

## LISTINGS, REPORTS, BOOKS and EVENTS

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Ayyub Malik



### Toolkit Participation

An innovative website - based in The Netherlands – is aimed at the public and civil organisations to promote participation and exchange of ideas and concepts from civil society, local authorities, policymakers and development organisations, and provides:

- Over 160 cases in 60 countries describing tools for involving citizens in urban and rural planning, democratisation and development process,
- Analysis of critical success and failure factors,
- Case-based information to keep up with development trends,
- Links to other related sites and articles,
- An interactive forum for debate and sharing ideas.

**Contacts:** Email: [toolkit@novib.nl](mailto:toolkit@novib.nl) URL: [www.toolkitparticipation.com](http://www.toolkitparticipation.com)

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### Sustainable Cities

Stockholm Partnership for Sustainable Cities provides URLs relating to innovative solutions for sustainable development in metropolitan areas from 13 countries.  
[www.partnerships.stockholm.se/](http://www.partnerships.stockholm.se/)

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### Human Development Report

This Human Development Report is first and foremost about the idea that politics is as important to successful development as economics. Sustained poverty reduction requires equitable growth - but it also requires that poor people have political power.  
<http://www.undp.org/hdr2002/>

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### World Trade Center – The Big Debate

As the world considers an eye-catching shortlist for the World Trade Centre replacement, dissident voices are making themselves heard.

It is not only the international community of architecture critics who have reservations about the scheme. While there is much support for the individual designs in public postings to online forums - with Norman Foster's 'kissing towers' emerging as an early favourite - non-celebrity architects and property experts are leading the charge against the scale of New York's ambition.

<http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/51830.htm>

### **Architects Online**

In architects' online discussion groups, there are plenty of designers with their own views - and their own designs - for the site:

<http://www.designcommunity.com/discussion.html>

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### **Tree Story**

A more permanent tree-planting initiative is underway in Timbuktu. Charities are raising funds for reforestation at the edge of the Sahara desert, where villages are threatened by encroaching sand. In the village of Bariz, a 'thin green line' of saplings is all that stands between the marauding desert and a new school building.

Tree Aid picked the Timbuktu region, the front line of desertification, as a key area. Walking through the legendary desert metropolis, it is not hard to see why. This is sand city: sand boulevards, sand streets, sand squares, sand alleyways, a sand football pitch. The charity aims to help 25 villages set up small-scale forestry projects, often using fast-growing eucalyptus trees, which can be harvested in four or five years.

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/story.jsp?story=363462>

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### **St Petersburg Celebrates**

An International Architectural Forum has been announced to mark the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg. Organisers say it is recognised as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. But what happens if a city's soul is corrupt with greediness, political ambitions and despair? And when its architectural character is flattened, rebuilt and forgotten? The Forum will focus on the 'issues and ethics of saving the historical heritage of the cities. The Forum takes place next May:

[http://www.archi-tector.org/eng/2\\_eng.html](http://www.archi-tector.org/eng/2_eng.html)

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### **Bethlehem**

For an update on latest news and links: <http://www.bethlehemnews.com/>

There are some poignant pictures of the city under curfew at:

<http://www.bobmay.info/>

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### **Right to Education**

The Indian Parliament recently passed a bill to make the right to education a fundamental right. All attention needs to be focussed on the legislation that is to follow, so that this fundamental right of children is translated into reality.

<http://indev.nic.in/indev/profNewsItem.asp?id=266>

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### **Education for All**

The first global Education For All monitoring report has found that 25 per cent of the world's population are from countries that are unlikely to reach any EFA goals. The report analyses the world's progress towards the six Education for All goals agreed at Dakar in 2000 and finds that many countries are nowhere near agreed targets.

<http://www.eldis.org/dbtw-wpd/exec/dbtwpcgi.exe?QB0=AND&QF0=DOCNUM@DOCNO&QI0>

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### **School Facilities**

Indian experts have realised that the high dropout percentages of girls from schools is because of lack of lavatories in the schools. The apex policy making body in India - the Planning Commission - has decided to lay stress on getting toilets constructed in the schools. <http://www.cry.org/home/newsandevents/NonCRYNews.asp?NID=54>

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## **CHINA**

### **Shanghai**

Shanghai's Urban Planning Administrative Bureau has proposed curbing the height of tall buildings in the city. Over the past decade the Chinese city has witnessed an extraordinary construction boom - the Chinese government's plan for Shanghai to replace Hong Kong as the financial hub of East Asia is thought to be on schedule. But a consequence of the city's growing prominence has been a steep rise in land values, which in turn has contributed to the construction of a large number of tall buildings in the city. Now, with a growing number of civil court cases alleging that tall buildings can block light and raise the city's temperatures, it has been proposed that buildings should not exceed 30 storeys. The proposal is unlikely to please developers. Land prices have risen as high as US\$1,500 (RMB 12,000) per square metre. There are also concerns that the quality of some tall buildings is not high enough. Of course there are exceptions, notably the Jin Mao Tower (421 metres), the world's third tallest building, which has become the principal landmark in the fast-growing Pudong district. The Jin Mao, by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, has also become a lucrative tourist attraction.

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### **The Great Wall of China**

A showcase of Asian architectural talent is nearing completion in the shadow of the Great Wall of China. The Commune by the Great Wall is a collection of 12 buildings designed by different architects from South East Asia.

Shigeru Ban is arguably the most famous. The full list includes: Yung Ho Chang (China), Nobuaki Furuya (Japan), Kay Ngee Tan (Singapore), Kengo Kuma (Japan), Kanika R'kul (Thailand), Antonio Ochoa (China), Chien Hsueh-Yi (Taiwan), Rocco Yim (Hong Kong), Cui Kai (China) and Seung H-Sang (South Korea). The idea is the brainchild of Zhang Xin and Pan Shiyi, husband and wife real estate developers.

Towards the end of 1999 they felt the time was right to exploit a gap in Beijing's real estate market - the site is 60 kilometres north of the Chinese capital. Economic reforms had created a thriving residential property market, but there was very little in the way of luxury housing, and even less in the way of second homes. Having secured the site Zhang and Pan began recruiting architects to develop ideas for luxury houses. The only stipulations were that the architects be as flamboyant as possible, use local materials and building contractors, and accept the US\$12,000 design fee.

The results include a six-bedroom villa, built of black granite and bamboo, designed

by Kengo Kuma. The bamboo's soft organic tones offset the sleek black sheen. Shigeru Ban's low-key contribution is a square one-storey house oriented around an exposed courtyard. The living space is lined with built-in cupboards and seating. As far as possible Ban has tried to incorporate furniture as a structural device. Although not a particularly seismic area Ban has used the Commune to experiment with a new idea: recent earthquake research has revealed that many lives can be saved if furniture is secured to walls and floors.

From early October 2002 the Commune will open as a hotel - prices start at US\$1,000 a night. Phase II is scheduled to be complete next summer. It will include a further 24 villas, modelled on the existing 12, which will be available to buy. The cheapest will go on the market at US\$1 million.

<http://www.commune.com.cn/english/eindex.asp>

<http://www.panshiyi.com/english/in.asp>

## AUSTRALIA & JAPAN

The world's tallest structure, a kilometre-high funnel, has been proposed for a site on the New South Wales border with Victoria. Its designers claim that the building has the potential to generate electricity for a town of 200,000. Operating like a giant vacuum cleaner, the funnel cools hot air propelled from an immense network of interconnected greenhouses. The warm air powers 32 turbines situated at the base of the funnel. Its developer, EnviroMission, claim that unlike other types of environmentally sustainable energy - such as wind and solar power - the funnel has the benefit of working at all times. If the prototype is successful the idea has the potential to operate in all desert conditions.

One Japanese architect has already been playing with the idea of air speed as an energy source for a number of years. Masao Wakita (71) has recently produced a prototype for a much smaller hot air powered generator. The three metre-long rectangular funnel is made of steel and covered in green vinyl.

One end is 1.6 meters by three meters; the other end 80cm by 80 cm. As wind passes through its velocity increases as the funnel narrows out. A fan is fitted at the narrow end, to generate power. The prototype failed to produce as much power as Wakita had hoped for. But he hopes modifications will generate up to 500 watts per hour, the electricity consumption of the average urban family.

## INDIA

### Good Urban Governance

One of the main outcomes of the India Launch of the **Good Urban Governance Campaign** in September 2001 was the adoption of a set of Recommendations for a National Plan of Action. These Recommendations are related to six issues identified as central to good urban governance in the country: urban decentralisation, municipal finance, urban environment, integration of the poor and marginalized, transparency and civic engagement and municipal management and capacity building. One of the chief strategies enunciated in the Recommendations was that the Campaign be taken

to the states and cities, because that is where the real 'urban action' occurred. An enabling environment can be created for appropriate policy change and initiatives as spelt out in the 'State and City Action Plans for Good Urban Governance' by engaging states and their key cities and deepening their understanding of the principles of good urban governance.

The first of these State Campaigns is tentatively scheduled to take place in Madhya Pradesh in mid August 2002. CIDA and USAID have agreed to support the initial phase of the Campaign. The Urban Management Programme (UMP) South Asia, under the overall supervision of UN-HABITAT will provide technical assistance. The Madhya Pradesh Academy of Administration and the All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), the South Asian anchor of the Urban Management Programme, will be State partners of UMP South Asia. Attempts are also underway to have similar launches in other states.

*Source: Urban Management Programme – South Asia*

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From Reuters Report - Dec. 2, 2002

**India: Three Economies in One. By Surojit Gupta**

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (Reuters) - How many economies does India have? One, two or three?

A study by a Bombay-based think-tank, the Strategic Foresight Group, says the economic reforms drive launched about a decade ago has led to the creation of three economies: a "business class economy," a "bike economy" and a "bullock cart economy."

The report titled '*Rethinking India's Future: Prosperity of the Periphery*' says the reforms have mainly benefited the business class economy that has access to luxury cars, washing machines, computers, the Internet, mobile phones and air travel.

The reforms have, however, ignored the bullock-cart economy in states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Assam and the north-east.

India threw open its economy in the early 1990s, but the second phase of reforms, which includes privatisation of loss-making state firms, has run into opposition from unions and differences within the ruling coalition.

India is expected to grow at 5.5 percent in the year to March 2003 – putting it in the league of the world's fastest growing economies - but that is way off the eight percent targeted by the government over the next five years to wipe out poverty in the world's second most populous country.

The report says the business class economy accounts for a meager two percent of the more than one billion population, the bike economy covers 15 percent while the bullock cart economy encompasses a mostly rural 83 percent of the population.

The states that form part of the bullock cart economy have 33 percent of their populations surviving on no more than a dollar a day. Less than 46 percent of their people have been to primary school and the states attract only 11 percent of total project investments.

A recent World Bank study estimates eight percent of the world's poor live in northern Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, with 166 million people. It said the population risks falling further into poverty if reforms fail to take off.

"India's transformation cannot be achieved by incremental reforms," the report said. "India needs to envision itself as a developed country pursuing a radically different strategy, encouraging capacity building in rural areas alongside a progressive leadership in business and politics."

### **Eco-friendly way to extract lead from scrap batteries**

In an effort to provide an effective solution to the serious environmental problem related to disposal of batteries, Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), is considering implementation of an eco-friendly method to extract lead from scrap batteries. The environment friendly electrolytic route has been investigated by MoEF for extraction of lead from scrap batteries and found effective for implementation.

### **Recycled buildings, It's possible!**

Ultimate Masonry Australia Limited has developed a lightweight building block that is made almost completely of waste flyash. Wastes that would otherwise go to landfill are being used to reduce demand on non-renewable natural aggregate. The British Manufactured Aggregates Research Centre (MARC) is also geared to develop eco-friendly processes to turn waste materials, including bottom ash, dredge sludge and sewage into high-performance lightweight aggregates for the building industry.

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s672794.htm>

### **Eco-friendly bus stops**

A new generation of eco-friendly bus stops with unique features may soon become common in Delhi, if the present experiment on Bhairon Marg turns out to be a success. The new bus stops will have solar lighting and water collection facilities to send messages of alternative energy sources and water conservation. Unlike plastic mould seats which cause skin problems, the new stops use perforated steel.

## **BRIEFING PAPERS**

### **Consumer Unity & Trust Society, CUTS Centre for Sustainable Production & Consumption (CUTS-CSPAC) Calcutta**

#### **Water Sustainability: Issues for Development**

The looming water crisis is one of the critical challenges facing the world today. This briefing paper examines the problems related to availability, use and management of water. It highlights some options available for better management of water and

another important dimension from the point of view of sustainability viz. private-public partnership in water use and management.

### **EcoConsumer, Issue 3, 2002**

This quarterly newsletter is published by CUTS to report and discuss developments in relation to sustainable production and consumption globally. It covers issues such as sustainable production, climate watch, basic needs, affluence, energy issues, ozone watch, environment, Adwatch, CSPAC Watch and Book watch.

**Contact:** The above briefing papers available from CUTS:

Email: [cutsca@vsnl.com](mailto:cutsca@vsnl.com); [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org) and [Arjun Dutta/ Soumi Ghosh](mailto:Arjun.Dutta@Soumi.Ghosh)

Website: <http://www.cuts.org> Tel: + 91 33 460 1424, Fax: + 91 33 440 7669

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## **PAKISTAN**

### **The Poverty Assessment on Pakistan**

From: Poverty Net Newsletter, November 27, 2002

*The Poverty Assessment on Pakistan - Poverty in Pakistan: Vulnerabilities, Social Gaps, and Rural Dynamics* - is available on-line at:

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/SAR/sa.nsf/Countries/Pakistan/52F7CDA6EE7FE78485256C680014813E?OpenDocument>

To receive the Report by email - 1.07Mb PDF file - send a message to:

[povdocuments@forumone.com](mailto:povdocuments@forumone.com) with

[http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/sar/sa.nsf/Attachments/Pakistan-Poverty-Assessment/\\$File/Pakistan](http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/sar/sa.nsf/Attachments/Pakistan-Poverty-Assessment/$File/Pakistan) with Poverty-Assessment.pdf in the body.

[Cut and paste URL directly into email message - do not write any additional text.]

**Contact:** Zubair Faisal Abbasi, Regional Director, APPNA SEHAT

Tel: + 92 593 412457. <http://www.appnasehat.org.pk>

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## **LEAD International**

LEAD Pakistan is a capacity building institution and one of the thirteen-country programs of LEAD International based at Imperial College, London. It provides Leadership Development Program (LDP) in environment, management and development for improved leadership skills in business, industry, and government.

The Management Development Program (MDP), launched in 2002, is based on in-depth research and training needs analysis to deliver capacity enhancement courses suited to the specific needs of organizations.

### **Contact:**

Bilal Saleem, Coordinator: [bsaleem@lead.org.pk](mailto:bsaleem@lead.org.pk) Tel: +92-51-2651511

Website: <http://pakistan.lead.org>

Training Calander: <http://pakistan.lead.org/otrain.htm>

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## UNITED KINGDOM

### Good Manager's Guides

The Good Manager's Guide from the Management Standards Centre contains over 130 practical checklists covering every aspect of a manager's life. The Guide is now also available in a computer-based format, which can be installed on individual workstations or on a corporate network server for distribution throughout your organisation. Also available is the Good Energy Manager's Guide, published in association with the Institute of Energy and British Gas, contains over 70 checklists for carrying out energy management tasks effectively.

<http://www.management-standards.org/> - Products > Good Managers Guide.

### Neighbourhood Renewal: Events

The Government's strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal sets out its vision for narrowing the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country, so that within 10 to 20 years, no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live. The aim is to deliver: economic prosperity; safe communities; high quality education; decent housing; and better health to the poorest parts of the country.

[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk).

### Square One Research - Energy Efficiency Online

Square One - Environmental Design Website, compiled by Dr. Andrew Marsh and Caroline Raines of Square One research and the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University provides free information for architects, building designers, students and anyone else interested in energy efficient and sustainable design.

<http://www.squ1.com/site.html>

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### Cityscape Conference: Dubai, UAE

Cityscape 2002 held in Dubai was the first exhibition on architecture, design and urban planning. It brought together architects, designers, urban planner, product suppliers and developers and provided an ideal platform to discuss the future of the Arab world - from globalization to sustainability, modernization to preservation, and from standardization to Arab identity.

<http://www.cityscape2002.com>

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## PRIVATISATION - RESEARCH PROJECT

### The McKeever Institute of Economic Policy Analysis

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund strongly encourage the governments of developing countries to sell to private, multi-national companies the rights to supply and deliver essential services - water, gas and electricity - to the population. However, in places like Cochabamba, Bolivia the results of such privatization has produced negative results for the population, the local governments and the multi-national company.

Experience has been that the foreign company immediately raises prices with the result that the vulnerable members of the population are no longer able to afford the

service they once had. The local government looks very bad since they are the agency contracting with the foreign company. As the population becomes resentful, riots and killings create a negative environment and the company may leave the area with losses and a bad reputation. This negative scenario is likely to be repeated in other countries unless host governments manage the privatization process better.

The Institute named below wishes to form a partnership with a responsible governmental agency faced with a demand to privatize an essential service. The goal of this project will be to secure better services, maintain access to services for the population and avoid hardship, riots and death while providing reasonable returns to private companies. The Institute believes strongly that all these goals are compatible.

Organization faced with a request to privatize an essential service wishing to learn about how to avoid negative consequences can contact the Institute directly.

**Contact:** Michael McKeever, The McKeever Institute of Economic Policy Analysis  
Email: [mpmckeever@earthlink.net](mailto:mpmckeever@earthlink.net) URL: [www.mckeever.com](http://www.mckeever.com)

## Publications + Information

### BOOKS

#### 'New books' email service from the Royal Institute of British Architects:

The RIBA Bookshops gives detailed information on all the latest and best books in architecture, design and construction by web and email.

**Contacts:** <mailto:marketing@ribabooks.com> . Online Special book offers:  
[www.ribabookshops.com/Search/SearchResults.asp?Specials=true](http://www.ribabookshops.com/Search/SearchResults.asp?Specials=true)

### URBAN TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND EQUITY

*The Case for Developing Countries*

Eduardo Alcantara Vasconcellos

Traditional transport planning has generated transport systems that propagate an unfair distribution of accessibility and have environmental and safety issues. This book highlights the importance of social and political aspects of transport policy and provides a methodology to support this approach. It emphasizes the importance of coordinating urban transport and traffic planning, and addresses the major challenge of modifying the building and use of roads. It makes valuable suggestions for innovative and radical new measures towards an equitable and sustainable urban environment.

The book is a practical and invaluable guide for those involved in all aspects of planning. It challenges current explanations of the highly inadequate transport conditions in developing countries and suggests actions and policies towards a more equitable and more sustainable transport system. Pb. £25.95 1 85383 727 X

**SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Edited by Cedric Pugh

Wide-ranging contributions from world-renowned experts are brought together in a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary review of the major issues, including legal mechanisms, health, economics and the environment, and the application of Local Agenda 21 in cities. Tracing the evolution of theory in relation to urban growth and development, it provides guidance for moving towards sustainable urban environments and descriptions of the efforts made by several cities in this respect. Pb £17.95 1 85383 61 9 2

**UNITING A DIVIDED CITY***Governance and Social Exclusion in Johannesburg*

Jo Beall, Owen Crankshaw and Susan Parnell

This book investigates pragmatic approaches to urban economic development, service delivery spatial restructuring, environmental sustainability and institutional reform in Johannesburg it explores the conditions and processes that are determining the city's transformation into a cosmopolitan metropolis and magnet for the continent.

Pb £ 18.95 1 85383 91 6

**CITIES IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD *Global Report on Human Settlements******2001 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)***

In this Global Report, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) draws on specially commissioned and contributed background papers from more than 80 leading international specialists. The report focuses on recent trends in human settlements and their implications for poverty, inequity and social polarization.

Pb £ 25. 1 85383 806 3

**CREATING BETTER CITIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

David Driskell

*A Manual for Participation Published in association with UNESCO*

Half the world's children live in cities and the proportion is growing. Their environment critically determines their futures and the world they will create as adults. This practical manual draws on international and interdisciplinary work to show how young people can be brought to Participate in shaping their urban environment. It covers strategies, building institutional support and the methods for engaging young people in evaluating their needs, prioritizing issues and developing and implementing plans. Pb 19.95 1 85383 853 5

Above books available from EARTHSCAN, Pentonville Road, London N1 9BR. NGOs 20% discount. Email: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk)

### **BUILDING JAIPUR: The Making of a City**

Vibhuti Sachdev and Giles Tillotson.

Reaktion Books, 197pp, 130 illustrations, £19.95

Regardless of its title, *Building Jaipur* is not just about the city of Jaipur, it also provides a springboard from which to conduct a deeper analysis of historic Indian architecture and urban patterns. According to *Building Jaipur*, the ancient Indian texts - on urban planning, spatial hierarchy and details of ornamentation – all provide sound principles for architecture and the city as well as enormous opportunities for a new reading and contemporary interpretations. Such an interpretation, in their view, can help produce an architecture with a “language to which both architects and user stand in the same relationship”.

*Building Jaipur* analyses various periods of Jaipur's architectural history - the colonial influences, the modern movement, and the more recent attempts – by architects such as BV Doshi and Charles Correa - to develop a contemporary Indian architecture. The authors see the historic architectural and urban principles as being deeply ingrained in Indian culture. They urge architects and urban planners to explore these concepts in order to bring about a vibrant, intelligent, modern interpretation of the principles which, through continuous reinterpretation, have stood the test of time and history. After all, music, manners, dress, social and religious rituals and food continue to reinterpret historic cultures, so why not architecture?

With more emphasis on the social role of architecture and the built environment, the authors also seem to advocate a little lessening of the personal egos by the architects and designers. To them it seems that “anonymity has become an underrated virtue”. Perhaps they have a point, but will it appeal to those working within the increasingly competitive structure of the architectural and urban professions?



*Painted map of Jaipur, 18c*

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT:

#### World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg August 28, 2002

(Sources: various)

After more than a year of intense preparations and negotiations the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002.

Debate about what has been gained by the world out of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) that concluded at Johannesburg on September 4, 2002. According to the 'Rio bargain,' industrialised and developing countries, even with their differing agendas, were committed to work together towards a shared goal of sustainable development. While developing countries were expected to participate in multilateral environment agreements, developed countries were supposed to provide support to them through capacity building, technology transfer, removal of trade barriers and action on debt.

In reality, nothing of the sort has happened. Trade liberalisation, while not in itself an obstacle to sustainable development, has turned out to be a distinctively one-edged sword. Although it has opened up vast new markets for exporters in industrialised countries, it has done little for many developing nations. Trade barriers in key commodities such as agricultural products and textiles continue to cut off Third World suppliers from affluent markets such as the European Union and North America. Two of the main post-WSSD challenges, is to agree on what went wrong and then to start constructing a more inclusive and effective trade framework for the future. If this does not happen, the perception that globalised free trade is fundamentally incompatible with sustainable development is likely to gain credence.

The summit's 70-page action plan aims to help poor countries pursue economic development without doing undue harm to the environment. Environmental groups - who staged a walk-out at the summit - criticised America for obstructing a stronger final plan. They were also angry that President Bush has refused to attend the summit. The US was also strongly criticised for its rejection of the Kyoto treaty on global warming.

World leaders endorsed the final action plan, aimed to lift two billion people out of poverty and help protect the environment from the effects of development.

#### Main points agreed

- To halve the number of people in Africa lacking basic sanitation by 2015.
- To 'substantially increase' renewable energy although no targets have been set
- To 'significantly reduce' the loss of species by 2015
- Increasing links between trade, environment and development
- Kyoto treaty on global warming revived by Russian backing

Environmental groups issued a statement saying the action plan failed to recognise the prime importance of human dignity. They said it strengthened "an international economic and financial system that is incompatible with the goals of sustainable development" and failed to protect the Earth.

They have welcomed new targets on sanitation in developing countries and a promise to restore global fish stocks. But there was disappointment at the failure to set a target for increasing the use of renewable energy. The move was blocked by the United States and oil producing countries. International aid agency Oxfam said the deal on the table offered only "crumbs for the poor". It said the agreement was "a triumph for greed and self-interest, a tragedy for poor people and the environment". Steve Sawyer, a spokesman for the environmentalist group Greenpeace, said the agreement was "worse than we could have imagined". UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the summit had not achieved all that had been hoped for it. But he said it had managed to block attempts to roll back agreements reached at the Earth Summit ten years ago.

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**NGO Press Conference**  
**THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT:**  
**Sharing the Planet or Selling the Earth?**

Ten years ago, governments signed sweeping agreements to both protect the Earth's environment and provide resources for the well-being of all people and future generations. Today, after ten years of some progress in negotiations, but little actual implementation, the impact of these unfulfilled promises are becoming clear:

- Massive flooding throughout Central Europe, China and South Asia has resulted in thousands of deaths, hundreds of thousands of refugees, and billions of dollars of damage. Climate change is real, is here, and is getting worse. It's affecting rich and poor, young and old, in industrialized and developing countries.
- Chemically-intensive agriculture and biotechnology, compounded by arbitrary structural adjustment policies, and weather extremes like the current droughts in Africa, have resulted in looming starvation, social dislocation and a threat to the entire world's food supply.
- Globalization has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. It has driven thousands of small farmers off the land, and thousands of small enterprises out of business. Enron-friendly, rather than environment-friendly, policies have created a world in which corporations are making the decisions that should be made by governments.

These are but three examples of the un-addressed environmental, development and social issues that are on the table at the World Summit on Sustainable Development – promises that have been left unfulfilled since Rio.

Leaders of international NGOs will survey the issues, identify today's challenges, and define what governments must do to make the Johannesburg Summit a success.

**Contact:** EARTH MEDIA / INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVOCACY PROJECT  
[www.earthmedia-summit.org](http://www.earthmedia-summit.org)      [earthmedia@igc.org](mailto:earthmedia@igc.org)

*[The International Media Advocacy Project is a not-for-profit project coordinated by Earth Media in New York. Support for the IMA is provided by public and private funders, including the Ministry of the Environment of the Federal Republic of Germany. The advice, analyses and materials of the IMA Project are intended solely for the education and use of news media and not-for-profit organizations actively working on environmental, social and economic development issues, and on the Johannesburg Summit. ]*

## **ON THE ROAD**

A recent study from Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) indicates that there are about 900,000 deaths and 40 million people injured in road accidents every year. The surprising fact is that half of these occur in the Asia-Pacific region which has only 15% of the world's vehicles. The highest death rates (road deaths per 10,000 licensed vehicles in a year) were in Africa - some being in excess of 100. Developed countries were characterized by rates between two and five. Asian countries fall in between with Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and China registering fatality rates between 17 and 26, with Bangladesh at 44 being the highest in the region. Differing trends were duly noted. In Sri Lanka and Korea, 50% of road deaths were pedestrians but in Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, 50% of road deaths involved motorcyclists. *Source: TRL*

Traveling in Asia is an almost hallucinatory experience of sound and spectacle as well as of pollution and congestion. It is frequently heart-rending, sometimes hilarious, mostly exhilarating, always unforgettable - and, when on the road, extremely dangerous and life-threatening. Out of sheer frustration, an anonymous frequent traveler has produced a version of the Highway Code - purportedly in Sanskrit text - for the local and the visiting road users, and of course for those working so hard to achieve sustainable development. Below is an English translation:

**Article I:** An assumption of immortality is required from all road users.

**Article II:** Traffic, like society, is structured on a strict caste system. The following precedence - in descending order - must be observed at all times: give way to cows, elephants, heavy trucks, buses, official cars, camels, light trucks, buffalo, jeeps, ox-carts, private cars, motorcycles, scooters, auto-rickshaws, pigs, pedal rickshaws, goats, bicycles (goods-carrying), handcarts, bicycles (passenger-carrying), dogs, and finally, the pedestrians.

**Article III:** All wheeled vehicles shall be driven in accordance with the maxim: to slow is to falter, to brake is to fail, to stop utter defeat.

**Article IV:** In absence of seat belts, car occupants shall wear garlands of marigold. These should be kept fastened at all times.

**Article V:** Traffic light – whether working or out of action – are mostly for decorative and symbolic purpose and may be obeyed at discretion. The same

goes for the roundabouts. The round islands at road-crossings have no function as such, and any other impressions given in this respect must be ignored.

**Article VI:** Overtaking is mandatory. Every moving vehicle is required to overtake every other moving vehicle, irrespective of whether it has just overtaken you. Overtaking should only be undertaken in unsuitable conditions, such as in the face of oncoming traffic, on blind bends, at junctions, and in the middle of villages and city centres. No more than two inches (50mm) should be allowed between your vehicle and the one being overtaken - and one inch only in the case of bicycles and pedestrians.

*Source: mostly anonymous*

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