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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The British Council
The British Museum (Gordan Paterson: The Court House Institute, English Heritage: The National Trust; Transfer of Property: the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPA).

Our Aims

In his address to the Amman Workshop last October, David Shepherd, Director of Continuing Education at The University of York said: “We are here together to learn from each other and to generate strength from sharing information and experience. Therefore this workshop is aimed at helping to maintain and further improve our education throughout life. This is ‘continuing education’ or, as it is often called in the UK, Continuing Professional Development. CPD is about the management of change in knowledge and professional expectations of practitioners. This definition is particularly relevant to our objectives.”

In accordance with the general mission of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies (IoAAS), the aim of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) is to provide an accessible and professionally relevant multi-disciplinary training and post-graduate educational programme and to carry out an associated research programme, which both broadens understanding and deepens technical expertise in the reconstruction, provision, use and conservation of the man-made environment, following its devastation by armed conflict.
PRDU Workshop Briefing

NGOs in Afghanistan

**NGOs and Peace in Afghanistan**

**PAKISTAN** 3-7 APRIL 1994

Held in the summer palace of the former King of Swat, in the mountainous north of Pakistan, this Workshop was facilitated by Sultan Barakat (PRDU Co-ordinator) and Simon Fisher, Director of Responding to Conflict (RTC), Birmingham.

The event was co-funded by Oxfam, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and was aimed at Afghan and International NGOs, as well as United Nations agencies, involved in emergency relief and settlement reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Despite the fact that there are more than 200 NGOs working for the people of Afghanistan there is very little to show for their efforts in terms of physical and spiritual reconstruction. Because of the nature of their funding, few programmes are geared to the long-term development of the country.

**Middle East Reconstruction**

**Planning and Management of Reconstruction in the Middle East**

**AMMAN 9-15 OCTOBER 1993**

This event heralded an important development in our training strategy. By holding Workshops in countries devastated by conflict the PRDU hopes to provide quality training where it matters most.

One of the outcomes of the Workshop was the endorsement of our plan to establish a Regional Study Centre for the Middle East at Jordan University. This has stemmed from our ongoing collaboration with the University’s Department of Architecture and its Aga Khan Unit.

The institutions which participated found the event helped generate professional and collaborative relations on a regional scale. As a direct result of this, the PRDU is initiating two training programmes for local organisations, in conjunction with international bodies.

**Islamic Development**

**Architecture & Development in the Islamic World**

**YORK 18-24 APRIL 1993**

We designed this course to assist post-graduate students in the UK working on issues related to the built environment in the Islamic world.

The students joined distinguished professionals, practising in Islamic countries, to discuss three main themes:

- Understanding Islamic architecture
- Contemporary architecture and urban planning in the Islamic world
- Conservation practice.

The need to research and discuss these topics is pressing. Tragically for many Islamic countries the disaster of war (and the effects of colonisation and tourism) has been followed by the disaster of reconstruction and development.

Much of this can be attributed to Western influence, replacing traditional methods with modern models of architecture and urban planning, not suited to the local resources, climate and socio-cultural welfare.

**Disaster Intervention**

**Practical Lessons in International Disaster Intervention**

**YORK 10-14 MAY 1993**

Supported by presentations, videos, seminars and discussion periods, this pioneering course aimed to equip the participants with much needed knowledge and skills in the various phases of post-disaster recovery. It also covered management techniques required to plan for disasters.

The module was designed in association with the Institute of Civil Defence and Disaster Studies (ICDOS), Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (RedR), Disaster Management Limited (DML) and the Association of Pioneer Rescue Officers (APRO).

Discussions showed a tendency for disaster intervention to become an uncoordinated muddle. It was because of past mistakes that there was an urgent need for courses such as this. Basic training for individuals and organisations needed upgrading, and an international Code of Conduct for disaster intervention was required. The APRO Code of Conduct was tabulated for discussion as a basic document from which such a Code could be developed.

**Cultural Heritage at Risk**

Recent meetings of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) have initiated a Disaster Preparedness for Cultural Heritage scheme, consisting of five elements:

- Culture at Risk Fund
- Blue Shield Organisation – a database of specialists in cultural heritage conservation
- Training Scheme – manuals based on models tested in regional workshops
- Documentation & Information Management – using technology to make information more operational
- Awareness Programme – promoting the Culture at Risk Fund.

We look forward to further developments on this subject.

**Jerusalem Revitalised**

$5 million proposal gets funding agreement

In February and March 1994 the PRDU was contracted by the Welfare Association (a Palestinian NGO based in Geneva) to prepare an action plan and funding proposal for the safeguard of the Arab-Islamic Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Dr Sultan Barakat (PRDU Co-ordinator) and John Warren (IoAAS Fellow and PRDU Advisor) worked as a team with the Welfare Association producing a comprehensive proposal which covered four areas of action:

- Priority project for restoration
- Emergency repair and property protection programme
- The preparation of a conservation plan leading to the establishment of an information system
- Training, skill-building and progressive articulation of technical standards and guidelines for restoration work.

The proposal, with a total value of $5,095,750 was submitted to the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development. They have agreed the funding, and the Welfare Association has started working on an Executive Plan for Restoration.

**Training Armies as Peacebuilders**

The current situation in Bosnia was the title of a Ministry of Defence Seminar, attended by more than fifty high-ranking members of the British Army. It was held on 24 May 1994 in the Imphal Barracks, York.

All three lecturers were provided by the PRDU & the Centre for Continuing Education at York University. They were praised for their “rewarding presentations” and the knowledge and honesty they showed during the question-and-answer sessions which followed. The whole day finished off with an Open Forum which was “lively and very informative.”

We feel these joint military and academic enterprises are of great importance. With some new training, the military can use their skills to become peacebuilders, not destroyers.

Mostar 2004

Phase 1 of the Rebuilding of Multicultural Bosnia & Herzegovina

Sultan Barakat, PRDU Co-ordinator, will be participating in this Pilot Workshop which will be held in Istanbul, 25 July-25 August 1994. This International event will attempt to formulate an urban reconstruction plan and methodology of approach for the reconstruction of the Old Town of Mostar. It is sponsored by the Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul; UNESCO, Paris; the Agha Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT.

The speedy, but careful, reconstruction of Bosnia’s architectural heritage is essential to the National healing process. The famous bridge over the Neretva river at Mostar, built in 1566, has become a symbol of the war world-wide.

After it fell on 9 November 1993, following days of incessant shelling, the Croatian journalist Slavenka Drakulic wrote an article in the Observer newspaper. In it she vividly summed up the intense emotions which the image of the destroyed bridge evoked. Comparing this image with that of a middle-aged woman, her throat slit during a massacre in a Bosnian village, she wrote: "...And I ask myself why do I feel more pain looking at the image of the destroyed bridge than the image of the woman? Perhaps it is because I see my own mortality in the collapse of the bridge, not in the death of the woman. We expect people to die. We count on our own lives to end. The destruction of a monument to civilization is something else. The bridge, in all its beauty and grace, was built to outline us; it was an attempt to grasp eternity...a dead woman is one of us – but the bridge is all of us forever. “

Participants at the “NGOs and Peace in Afghanistan” Workshop in the summer palace of the former King of Swat. Each main topic of the Workshop was discussed in carefully selected groups, which then came together for full plenary sessions.

This event has given coherence to a group of people with a strong commitment to peace. By acting collectively on a list of recommended principles, drawn up during the Workshop, the group hope to ensure that their respective organisations take the proposals forward.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The British Council
The Courtauld Institute; English Heritage; The National Trust; Standtolf Roof
(See Publications)

The NewsLetter of the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit, at the University of York

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit (PRDU). It will be published three times a year – in July, November and March.

Through revival we hope:

◆ to foster professional and personal relationships between individuals, organisations and academic institutes who are involved in reconstruction and development after war and natural disasters
◆ to pool knowledge and experience for futureuse by exchanging dialogue, reports and papers.
Fax us. Write to us. Phone us even. We look forward to hearing from you.