

# Book Notes

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Book Notes gives short descriptions of recently published books, papers and reports on all subjects relevant to the environment and development. Priority is given to items produced by research groups and NGOs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Book Notes also includes short descriptions of newsletters and journals. Send us a copy of any publication you would like included; we produce Book Notes of publications in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese. Enclose details on prices for those ordering from abroad and on how payment should be made.

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## I. CLIMATE CHANGE

### **Assessing the Costs of Adaptation to Climate Change: A Review of the UNFCCC and other Recent Estimates**

*Martin Parry, Nigel Arnell, Pam Berry, David Dodman, Samuel Fankhauser, Chris Hope, Sari Kovats, Robert Nicholls, David Satterthwaite, Richard Tiffin and Tim Wheeler, 2009, 116 pages. ISBN: 978 1 84369 745 9. Published by IIED and the Grantham Institute for Climate Change. Downloadable free of charge from [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)*

In this report, a team of independent experts find major shortcomings in past estimates of the costs of adaptation to climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2007 estimated the costs of adaptation in six key sectors (water, infrastructure, human health, coastal zones, natural ecosystems, and agriculture, forestry and fisheries). But as Martin Parry and his co-contributors argue, the UNFCCC most likely underestimated the costs of adaptation in these sectors by a factor of 2–3, and they put forward three main reasons why this might be the case. The UNFCCC provided incomplete estimates in some sectors; they used “climate mark-ups” against low levels of assumed investment; and they overlooked key sectors such as mining, retailing, tourism, energy, and manufacturing. The UNFCCC estimates also failed to make allowances for the costs of addressing the “adaptation deficits” in many low-income nations, which currently lack adequate infrastructure or health care, and they failed to consider “residual damage”, or the costs of damage not adapted to. Such costs may be significant and are likely to increase over time.

The report contains chapters on each of the UNFCCC’s six sectors; also a summary of key findings, an introductory chapter, and a final chapter on the costs and benefits of adaptation. Chapter 1 highlights the imprecision and range of global estimates. With costs of adaptation varying from US\$ 4 billion to US\$ 100 billion per annum, there is a “fundamental problem” with existing approaches (page 24); current methods are marred by major gaps and uncertainties. Investment in mitigation and development is also crucial, without which adaptation costs will only rise.

The following chapters critically assess the UNFCCC’s estimates. The chapter on agriculture, forestry and fisheries suggests that the UNFCCC provided a reasonable first-order approximation of costs, but residual damage was overlooked and bottom-up case studies are still needed, which may uncover additional costs. This chapter also emphasizes the methodological challenges of estimating adaptation costs in this sector. The next chapter examines natural ecosystems. Although

the UNFCCC offered first estimates of costs, the figures excluded adaptation of marine protected areas and the wider landscape. The UNFCCC thus underestimated the costs, although the chapter warns against double-counting adaptation costs in agriculture and natural ecosystems. The chapter on infrastructure suggests that the UNFCCC’s estimates for this sector are far too low and highly inappropriate for nations with large existing deficits in the kinds of infrastructure that are central to protecting lives, homes and livelihoods from climate change impacts. Infrastructure is actually the largest component of the UNFCCC’s adaptation estimates, ranging from an additional US\$ 8 billion to US\$ 130 billion by 2030. But calculations were based simply on adding a small increment to infrastructure investment, ignoring existing deficits in low- and middle-income nations. The cost of adapting Africa’s infrastructure was accordingly only US\$ 22–371 million, an underestimate of perhaps 2–3 orders of magnitude. And by utilizing a narrow definition of “infrastructure,” the UNFCCC excluded housing costs, social infrastructure, disaster response infrastructure and institutional capacity to maintain infrastructure. Case studies are needed to establish more appropriate estimates and the authors offer policy recommendations to address infrastructure deficits, establish bottom-up cost estimates and incorporate housing into discussions of infrastructure adaptation.

The remaining chapters on water, human health and low-lying settlements again identify major shortcomings and are highly relevant to urban researchers. The UNFCCC’s estimates on low-lying settlements may be more reliable than those for other sectors, but estimates for coastal zones again overlooked residual damage, ignored adaptation deficits and failed to combine the damage from flooding and land loss. For water, there are several reasons to believe that costs were underestimated. The UNFCCC did not include various adaptation costs of water resource management, including managing increased flood risk and maintaining water quality standards. The UNFCCC also made the dubious assumption of national water transfers and it neglected the critical need to reduce development deficits in water. With regard to health, the UNFCCC is criticized for only including the costs of adaptation for malaria, malnutrition and diarrhoea. These three diseases represent just 30–50 per cent of the total disease burden attributable to climate change. Moreover, the UNFCCC made the optimistic assumption of declining disease incidence and disregarded the health adaptation costs in high-income countries. Finally, insufficient attention was given to low-income nations’ adaptation deficit and the need for better governance to overcome barriers to health care.

### **Capital Consumption: The Transition to Sustainable Consumption and Production in London**

*Bioregional and London Sustainable Development Commission, 2010, 76 pages. ISBN: 978 1 84781 2940. Published by Greater London Authority, London, and available from [www.londonsdc.org.uk](http://www.londonsdc.org.uk) and [www.bioregional.com](http://www.bioregional.com).*

This is an unusual document in that it assesses the performance of London with regard to greenhouse gas emissions from a consumption perspective rather than the more conventional production perspective. The consumption perspective assigns to London the carbon dioxide emissions created by the products consumed in London but manufactured elsewhere, and this report considers how London can radically cut its emissions through changes both in production and in consumption. It also considers how measures to reduce consumption-based carbon emissions could also help create jobs, build a more resilient economy and benefit the health and social well-being of Londoners.

The consumption perspective includes direct emissions from buildings and transport that are also included in the production perspective, but adds to this all the embodied carbon dioxide in goods, food and materials used by London residents. Thus it includes the impacts of the supply chains of products and services reaching London, including those that occur abroad. But it does not include emissions from London businesses or industries where the end consumer is not a Londoner. This kind of consumption-based carbon accounting is important in wealthy nations or cities, as conventional greenhouse gas emission inventories do not capture a large part of the emissions that arise from their population's consumption. As this report shows, London's total carbon dioxide emissions measured from the consumption perspective are double those measured from a production perspective. Using the perspective of consumption, Londoners have carbon footprints of 12.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year – although this varies from 10 to 14 tonnes per person per year between London's different local government areas (boroughs).

The report describes how emissions were benchmarked and considers what a consumption-based carbon target would look like. It then discusses in detail what measures would be needed to achieve a 90 per cent reduction in consumption emissions by 2050 – looking at decarbonizing grid electricity and reducing the contributions of food (currently 10 per cent of London's consumption-based carbon dioxide emissions, including catering services), consumer goods (12 per cent, with clothing, furniture/carpets and newspapers/books/stationary as the largest contributors), private services (11 per cent, with

education, housing rentals and insurance as the largest contributors) built infrastructure (9 per cent, mostly from emissions embodied in construction materials), housing infrastructure (5 per cent, mostly from building new homes) and the public sector (11 per cent, mostly central and local government and health and education services). Household energy accounts for 22 per cent (half from electricity use, half from direct fuel use) and personal transport for 20 per cent (most from car fuel, air travel and public transport, although buying and maintaining private cars is also important).

### **Population Dynamics and Climate Change**

*José Miguel Guzman, George Martine, Gordon McGranahan, Daniel Schensul and Cecilia Tacoli (editors), 2009, 238 pages. ISBN: 978 0 89714 919 8. Published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), New York and London. The full text can be downloaded from <http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/4500>.*

This UNFPA–IIED publication on population dynamics and climate change provides an overview of a controversial topic. Both population dynamics and climate change are interpreted broadly. The introduction notes that, while it is critical to take population dynamics into account when designing climate policies, it is a mistake to reduce the population–climate relationship to one of population growth driving greenhouse gas emissions.

*Population Dynamics and the Drivers of Climate:* The first two chapters review relations between population dynamics and climate change from two different perspectives. Both chapters point to the challenge that continued population growth will pose. In Chapter 1, George Martine situates this challenge within the context of broader development trends, including changes in consumption and levels of urbanization. He warns against the temptation to view family planning, and its potential for reducing population growth, as a panacea for mitigating climate change. In Chapter 2, Hania Zlotnik emphasizes a very different risk – that the decline in international support for sexual and reproductive health services has already resulted in an increase in unintended fertility, and that continued neglect could greatly amplify a range of population-related challenges, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. Taken together, the two chapters suggest the need for a balanced approach to issues of population dynamics and climate change, and not treating family planning as panacea or pariah.

*Urbanization:* The implications of population growth for climate change and climate vulnerability depend on the characteristics of that population – rich or poor, rural or urban – and where people are moving

relative to emerging climate risks. In Chapter 3, David Satterthwaite illustrates the overwhelming influence consumption has on a population's greenhouse gas emissions, finding very little coincidence historically between a region's relative contribution to population growth and its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. He finds the influence of urbanization to be far more ambiguous, a finding confirmed in Chapter 4 by David Dodman, which looks more specifically at urban form, greenhouse gas emissions and climate vulnerability. In short, urbanization is associated with increasing affluence and consumption, but dense urban form can also be used as a tool to reduce emissions and reduce climate vulnerability. In Chapter 5, Deborah Balk and colleagues use newly available data to map urban settlements and climate risks in Asia, Africa and Asia, focusing on settlements in low elevation coastal zones and drylands.

*Migration:* People may move to escape from climate-related risks, and some people have presented large population movements as one of the major risks of climate change, which could occur within the next few decades. In Chapter 6, Cecilia Tacoli reviews evidence on the relationship between environmental change and migration and comes to a rather different conclusion – that there is little reason to predict such large population movements, and good reason to look at mobility as an important adaptive response that may need more effective support. In Chapter 7, Scott Leckie takes a rights-based perspective to look more specifically at what can be done to assist people likely to be displaced by climate change.

*Vulnerability:* It is impossible to understand and reduce vulnerability without taking account of population dynamics. From acute, climate-related events such as storms and floods to long-term shifts in weather patterns and sea level patterns, the impacts only become clear through an understanding of who is at risk, what the risks are to people rather than places, and how these risks vary within and across populations. Vulnerability is unevenly distributed between men and women, and between the young, the middle-aged and the elderly. Sheridan Bartlett, in Chapter 8, reviews the specific vulnerabilities of children to climate change impacts, and Gotelind Alber, in Chapter 9, examines the differential impacts of climate change linked to gender disparities and inequalities (while also considering some of the gender dimensions of mitigation). In Chapter 10, Sari Kovats and Simon Lloyd review the health risks that climate change is likely to exacerbate, while Chapter 11, by Clive Mutunga and Karen Hardee, examines the links between reproductive health and adaptation through a review of the coverage of these issues in National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).

*Data and measurement:* One of the challenges in understanding the linkages between population dynamics and climate is in identifying, collecting and

integrating information to assist in both mitigation and adaptation. In Chapter 12, José Miguel Guzman shows that census data remain an insufficiently utilized source of information, and argues that the 2010 round of censuses provides an exceptional opportunity to exploit the potential of this source of information for climate-related policy research. In Chapter 13, Deborah Balk and colleagues demonstrate how spatially linked population data can be combined with other mapping tools to help assess climate risks. In Chapter 14, Hy Dao and Jaap van Woerden review some of the challenges inherent to getting policy relevant information for climate change analysis, and what can be done to meet these challenges.

## II. DEVELOPMENT

### **Missionaries, Mercenaries and Misfits: An Anthology**

*Rasna Warah (editor), 2008, 208 pages. ISBN: 978 1 4343 8603 8. Published by AuthorHouse and available at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk); price: UK£ 12.49.*

Journalist Rasna Warah has selected 15 essays by “development cynics”, who present indictments on the aid industry in Africa. Most of the contributors are based in Nairobi and range from correspondents and researchers, to artists, development practitioners and private sector professionals. Warah offers the collection as a much-needed African perspective on aid but avoids any suggestion for ways forward. After an introduction on “The Development Myth”, the essays in Part I examine “Development in Action”, Part II gives various insiders’ perspectives on “The Development Set” and Part III focuses on “The Politics of Aid”. These underscore the challenge of transforming the development industry, with African practitioners and governments frequently exhorted to rethink their relations with donors.

The essays highlight aid agencies’ failings as well as the prevailing dependency on donors. A consultant and columnist for Kenya’s *Sunday Nation* newspaper, Sunny Bindra, notes that the “...aid habit is hard to kick” but believes Africans can achieve greater self-reliance (page 152). Victoria Schlesinger’s “Journey to Nowhere” is a lengthy exposé of the Millennium Village in Sauri, showing donors’ empty rhetoric and meagre results throughout the ambitious project. Perhaps most disquieting is the essay entitled “A Charitable Apartheid” by former BBC correspondent, Lara Pawson. She examines the two-tier system between international and local aid workers in Africa, with several anecdotes revealing expatriates’ discrimination towards African staff. In “UN Blues”, a former consultant, Isisaeli Kazado, criticizes the United Nations’ “...culture of sycophancy, mediocrity, inefficiency and corruption” (page 100). Kazado also

explores the unequal yet complex relations between donors and Kenyan officials, who sought to ensure that UNEP did not relocate from Nairobi in 2007.

Meanwhile, NGOs are criticized for pursuing donor-driven agendas. Playwright Bantu Mwaure deplores “NGO theatre”, which capitalizes on donors’ interest in participatory approaches but only generates mediocre plays on AIDS and other development topics. Issa Shivji and Firoze Manji argue for NGOs to catalyze meaningful change and re-examine their complicity in neoliberal development agendas. Onyano Oloo, national coordinator of Nairobi’s World Social Forum in 2007, similarly argues that NGOs should reject donors’ dictates and instead collaborate with grassroots social movements. The volume ends with an acerbic piece on “The Power of Love” by Binyavanga Wainaina; an essay on Mumbai’s World Social Forum in 2005 by Achal Prabhala; and historical discussions by journalists Philip Ochieng and Parselelo Kantai.

### III. GENDER

#### **Cities and Gender**

*Helen Jarvis with Paula Kantor and Jonathan Cloke, 2009, 384 pages. ISBN: 978 0 415 41570 5. Published by Routledge, Abingdon and New York and available at [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com); price: US\$ 36.95.*

Despite the substantial literature on both urban studies and gender theory, there have been relatively few attempts to create a coherent synthesis of the intersections between these two subject areas. This volume brings together critical analyses of urban and gender studies, combining theoretical examinations with detailed case studies in order to explore the experiences of men and women in the city and what this means for urban policy and planning.

The book is organized into three main parts. “Approaching the City” contains four chapters that provide the theoretical base for the book. This provides an introduction and literature review to key issues; for example on the origins of feminism and the rise of gender studies. This helps introduce readers who are more familiar with urban studies to the background on the gender issues that are discussed later in the volume, and for those more familiar with feminist theory to understand theoretical frameworks for studying the city. The section on “Gender and the Built Environment” shifts the focus towards the material, behavioural and discursive manifestations of the gender–urban interface and examines issues such as commuting, migration and persistent gender divisions in the home and the workplace. The final section, “Representation and Regulation”, examines the role of gender in planning and governance, the gendered implications of urban poverty and

livelihoods, and the transformative potential for feminism in re-thinking cities and urban life.

Two of the three authors are based in university departments of geography, and urban geography and the geography of gender provide the main frameworks for the analysis. The main text is enlivened with more than 40 case studies, as well as boxes and figures.

### IV. GOVERNANCE

#### **New Forms of Urban Governance in India: Shifts, Models, Networks and Contestations**

*I S A Baud and J de Wit (editors), 2008, 402 pages. ISBN: 978 81 7829 905 1. Published by Sage Publications, Los Angeles and New Delhi.*

This volume examines Indian cities’ mixed experiences with decentralization and partnerships in service delivery, and helps to evaluate whether governance reforms have yielded the expected benefits. Decentralization has been widely touted to improve service delivery, enhance municipal accountability and foster wider participation. India’s constitution was amended in 1992 to mandate decentralization and empower local institutions. But contributors to the volume found limited improvements in several Indian cities, including Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad. Kerala and West Bengal have allowed greater decentralization, yet researchers in these states still uncovered inadequate financial devolution and limited community participation. Through case studies of ineffectual ward committees and contestations at higher levels of government, the contributors provide a micro and macro level understanding of the challenges in enacting local governance reforms in India. The authors also ask how service delivery has been affected by the shift towards partnerships and away from state provision. Although coverage has often increased, service delivery and standards remain highly inequitable. India’s experiences are placed in the context of globalization and wider shifts in governance, providing useful information for urban researchers and students beyond the sub-continent.

In Chapter 1, the editors give an overview of India’s governance reforms and identify the main themes that structure the volume’s three parts. Part I examines different models of urban decentralization in India, noting the role of NGOs and assessing the new ward committees. Ward committees were intended to play a vital part in fostering participation and local accountability, but as argued in Chapter 3, few cities have ward committees worth the name. Chapter 3 offers an initial evaluation of ward committees, identifies areas of future research and provides recommendations to strengthen decentralization. Part II looks at service delivery

partnerships, or “multi-stakeholder arrangements”. This section includes chapters on Mumbai’s solid waste management and the city’s slum rehabilitation programme. Part III helps illuminate governance contestations, and includes a discussion of the judiciary’s clashes with the government of Delhi; another chapter looks at regressive regulatory reforms in Mumbai. Contributors often highlight areas for future research, since India’s governance reforms are relatively recent and under-examined. Mumbai and Delhi feature in several chapters, alongside considerations of Hyderabad, cities in West Bengal, Kerala and other states. Taken together, the chapters reveal useful contrasts in governance between cities, as well as intra-city variations.

Among the richest case studies are ones from Kerala (Chapter 11) and West Bengal (Chapter 4), where decentralization has been more extensive. Chapter 11 compares the ward committees in Kolkata, Delhi and Kollam (a medium-sized city in Kerala). Kollam’s committees prepare annual action plans on 12 different sectors (water, sanitation, etc.), which subsequently inform the city’s development process. This chapter suggests that while Kollam’s committees are more successful than other cities’, participation levels have been declining and monitoring processes should be improved. Chapter 4 compares ward committees across three cities in West Bengal and explore the cities’ intra-ward variations. Within cities, committees differ widely depending upon the ward chairperson’s political background, citizens’ willingness to participate and the committees’ functional and financial powers. Across the three cities, committees differ in the size of the geographical area and population covered, so that proximity to citizens is sometimes limited. The authors advocate proper financial devolution and more participatory mechanisms to ensure that the benefits of decentralization are indeed realized.

## V. HOUSING

### **Building Prosperity: Housing and Economic Development**

*Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, 2009, 272 pages. ISBN: 978 1 84407 633 8. Published by and available from Earthscan Publications, Dunstan House, 14a St Cross St, London EC1N 8XA, UK; e-mail: earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk; website: www.earthscan.co.uk; also available in bookshops; price: UKE 65 (hardback, from the Earthscan website). In the USA, Earthscan, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166–2012, USA.*

A growing imperative for national development plans and policies is to incorporate a broader vision for their housing sectors, beyond the traditional argument of social need and towards an enhanced contribution

of housing to accelerated economic growth. This book by the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme analyzes and identifies concrete policies and institutions to enable governments to achieve that ultimate goal.

There is a symbiotic relationship between housing, in its broader dimension, and the factors by which we measure economic development. Investment in housing, as well as an efficient handling of housing supply, development and access, generates a high multiplier effect to the wider macroeconomic and social systems. The dynamics of this interplay tend to reverberate back to housing, making it more robust and resource optimizing. This book offers an in-depth analysis to demonstrate the linkages between housing and employment, growth, incomes, savings and asset formation, productivity and welfare. As the author claims, attempts at building long-term prosperity must include housing as a major contributor to national wealth creation efforts, while attempts to end mass and endemic poverty are intertwined with raising labour output per worker and creating employment, all of which lead to improving living standards, enhancing the quality of life and promoting inclusiveness. The implications for meeting the challenge of housing deficiencies in the face of housing demand are also highlighted. This book positions the housing sector in the leading sector theories. As Rostow, Hirschman and Tinbergen once claimed, during economic depressions, the housing sectors can (and must) remain strong, contributing to employment and growth while other traditional sectors flounder.

Yet the relationship between housing and economic development is a complex circular process. Key drivers of the housing sector include demand for housing, stages of economic development, local economic models, political and economic systems, macroeconomic variables and institutions. Moreover, the last century saw a change in the share of investment in the housing sector in most countries from the 1950s onwards, as well as a paradigm shift in the role of housing, from being a mere stimulus for economic revitalization to becoming an embedded productive factor for sustainable development.

At present, a particularly relevant issue is the linkage between housing finance and economic development. Different kinds of institutional innovations have led to a growth in the near-moribund mortgage financial instruments, but new institutional mechanisms emerge to cover a wider range of financial products, organizations and delivery mechanisms. This also includes derived demand subsidies and microfinance and their variances, although more efforts are required in order to serve the poor. Finally, housing as a social policy is examined. Drivers of housing policies in low- and middle-income countries have included an acceptance of Turner’s advocacy for household-centred

incremental housing development, the assumption of a new role for housing from social overhead to within the economic sector, and the internationally promoted urban development agenda. Although ex-socialist low- and middle-income countries once subordinated their housing sector to economic policy, currently, all these countries place emphasis on its privatization and the building of public-private partnerships towards improved housing delivery.

## VI. LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

The publications described below are five new case studies that look at the work of local organizations in development and environmental management (and add to the six case studies and overview paper that were described in Vol 21, No 1 (April 2009)). The case studies were developed with staff from the local organizations that are profiled, and each includes a consideration of what constrains their effectiveness, and of the appropriateness of the external support they have received. This set of publications seeks to encourage international funding agencies to re-think the means by which they can support, work with and learn from the local organizations that are a critical part of pro-poor development and environmental management. All the papers on local organizations can be downloaded from [www.iied.org/governance/local-organizations](http://www.iied.org/governance/local-organizations).

The publications listed below can be downloaded at no charge and the web address for each is given. Printed copies of these papers can be obtained by e-mailing: [humans@iied.org](mailto:humans@iied.org). If you wish to subscribe to this publication series, contact: Research Information Ltd, Grenville Court, Britwell Road, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 8DF, UK; e-mail: [info@researchinformation.co.uk](mailto:info@researchinformation.co.uk).

### **Reconstructing Life: After the Tsunami: The Work of Uplink Banda Aceh in Indonesia**

*Ade Syukrizal, Wardah Hafidz and Gabriela Sauter, 2009, 18 pages. Gatekeeper Series 137i, IIED, London. Downloadable from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14852IIED.pdf>.*

The NGO Uplink Banda Aceh was established shortly after the tsunami largely destroyed the infrastructure and a large proportion of the population of Banda Aceh province in Indonesia. This paper describes this NGO's work, which began with post-disaster emergency relief, but quickly moved into promoting and supporting community organizations in a network of 23 villages as they tried to rebuild their lives.

Banda Aceh has been described as being hit by two tsunamis; the second was the surge of unplanned, unregulated and uncoordinated international aid that came into the city shortly after the first tsunami

struck, destroying existing social structures. Pressure on international donors to spend money, the belief that using contractors was the most effective way to construct housing, and an over concentration on physical reconstruction meant that donor/aid organizations reconstructed villages according to their own specific agendas, undermining the social attitudes and structures of the surviving communities in the process.

This paper describes how Uplink Banda Aceh took on the challenge of helping these communities reassert their independence and sense of social cohesion. It began by ensuring people's basic needs were being met, then organized people so that they could start making their own decisions, planning their own communities and reconstructing their lives (in every sense) according to their needs and priorities. This "reconstruction of life" approach meant using housing and infrastructure as the entry points for building people's capacity, for their participation, for trauma healing and for ensuring their self-determination and independence. The paper also considers what kinds of international assistance would have supported such an approach.

### **Renovation not Relocation: the Work of Paguyuban Warga Strenkali (PWS) in Indonesia**

*Wawan Some, Wardah Hafidz and Gabriela Sauter, 2009, 14 pages. Gatekeeper Series 137h, IIED, London. Downloadable from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14853IIED.pdf>. This was also published in Environment and Urbanization Vol 21, No 2 (October 2009).*

The city of Surabaya in Indonesia is promoting itself as an important international trade centre. This has prompted beautification programmes that are threatening the homes and livelihoods of the poor communities and street vendors who live and work alongside the river. This paper describes how low-income residents have managed to change official policy on riverside development and evictions through a carefully considered and researched approach to negotiation led by their organization, the PWS (Paguyuban Warga Strenkali Surabaya). It describes how the PWS negotiated the solution, how the renovations are being facilitated by savings groups and how the process is leading to stronger, better organized communities. It also reflects on the remaining challenges, such as on-going eviction threats and the lack of funding to support the communities' own processes and priorities. At the heart of the approach's success is, as noted by a member of the province's parliament, the fact that instead of saying "Help us because we are poor", the communities threatened with eviction have said "Listen, we have this problem and here is a possible solution".

### **The Urban Poor Development Fund in Cambodia: Supporting Local and Citywide Development**

*Somsak Phonphakdee, Sok Visaland Gabriela Sauter, 2009, 26 pages. Gatekeeper Series 137g, IIED, London. Downloadable from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14854IIED.pdf>. This was also published in Environment and Urbanization Vol 21, No 2 (October 2009).*

Years of destruction under the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s and political upheavals in the 1980s left Cambodia in extreme political, social, economic and cultural turmoil. With the fall of the Pol Pot regime in 1979, people began to move back into Phnom Penh, and later into other urban areas. This large rural-to-urban flow resulted in very high numbers of low-income people in cities with no real sense of community, no government support for the urban poor, or programmes to provide them with services, finance or housing.

This paper describes how a coalition of poor community leaders, concerned NGOs and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) began working together on an urban community movement, which included savings groups, to finance housing and neighbourhood improvements. In 1998, the Urban Poor Development Fund was established to support this, and thus develop and scale up people-driven solutions to the city's housing and poverty problems and place the poor at the core of their own development processes. It operates a revolving fund to provide soft loans, through their savings groups, to poor communities for housing, land and income generation initiatives, and to use the fund to pool efforts in partnership and development in the city. This paper describes how the processes of housing and community upgrading, although important as ends in themselves, are used by this fund to unite communities and create options for housing where none existed before. This was especially urgent in a context of the poor being pushed out of the city, in large part so that the central, often high-value, land on which they were living could be redeveloped commercially. By April 2008, 222 communities in Phnom Penh and a total of 354 communities in Cambodia had well-established savings groups, with almost 20,000 members. More than US\$ 2 million had been disbursed in the form of loans to close to 9,000 families, mostly for income generation schemes and house improvements. The fund also provides small grants to support collective environmental improvement projects.

### **Uplink Porong: Supporting Community-driven Responses to the Mud Volcano Disaster in Sidoarjo, Indonesia**

*Mujtaba Hamdi, Wardah Hafidz and Gabriela Sauter, 2009, 20 pages. Gatekeeper (137j), IIED, London.*

*Downloadable from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14851IIED.pdf>.*

In May 2006, the exploratory search for natural gas deposits in the Sidoarjo area of Indonesia by Indonesian corporation PT Lapindo Brantas led to a devastating mud volcano that displaced thousands of people and ruined farmland, roads and other infrastructure. Neither the government nor the corporation whose drilling was probably responsible for the mud volcano were prepared to address the needs of those who had lost their homes, their villages and their livelihoods.

This paper describes how the corporation denied that its drilling had caused the mud volcano, and instead sought to limit any compensation paid, curb the organization of affected communities and discourage the involvement of international agencies. It also profiles the work of a small Indonesian NGO, Uplink Porong, in supporting the many affected households and different village organizations to work together, to develop and implement their own preferred responses and to lobby for support for these. It highlights the importance of support for this kind of grassroots organizing and network building among those affected by disasters as an important foundation for more appropriate, locally rooted post-disaster responses. The authors suggest that the most important response from external donors would have been to provide on-the-ground long-term support for those affected in order to build their capacities to develop and implement their own solutions.

### **The How, When and Why of Community Organizational Support: Uplink Yogyakarta in Indonesia**

*Awali Saeful Thohir, Wardah Hafidz and Gabriela Sauter, 2009, 13 pages. Gatekeeper (137k), IIED, London. Downloadable from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14850IIED.pdf>.*

In 2006, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 on the Richter scale hit the outskirts of the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta. The earthquake only lasted 55 seconds, but it destroyed the homes of hundreds and thousands of people and affected many communities in Central Java. This paper describes the work of Uplink Yogyakarta in providing emergency aid in 52 local government areas and subsequently in reconstruction and development. Uplink Yogyakarta concentrated on supporting urban and rural poor communities' processes rather than imposing its own projects or programmes. It worked with these communities with a very small budget and on a long-term basis to rebuild and reverse the negative social impacts of the municipal government's post-disaster compensation scheme.

Three cases are described to demonstrate how Uplink Yogyakarta is developing relationships with communities. In one, it helped facilitate the development of a traditional dance group to renew a sense of community and culture. In another, it used the response to the disaster as an entry point for accessing rights to basic services from the local government. In a third, it is developing relationships with communities to help them deal with their immediate problems and prepare them for bigger issues that are likely to affect them in the future. The paper highlights some lessons for external donors, who may find it difficult to know how best to support local organizations when such organizations need support, and also why donors need to change the ways they work with such local organizations. Beyond providing money, an effective role for donors could include linking local organizations so that they can learn from and support each other, as well as linking them with appropriate technical support in order to develop skills and financial self-reliance.

## VII. MIGRATION

### **Circular Migration and Multi-locational Livelihood Strategies in Rural India**

*Priya Deshingkar and John Farrington (editors), 2009, 352 pages. ISBN13: 978 0 19 5699 22 7. Published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110 001, India; available from [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com); price: US\$ 59.95*

The focus of this book is circular migration, defined as a temporary move from the normal place of residence for the purpose of employment. It includes case studies from some of the poorest and most deprived parts of India, as well as of socially marginalized groups from more prosperous areas, which show how important migration has become in sustaining, and in some cases improving, rural livelihoods. The case studies also underline the complexity of migration, especially when it overlaps with poverty. Migrant flows and labour markets are highly differentiated and segmented along caste, age and gender lines; moreover, the distinction between voluntary and forced migration is often blurred. For instance, while arrangements with labour intermediaries who give advances to migrants and their families may remind us of debt bondage, they may also result in greater economic gains in the long term. Similarly, migrants who move to escape social discrimination or political persecution may also be described as internally displaced persons.

The key arguments of this collection are four-fold. First, circular migration makes an important but underestimated contribution to the livelihoods

of many rural people. Second, particularly through the construction sector, it contributes to India's economic transformation more than politicians and policy makers are prepared to recognize. Third, government takes a generally negative view of migration, doing little to ease the lives of migrants at destination and concentrating efforts in source areas on the often inaccurate assumption that this will prevent migration. Fourth, official statistics neither collect nor present data in ways that show the actual magnitude of circular migration.

The introductory chapter by the editors develops the conceptual framework that focuses explicitly on the relationship between circular migration and livelihood diversification in the context of economic transformation. The next three chapters focus on the economic reasons and impacts of migration. Chapter 2 is based on an econometric analysis of village level studies data in Andhra Pradesh, exploring the ways in which circular migration is affected by climatic shocks. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the high levels of circular migration and commuting in six villages each in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, respectively. The next four chapters highlight other aspects of migration: Chapter 5 describes the role of social networks and power relations among migrants in Rajasthan; Chapter 6 explores how caste and age affect migrants' experiences in Bihar, while Chapter 7 emphasizes how, in Jharkhand, youth migration is often determined by a desire to break free from restrictive social norms; and Chapter 8 examines how social identities and especially gender determine poor migrants' experiences in Madhya Pradesh. The final chapters take a policy-focused approach, with Chapter 9 examining the impact of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on migration in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Chapter 10, by the Aajeevika Bureau, one of the largest and most successful migrant support programmes in India, offers options for civil society organizations, the private sector, donors and the government to work together to support migrants and create awareness of their rights. Chapter 11 describes informal social protection mechanisms used by migrants' relatives in West Bengal. Finally, the concluding chapter spells out the policy options available to promote the positive aspects of migration and minimize its negative consequences.

## VIII. RURAL-URBAN

### **Rural-Urban Dynamics: Livelihoods, Mobility and Markets in African and Asian Frontiers**

*Jytte Agergaard, Niels Fold and Katherine V Gough (editors), 2010, 212 pages. ISBN: 0 415 47562 7 (hardback); 0 203 87394 7 (paperback). Published by and available from Routledge, 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN, UK; website: [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com).*

This edited collection brings together case studies conducted in Ghana, Vietnam, Thailand and Tanzania as part of a research programme funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consultative Research Committee for Development Research. The book explores how changes in local livelihoods in relation to economic globalization are articulated as spatial transformations and new forms of rural-urban dynamics in specific "frontiers", particularly dynamics spaces where economic, demographic and social change converge and interact. The different case studies examine agricultural frontiers, handicraft and manufacturing frontiers, and mining frontiers that have all been deeply affected by global market dynamics. The editors' introduction defines the concept of "frontier" as regions with high levels of production specialization (coffee, cocoa, gold, handicraft and fresh fruit) that, through large volumes of exports, are heavily linked to world market dynamics. This, in turn, shapes local livelihoods with the emergence of new employment opportunities and new sectors of activity. Economic growth also attracts migrants and transforms the shapes and functions of settlements, although with great variations and trajectories between and within the case study regions. Chapter 2 summarizes the conceptual background to the case study chapters, with a critical review of current thinking on rural-urban dynamics, markets (with specific attention to global value chains and global production networks), livelihoods and mobility. Since the case studies are part of a larger multi-country research project, it also provides information on the common methodology used.

Chapters 3 to 7 are dedicated to the agricultural frontier. Chapter 3 by Michael Helt Knudsen explores the cocoa frontier in Ghana's Western province, and through the description of the contrasting fortunes of two small towns warns against generalizations in analyzing settlement development. In Chapter 4, Jytte Agergaard describes the impact of the dramatic collapse of world coffee prices on settlements and livelihoods in Vietnam's Central Highlands. Chapter 5, by Katherine Gough and Niels Fold, explores how the rapid transformations in global demand for pineapples has eroded the livelihoods of smallholders in Ghana's Greater Accra Region, but at the same time points to the importance of the local dimension, in this case the additional constraints of customary land tenure systems. Chapter 6, by Hoag Xuan Thanh and Cecilia Tacoli, describes the multiple impacts of urbanization and industrialization on fruit-producing rural settlements in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, where growing prosperity has also resulted in widening income inequalities and social polarization. Chapter 7, by Niels Fold and Cecilia Tacoli, concludes this section by identifying and discussing the key factors that affect livelihoods, markets and settlement trajectories in the four agricultural frontiers.

Chapters 8 to 11 explore the handicraft and manufacturing frontier in Vietnam and Thailand. Chapter 8, by Katherine Gough and Dang Nguyen Anh, describes how handicrafts' role in the livelihoods of residents of Vietnam's Red River Delta depends to a large extent on its nature and on the production process, and not only on access to global markets. Chapters 9 and 10, by Jonathan Rigg, Suriya Veeravongs, Piyawadee Rohitarachoon and Lalida Veeravongs, examine how handicraft production and the development of factories affect rural development and livelihoods in northern Thailand and in Ayuthaya province, respectively, and describe how in the process, Thai rural economies are remade, with increased mobility and a decline in the role of farming. Chapter 11, by Katherine Gough and Jonathan Rigg, concludes this section by reflecting on the wider implications of these transformations and on the importance of policy interventions to support positive rural-urban dynamics.

Chapters 12 to 14 discuss the mining frontier. In Chapter 12, Deborah Fahy Bryceson and Rosemarie Mwaipopo describe how gold and diamond mining in northwest Tanzania may be declining as a livelihood opportunity but nevertheless contribute to highly dynamic local urbanization processes. In Chapter 13, Paul W K Yankson shows that, in contrast, the revival of the gold mining industry in Wasswa West district in Ghana contributes little to local livelihoods and has a negative impact on unemployment and poverty. Chapter 14, by Deborah Fahy Bryceson and Paul W K Yankson, argues that it is important to consider the differences between large-scale and small-scale mining, and that the latter can ultimately contribute to sustainable urban development. The concluding chapter by the book's editors pulls together the findings from the different case studies and summarizes the broad implications for policy.

## IX. URBAN

### a. Urban – general

#### **Africa's Urban Transition and the Role of Regional Collaboration**

*Gordon McGranahan, Diana Mitlin, David Satterthwaite, Cecilia Tacoli and Ivan Turok, 2009, 54 pages. Human Settlements Working Paper Series, Urban Change 5, IIED, London. Downloadable free of charge from <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/10571IIED.pdf>.*

Africa is in the midst of an urban transition, and over the next 10 years its urban population is projected to increase by more than 150 million. Economic difficulties may reduce rural-urban migration but Africa's towns and cities are not ready to accommodate

anything like this many new residents. It is tempting for governments to respond to this challenge by trying to discourage rural–urban migration. Surveys indicate that government officials are increasingly concerned with “over-urbanization”, and a growing number of policies are being implemented to reduce rural–urban migration. There is no evidence of such policies succeeding, however, and plenty of evidence of human suffering when there are harsh restrictions on rural–urban migration. Poor groups can also suffer from the neglect of growing urban areas: neglect often at least implicitly justified on the grounds that the population in these areas ought not to be growing, and that the provision of infrastructure and services will simply encourage more in-migration from rural areas or neighbouring countries. This report argues that the challenge is not to curb urbanization but, rather, to seize the opportunities it provides, while curbing the inequalities and environmental burdens that market-driven or poorly planned urbanization can bring. Successful urban development is locally driven, but a successful/l urban transition requires national support and regional collaboration. It is regional collaboration involving urban centres in at least two different countries that is the particular concern of this report.

This report suggests that there are many different reasons for engaging in regional collaboration on urban issues. Some urban issues involve trans-boundary problems that require the cooperation of two or more national governments to resolve. More often, the justifications for regional collaboration lie in the similar or interconnected challenges faced by often distant urban centres, and the strength and legitimacy that regional cooperation can bring to local initiatives. Africa’s urban agendas are already heavily informed and influenced by international perspectives, but all too often these originate in other continents and are not grounded in local realities and interests, let alone those of the urban poor.

This report considers urbanization’s opportunities and challenges under four headings: migration, economic growth, urban poverty and the environment, and discusses the appropriate form of regional collaboration for each. For international migration, the need for regional collaboration is clear. With contradictory policies operating in origin and destination countries, migrants often face unnecessary obstacles and prejudice and are subjected to arbitrary policy changes as economic conditions shift. Poorly coordinated policies affecting migration not only cause problems for urban migrants but also for international relations. But there is also a need for well-informed regional dialogue on other forms of migration, including local rural–urban migration. Although this is an issue that must be resolved at national and local levels, a healthy regional discussion

of these migration issues could provide critical support for constructive national and local measures. With regard to economic growth, there are urban regions, such as the Maputo development corridor, that cross national boundaries and where there is a clear need for regional cooperation. Here too, it is also important to have regional dialogue on urbanization and the economic opportunities and challenges it poses. There is also scope for effective cooperation between cities facing similar economic challenges as well as between different countries. Regional activities, cutting across national boundaries, also have an essential contribution to make towards enabling hundreds of millions of urban dwellers in Africa to secure basic services, and secure tenure and housing improvements. Similar problems are found in many countries in the region, including over-specified standards and a reification of formality. But there are also some interesting regional responses, especially the number of national federations of slum or shack dwellers that are now active in African nations and the extent to which they work with, learn from and support each other. Their experiences illustrate the growing importance of regional action, not just for governments and formal agencies but also for grassroots organizations. With regard to the urban environment, there are a range of city–regional burdens, many of which extend across national boundaries and require regional cooperation to resolve. Around Lake Victoria, for example, urban activities in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya combine to place an undue burden on the ecology of the lake. Many of Africa’s river systems pose similar problems. Regional collaboration is also justified in response to emerging global environmental burdens. In adapting to climate change, for example, coastal cities are likely to face similar challenges and can benefit from collaborating in the development of adaptation strategies.

## b. Urban agriculture

### **Healthy City Harvests: Generating Evidence to Guide Policy on Urban Agriculture**

*Donald Cole, Diana Lee-Smith and George Nasinyama, 2008, 259 pages. ISBN: 978 92 9060 355 9. Published by Urban Harvest/CIP and Makerere University Press and available at [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com); price: US\$ 15.*

In this accessible and policy-relevant volume, contributors discuss urban agriculture in Kampala utilizing the diverse perspectives of public health, human rights and good governance. Urban agriculture has long been recognized for its potential to enhance food security, improve nutrition and strengthen livelihoods. Urban agriculture is also extremely prevalent in Uganda, for example, a survey found that around half of Kampala’s households produced some of

their own food (page 4). Kampala's city council revised its ordinances in 2006 to support urban agriculture and enhance the monitoring, licensing and control of farming practices. The book is the product of several institutions, including Makerere University and the University of Toronto, whose research partly informed Kampala's revised ordinances. Contributors examine the governance processes behind these reforms and discuss community perceptions, health impacts and risk management strategies among farmers in Kampala. The volume combines policy recommendations, health assessments and participatory research. It promotes urban agriculture as crucial to healthy and sustainable cities, while also seeking to improve the evidence base on its health risks and forging policies to mitigate them.

Throughout the book's five sections, the authors present original case studies as well as commentaries on key themes and future areas of research. Section A explores the perspectives of major stakeholders, namely, local farmers (Chapter 2), health researchers (Chapter 3) and municipal officials (Chapter 4). The next three sections contain detailed studies: Section B on food security and nutrition, Section C on healthy horticulture and Section D on urban livestock (chicken rearing and dairies). In Chapter 6, researchers report that urban agriculture was associated with dietary diversity and improved child Vitamin A status. Chapter 11, on Kampala's dairies, includes a discussion of "indigenous risk mitigation" strategies, which are said to illustrate "...the benefits attainable by encouraging good practices already present" (page 206). Section E concludes with an account of Kampala's urban agriculture ordinance reforms (Chapter 12) and a broader discussion of urban agriculture's relation with good governance and sustainable development (Chapter 13). It is too early to assess the ordinance's impact but the example helps illustrate participatory research and governance processes that may strengthen public decision-making (page 242).

Acknowledging that urban agriculture may present significant risks, the authors propose policy guidelines and several health interventions. City officials should educate consumers on healthy horticultural preparation, provide clean water in markets, promote safer crop selection and improve water sources (pages 171–172). Distinct strategies are needed to reduce risks from biological and chemical contaminants. Urban livestock management can be enhanced through better sanitation, refrigeration, food surveillance programmes and other educational interventions. Many households who raised chickens already immunized their flocks but had not adopted other strategies such as protective clothes. Future interventions may need to recognize gender differences, as many female farmers in Kampala had lower levels of knowledge concerning urban agriculture's health risks.

### **Agriculture in Urban Planning: Generating Livelihoods and Food Security**

Mark Redwood (editor), 2009, 248 pages. ISBN: 978 1 84407 668 0. Published by International Development Research Centre and Earthscan Publications, 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK; e-mail: [earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk](mailto:earthinfo@earthscan.co.uk); website: [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk); also available in bookshops; price UK£ 65 (hardback, from the Earthscan website). In the USA, Earthscan, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166–2012, USA.

Urban agriculture can be defined as an industry located within, or on the fringes of, a town, a city or a metropolis, which grows and raises, processes and distributes a diversity of food and non-food products, (re)using largely human and material resources, products and services found in and around that urban area, and in turn supplying human and material resources, products and services largely to the urban area. While core elements involved are the self-sufficient and small-scale characters of urban agriculture, this definition has many social, political and environmental connotations.

Despite the significant challenge of being perceived historically as a problem, urban agriculture is now part of the debate on how to improve cities. Policy recognition of this is rising, so too is the level of effort among scientists and researchers to document this practice. Urban agriculture is an area that has seen rapid policy development over the last 15 years because it supports livelihoods and generates an economic value from land that would otherwise be idle or vacant. Yet its economic impact reaches beyond farmers: it stimulates employment further along the chain of production for those who market, transport and sell produce, as well as for those who provide the tools and other means of production. In addition, it is a catalyst for community organization and for the greening of cities, increasing dietary diversity because it enables a local source of fresh produce, yet it also plays a role in the production of solid and liquid waste.

This book addresses key topics such as access to water and land as well as the economic implications of urban agriculture. It would be a mistake to believe that producing food in cities is free of problems. Land and water are generally scarce. While water poses challenges related to its availability, control and pollution, land is generally subject to public policies that ban the use of land for urban agriculture and do not consider it as a legal source of income. This is because traditionally, urban agriculture has been understood from orthodox economic viewpoints rather than from use-value considerations. It is difficult to estimate urban agriculture's value, especially compared with more traditional sources of income. This problem presents several methodological and epistemological conflicts, which are addressed by this book, for

example the need for participatory–action methods, gender considerations, research ethics, etc.

Urban agriculture has proved to be a major and better source of income and livelihood across the world, an improvement in food security, especially among low-income households, and a source of better nutrition. Nevertheless, a major risk to urban agriculture is the many environmental problems (water, soil) that are generally present in the most deprived urban areas of the world. The 13 chapters of this book present results from research funded by the international AGROPOLIS programme, with case studies from Kenya, Ghana, Peru, Zimbabwe, Malawi, DR Congo, Argentina, Nicaragua, Senegal and Nigeria.

### **Cities Farming for the Future, Urban Agriculture for Green and Productive Cities**

*René van Veenhuizen (editor), 2006, 460 pages. ISBN: 1 930261 14 4. Published in the Philippines by RUAF Foundation, IDRC and IIRR. For further information, contact: International Development Research Centre, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H9, Canada (info@idrc.ca; www.idrc.ca) or International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Y C James Yen Center, Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines (information@iirr.org; www.iirr.org).*

This book integrates the results of recent research on the potential, risks, dynamics, policies and action programmes of urban agriculture in the world. It came out of the collaboration of the partners in the International Network of Resources Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF), including seven regional centres, one international resource centre and several other organizations with which RUAF is cooperating.

The volume provides examples and insight, aimed at senior and mid-level officers in municipal departments, governmental organizations, NGOs, farmer- and community-based organizations, and generally for all those who influence policies and programmes of urban agriculture development. Each of the 14 chapters compares three to four cities' experiences. Topics range from multi-stakeholder policy-making and action planning approaches to more empirical lessons learned by researchers and practitioners in the past years. In general, the main factors addressed are local capacity development, facilitation of multi-stakeholder policy development and action planning, knowledge management and networking, establishment of monitoring systems on urban agriculture, and gender mainstreaming (or the integration of this variable in urban agriculture policies).

The authors discuss urban planning, and traditional and new approaches and tools, to enhance access by urban producers to land and other resources, especially credit and investment. They also deal with the various social, economic and ecological

dimensions of urban agriculture. While the main production systems are also analyzed, authors reflect on how these can be made safer and more sustainable. Each chapter presents a complete bibliography and a compilation of relevant websites and other useful sources.

Some general recommendations on urban agriculture are given that include the need to:

- extend capacity development towards a larger number of cities and countries;
- broaden the support from governments to local initiatives;
- give more attention to the monitoring of benefits and risks;
- get better differentiation among producers (especially regarding scale and location in the city);
- strengthen urban agriculture farmers' organizations;
- develop more participatory training and action research with urban farmers groups;
- give more support to microenterprise development; and
- develop more creative ways to improve farmers' access to idle land and enhance their security of usufruct.

### **c. Urban design**

#### **Urban Design**

*Alex Krieger and William S Saunders (editors), 2009, 320 pages, ISBN: 978-0-8166-5639-4 (paperback). Published by University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis–London and available from www.amazon.co.uk; price: UK£ 15.50*

The modern concept of urban design grew out of major mid-twentieth century concerns, which were urban sprawl and declining inner-city areas. Pioneer urban designers in the 1950s struggled to find common ground among the design disciplines, i.e. architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning, for dealing with those problems that were far beyond the mastery of any single discipline. This book brings the story back and also celebrates the more than 50 years since the influential 1956 Conference on Urban Design held at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. The volume also offers a perspective on the intellectual distances travelled since then. The 18 essays in this book were written by urban designers, planners and other urban-related researchers, and first published in two consecutive issues of *Harvard Design Magazine* in 2006 and 2007.

Part 1 explores the circumstances that led to the conceptualization of urban design. It offers extracts from the transcripts of the 1956 conference by participants such as José Luis Sert, Lewis Mumford,

Jane Jacobs and Richard Neutra. It also discusses the development of the discipline, including the splintering of the CIAM and the emergence of the so-called post-modern urban designers during the 1960s. Part 2 presents the views of three architects/planners (D Scott Brown, Fumihiko Maki and Jonathan Barnett) whose careers span much of the half century since 1956. These authors claim that key elements such as social complexity, inter-disciplinary interaction, environmental stewardship, an enhanced public realm and a facilitating sociability should be at the centre of the current stage of urban design.

Part 3 lays out roles and categories of engagement for the practitioners of urban design, emphasizing distinct fields of action and defining the "territory" of the discipline. These authors also demand more attention to urban theories in contemporary practice and ask for more rigorous theoretical underpinning for current and future practitioners. Part 4 presents a debate about the nature of the discipline. Some authors criticize what they call the banal strategies catering to low common denominators, false evocations of bygone eras of good urbanism, and the predominance of market-driven rather than civically

inspired objectives (e.g. "new urbanism"). But this debate engages with urban design's own Achilles heel, which is its eternal self-defeating sideline of history and context.

Variations of a "third way" between lifeless conformity and unnecessary innovation are presented in Part 5. While some authors demand practice based on a three-legged stool of environmentalism, promoting creative urban economies and "shared" leadership (i.e. more involvement of civic society in designing processes), others ask for an urban design more engaged with both landscape architecture and a constant spirit of self-criticism – far from the uncritical mimicking of successful past cases. Finally, essayists in Part 6 wonder if urban designers can acquire a more global outlook. This means attending to the demands of the unprecedented rate of urbanization in the vast world outside of Europe and North America and focusing on the emerging urbanisms outside traditional, nucleated urban models. This also means proposing ideas for patterns of urbanization congruent with globally networked economies, digital communication, modernizing infrastructures and services, and changing cultural contexts.