplines, NGOs, CBOs, governmental agencies and indigenous organizations. The project aims at raising awareness among development workers and researchers on the practical use of indigenous knowledge including better understanding of its socio-cultural aspects so as to encourage this information in development enterprises and natural resource management. [JM]

●● Urban Issues

For a complete overview of MOST activities under this heading visit: <http://www.unesco.org/most/most2.htm>

Urban Research Networks

City Words

Jean-Charles Depaule and Christian Topalov, on behalf of the MOST-CNRS (the French National Scientific Research Centre) network, organised a number of regional seminars in 1999 and 2000. They included:

- Italian language network (Genoa, 2000): this produced a MOST discussion paper, "Le parole della città," written by Brigitte Marin (to be published).
- The Arab World (Tunis, 2000): Jean-Charles Depaule and Isabelle Grangaud wrote a MOST discussion paper called "The Arab World" (to be published).
- Czech linguistic area (Prague, 1999): this resulted in a MOST discussion

paper, "Mesto-korzo," comparing city language in Slav languages, written by Laurent Bazac-Billaud forthcoming. [GS]

UNESCO Publishing and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme jointly launched a series of studies in 2001 called "City Words", with the aim of:

- Understanding cities through written and symbolic sources and from oral surveys.
- Promoting and publicising the findings of this international comparative research network.

The first titles in the series are:

1. **Nommer les nouveaux territoires urbains.** Hélène Rivière d'Arc (ed). 279 pp.
2. **La Division de la ville.** Christian Topalov (ed). (appearing soon).
3. **Les catégories de l'urbain.** Brigitte Marin (ed). (appearing end 2001) [GS]

Latin America Memorial,
Sao Paolo (Brazil)
© G. Solinis



Cities, the Environment and Social Relations between Men and Women

This international comparative research network, funded by the Swiss government aid agency and Switzerland's MOST national liaison committee, has met every September since 1997. The third seminar was held in Guarujá (Brazil) in 1999 to work on the final report of the project's first phase. A meeting was organised by MOST in Havana last year. It drew up a programme for publicising the network's scientific achievements, as well as a strategy for influencing urban and environmental decision-making.



Construction of
septic tanks
in Yeumbeul, Senegal
© G. Domenach-Chich

- The network has completed its first phase and a final report entitled, “Pouvoir des femmes, relations de genre et environnements urbains précaires”, has been written (see publications section). A programme has been set up to extend the research/action process by passing on the findings to communities concerned, as well as to decision-makers and those carrying out urban development.
- The Swiss government aid agency has agreed to continue backing the network’s plans for the 2001-2004 period. A seminar was held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 22-29 September 2001 and debated new working methods.
- As a result of this experiment in “gender mainstreaming,” the MOST Secretariat is holding talks about implementing intersectoral projects within UNESCO. The purpose is to expand the Programme’s capacity to respond to groups that wish to establish a system of indicators to measure and monitor the process of empowerment, gender and urban governance. [GS]

Urban Development

Cities project

Implementation of the research/action project “Cities: Management of Social Transformations and the Environment” is still in progress, notably at Yeumbeul-Malika (Dakar, Senegal), Jalousie (Port-au-Prince, Haiti) and Phnom Penh (Cambodia). Each of the project’s sites has been assessed by an external evaluator (see <http://www.unesco.org/most/mostmab2.htm>) and a MOST policy paper (no. 8: Fight Urban Poverty: a General Framework for Action), has been published. The paper stresses the importance of having institutional means to link neighbourhood organisations, development NGOs and national and local political bodies to ensure the sustainability of the work accomplished by the community inhabitants and to improve their ability to negotiate. [GDC]

Urban development in coastal areas

• Lab-Houses

In the context of “Small Historical Coastal Cities” managed by MOST and the Science and Culture Sectors, the principal network of Mediterranean towns is testing the possibility of replicating and sustaining a particularly successful activity initiated in the medina of Mahdia (Tunisia) with the cooperation and the scientific contribution of the architectural schools of Nantes, Bordeaux and Rabat and the department of urbanism of the Lebanese University of Beyrouth. By re-using a house belonging to or given to the municipality, and situated in one of the most run-down areas of the old city, experts show inhabitants how they can improve their housing and their urban environment whilst preserving and optimising traditional construction techniques. The passing on of such skills not only helps the social and economic reintegration of young people, but also takes advantage of the knowledge of experienced craftspeople. Young architecture students participate by carrying out socio-economic surveys that will be used to help inject new life into the old parts of the city. A video on the pilot project in Mahdia is being prepared and will serve as a teaching tool for other towns in the network. The local people in charge of the Mahdia project will also be engaged to work on forthcoming projects. The 2001 summer work session assembled French, Tunisian and Moroccan students with the aim of developing south-south cooperation. [BC]

• Action plan for Saida (Lebanon)

Following the seminar “Balanced Urban Development: Earth, Sea and Society” (28-31 May 2001) UNESCO’s natural sciences, social sciences and culture sectors are looking at the state of Saida’s development and the possibility of materially helping the town via an integrated approach involving environment, heritage and society. A plan will be presented to the Lebanese authorities at the end of 2001. The three sectors have already identified the activities that need to be carried out, in particular the impact assessment of the projected architectural and infrastructural developments, and the French town of La Rochelle has already offered its

support for the plan. Other towns are interested by the project’s methodology and would like to be used as case studies in the context of this UNESCO network developed in the Venice office: Jableh (Syria), Volos (Greece), Kusadasi (Turkey), Poti (Georgia) and Kotor (Montenegro). [BC]

News from the National Liaison Committees:

The National Liaison Committees or Focal Points currently existing have initiated activities that need to be sustained. Efforts have been made to transfer results produced by the projects to policy-makers and other users in order to contribute to solving social problems.

In order to facilitate the communication between NLCs and decision-makers, the Secretariat has prepared a database for the use of the various MOST partners containing the names and addresses of all NLCs world-wide. This Database is available on the MOST Clearing House. The latest version can also be obtained through the MOST Secretariat (c.milani@unesco.org). [CM]

Countries where MOST National Liaison Committees or Focal Points exist today are:
 Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

●●● Globalisation and Governance

For a complete overview of MOST activities under this heading visit: <http://www.unesco.org/most/most3.htm>

Globalisation and Governance Networks

Concluded projects: Institutional Modernisation of Social Policies in Latin America; Sustainability as a Social Sciences Concept; and the ALFA Network on Local Development Policies; Mercosur: Spaces of Interactions, Spaces of Integration; Social and Economic Transformations connected with the International Drug Problem; and Globalisation, Structural Adjustment and the Transformations of Rural Societies in Arab Mediterranean Countries; Circumpolar Coping Processes Project; Project on Personal and Institutional Strategies for the Management of Transformation Risks in Central and Eastern Europe. Please refer to <http://www.unesco.org/most/most3.htm>. [CM]

Social and Economic Transformations connected with the International Drug Trafficking

This MOST network has produced three publications in 2000 and 2001:

- the special issue of the French periodical "Monde en développement" (2000) on comparative perspectives of local strategies of drug trafficking in Brazil, India and Mexico;
- the special issue of the International Social Science Journal (October 2001) which analyses the local impact of economic globalisation on the growth of drug trafficking;
- the final report (October 2001) of local context-led socioeconomic information on drug trafficking will be available on the CH of the MOST programme, and a CD-Rom with maps and local field research reports can be sent to universities, NGOs and research centers upon request.

Two UNESCO Chairs on Drug-Related Social Transformations are currently being set up in Mexico (Luis Astorga, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico-UNAM) and Brazil (Lia Machado from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro-UFRJ, Alba Zaluar

Pajala Community,
Sweden
© A. Lund & Pajala community





Poppy harvest
in India

© Central Bureau of Narcotics,
Ministry of Finance,
Government of India.

from Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro-UERJ and Roberto Araújo from Museu Goeldi). Detailed information is available on www.unesco.org/most/drugs.htm. [CM]

Globalisation, Structural Adjustment and the Transformations of Rural Societies in Arab Mediterranean Countries

After four years of intensive field work, MOST and IRMC (Institut de Recherches sur le Maghreb Contemporain) are publishing in 2001 the results of the analyses on the evolution of rural development in the Mediterranean region. The main elements of this publication, coordinated by Mohammed Elloumi (IRMC) are methods to understand changes in family agricultural systems, the impact of the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation zone on rural settings, new systems of production, and the role of civil society agents in mixed economies. [CM]

Economic globalisation and rights in Mercosur (GEDIM)

The monetary crisis that hit Brazil in January 1999 revived the tumult set off by the largely unpredictable forces of globalisation. Social, economic, transactional and financial

parameters are crucial for the Mercosur countries because the regional body has no institutions to cope with the new situations created by globalisation and cannot provide the necessary regulation. In response to this need, MOST launched a research project “Economic Globalisation and Rights in Mercosur” in January 2000, involving researchers, administrators, operators and leaders of Mercosur. Although globalisation has been widely studied, it has rarely been considered by teams composed of legal experts working in several disciplines and even less by scientists and other specialists in Latin America’s Southern Cone, where globalisation has had an especially big impact.

The project will enable various research disciplines to share concepts and a common language through compilation of a dictionary and glossary of legal and political terms concerning globalisation. The programme will also list standards and procedures used in relationships between firms inside Mercosur, analyse the real effect of these standards on such relationships so as to pinpoint the pros, cons and gaps, and help rebuild legal structures by creating a “legal map” for the four member-countries. [CM]

Capacity-building

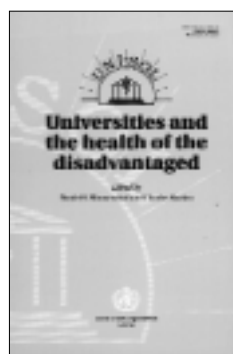
For a complete overview of MOST activities under this heading visit:

<http://www.unesco.org/shs/chairs-unitwin/most.htm>

<http://www.unesco.org/most/projects.htm#capacity>

MOST participation in Rio +10

The first intersectoral meeting on preparing for the World Sustainable Development Conference (Johannesburg, September 2002) decided that an intersectoral working group would be directly responsible for producing a report called "UNESCO and Sustainable Development," as well as for boosting UNESCO's profile during the summit. [BC/CVF]



- State-of-the-art research and methodology, interdisciplinary curricula and overall university commitment to sustainable development will be reviewed during an international conference gathering UNESCO Chair holders and Co-ordinators at Santiago, Chile, in April 2002. This meeting is to contribute to UNESCO's Rio+10 preparation. [CVF]
- The UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Development at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro is currently producing a film highlighting the specific contribution that participatory action-research is making to sustainable development. The film and related training materials (CD-ROMs, publications) will commemorate the 5th anniversary of Paulo Freire's death in May 2002 and be incorporated in an overall university strategy for Rio+10. [CVF]
- The joint World Health Organization (WHO)-UNESCO Project UNISOL (Universities in solidarity for the health of the disadvantaged) launched an African UNISOL Chapter during a Regional Conference held at Nairobi, from 11-14 June 2001. A UNISOL training seminar scheduled for August 2001 at Biosphere 2, Arizona, USA, will gather selected field project leaders to enforce UNISOL criteria, namely codes of conduct in universities' work with disadvantaged communities, methodology for multi-dimensional and comprehensive approaches, and institutional change and sustainability. [CVF]
- Cooperation with the International Society of City and Regional Planners (IsoCaRP) will be strengthened by funding for a manual on the experience of 10 years of running workshops to

train young urban planners. There will be continued support for annual workshops (the next one to be held in the Netherlands in September 2001), and funding for the publication and distribution of papers of annual conferences of urban planners. [BC]

- The third meeting of the International Union of Architects (UIA) committee and UNESCO on the Charter for Architectural Education was held at UIA headquarters in Paris on 8 October 2001. The meeting put the finishing touches to the regional steering groups on research into the new social role of the architect and planned regional meetings, the first being Asia-Pacific and Africa, including North Africa. [BC/GS]

UNESCO Chair on Democratic Governance in Multicultural Societies

In the framework of the Kyrgyz project on Democratic Governance in Multicultural Societies, funded by the Swiss government, a UNESCO Chair has been established at the Academy of Management in Bishkek in September 2001. To obtain further information contact: Paul de Guchteneire at p.deguchteneire@unesco.org [PDG]

Network of city professionals

UNESCO-MOST has launched its "City Professionals" network based on innovative practices for young town planners. It consists of building up new interactive research and training courses for graduates, through various forms of university co-operation and resource networks with academic excellence in interdisciplinary areas related to urban management, planning and design. It is focused on the needs of government administrations,



ITESO,
Guadalajara,
Mexico
© G. Solinis

NGO's and inhabitants. This will be formed with teams from Latin America that have innovative experience in university teaching and training in urban planning.

A preparatory workshop at UNESCO headquarters in October 2001 conceived the operation of the network. A meeting of all network members is planned for early 2002. For more information, see www.unesco.org/most/cityprof.htm [GS]

ITESO-UNESCO Chair

A Chair for the "management of the habitat and urban sustainable development" was inaugurated in April 2001 at a seminar organised by ITESO (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente) in Guadalajara (Mexico) on the subject of "University and Society: towards Istanbul +5." This was part of Mexico's contribution to the action programme of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). [GS] For more information, see <http://www.catedraui.iteso.mx/>

The MOST PhD Award

Based on recommendations made by the Scientific Steering Committee in February 1999, MOST officially announced the 2000/2001 edition of the MOST PhD Award

in January 2000. The criteria for the Award were as follows:

- a) it would be given every two years to a national from either a developing country or a country in transition who had successfully upheld his/her doctorate on a subject based on a MOST Programme theme;
- b) the researcher should be no older than 35 on 1 August 2000;
- c) he/she should have upheld his/her doctorate in 1997 or after;
- d) he/she should provide a 15-to-25-page summary of the thesis, translated into English, French or Spanish.

The purpose of the MOST PhD Award is to encourage human resource development



in both developing countries and countries in transition, as well as to generate further knowledge in the field of contemporary social transformations.

The establishment of a network of young researchers working

on MOST themes is also envisaged, as a result of the First Training Workshop organized in Kathmandu in October 2001. This network

would become an integral part of a MOST Forum for Reflection helping in the design of new projects and their implementation in the field. The Award is mutually beneficial for both young social scientists in developing and transition countries, as well as for the Programme in identifying potential young researchers for new projects and networks.

[CM]

UNESCO Chair “A Training Programme for Careers in Sustainable Development”: Rabat seminar, March 2001

The UNESCO Chair specialized in the training programme of local development agents, set up in Spring 2000 at Bordeaux University III's Technical University Institute Michel de Montaigne promotes an academic and professional training programme for people involved in sustainable development. Through a network that brings together NGOs and training centres (universities and institutions) in France, Spain, Belgium, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Palestine, the Chair aims to encourage exchanges and publicise experience of training local development workers. Such people are called upon by local government as part of decentralisation policy, to be intermediaries, to mediate between local authorities, funding agencies and civil society with respect to development problems.

The aims of the Rabat seminar were to:

- a) Design a methodology to establish an inventory of specialized skills to train development workers in central and local government, NGOs and community groups.
- b) Assess the present training situation (curricula and teaching materials) and its shortcomings.
- c) Spell out how to link the ways academics and NGO professionals can establish a scientific programme about local governance and training local development workers. [CM/CVF]

MOST and UNDP in Cape-Verde

The project “Local Development Strategies in Tarrafal (Cape Verde),” funded by the UNDP and run by MOST, aims to devise a system for the various social agents in the town of Tarrafal, on the Cape Verdean island of Santiago, to decide on development priorities. This is based on the idea that local development can come from tourist development, effective use of natural resources and meeting social needs. The project has taken into account the social, environmental, economic and geographical elements of developing Tarrafal as a regional and national historical site by involving the town council, the local inhabitants (youth and school groups), as well as local development agents, especially the tourism sector. Educational material presenting the results of this project are available from the MOST Secretariat. [CM]

Relationship with/contributions to various UN bodies on issues relating to social development and poverty eradication

The MOST Programme makes regular contributions to meetings of the General Assembly, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission for Social Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Committee for Development Policy, the Commission for Social Development etc. on issues relating to social development and poverty eradication.

Copenhagen + 5 (Geneva, 26 June – 1 July 2000)

MOST contributed numerous policy-proposals to help achieve the goals in the Copenhagen Declaration. These proposals related, inter alia, to poverty eradication and social integration, and some of them were included in the draft Geneva Outcome Document which was negotiated before and during the Special Session. [CG]

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The U.N. Secretary-General's call for all Agencies to contribute to the development goal of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015, led UNESCO to develop a strategy for its contribution to this objective. The preparation of the documents that led to the formulation of UNESCO's long-term strategy was conferred by the Executive Board on the MOST programme and on an intersectoral network under the leadership of the Social and Human Sciences Sector.

Opposite is an excerpt from UNESCO's Poverty Eradication Strategy as it appears in the Organization's draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007.

Chair on Poverty Alleviation and Capacity Building

The University of Jordan has officially submitted this proposal to UNESCO. Its aim is to substantially augment and enhance the newly established Social Work programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities by strengthening its interdisciplinary nature and making it more attuned to current global trends and practices vis-à-vis development. The Chair will begin with research on the impact of micro-credit schemes initiated by the government and the use of research findings for future policy making. The Chair is expected to link up with the World Bank's Global Poverty Network. It is to be launched during the 2nd semester school year 2002.

[Robert Parua, UNESCO Amman (r.parua@unesco.org.jo), NA & XCS]

For a complete overview of MOST activities under this heading visit:
<http://www.unesco.org/most/povhome.htm>

UNESCO's Poverty Eradication Strategy

UNESCO has been called upon by its Member States, through various General Conference resolutions and Executive Board decisions, to make its specific contribution to poverty reduction through the design of an appropriate long-term strategy. The Executive Board concurred with the Director-General's subsequent proposal that poverty eradication be selected as a cross-cutting theme for the activities of the Organization as a whole.

UNESCO is well placed, as the United Nations system's intellectual and ethical organization, to advocate the moral as well as the political imperative of poverty eradication. Poverty eradication is a significant condition for world peace and security and a question of human dignity.

Promoting the right to development and education will therefore be one of UNESCO's tasks, complemented by advocacy in favour of solidarity among humankind – both between countries and between populations divided by growing disparities.

The educational, cultural and science-related dimensions of poverty and anti-poverty policies are often neglected. Although the poverty paradigm has evolved from merely financial and monetary measures and definitions ("less than US\$1 a day") towards more human-centred concepts, such as deficiencies in "human capabilities", lack of social capital, vulnerability, lack of dignity, such broadened definition and understanding is rarely reflected in policies, strategies and policy documents.

For UNESCO, poverty is a denial of basic human rights and is today of concern to all societies. The injustices, exclusions, deprivations and inequalities that poverty, and especially extreme poverty, engenders and, above all their causes, must effectively be dealt with, if social justice and cohesion, economic and social progress, democracy and ultimately peace are to be further strengthened. Extreme poverty today affects 1.2 billion persons, of which three quarters live and work in rural areas.

UNESCO's contribution to poverty eradication, in particular extreme poverty, will be developed in accordance with the following objectives:

- To contribute to a broadening of the focus of international and national poverty reduction strategies through the introduction and mainstreaming of education, culture, the sciences and communication with a view to creating a pro-poor policy environment and requisite capacities.
- To support the establishment of effective linkages between national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development frameworks, focusing on UNESCO's areas of competence, and to help mobilise social capital by building capacity and institutions, especially in the public domain, with a view to enabling the poor to enjoy their rights.
- To improve national policy frameworks and environment for empowerment and participatory methods.

We emphasize "the need to provide policy advice on poverty in all its dimensions and specificities, including migration, drugs, urban violence and exclusion, in line with the strategy for the cross-cutting theme on eradication of poverty, and to provide for pertinent extension mechanisms (Ref: 31C/11, Recommendations by the Executive Board on the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007, Para 52)".

MOST MEETINGS RECENT

For a more complete overview of MOST meetings please visit
<http://www.unesco.org/most/meetings.htm>

Intermediary cities and world-wide urbanisation

(Beirut, Lebanon, 20-22 September 2001).

The third seminar of the UIA/CIMES (medium-sized or intermediate city) /UNESCO working group on "Intermediary cities and world-wide urbanisation" has been co-organised with the Order of Engineers and Architects. Two other seminars are planned in 2002 for the Asia-Pacific region and Western Europe in the run-up to the World Congress of Architects in Berlin in July 2002. [BC]

The Working Group of the International Union of Architects (UIA) brought together 300 experts from Latin America in Resistencia (Argentina) in December 2000. All were involved in urban planning: as town officials, local authorities, academics, researchers, professionals and development workers. For more information, see www.paeria.es/cimes [GS]

International Conference on "Social Sciences in the Arab World Today"

(Marrakech, 18 - 22 September 2001)

Organized jointly by the French and Moroccan National Commissions for UNESCO, the Seminar took stock of the developments in the social sciences in the Arab world and the role that the social sciences play in society. Specific issues include new information and communications technologies, migration and diasporas, health, urbanisation, education, management of natural resources, identities, policy development. [PDG]

IsoCaRP/UNESCO-MOST Young Planners Workshop

(Enschede, The Netherlands, 13-15 September 2001)

The 37th annual UNESCO/International Society of City and Regional Planners City Professionals (IsoCaRP): Young Planners Workshop was organized previous to the congress and the results of their work will be presented during the closing session on the "Planning in the Information Age". The recombination of cultural, socio-economic and political systems has important effects on time and space patterns and therefore, on all professional fields related to City and Regional planning. [BC]

Governance and Democracy in Mexico

(UNESCO headquarters, 4 July 2001)

The MOST programme and Mexico's permanent delegation to UNESCO staged this round-table, in which Mexican scholars Jaime Preciado, Isabel Blanco, Alberto Aziz and Enrique Valencia took part, with commentary from Georges Couffignal and Guy Hermet. A MOST discussion paper will be available before the end of the year. [GS]

Preparing UNESCO's contribution to the Second World Social Forum

(UNESCO headquarters, 2-3 July 2001)

MOST organized a workshop to prepare for the next World Social Forum (WSF), to be convened in Porto (Brazil) from 31 January to 5 February 2002.

The workshop aimed to:

- Sum up the work of the round-table meetings in January 2001

- Take further the results of the discussions and plans for publications
- Begin a dialogue about how to prepare for the upcoming forum

For more information, see MOST Meetings at the MOST Clearing House site, www.unesco.org/most/wsfunescofr.htm [GS/CM]



World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil

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38th World Congress of Landscape Architects, “Asian Places for the New Millennium”

(Singapore, 28-29 June 2001)

The 38th World Congress of Landscape Architects was organized on the theme “Asian Places for the New Millennium “ by the International Federation of Landscape Architects and during this event the UNESCO Prize for Landscape Architecture was awarded to laureat, Ms. Sarah Bishop (New Zeland), at the end of the seminar. [BC]

Social Sciences and the Fight Against Poverty in West and Central Africa

(Yaounde, Cameroun, 19-22 June 2001)

This regional meeting underscored the synergy between UNESCO headquarters in Paris, its regional office in Dakar, its Central Africa office in Yaounde and the conference of West and Central African research and development ministers (COMRED-AOC), chaired by Camerounian scientific and technical research Minister Henri Hogbe Nlend. Scholars, NGOs and UN agency representatives from West and Central Africa confirmed, by their fervent engagement, their determination to work for the higher profile

of social science research in Africa, in the spirit of the MOST programme. The collective work had some very significant results and opened up perspectives likely to lead to a valuable social partnership between the researchers and the decision-makers in Africa. From my position as outgoing vice-president of the MOST Programme, I am pleased to have been able to play a part in this revival of the social sciences in Africa.

[Prof. Charly Gabriel Mbock, research director and scientific coordinator of the meeting, and NA].

“ Africa being the continent where social problems assume dramatic proportions on a daily basis, it was necessary for African researchers to explore universal concepts and use them to invent solutions tailored to the African continent. Poverty is one of these concepts. (...) The wealth of Africa has slipped out of Africa’s hands and, due to colonialism, is enjoyed by others. The debate on poverty too is in danger of slipping out of Africa’s hands: due to globalisation, it is conducted by others. (...) For many years, Africa’s scholars have been reading books; the continent has been a research topic for other people. This seminar calls on Africa’s scholars from now on to read in their own societies and become full partners in tackling the social issues decision-makers have to deal with ”.

Excerpts from Opening address by His Excellency Henri HOGBE NLEND, Minister of Scientific and Technical Research of Cameroon. President of the COMRED-AOC

A further output of this symposium has been the creation of the MOST National Liaison Committee for Cameroon. The official document establishing this Committee has been signed in person by the Prime Minister. The MOST Secretariat and the regional offices look forward to developing co-operation with this new NLC, and we thank the Government authorities for this initiative. [NA]

A Key Issue in Combating Poverty

(New York, 8 June 2001)

A special round table was organized by UNESCO during the HABITAT+5 Conference on “Participatory Governance” and held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The objective was to show how a participatory



Ait Benhaddou (Morocco)

© J. Morohashi

approach to governance operates as an essential element in the design and implementation of urban poverty reduction strategies. More than 60 people participated in the round table: researchers, NGOs, mayors, civil servants, UN agencies and bilaterale cooperation agencies. [GDC]

Living in the Landscape

(Rabat, Morocco, 7-8 June 2001)

This first seminar on heightening the awariness of public officials (government ministers and town councils) and teachers to the question of landscape in Morocco, was held at the National Architecture School in Rabat with the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinarian Institute, the Marrakesh faculty of letters and human sciences and the UNESCO office in Rabat. The universities of Montreal, Rome III, Reggio di Calabria and Bordeaux were associated with the meeting. The conference papers, to be published in French, will include the results of the seminar held at Essaouira on the area of social housing located between dunes and polluted lagoons. [BC]

MOST Circumpolar Coping Processes Project (CCPP) Concluding Conference

(Storjord, Norway, 6-10 June 2001)

Researchers and local actors in policy-making and business participated in the conference. They presented and discussed research findings and local initiatives concerning 'coping-strategies'. Outputs produced within Phase One (1996-2001) are: a shared theoretical and methodological understanding of the concept of 'coping-strategies'; establishment of the Nordic Research School on Local Dynamics. It was decided that research topics within Phase II will be: Cultural production of nature; how do we get youth back to the region?; what is and should be the role of the municipalities and what difference does development and variation of communication structure mean for the success of industrial development. A proposal was set forth for the eventual establishment of a UNESCO/MOST Chair at the University of Tromsø. The University has submitted an application to a Norwegian institution for extra-budgetary funding to cover new full time positions for this Chair. For more information, please look at <http://www.unesco.org/most/p91.htm> [CG]

Small Historical Coastal Cities

(Saida, Lebanon, 28-31 May 2001)

The third UNESCO international seminar on integrated urban development in coastal areas in the context of an inter-sectoral project (Sciences, Social Science and Culture) was held in response to a 1998 request by the mayor of Saida to the MOST Executive Secretary Ali Kazancigil.

Owing to the development of events in this region, the seminar took place on 28-31 May 2001 in Lebanon, at Saida's University Institute of Technology. The focus was on "Small historical coastal cities: Urban development – finding a balance among land, sea and people"

A report summarising major development issues was drawn up with the help of various UNESCO sectors, the UNESCO regional office in Beirut and offices in Venice and Tunis, and other actors involved in the development problems of Saida (former Phoenician city of Sidon, capital of southern Lebanon). An action plan will be based on this report. Partners to back the efforts of the Saida town council were chosen during the seminar's working sessions, and work will be able to begin in Spring 2002. The conference papers will be published in English, Arabic and French. [BC]



"Shadow of the city" Tokyo (Japan)

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Africa at the Crossroads: Complex Political Emergencies in the 21st century

(Douala, Cameroon, 21-23 May 2001)

This conference was organized by Ethno-Net Africa (ENA). The presented research papers ranged from "Patterns of state construction in multi-ethnic states", "The political economy of conflicts", "Dealing with the legacies of failed states" to "Reconstructing the state". The conference was also used as a mid-term review of the activities of ENA and helped to provide ENA participants with new orientations. To receive a copy of the Proceedings of the conference, please contact: Prof. Paul Nchoji Nkwi, Ethno-Net Africa Co-ordinator (icasrt@camnet.cm) [HP]

4th Meeting of the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN)

(Manila, Philippines, 19-22 March 2001)

The Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN), with the assistance of the Philippine Social Science Research Council convened this conference for representatives of member countries in the Asia-Pacific Migration Research Network. The conference was honoured by the presence of Congressman J.R. Nereus O. Acosta, Representative of the 1st District, Bukidnon, who delivered a stimulating address on the relevance of migration research for policy design. Representatives of the 14 national APMRN research networks were present at the Manila conference. This was followed by a one-day national workshop organized by PMRN held at the Philippine Social Science Centre in Diliman.

Short reports from all networks on their activities since the last international conference in Japan (September 1999) were compiled as a booklet and distributed, together with the APMRN Secretariat Report. The result was an indication of the astonishing diversity of research in the regional networks since 1995, which gave all attending a good indication of how far the APMRN network has progressed.

All country delegates presented papers that addressed the four themes identified for the conference, namely:

- a) the magnitude, trends and patterns of migration and settlement in countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the national and international factors that are associated with such trends;
- b) the implications of increased international migration on the nation-state system especially

- in the light of the growth of global markets and of the trends toward regional integration;
- c) the role and place of ethnic minorities in society and the problems associated with multiculturalism;
 - d) policy strategies aimed at addressing concerns arising from migration and ethnic diversity in the Asia-Pacific.

Oral reports were presented on the preliminary findings of the three Ford Foundation-funded projects that are currently operating: Female Migration in the Age of Globalisation in South East Asia (China, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, based in Bangkok); Return Migration and Development (Australia, Bangladesh, China and Vietnam, based in Wollongong); and Irregular Migration (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, based in Manila).

Papers from the conferences are currently being edited and reviewed, and will be available in book form in autumn 2002, from UNESCO Publishing. [NA]

Announcement:

The Fifth International Conference will be held in September, 2002, in the Pacific Islands, under the chairmanship of Professor Vijay Naidu, Chairperson of the APMRN and Professor at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Holding this Conference in the Pacific is also a follow-up to UNESCO's *Focus on the Pacific* which remains a key objective within the Social and Human Science Sector.

MOST Participation in the World Social Forum: Democracy and World Governance in the 21st Century

(Porto Alegre, 29-30 January 2001)

MOST and UNESCO's Democracy Unit organised two round-table discussions on:

- Civil society and the public domain, with the theme of "Non-government agents in democratic governance."
- Democratisation of world authority, and more specifically "Links between governments, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector in promoting the public interest."

For the list of participants, see www.unesco.org/most/most3.htm [GS/CM]

5th Session of the Intergovernmental Council

(UNESCO Headquarters, 14-17 March 2001)

The Intergovernmental Council decides on overall policy and funding questions for the MOST Programme and formulates recommendations for UNESCO's governing bodies (the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Director General). It is the body which relates MOST to governmental authorities. For more information visit <http://www.unesco.org/most/igc.htm>. [GS]

8th Session of the MOST Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)

(UNESCO Headquarters, 12-13 March 2001)

The session was chaired by Prof. Y. Alagh and attended by SSC members (Prof. Aymard, Prof. de Ruijter, Prof. Kruse-Graumann, Prof. Vishnevsky and Prof. Wiltshire) as well as by MOST project leaders (Prof. Elvi Whittaker, Prof. Nazli Choucri, Prof. Nicolai Genov, Prof. André-Jean Arnaud). Together with the Secretariat and colleagues from other Programme Sectors, the SSC discussed the future orientation of the Programme. On the last day, a joint session was held with the 5th IGC (<http://www.unesco.org/most/ssc.htm>). [JM]

Scientific Steering Committee Members

Yoginder Alagh (India), Chairman
Alejandra Moreno Toscano (Mexico), Vice-president
Arie de Ruijter (The Netherlands), Vice-president
Maurice Aymard (France), Lenelis Kruse-Graumann (Germany)
Achille Mbembe (Cameroon), Anatoly Vishnevsky (Russian Federation)
Saad Eddin Ibrahim (Egypt), Ken Wiltshire (Australia)

Sub-regional Meeting of the MOST Committees of the Maghreb

A subregional meeting of the MOST National Liaison Committees (NLC) of five North African countries (Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia) took place in Tunis on 5 and 6 October 2001. It was organized by the UNESCO regional office in Tunis and the MOST NLC of Tunisia, with the participation of the State Secretariat for Scientific Research of Tunisia represented by the Center for Social and Economic Research (CERES).

The objectives of the meeting were:

- The creation of a NLC network in the Maghreb.
- The identification of priorities for research/action.
- The discussion of a common programme framework for the five NLCs in the Maghreb.

For more information, please contact F. Carrillo-Montesinos, Director of the UNESCO Office in Tunis (tunis@unesco.org).

most MEETINGS PAST

MOST Summer School 2000 on International Comparative Programmes in the Social Sciences

(Sofia, Bulgaria 20-25 June 2000)

This event was organized by the MOST Programme, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation with the objective of encouraging the debate between experienced and young scholars on comparative social science research. This first summer school took place in the framework of the project on the Management of Risks in Central and Eastern Europe. A second is foreseen for June 2002 in Sofia. For more information please contact Prof. Dr. sc. Nikolai Genov, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociology (nbgen.most.risk@datacom.bg). [PDG]

International forum on “Solidarity for Social Development”

(UNESCO headquarters, 14 November 2000)

MOST launched the World Alliance for Sustainable Social Development in November 1999 in partnership with a number of “socially responsible” large companies. This forum featured disadvantaged communities presenting efforts they had made that were deemed good examples suitable for implementation elsewhere. The forum had two central elements: the first concerning the range of experience in sustainable social development and the second concerning the involvement of private firms in such initiatives. [GDC]

Social Transformations in the Asia-Pacific Region

(Wollongong, Australia, 4-6 December 2000)

The hosting of an International Symposium on Social Transformations in the Asia-Pacific region took eighteen months of constant planning to bring to fruition. The objectives of the conference were threefold:

- To bring together key Australian and international researchers to discuss the specific characteristics of Globalisation and Social Transformation in the region, and to explore strategies for managing Social Change.
- To provide a forum for established researchers, governments, business and non-governmental practitioners and post-graduate students to present research findings.
- To highlight the work of the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS) and its contribution to the above ongoing debate.

There were twenty-four keynote speakers from around the Asia-Pacific region. The conference attracted over 150 participants, and 81 papers were presented. From the opening Keynote Address entitled *Global Trends and Asia Pacific Responses*, delivered by Professor K.S. Jomo of the University of Malaya, to the closing roundtable discussion *Responding to Social Transformations: Business, Researchers, Policymakers and Communities*, the bankruptcy of development theory as a means of analysis and the search for a new paradigmatic method of assessing change and progress in the Asia-Pacific region was the core intellectual theme of the conference. Participants were challenged to reflect on the impact of globalisation in its many facets in their region. The forthcoming book, based on a selection of the best papers, will be a major contribution to thinking on Development and Globalisation, Poverty and Inequality in the Asia-Pacific region. We would like to thank the Australian organizing team and CAPSTRANS for their hard work in making this conference a success and express our gratitude to Qantas Airlines and the Japan Foundation for their financial support. For the list of speakers, the Programme, and original unedited versions of conference papers, please refer to: www.uow.edu.au/research/centres/capstrans. [NA]

Globalisation, youth and sustainable consumption patterns: in partnership with UNEP

(UNESCO HQ, 6-7 November 2000)

UNESCO (MOST, the Education Sector, the Youth Co-ordination Unit) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a workshop to discuss the results of a survey on the consumption patterns of young people in 24 countries. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the development of a cohesive strategy for UNEP and UNESCO to promote the adoption of more sustainable consumption patterns among youth. The workshop gathered over 50 experts, social actors, youth leaders, researchers and the business sector. The underlying understanding of the meeting was that youth deserve special attention when considering consumption patterns. Young people constitute an important target group on the demand-side in a consumer society and play a determinant role in future consumption patterns. Yet, they should not only be regarded as 'victims' of a contemporary consumer culture. Young people are often very concerned about the future of the earth they will inherit. Thus, their voice should be heard. Moreover, there are some groups of young people who are taking initiatives in proposing alternatives to the "consume more" trend. They can be messengers of a new approach that can involve their peers, as well as adults. A MOST Policy Paper analyses some preliminary

youth attitudes toward consumption and tries to evaluate their potential participation as actors of a transition towards more sustainable consumption lifestyles. In particular, it looks at:

1. driving forces of youth consumption and especially the influence of media and globalisation in shaping their aspirations and values;
2. youth perception of sustainable consumption and their role in it;
3. experiences in approaching consumption issues in different cultural areas.

This Policy Paper recommends UNEP's and UNESCO's future actions to promote sustainable consumption among youth. [CM]

Round Table on Social Capital during the Special Session of the General Assembly on 'Copenhagen + 5'

(Geneva, 28 June 2000)

In the context of the Special Session of the General Assembly on "Copenhagen +5, the MOST Programme and ISSC/CROP (Comparative Research Program on Poverty) co-organized a symposium entitled: "Social Capital Formation in Poverty Reduction: Which Role for Civil Society Organizations and the State?". The symposium was organized in the framework of the Geneva 2000 Forum which was designed to bridge the General Assembly session with the public at large, and attracted parliamentarians, business groups, academics, governments and intergovernmental organizations. The then Assistant Director General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO presided the symposium in which panellists represented grass-root organizations, academia, policy-makers and the World Bank. A publication from this symposium is available from the MOST Secretariat. [CG]

Children's Participation in Community Settings: A Research Symposium at the University of Oslo

(26-28 June, 2000)

This symposium brought together advisory board members of Childwatch International, members of the Growing Up in Cities project of the MOST Programme of UNESCO, and other experts to review and plan research on children's participation in different settings of community life. In addition to a commitment to children's rights, including the right to participate in



"Bridging Generations"

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"Youthful Joy" (Sri Lanka)

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decisions that affect their lives, Childwatch International and the MOST Programme share commitments to multidisciplinary research, comparative international research, and the application of research to policies to better the lives of children and youth. Within this framework, the symposium was intended to summarise what is known and what needs to be known about the following:

1. In what ways do young people participate in various settings, including decisions on home and family life?
2. What are their beliefs and attitudes about their participation? What are the conditions under which they believe that they are being treated as partners?
3. What happens when children participate? What are the outcomes for the children and youth themselves and the settings of which they are a part?

The main outcomes of the symposium are a special edition of the International Journal called *Childhood* (published by Childwatch International with Norwegian funding); and a special edition of the journal *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)* published by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the UK. [NA] (See section on Upcoming Publications).

Democratic Governance and NGOs in the Arab Region

(Cairo, Egypt, 28-30 March 2000)

A regional conference on NGOs and Governance in the Arab countries was organized by MOST, the French Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and the Cairo-based Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Economiques et Juridiques (CEDEJ) as well as the Egyptian Center of Political and Strategic Studies of El-Ahram. A recommendation was made to the MOST Programme in order to set up a pole of research and action in five countries: Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen. In collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Beyrouth, MOST is currently undertaking a feasibility study for the launching of this network in January 2002. It will mainly focus on the role of NGOs in local governance structures in the Arab countries, and will be addressing the following fundamental issues : How to assess the political dimensions in the broad sense of the term "governance" rooted in the Arab experience of State-building and NGO participation? What are the missions and real functions of NGOs in Arab countries? Can the NGO movement be considered as a player in development policies and governance in Arab countries? What are the tools that they need in order to get empowered and fully participate in poverty reduction schemes in these countries? More detailed information on this conference is available on www.unesco.org/most/cairo.htm. [CM]

International Conference on Social Science and Governance

(Zeist, The Netherlands, 20-21 March 2000)

The Dutch Ministry for Development Co-operation, and the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO joined the MOST Programme in sponsoring an International Conference on Social Science and Governance. Organized as a series of parallel workshops, participants presented varying thematic case studies – several from ongoing MOST research projects – on how research findings were broadcast through the media, translated into policy options, and reworked into educational curricula. The full report of this conference and its recommendations is available free of charge on the MOST Clearing House at <http://www.unesco.org/most/scspsconf.htm> [NA]

Recent and Forthcoming Events :

- 3rd meeting of the validation committee of the UIA/UNESCO Charter for Architectural Education, 8 October 2001.
- MOST expert meeting on the themes of the e-Journal on Multicultural Societies. UNESCO headquarters, 12-13 October 2001.
- Meeting UNESCO Chair on Training Local Development Agents. Bordeaux, France, 18-19 October 2001.
- Local development indicators in the PALOPs. Praia, Cap-Vert, 14-16 November 2001.
- MOST seminar on the concept of Social Transformations and the Methodology of the Programme. Organized by the National Commission of The Netherlands. The Hague, 22-23 November 2001.
- NGOs and Governance in Latin America. Montevideo, Uruguay, 28-30 November 2001.
- Intersectoral/ISSC meeting on the socio-economic impact of natural disasters. UNESCO headquarters, December 2001
- Workshop on data infrastructures in Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the GESIS/ZA (Germany) and MOST. Berlin, Germany, February 2002.
- Panel during the Commission for Social Development. New York, February 2002.
- Conference on “Défaire le développement, refaire le monde”, co-organized with the association “La ligne d’horizon”. UNESCO headquarters, 28 February–3 March 2002.

Latvia’s National Integration Programme (NIP)

UNDP Latvia turned to MOST for additional expertise in assisting them to guide the Government in its design and implementation of a NIP - one step forward toward accession to EU membership. MOST has prepared background papers, conducted workshops, given keynote presentations throughout year 2000 before the President, the Government, members of civil society and the members of the national integration Board. UNDP gave 70,000\$ to the MOST executing agency.

Latvia’s Cabinet of Ministers adopted the NIP on 6 February 2001, an initiative that addresses one of the country’s most politically sensitive and divisive issues. When Latvia regained independence in 1991, the country inherited a significant population of Soviet era immigrants and their descendants. Many are not yet integrated into the Latvian cultural and linguistic environment. “The integration of society is a particularly great challenge for Latvia, given its complex historical heritage, and ethnically and linguistically divided society,” said Jan Sand Sorensen, UNDP Resident Representative.

Social integration is a process driven by the free will of individuals and is going on at all levels of society, in local communities, workplaces and in the schools, said Mr. Sorensen. But by adopting the NIP, “the Latvian Cabinet has recognized the need for the government to lead by espousing a vision for the future of a Latvia which offers opportunities for everyone to participate and contribute.”

Another major element in co-operation between UNDP and UNESCO’s Education Sector was the unique Latvian language training programme established in 1995 with the Government and for which support now totals \$8 million from donor agencies. Without language skills, the one third of Latvia’s population of 2.4 million that does not speak Latvian, the state language, and the one quarter of the country’s residents who do not have citizenship, have limited opportunities to participate in social and economic life and to become naturalized citizens. Over the past four years, about 125,000 school students, one quarter of the school age population, have improved their Latvian language skills. The increased capacity of the national education system to provide this training means that various adult groups will now also be able to benefit.

The UK has provided \$72,000 in support for the next phase of the programme, the first donor to do so. This phase will focus on providing language training for adult groups, such as the long-term unemployed, disabled people, medical personnel, law enforcement officials and teachers. The UNESCO-UNDP co-operation was facilitated by G. Rouchet and T. Escotto-Quesada, and we thank them for that. This National Integration Programme was implemented for UNESCO jointly by N. Auriat and P. Ratte (UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning). [NA & PR]

Forthcoming publications (2001-2002)

Globalisation impacts in Arab rural societies

Elhoumi, M. (ed.)
Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (Tunis)

Governance and NGOs in the Arab world

Ben Néfissa, Sarah; Hanafi, Sari; Sanchez Milani, Carlos (eds.)
Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales (Cairo)

Pouvoirs des femmes, relations de genre et environnements urbains précaires

Swiss National Commission for UNESCO,
Direction du Développement et de la Coopération Suisse and MOST
Hainard, François,
Verschuur, Christine

Prevention Through Monitoring of Ethnic Conflict, a Policy Overview

Tishkov, Valery

Renewal of Inner City Areas: Habitat II Symposium

MOST

Series The City Words

in co-edition with Maison des sciences de l'homme de Paris and UNESCO (MOST Programme):
–Les divisions de la ville,
Topalov, Christian (ed.)
–Les catégories de l'urbain,
Marin, Brigitte (ed.)

Social capital formation in poverty reduction. Which role for the civil society and the State

MOST/CROP

Special Issue of PLA Notes on Children's Participation

(Forthcoming, November 2001)

The principal aim of the Journal "Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)" is to enable practitioners of participatory methodologies throughout the world to share their field experiences, conceptual reflections and methodological innovations. The series seeks to publish frank accounts, address issues of practical and immediate value, encourage innovation and act as a "voice from the field". This special edition based on the MOST Growing Up In Cities Research Results assembles examples of evaluations of participatory projects with children and youth in Africa, Asia and Latin America. [NA]

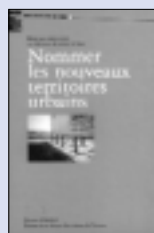
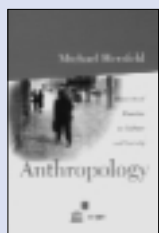
Selected titles (2000-2001)

Anthropology. Theoretical Practice in Culture and Society

Herzfeld, Michael
UNESCO-MOST, Blackwell Publishers, 2001

Nommer les nouveaux territoires urbains

Rivière d'Arc, Hélène (ed.)
Series The City Words
in co-edition with Maison des sciences de l'homme de Paris and UNESCO (MOST Programme):
UNESCO/Ed. de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, 2001



En Otra Historia

Jacquet, Hector Eduardo
Editorial Universitaria de Misiones /MOST, 2001

Modern Roots:

Studies of National Identity
Dieckhoff, A.; Gutierrez, N. (ed.)
Ashgate/UNESCO, 2001

L'Agent de développement local – Emergence et consolidation d'un profil professionnel

Najim, Annie; Vedelago, François
La Lauze/UNESCO, 2001



Développement social durable des villes. Principes et pratiques

Bailly, Antoine S., Lawrence, Roderick J., Brun, Philippe, Rey, Marie-Claire (ed.)
Éditions Economica, Paris, 2000

Labour Migration in Indonesia: Policies and Practices

Sukamdi; Haris A.; Brownlee P. (eds)
Population Studies Center Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, 2000

The Social Sustainability of Cities. Diversity and the Management of Change

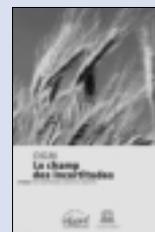
Polèse, Mario; Stren, Richard (eds)
University of Toronto Press, 2000

Thai migrant Workers in Southeast and East Asia

Chantavanich, Supang;
Germershausen, Andreas (eds)
Asian Research Center for Migration

Globalization and Sustainable Development

Solagr/MOST Secretariat, 2000



OGM: Le Champ des Incertitudes

UNESCO Programmes MOST/MAB/CIB, Solagr, 2000

Social Science, Social Innovation and Social Change

(Chapter 14) in "Social Innovation"
Auriat, N. Paris: OECD, July 2001

This book chapter is the result of an article requested by the OECD/UNU for presentation at their conference entitled Social Innovation, held in Tokyo in December 2000. The article examines how three MOST projects contribute to social transformation and policy change through the research work conducted by international, interdisciplinary teams. The conference was attended by over 300 scholars from around the world. Papers examined the concept of social innovation in terms of technological, environmental, social, behavioural and democratic change. The ensuing volume may be obtained from the OECD publishing office.

For a complete overview of MOST Documents and Publications and ordering instructions, visit: <http://www.unesco.org/most/mostpubl.htm> or consult the Publications section of the CD-ROM

MOST e-Journal on Multicultural Societies

The e-Journal on Multicultural Societies is published on the Internet at <http://www.unesco.org/most/jmshome.htm>.

A selection of the best articles will be published in book form in 2002. For more information and for the submission of articles contact Paul de Guchteneire, Director of publication (p.deguchteneire@unesco.org).

- Lesser Used Languages and the Law in Europe Vol.3, No.1
Editorial by Matthias König and Fernand de Varennes
The Protection of Linguistic Minorities: A Historical Approach, by Eduardo Javier Ruiz Vieytez
Language Rights as an Integral Part of Human Rights, by Fernand de Varennes
La Charte Européenne des Langues Régionales ou Minoritaires: un instrument juridique au service du patrimoine linguistique européen, by Elda Moreno
The European Union and Lesser Used Languages, by Dónall Ó Riagáin
Language and power: the background to the debate on linguistic rights, Sue Wright
- Religious Diversity in the Russian Federation Vol. 2, No. 2
Introduction: les enjeux du pluralisme religieux en Russie post-soviétique, by Kathy Rousselet (Guest Editor)
Pluralisme religieux et identité nationale en Russie, by Alexandre Agadjanian
L'institution militaire face à la pluralité religieuse dans l'État russe, by Françoise Daucé
Le pluralisme religieux dans la Russie actuelle: la variante d'Omsk, by Vladimir Borisovitch Iachine
Note sur les relations entre religion et système éducatif en Russie, by Mikhaïl Sivertsev
- Managing Religious Diversity in a Global Context – Debate Continued Vol. 2, No.1
The Resurgence of Religious Movements in Processes of Globalisation – Beyond End of History or Clash of Civilisations by S. N. Eisenstadt
Global Systems and Religious Diversity in the Inner City
– Migrants in the East End of London by Greg Smith
Religious Diversity in Prisons and in the Military
– the Rights of Muslim Immigrants in Norwegian State Institutions by Inger Furseth
- The Public Management of Religious Diversity Vol. 1, No. 2
The Diversity of Religious Pluralism by Françoise Champion (Guest Editor), also available in French
The Management of Religious Diversity in England and Wales with Special Reference to Prison Chaplaincy by James A. Beckford
Religious Representation in a Revised House of Lords by Grace Davie
Sociologists Managing Religion: the Formation of Afro-Brazilian Theology by Roberto Motta, also available in French
Book Review 'Atlas of American Diversity' (Larry Hajime Shinagawa and Michael Jang) by Eve Mullen
- Exploring Religious Pluralism Vol. 1, No. 1
Human Rights, Religious Conflict and Globalisation. Ultimate Values in a New World Order by James Spickard
Modes of Religious Pluralism under Conditions of Globalisation by Ole Riis
Book review: "Religion in Prison: Equal Rites in a Multi-Faith Society" (James Beckford and Sophie Gilliat) by Paul Weller

Forthcoming issues

- Democracy in multicultural societies – Theoretical perspectives on cultural diversity in modern societies
- Islam in Europe
- Incorporating the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages
- Transnational Migrant Communities

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Layout
CRÉAGRAPHIE, PARIS

Printing
UNESCO WORKSHOPS, PARIS

Photos
E. Bontemps, Central Bureau of Narcotics (India),
DEL/UNESCO, G. Domenach-Chich, A. Lund and
Pajala Community, J. Morohashi, R. Parua, G. Solinis,
WorldSpace Corporation

Published October 2001

New Initiatives

What Factors Facilitate or Hinder the Potential Impact of Social Research on Policy?

A Template for an International Study, by the MOST Programme, in co-operation with Harvard University's Graduate School of Education

It is common sense to say that the community of social science research is embedded in very different principles and premises compared to those existing in the arena of political decision making and policy design. Once stated and agreed upon, the question becomes: what next? To partially respond to this issue, a research template for a series of international case studies was designed, the objective of which is to collect findings that help understand how different social, cultural, scientific, economic and political conditions of a country on the one hand, and the characteristics of the research study on the other, provide a picture of how research and policy interact. The purpose is to come up with recommendations for a project design process to increase the saliency of the research results for the decision-making community. [NA]

The Belgian Ministry of Research has awarded 10 million Belgian Francs (USD\$216,000) to this MOST Project. The Ministry has launched a call for proposals across the country. The thematic area of interest to the Belgian Government is on asylum seekers, refugees and migration. Their particular interest is to assess the extent to which research on these issues has been fed into policy-making, and to determine the factors that facilitate or hinder the fact that the findings of a specific study are considered by planners.

The deadline for applicants is 30 September 2001. The successful case studies must be completed by 31 December 2003. [NA]

Over 35 countries are preparing case studies and a few examples of the topics of the case studies are listed below:

- Jordan:
How have research results on ageing and the social status and needs of the elderly in Jordan been attended to by decision-makers?
- Brazil:
A case study of an evaluation of a UNICEF funded programme on a community health workers program in Ceara, Northeast Brazil: Has Anyone Listened to the Research Results?
- Cameroon:
Research on urban poverty: impact and results?
- China:
The Socialisation of Social Welfare services: Government Attention to Research Findings
- Philippines:
The impact of education research on educational policy: A Case Study on Higher Education
- Czech Republic:
The use of social research in the transformation of housing policy in the Czech Republic
- Netherlands:
The Social Disability and Welfare System in the Netherlands: Research Conducted, Research Heard?



Sao Paulo, Brazil

© G. Solinis

- **Tanzania:**
Factors that Improve the Use of Research in Social Policy: The Wamachinga of Tanzania: A Study of Dar Es Salaam City

Factors Influencing the Utilisation of Research Results: A Case Study of the SWOT Analysis of the Lumemo Water Supply Company, Morogoro Region Domestic Water Supply Programme.
- **Zambia:**
The Case of the Study Fund of the Social Recovery Project in Zambia.
- **Uruguay:**
An investigation into the Use of Social Science Knowledge by Policy Makers: the Case of Government Social Observatories as Institutional Tools for Evaluating Public Action.

The case studies will be reworked for commercial publication in the form of a book, accompanied by a CD-ROM with a template for new social science project design that maximises the impact of research on policy.

For the list of participating countries, please refer to <http://www.unesco.org/most/weiss.htm>

MOST Working Group on Governance, Social Science and Politics

Researchers, practitioners and the MOST secretariat are putting together a critique of the relationship between social science and public policy from the standpoint of the impact and involvement in social practice. The working group has reflected upon the following issues:

- Research and policy are often contradictory and for this reason, the epistemological and theoretical analysis of their interrelation is of immense interest. Before reaching the final goal of using scientific findings in public policy-making, there are a series of upstream phases of reflection on the interrelationship between research and policy. Power relationships are at the centre of the ties between researchers and decision-makers, that tend to apply, or even impose a political agenda on science.
- The relationship between “science” and “policy” can also be looked at in terms of the role played by cartography in public policy-making. Maps are a kind of language and tool of communication concerning a social reality. The understanding of this language and production of this tool by all the social agents are the major elements in democratising the relationship between

“scientists” and “decision-makers.” Politically, maps can be used to justify a decision already made (choosing the upstream methodology, for example). In this case, a change of political discourse leads to a change of map, which in turn leads to change in the political arena. Such presuppositions of the cartography are not scientific but political.

- Public action finds itself facing a serious dilemma: it needs to combine institutional stability and flexibility of action. It must deal not just with solving problems (and how social sciences can help them to be understood) but also with the nature and legitimacy of the public agents involved.

Projects implemented by members of the working group will be discussed in the first half of 2002. An account of the results of these projects is being written. [CM/GS]



“The future of the city: smiling toward the future”

© E. Bontemps

Growing up in Hanoi

Directly linked to the first Viet Nam Youth Forum, executed in collaboration with the Viet Nam Youth Federation, UNESCO and other participating UN Agencies, the Growing Up in Hanoi Project is a collaborative initiative of UNESCO’s MOST Programme and interdisciplinary teams of youth, municipal officials, child/youth advocates, and urban professionals, working with and for young people to create communities that are better places in which to grow up.

The ultimate objective of the project is to empower groups of young people to actively and meaningfully participate in the urbanisation process by giving them the necessary tools (literacy and vocational training) and opportunities (through the application of methods developed in the Growing Up In Cities project) to voice their under-represented perspectives and challenges, with the eventual aim of reintegrating into ‘mainstream’ society. The project will be executed in collaboration with the Viet Nam Youth Federation in the framework of the “Viet Nam Youth Federation Action Plan (2001-2002) for Social Volunteerism for Children and Youth in Need of Special Protection”. [NA & Rosa Maria Durand, UNESCO Hanoi]

Growing Up in Cities: Jordan, Syria and Iraq

The Arab States face similar problems with youth, however, there is very little co-operation between them on common issues facing young people. This project is going to address the problems in the form of sub-regional workshops and national workshops on Growing-Up in Cities. The regional Workshop participants will be selected carefully to develop further joint national projects and workshops within the framework of the GUIC project and address the common challenges. MOST will assist with the preparation and implementation of the GUIC regional project and will identify donors for the jointly developed follow-up projects. Two elements are characteristic of this project: the inclusion of regional experts from the outset and strong sub-regional co-operation.

GUIC in Jordan builds on the rich and ongoing tradition of the GUIC Project, aiming at creating better cities with children and youth. The Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth is a global effort to understand and respond to these and other questions, and to help address the issues affecting urban children and youth. It is a collaborative process in which interdisciplinary teams of municipal officials, urban professionals, and child advocates around the world, work with the young people themselves to create communities that are better places in which to grow up—and therefore, better places for everyone. [NA & Robert Parua]

Growing up in Lille, France: The 2004 Cultural Capital of Europe

To commemorate this event, the city of Lille is preparing an innovative programme on the place of children and youth in the city. In a superb understanding of Child Friendly Cities, municipal officials have decided to transform parts of the city into green play spaces for children and adolescents. Consequently, the city has turned to UNESCO's Growing up in Cities project methodology, requesting technical advice in applying the results of the GUIC project to the re-design of France's 2004 cultural capital. We are delighted with this turn of events, since Lille is a modern, urban hub, with a modern transport system that connects the city to other metropolises. This long-term project will ensure that Growing up in Lille is a culturally, physically and socially rich and rewarding experience for the future generations of the town's citizens. Work based on GUIC methods will be undertaken with children of 3 to 6 years of age, 7 to 11 and adolescents. Each age group will provide its opinion on the design of play areas to their liking. [NA]

City Children Speaking to Children

Following on the results of the 1999-2001 South African research of the Growing up in Cities project (GUIC), the new biennium will see the development of a spin-off

project focusing on the design of youth books that span a spectrum of living environments. Several young people with different backgrounds, such as Bethlehem, a fourteen-year-old refugee girl from Ethiopia and other children and youth from impoverished neighbourhoods will write stories on their quality of life. They will be presented in multimedia format and will include written text, drawings, photographs, poetry and the portrayal of artefacts important to the young authors who will also assist in editing. They will be tri-lingual, containing English text in black, Zulu text in green and Sotho text in red and will have two pages at the end that provide guidelines for young readers on GUIC objectives, principles and methods and on the rights of the child.

[NA & Jill Swart-Kruger, Growing up in Cities Director, South Africa; Research Fellow, Unisa, Pretoria]

Intersectoral Teamwork, Aqaba, Jordan

How can you possibly hope to adequately address the complex issues of sustainable coastal development, loss of fish stocks, urban problems and social issues confronting youth and other age groups of city inhabitants? One answer might be to look at these issues in a creative and novel way, particularly when traditional, singularly disciplined approaches have made little headway in the past. This new approach is being carried out on UNESCO's Environment



Port of Aqaba, Jordan

© R. Parua

and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands (CSI) Platform. The initiative, in the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan, is a collaborative effort between the Aqaba Marine Science Station, the Jordan National Commission of UNESCO, UNESCO Offices in Amman and Doha, and the MOST Programme. Three activities are planned. The first concerns a survey of the Jordanian fishers' community in relation to coastal development and fishery decline. This will be followed by a stakeholders meeting to obtain feedback on the problems and sustainability of the fishing industry, as well as to consider alternative income-generating activities and finally, a MOST workshop within the framework of the 'Growing Up In Cities' (GUIC) programme. The Aqaba township has recently been declared a Special Economic Zone by the government and is expected to have social, economic and environmental impacts in the Aqaba Port City in the next 20 years. The MOST/GUIC workshop would be timely to identify some of the urban problems and social issues with a particular focus on youth requirements.

[Dirk Troost, UNESCO Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands Platform (CSI), Robert Parua & NA]



"A moment in time", Male (Maldives)

© E. Bontemps

Documentary Film: **Children of Thula Mntwana**
(for sale from UNESCO Publishing)

Growing up in Cities

Thirteen percent (13%) of all homes in South Africa are in informal or squatter settlements and housing of this type proliferates throughout the developing world. Here thirteen-year-old Zukiswa explains how her family became squatters in Braamfontein, Johannesburg (South Africa) through force of circumstance. She tells of how she and other children in the squatter camp then learned through UNESCO-MOST's «Growing up in Cities» programme to identify problems in their living environment and of an invitation by the Mayor of Johannesburg to present their insights and problems to public officials.

Zukiswa describes the forced relocation, some months later, of the whole Braamfontein squatter community to «Thula Mntwana» an informal settlement 44 km south of the city with high unemployment. Although the settlement was more spacious, most problems the children had encountered in the city were replicated. The land was undeveloped; the children could no longer play in local city parks and there was no place they could meet and call their own. Through the «Growing up in Cities» project and with financial assistance from The Netherlands Embassy and the Barnetimedonfondet Children's Broadcasting Fund, a centre was erected which the children named «Ubhule Buyeza» (good things are about to happen / the beauty is coming).

Zukiswa and other children show how, despite the struggle to survive, adults and children alike make an effort to retain a semblance of dignity and beauty in their lives.

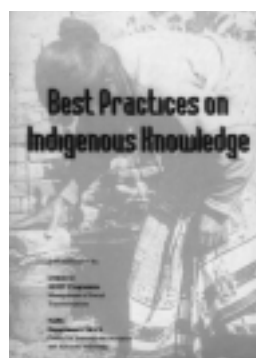
Please contact Nadia Auriat (n.auriat@unesco.org), Gillian Whitcomb (g.whitcomb@unesco.org) or Jill Kruger (jmkru@global.co.za) for purchasing details for the documentary. [NA]

Building on Strengths: Maximising Positive Outcomes from Child and Youth Participation

Many claims are made regarding the benefits experienced by children and youth who engage in community development and the improvement of local environments: that these activities foster skills in democratic decision-making and action; improve communication skills and the ability to understand multiple perspectives; increase a sense of self-esteem and efficacy; encourage environmental awareness and responsibility; and lead to a more positive sense of community. There has been extensive research in the fields of child and adolescent development in terms of how these outcomes are most effectively fostered, but this knowledge has not been integrated into development practice. The planned MOST Programme book *Building on Strengths* will synthesize this research in accessible language, provide readers with key references for further study, and review measures for assessing change. In this way, it will encourage more critical and informed practice and evaluation by staff in development agencies, NGOs and government offices who seek to facilitate the participatory shaping of sustainable communities, in accordance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda and follow-up meetings. [NA & Louise Chawla]

Second phase of Best Practices on Indigenous Knowledge

MOST and Nuffic-CIRAN (Centre for International Research and Advisory Network, the Netherlands)



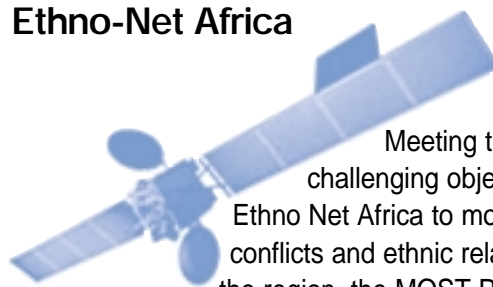
agreed to implement the 2nd phase of the "Best Practices on Indigenous Knowledge".

The project, launched in 1999, aims at collecting and disseminating model projects applying know-how and practice in different fields such as agriculture, health and resource management.

The inclusion of such

knowledge, embedded within a given community, is crucial for a better social acceptance and sustainability of development enterprises. Before the end of 2001, the existing Database (<http://www.unesco.org/most/bpindi.htm>) will be updated with 25 new cases. The socio-cultural aspect will be strengthened to create a better understanding of the holistic nature of such knowledge and its role and impact in society. [JM/PDG]

Providing up-to-date access to information on ethnic relations Ethno-Net Africa



Meeting the challenging objective of Ethno Net Africa to monitor ethnic conflicts and ethnic relations in the region, the MOST Programme

is launching an innovative technology project in cooperation with the Communications and Information Sector of UNESCO: based on an intelligent selection software, developed by the Laboratoire d'Informatique pour la Mécanique et les Sciences de l'Ingénieur (LIMS/CNRS), online news agencies, newspapers and other Internet sources such as the observatories of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are permanently scanned for articles and information related to ethnic conflict and ethnic relations.

The automatically selected and regrouped information in several languages is subsequently sent via the AfriStar satellite of WorldSpace Corporation, to an area covering the whole of Africa. Only a low-cost digital satellite receiver connected to a computer is required to access these data. It is a simple, cost effective and rapid method of disseminating up-to-date information to members of the MOST networks in the region, which will also be offered to other users such as journalists, IGOs and NGOs concerned with regional conflicts. [PDG/HP]

(Photo © WorldSpace Cooperation)

MOST EVALUATION 1994-2001

This is to evaluate the first 8 years of the MOST programme.

The terms of reference of the exercise were discussed at the last meeting of the MOST Inter-Governmental Council in February 2001 which stressed the importance of this evaluation in the design of a second phase.

The team of evaluators will suggest new directions for the Programme. [CM]



André Montagné, « Tropisms » (detail), oil on canvas, 80 x 80 cm © DEL/UNESCO

International Workshop Series on “Re-thinking the Social Sciences”

The MOST Programme is a major partner of this series of five International Symposiums, launched by the OECD, together with several other partners, including the United Nations University and the European Commission (D.G. XII).

The titles of the workshops:

- “Social Sciences at a Turning Point” (Paris, 1999);
- “Social Sciences for a Digital World: Building Infrastructures and Databases for the future” (Ottawa, October 1999);
- “Social Sciences for Knowledge and Decision-making” (Bruges, June 2000);
- “Social Sciences and Innovation” (Tokyo, December 2000) and
- “Social Sciences and Interdisciplinarity” (Lisbon, November 2001).

The proceedings are published by the OECD. A “Declaration on Strengthening the Role of the Social Sciences in Society” is to be adopted in Lisbon. The MOST Programme intends to play a lead role in the follow-up to this global advocacy initiative for a broader recognition of the social sciences’ contribution to understanding and coping with social, economic, cultural and institutional issues in global, regional and national contexts. [AK]

Multilingual Cities

The European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and the Babylon (Centre for Studies of Multilingualism in the Multicultural Society) at Tilburg University (the Netherlands) requested

the MOST Programme to become a partner in its successful Multilingual Cities Project on the Status of Immigrant Minority Languages at Home and at School. This project responds particularly to concerns expressed by UNESCO’s governing bodies on the need to focus on the issue of linguistics in a globalising world. The project is as follows: An innovative children and youth questionnaire has been designed and tested in 5 European Cities to assess the following: language repertoire; language proficiency; language choice; language dominance; and language preference. The rationale behind this research is that patterns of language variation across Western Europe and other continents has varied as a consequence of socio-economic, political or environmentally determined processes of migration. Consequently, empirically collected data on home language use can play a crucial role in the context of education. Such data not only raises the awareness of multilingualism in multicultural schools, but is in fact an indispensable tool for educational policies on the teaching of both the national majority language as a first or second language and the teaching of minority group languages.

The role of UNESCO’s MOST Programme will be to co-publish, with the ECF and Tilburg University, the final *do-it-yourself* toolkit for municipalities who wish to collect such data in their schools. A workshop to test the draft manual with representatives from cities who have not yet been privy to the research will serve to test its validity. MOST will engage the Education Sector in developing training sessions around the manual for interested municipalities and educational authorities. [NA]