Kia Ora - welcome to the 2nd Development Studies Newsletter for 2008!

We’ve enjoyed a great second semester, with highlights including the contact courses June - we always enjoy the opportunity to meet and mingle with our distance students – Waikanae symposium with Victoria Development Studies staff and students in September, and the November graduation ceremony.

We also very much enjoyed the DevNet conference, ‘Peripheral Visions’, hosted by Victoria University from 3-5 December. It was particularly pleasing to see the high number, and quality, of student presentations at this event. Well done to 12 of our students for participating, and especially to Vicky Walters and Mirriam Dogimab for receiving prizes for their presentations!

In this issue we focus on stories from students conducting development fieldwork, and graduates working in the development industry both within NZ and overseas. We hope you’re inspired by their stories, and remember to contact Regina if you have any stories of your own that you would like to share.

When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist

Dom Helder Camara

Launch of our new Working Paper series

A reminder to readers that we now have an electronic Working Paper series, in which we are publishing articles on contemporary development issues from academics, post-graduate students, and development policy-makers or practitioners. Please contact the editor of this series, Glenn, if you wish to see the guidelines and put forward a submission (g.a.banks@massey.ac.nz).

Benefits of using this mechanism for publishing your research include:
- Association with a respected University
- Blind refereeing process
- Quick publication of approved papers (you’ll be waiting just a few months rather than a couple of years, which is how long it takes for journal articles to get to print these days!)
- Wide circulation: our Working Paper series is to be hosted on the Massey University Library’s D-Space, which is easily accessed by major search engines like Google.
The Newsletter

IDS Graduates in the Workplace
Laura Patterson

After working in Zambia within a public health programme, I returned to NZ and completed a PGDip in Development Studies at Palmerston North in 2001. Following this I worked for two years in Angola with Medair, a Swiss based humanitarian aid agency, consolidating and applying these studies. I was able to complete field research in Angola for a master’s thesis and returned to Massey to achieve an MPhil, Development Studies in 2005. My studies in Development enhanced my management and analysis skills, challenged my perspectives, and gave depth to the work that I am involved in.

In 2006, I returned to work with Medair for two years in the northern province of Badakhshan in Afghanistan. My role as Programme Coordinator involved coordination and management of multi-sector projects including medical clinics, water and sanitation, disaster mitigation, construction and food security/agriculture. I was constantly challenged and inspired by the physical and cultural environment. Managing projects was challenging due to the remoteness of the area we worked in and the insecurity throughout the country. The logistical challenges are reflected in the scenario that we had to travel three days by horse and foot over mountain passes through metres of snow to access the project sites in winter.

Welcome to Dr Nawal El-Gack

We are delighted that Nawal has joined our team of lecturers for the next 12 months, mainly to teach 131.121 Rich World, Poor World, and 131.705 Development in Practice. Nawal can be contacted on: n.el-gack@massey.ac.nz

Nawal says: I originally come from Sudan. I worked with the Forests National Corporation as a training officer and director of the extension department. Later I worked for UNDP/FAO and then for various NGOs, providing training and technical assistance to enhance the development capabilities of many civil society organisations in United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Yemen and Tanzania. I did my PhD at Massey, where I analysed the experiences of rural development and microfinance projects in Sudan.

Development Studies 20th Anniversary Celebration
April 24 2009

2009 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Institute of Development Studies at Massey, and we plan to mark the event by inviting past and present staff and students, development industry personnel and friends of IDS to a day-long celebration. This will occur on Friday 24 April 2009, and include a key note speech, lunch, celebrity debate, and lots of opportunities for networking! Watch this space for further details.
IDS Graduates in the Workplace

Paulina Japardy

After working as a development consultant for several years in Indonesia, including a period employed by NZAID on their Gunung Rinjani ecotourism project, I came to Massey University to do my Master’s in Development Studies. My thesis examined whether private sector agencies involved in tourism, for example, tour operators, were interested in undertaking to make their businesses contribute to community development and poverty alleviation.

Since returning to Indonesia in 2008 I have started working with Fairtrade Labeling Organizations (FLO) e.V. as a Liaison Officer for Indonesia, based in Jakarta. The International division of FLO e.V., which is based in Bonn, Germany, develops and reviews standards and assists producers in capitalizing on market opportunities. As a Liaison Officer, I act as a liaison person between the Producer Business Unit (PBU) and FLO certified producers, potential FLO producer partners, and Fairtrade stakeholders in Indonesia.

My main task includes providing information, advice and training to small farmers’ organizations at the grassroots level (producers) to improve compliance with Fairtrade standards and to improve their market opportunities. Currently, there are 8 FLO certified small farmers’ organizations in Indonesia and around 30 applicants in various stages of certification process (coffee, cocoa, vanilla, cashew nuts, herbs and spices). We are working to strengthen our presence and to bring Fairtrade benefits closer to more Indonesian small farmers.

Anna Parsons recently conducted fieldwork for her Master’s thesis in Rwanda, which examines the effectiveness of World Vision Rwanda’s Personal Development Workshops (PDW). She is writing her thesis part-time while employed by World Vision New Zealand. She writes:

World Vision Rwanda runs an innovative, interesting and inspiring course designed to help staff and community members cope with psychosocial wounds from the genocide of 1994.

The Personal Development Workshop (PDW) is run in three sessions with an additional evaluation day. Participants are taught about bereavement, how to handle emotions, understanding trauma and forgiveness. Small groups are used as a forum to share stories and comfort and support one another – for many, it is the first time they have talked about their experiences since the genocide.

My main task includes providing information, advice and training to small farmers’ organizations at the grassroots level (producers) to improve compliance with Fairtrade standards and to improve their market opportunities. Currently, there are 8 FLO certified small farmers’ organizations in Indonesia and around 30 applicants in various stages of certification process (coffee, cocoa, vanilla, cashew nuts, herbs and spices). We are working to strengthen our presence and to bring Fairtrade benefits closer to more Indonesian small farmers.

Anna Parsons recently conducted fieldwork for her Master’s thesis in Rwanda, which examines the effectiveness of World Vision Rwanda’s Personal Development Workshops (PDW). She is writing her thesis part-time while employed by World Vision New Zealand. She writes:

World Vision Rwanda runs an innovative, interesting and inspiring course designed to help staff and community members cope with psychosocial wounds from the genocide of 1994.

The Personal Development Workshop (PDW) is run in three sessions with an additional evaluation day. Participants are taught about bereavement, how to handle emotions, understanding trauma and forgiveness. Small groups are used as a forum to share stories and comfort and support one another – for many, it is the first time they have talked about their experiences since the genocide.

The aim of my field research was to evaluate how participants have been empowered, and whether the workshop is a purely individual experience or more widespread. I held a number of focus groups (with the help of a translator, of course!) and conducted interviews with World Vision staff, community leaders, genocide survivors and ex-prisoners.

The workshop’s strength is that it allows people to grieve their losses, seek forgiveness and relearn how to relate to others. Many people spoke of how lonely they were before participating and how encouraged they were to meet other people who had problems similar to, or worse than, theirs. For many, it was the first time they’d interacted socially with people from the “other side”. One woman said: “The PDW is an energiser, it lifts you from down and puts you up. You are able to live after the PDW”. Another said: “I am a new creation”. Many expressed the desire for all Rwandans to do the workshop, that “Rwanda would become a nice place to live, there would be no conflict”. The impacts of the workshop are being felt at many levels; individuals healed, families restored, community leaders and World Vision staff given skills to help others, neighbours relating and communities rebuilt. While it is very encouraging, there is so much hurt, hate and anger still to be addressed. The PDW is contributing immensely to the vital healing process but there is still a long way to go.

Anna Parsons recently conducted fieldwork for her Master’s thesis in Rwanda, which examines the effectiveness of World Vision Rwanda’s Personal Development Workshops (PDW). She is writing her thesis part-time while employed by World Vision New Zealand. She writes:

World Vision Rwanda runs an innovative, interesting and inspiring course designed to help staff and community members cope with psychosocial wounds from the genocide of 1994.

The Personal Development Workshop (PDW) is run in three sessions with an additional evaluation day. Participants are taught about bereavement, how to handle emotions, understanding trauma and forgiveness. Small groups are used as a forum to share stories and comfort and support one another – for many, it is the first time they have talked about their experiences since the genocide.

The aim of my field research was to evaluate how participants have been empowered, and whether the workshop is a purely individual experience or more widespread. I held a number of focus groups (with the help of a translator, of course!) and conducted interviews with World Vision staff, community leaders, genocide survivors and ex-prisoners.

The workshop’s strength is that it allows people to grieve their losses, seek forgiveness and relearn how to relate to others. Many people spoke of how lonely they were before participating and how encouraged they were to meet other people who had problems similar to, or worse than, theirs. For many, it was the first time they’d interacted socially with people from the “other side”. One woman said: “The PDW is an energiser, it lifts you from down and puts you up. You are able to live after the PDW”. Another said: “I am a new creation”. Many expressed the desire for all Rwandans to do the workshop, that “Rwanda would become a nice place to live, there would be no conflict”. The impacts of the workshop are being felt at many levels; individuals healed, families restored, community leaders and World Vision staff given skills to help others, neighbours relating and communities rebuilt. While it is very encouraging, there is so much hurt, hate and anger still to be addressed. The PDW is contributing immensely to the vital healing process but there is still a long way to go.
In early 2008 I completed my Master’s thesis on *Indo-Malaysians within the Malaysian Education System*. Now I am working back in Malaysia where my work is very exciting! I’m working with the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), a very vocal and strong NGO based in my hometown. My daily research and writings are on tobacco issues, environment and occupational safety and health.

---

**Photo Gallery**

*Top:* Aporosa (right) serves *yaqona* to colleagues after his successful PhD confirmation seminar. *Middle:* 702 contact course ‘energizer’. *Above:* Glenn kicks back at our August Feelin’ Hot Hot Hot Party

---

**Staff Publications for 2008**


**Scheyvens, R** and Momsen, J (2008) Tourism in Small Island States: From Vulnerability to Strengths *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 16(5)