PRDU marks United Nations Day

The PRDU marked United Nations Day by holding an Open Day on 24 October at the King’s Manor in York. The aim was not only to describe and promote the PRDU’s activities, but also to provide a forum for the exchange of views and expertise; to discuss how best The University of York and its partners can invest in the future of humanitarian and development work in war-torn societies. Over 50 participants attended the event including representatives from UK and international organisations, colleagues from The University and City of York, and academics from other universities and institutions.

In his keynote speech Dr Peter Walker, Director of Disaster Policy at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, welcomed the growing links between the PRDU and the Federation, links which he said were vital because “humanitarian agencies ... are working in a rapidly changing environment, particularly in the post conflict stage where, if only for organisational survival, we need the reflective and analytical skills that come from the academic environment.” Further extracts from continued on page 11
Editorial

The third year of MA in Post-war Recovery students are preparing for their imminent field visit to Lebanon (see page 5) – a break in the taught part of the programme – and this issue of revival in a way reflects on how all the students so far have helped to broaden and enhance the PRDU during, and after, their year in York.

Through many voices, the same message is heard – today, the world of humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and development is changing rapidly. Experience shows that those working in the field are often too busy and too close to the subject to fully appreciate these changes. This is no great surprise: every profession is full of busy people rushing around ‘fire-fighting’, with no time for reflection; doing what they know best rather than what might be best.

This makes the relationships between those working in the field and those researching in academic institutions all the more crucial. The PRDU’s MA provides a direct link between the two, with students relating their own recent experiences, learning from each other as well as from the Course. Through them the Unit is forging new partnerships, many of which are outlined in these pages.

Gani M Wad

New staff at PRDU

Hazel Parker recently joined the PRDU as Secretary and will look after the day-to-day administration of the Unit, supporting the MA course and research projects. Hazel is a tri-lingual secretary with several years’ overseas experience, before working at The University of York in the Departments of Continuing Education and Social Policy & Social Work.

GIS Croatia ’98

An International Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference and Exhibition was held in Osijek, 6–8 October 1998. Information Technology can readily enable the availability of up-to-date geographic data – an immediate issue for Croatia, since former Yugoslav mapping remains in Belgrade and has been inaccessible since Croatia’s independence in 1991.

Day one of the conference focussed on “Post-war and Post-disaster Reconstruction / Reconstruction and Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage” and was chaired by Sultan Barakat and Peter Halls from The University of York. Their invited paper explored existing and potential applications of GIS in terms of the reconstruction process, drawing examples from World War II, Balkans, Lebanon and Afghanistan. Other papers focussed on enabling technologies for effective field data collection and data update and on conservation and reconstruction of Heritage and Environment.

Day Two brought a slight change in emphasis – the “GIS in modern Society” papers reflecting the effort of creating national topographic, cadastral, and environmental mapping from scratch, and of providing for its maintenance and dissemination. These issues are facilitated by Spatial Decision Support Systems which are the future in registering and managing inevitable changes to the natural and built landscape, either through conflict, natural disasters or changing social patterns.

New PRDU website

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Website. Information is available on our research and consultancy activities, the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies, Publications, Alumni, and more!

The site includes a section linking it with other international organisations active in post-war recovery – please let us know if you would like to have your site linked to us; we would also be more than happy to be linked to your site!

Sri Lankans prepare

No one can predict when the major conflict in northern Sri Lanka will come to an end. When it does, however, there will be great demand for the services of people and institutions who can contribute to the rehabilitation effort. One of the major undertakings is the revival of civil society in the affected areas, without which normal life cannot return, and prior to this the establishment of law and order, as has been evident after the local government elections in Jaffna earlier this year.

In August, the Marga Institute, in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science & Technology, the PRDU, the University of Colombo and the Consortium for Humanitarian Affairs (Colombo) conducted an in-country workshop. Its aim was to develop a strategic plan for establishing a continuing training programme for personnel in government departments, non-government organisations and others who will partake in the tasks of rehabilitation, revival and development in areas affected by conflict.

Outline summaries of some of the issues raised follow.

The goals of capacity building
The proposals and programmes must emerge from and fit the needs and aspirations of the population and the realities on the ground. It is most important that the available options are put to the people and that they have a major hand in decision making. The ultimate need is for vision; if there is a vision, that will shape attitudes and help to overcome many obstacles. Social concern and values must determine the vision; wisdom and foresight must frame the strategy; and energy and flexibility must guide every step.
for rehabilitation

Continuous learning and adaptation
Learning is not a one shot exercise but a continuous process that must extend indefinitely beyond the end of any formal training programme. Some of this learning may be through direct gathering of information, knowledge and experience; and some through sharing of such information, knowledge and experience with others, whether at training programmes, at work sites or elsewhere. It is not only individuals but organisations too that need this culture.

Cooperation and coordination
Opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the different kinds of agencies involved may emerge in the process of capacity building. For example, universities may find it necessary to use NGO resource persons in teaching, and NGOs may find it necessary to bring academics into training programmes. Similarly, the need for close cooperation may dictate the need to exchange personnel for short periods between local, national and international NGOs and universities. Such practices will result in fuller utilisation and development of existing skills, deepen mutual understanding and enhance capacity and effectiveness.

Conclusion
The workshop brought together a rich and unique mix of personnel from a wide variety of institutions, disciplines and geographic locations. Many valuable ideas surfaced, key issues were identified, resources located and networking opportunities developed. The University of Colombo has much experience in related fields and should be in a position to undertake the formal training components of capacity building. Much of the training at these levels could be undertaken in cooperation with the University of Jaffna and the Eastern University. Many of the resource persons for the training and capacity development programmes at all levels would be drawn from local, national and international NGOs, state and UN agencies, educational institutions, and the private sector. There may also be inputs from The University of York, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the University of Peradeniya and the National Peace Council.

The follow-up envisaged is a three year programme for which a proposal is now being formulated.

DMTC ceremony in Amman

The official Opening Ceremony of the Disaster Management Training Center (DMTC) in Amman, Jordan, took place on 5 September. Set up in May 1995 at the behest of HRH the Crown Prince Al-Hassan and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, the DMTC has formed strong links with a number of international organisations, many of whom attended the ceremony.

A training curriculum has been prepared with the strategic support of Dr Sultan Barakat and Professor Ian Davis, Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies, and the Center is preparing to launch a series of training programmes on Capacity Building, led by these two.

The DMTC has received a generous grant from UNDP to develop its capacity and Major Zuhair Khader, the Center’s Manager, is presently undertaking the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies at the PRDU in York.

Three day Workshop
Following the opening, a workshop was held with the aim of introducing the participants to the aims and capabilities of the Training Centre. Dr Barakat launched the event with a presentation on the need for training in areas of response to disasters, and particularly in relief and development abroad.

Specific recommendations to the DMTC
• Coordinate with all the agencies working in the field of post-emergency relief and development in order to document and present their field-based experiences as case studies, with positive and negative lessons to be learned.
• Set up a specialised Internet page that can be accessed by the different participating organisations. This needs to include some of the most recent findings from the field to help improve practice and coordination of response and activities.
• Set up a task force to identify specific training needs with the Islamic organisations and to propose training strategies and recommend ways in which this Center can be best helped to achieve its mission.
• Help the DMTC to build its library with contributions from the represented agencies. There is a particular need to translate some of the basic references into Arabic to make training widely accessible to all Arab and Islamic relief and development workers.
• Find ways in which trainees’ practical experiences can be qualified when they are considered for academic qualifications.

General recommendations
• Recognise the need for the training of staff, both at the field level and at headquarters in the Islamic capitals.
• Establish and maintain contact with a wide range of international research and training centres that specialise in disaster management, complex political emergencies and post-conflict rehabilitation.
• Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between Arab and Islamic organisations on the one hand, and western and international organisations on the other.
• Encourage public participation in the process of relief, particularly the positive role that the private sector can play to strengthen capacities.
• Build positive partnerships with the media in order to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding international relief and development and the role of Islamic agencies.
New links: joint ventures with Pisa...

Sultan Barakat was recently invited as a guest lecturer to the Peace-Keeping Programme at the Scuola Superiore S. Anna, Pisa, on their Training Courses:

• The civilian personnel of peace-keeping/humanitarian operations and election monitoring missions;
• Peace-keeping operations and their impact on national communities: recent legal issues.

Within the framework of the Peace-Keeping Training Programme – which is aimed at a post-graduate level – research and studies on related matters are carried out.

... and the University of Ghana, Accra

In another joint venture, the Scuola and the PRDU have submitted a funding application to the European Commission for a project with the University of Ghana, Accra. The aim is to enhance African capacities for post-conflict peacebuilding through the training of African civilian personnel who will participate in field missions.

Such a course would guarantee the availability of a body of Africans duly trained and ready to operate professionally in the wide range of duties which peacebuilding missions and good governance tasks involve. These people would then be available to international, regional and national agencies, and non-governmental organisations, and would constitute the backbone of the civilian component of any African peacekeeping force.

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Form, Storm, Norm, Perform
MA students go team building

Freda Pyles reports on a training weekend with the military, designed to introduce the students to each other, and give them new skills for use on the Course and in the field.

Team building can be an important management tool when it is used to motivate a group of people to accomplish an enormous task in a short period of time, using limited resources. PRDU students boarded a bus on a Friday afternoon for a weekend of team building training exercises with the British Military Battalion of York at a facility near Lancaster, Lancashire. Although this group of new friends felt like a team, the test of that attitude would be made several times throughout the weekend, and essential components of work patterns required for a team effort would emerge.

On the Saturday morning there were exercises which required a quick response to determine the problem, setting a sequence of actions based on several factor determinants and proceeding using the best skills of each team member. To accomplish the imaginary river crossing using barrels and boards, team members exerted great agility and perseverance. Those skills would be tested throughout the weekend as we learned to read map coordinates, design rafts, rescue stranded team members, understand basic first aid skills, build our shelters for the night and cook our food over an open fire. Our second day included a short, early morning march to the top of a mountain to make a video of the weekend’s activities. Our final task was to make a raft from boards, barrels and ropes and float to the other side of a river, a job completed with efficiency and dedication.

Although there was collective misery during the ordeal, amid plenty of laughter, we developed skills which we quickly utilised when we were asked to accomplish a task in preparation for an event at The King’s Manor. Someone quickly shouted “what is our aim here, what are the factors we need to deal with, let’s get busy and assign tasks to spread the work load.” Team building works, it is fun, it distributes the work equitably and according to ability and comfort, and it gets the task completed quickly and efficiently. The elements of team building are: first you form, then you storm, norm and finally perform. We have gone through those phases of development, now we are prepared to take those lessons into the field and apply them to a disaster assistance situation.
Rehabilitation of Historic Dubai

During September a small group representing the PRDU spent a week in the Municipality of Dubai where they had been invited to deliver a course of lectures on conservation for the Historic Buildings Section (HBS) of the Municipality. The group from York consisted of Sultan Barakat, John Warren and Keith Emerick (who reports here). The course consisted of lectures, site visits and discussion groups, dealing with topics such as urban ‘texture’, landscape, re-use, materials, project management and monitoring, interpretation and recording. A course such as this is part of the PRDU’s commitment to cultural heritage, utilising its specialisations to coordinate and conduct training.

The host for the week was Dr. Rashad M. Bukhash, head of the newly formed Historic Buildings Section, set up at the behest of the Emir to create a conservation section of government and embark on the process of recreating some of the historic quarter of Dubai. The course of lectures was a new departure for the Section because it was the first time that the conservation team had met as a single group to discuss conservation issues. The group consisted of conservation architecture students, curators and researchers from Dubai itself, experienced practitioners from Syria, Sudan, Jordan and other Arab countries who were on short-term contracts to impart their skills. Such a divergence of skills and experience can be a considerable strength to an organisation, although it became apparent that there was a lack both of shared experience and awareness of other disciplines. Several of our recommendations identified strategies concerned with team building.

The team from York focussed on applying the conservation issues and practices of the United Kingdom with their experience of working in architecture, urban planning and conservation in Islamic countries. Wherever one goes in the world, many of the problems and issues concerning conservation are the same: what is authenticity, who should direct conservation work (architects or curators) and (the favourite) who is conservation for? Examples and case-studies were taken from many parts of the world, showing how similar issues occurred in other parts and the solutions proposed. The programme dealt with the broader theoretical agendas of conservation and development and the relationship between the building and the landscape, with the practical approaches of inspection and analysis of structural problems, materials and their decay, and methods of recording and survey.

Solidere hosts PRDU in Lebanon

The 1998/99 academic year’s field visit of the Masters Course in Post-war Recovery Studies will take place in Lebanon. As with the last two years’ visits to Iran and Afghanistan, the MA students will review and share the first-hand experience of humanitarian assistance and post-war recovery in different parts of this war-torn country. The group from the PRDU – including four members of staff, and a number of associates from Bosnia, Croatia, Great Britain, Australia and Norway – will be hosted by Solidere during their study visit. A welcome reception given by TEAM International will be followed by a presentation on the war and post-war reconstruction projects. Three main parts will form the programme of this field visit.

Firstly, the visits will be focussed on areas outside the reconstruction of Beirut Central District (BCD) such as Elissar and Linor, as well as UNDP’s rehabilitation programmes in mountainous areas. In addition to these visits, and to enable the group to be better oriented to the Lebanese context, lectures by a number of distinguished Lebanese academics and practitioners will be organised in collaboration with the Centre of Behavioural Research at the American University of Beirut, and meetings held with the representatives of ICRC and United Nations Interim Force for Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The second part of the programme will focus on south Lebanon, including field visits, and several meetings with various organisations and community representatives in Saida and Tyre.

Finally, the PRDU visit will include a three-day workshop entitled Reconnecting Beirut Central District: Cross-cultural Exchange of Experiences. The workshop is organised jointly with the PRDU’s host, Solidere – a joint-stock corporation working on the reconstruction and development of BCD. The three themes, which will be explored during this workshop, are:

- the role of physical rebuilding in reconciliation;
- reconstruction of cultural heritage;
- the role of private sector in reconstruction;
- reconstruction of cultural heritage;
- the role of physical rebuilding in reconciliation.

The organisation of this workshop, which will include keynote speakers from Bosnia and Croatia, will provide an excellent forum for exchanges of knowledge and experiences between Solidere and the PRDU field visit group.

Reconstruction of housing in Lebanon can encompass physical, economic and social rehabilitation.
MA in Post-war Recovery Studies ...

Ghada AJAMI
Lebanon
Background in architecture working on reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Beirut Central District.

As most Lebanese people, I lived through and survived the 17-year civil war in my country. I have also experienced the Israeli-Lebanese conflict, the result of which was the occupation of a large part of South Lebanon and West Bekaa and the instability and insecurity of the whole region. This prevented any development of these areas; no positive outcome was achieved from any attempt at reconciliation. What I expect from this MA is a better understanding of conflict resolution through all its phases, with a particular interest in implementation and development.

Barbara CARRAI
Italy
Background in international law before working in peace-keeping and humanitarian operations.

In 1994 I graduated from the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Pisa, Italy, defending a thesis on the principle of people’s self-determination. I have attended numerous courses on peace-keeping and peacebuilding activities. Since 1994 I have worked as Executive Director of the Training Programme: The Civilian Personnel of Peace-keeping/ Humanitarian Operations and Election Monitoring Missions of the Scuola Superiore S. Anna in Pisa. I participated as an electoral observer in several Election Monitoring Missions carried out by the United Nations or the Organisation for Security and Co-operation, in Mozambique, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Ray LAZARUS
Jamaica
Background as a military officer in the Jamaican Army

Armed forces as political tools, do not always have the flexibility or the ability to conduct surgical operations, and it is inevitable that severe damages will be done. As a military officer I would like to fully understand the special difficulties encountered in post-war recovery, to examine what an armed force can and should do to minimise damages during war, and then to identify the military’s roles in post-war recovery. Jamaica often faces post-disaster (hurricanes) recovery challenges. I am interested in knowing the similarities/differences in approach for inter-agencies co-operation and the practical relief they provide.

Andrew DUNCAN
Australia
Background in Meteorology before working on development, demining & resettlement projects in Cambodia.

Growing up in Fiji I became fascinated by extreme weather conditions, which prompted me to pursue a career with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. In 1985 I was stationed on the Antarctic continent as part of the meteorological component of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions. For the last 6 years I have worked in Cambodia for the Mekong Secretariat, UNDP and Lutheran World Federation (LWF). As a Meteorological Consultant/Adviser attached to the Cambodian Government, I assisted with the rehabilitation of the moribund National Meteorological Services. Since early 1996 I have worked as Project(s) Coordinator of the LWF’s Integrated Rural Development Project and the Demining & Resettlement Projects in the south west of Cambodia. My primary reasons for undertaking this MA are to complement and further enhance my practical field experience with a formalised curriculum of theoretical research and study, and to share experiences with my colleagues.

Khader Zuhair Abdel-Kareem
Jordan
Background in Chemistry before working in the field of Civil Defence.

In 1983 I joined the Civil Defence as a Safety Officer at the headquarters of the Fire Protection Department. Since 1994 I have been working in the Disaster Management field in both the Jordan Civil Defence Directorate – where I am currently Civil Defence Officer (Major) – and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization – where I was seconded as the Director of the Disaster Management Training Centre. With this experience I have come to The University of York to develop my academic and practical skills in Post-war Reconstruction and Development. This is important for the required plans for training programmes regarding natural and man-made disasters at national and regional level – a core of the institutional Building Capacity Project funded by the UNDP.

Freda PYLES
USA
Recent background working for an NGO in Bosnia.

The year spent working for an American NGO inside Bosnia was the most profoundly rewarding employment experience of my career. I want it to be much more. I went to Bosnia because I cared about the innocent victims caught in that war; I left caring also for the care givers who often became victims of the war too. This MA will prepare me to go back into the field at a level where I can contribute to real change, not just manage the daily operation of a programme. There needs to be a more standard code of conduct for field personnel in the delivery of disaster assistance, there must be more coordination of services, and we need to think seriously about support services for humanitarian aid workers.

Dzenana MULALIC
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Background in English Language and social welfare before working for the IFRCRC.

Before working for the IFRCRC in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina (1996–98) I worked as a Social Welfare Programme Assistant. I have had experience with different NGOs in the fields of logistics, distribution and administration from 1992–96. I joined the course in order to get a broader understanding and knowledge of the implementation of programmes within the humanitarian field.
... student profile 1998/99

Eddie ROGERS
United Kingdom

Studied geography and then basic counselling skills before becoming involved with humanitarian aid work.

Work experience in Hong Kong from 1990–94 in the Detention centres for Vietnamese – initially with CARITAS, then with UNHCR – looking at the co-ordination of assistance within the camps, and also voluntary repatriation. 1995–96 with UNHCR as a Volunteer in the Republic of Armenia. Head of a UNHCR field office. Looking at small-scale projects (income generation, agriculture and animal husbandry) that would allow refugees to integrate into Armenia and not leave to other parts of the Russian Federation. 1996: Summer school at the Refugee Studies Programme University of Oxford. 1997–98: Children’s Aid Direct (UK NGO) Country Director for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, based in both Belgrade and Pristina. Initially running big distribution programmes to Krajina Serb collective centres as well as local Albanian vulnerable groups. With the outbreak of fighting moved the programme into more emergency distribution work for the large IDP population within Kosovo.

Ali SALEEM
Pakistan

Background in political science before joining the Punjab police and subsequently serving in Bosnia.

I was one of the Pakistan Police Contingent to serve with UNMIBH (IPTF). In September 1997 IPTF was given the mandate to investigate the cases of Human Rights violations. Independently, and in compliance with that, a Human Rights Office was established within the organisation and I was given a chance to serve as the Human Rights Officer in Tuzla Region. Along with my daily investigations I was involved in the resettlement of refugees/displaced persons, and initiated a multi agency project for the restoration of utility supplies in the area of minority returnees in RS. I proposed the obligations of UNMIBH (IPTF) to advance the cause of women in BiH and helped to establish a “Family Violence Center” in Sarajevo. In June 1998 I was selected as Human Rights Trainer/Consultant by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Field Office Sarajevo, to help prepare a training manual for IPTF/Human Rights Officers. I came to York with the understanding that PRDU’s MA is the future of peacebuilding/reconstruction. This programme will let the professional draw the plan for the reconstruction of a war-torn society which will be based on the national heritage.

Nika SALVETTI
Italy

Background in Macro Economics before working in the field of rural development.

I worked from 1993–95 as a research assistant at the Institute of Nutrition in Central America and Panama, INCAP, (a WHO organisation), investigating the socio-economic and political relations between internal rural migration and food security. In 1995, I joined Movimento as a freelance rural development consultant and seized the opportunity to gain field experience and to approach the reality of Guatemala’s rural people by working on a project of Socio-economic Rehabilitation in Usapantan. In December 1996 Guatemala signed the “Peace” and entered abruptly into the post-war process. Whilst working in the field, I realised that a nation can recover after the war only if compatible and sustainable policies and strategies have been designed, beside a long-term plan. Inspired and motivated by these considerations, I decided to study in York in order to strengthen my contribution to the socio-economic reconstruction within long-term development projects; and to improve my skills in understanding and responding to conflict, designing strategies to prevent war or finding solutions during crisis.

Lisa USMAN
United Kingdom

Background in social care and social welfare.

It was about 20 years ago that I first became aware of the injustices and hardships faced by members of my own community. On returning to my home city, London, I spent two years as a volunteer at the Social Care Unit of St. Martins in the Field. Set up after the first World War to care for soldiers who had no family to come back to, it has become a help centre for the homeless of central London. I also studied psychology part-time during this period. I then went on to become a full time mature student and graduated this year from University College London in Archaeological Conservation. One idea I am interested in is what makes a person, or group of people, feel they belong to a particular culture or ethnic group? I would like to look at ways this information could be used as part of a reconstruction programme after war. My main area of interest is the Middle East. While at the PRDU I hope to expand and crystallise these thoughts, combining them with the practical and analytical skills taught on the course.

Tatjana ZULEVIC
Yugoslav

Worked for the last 6 years for IFRC/RCS in Yugoslavia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

I was born in Germany and lived there until 1988 when my family moved back to Montenegro. Since the end of 1992 I have been working for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in various positions in FR of Yugoslavia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. My work at the IFRC Sub-Delegation in Montenegro focussed on the distribution of relief aid for refugees and socially vulnerable people. From 1996 until October 1998 I was placed with the IFRC in BiH as a Social Welfare Programme Assistant in charge of the implementation and day-to-day running of the Home Care Programme for Republika Srpska Entity, together with the Republika Srpska Red Cross. In 1997 I worked at the IFRC Secretariat in Geneva where I was assigned to the Europe Department of the Disaster Response and Operations Co-ordination Division, concentrating mostly on support for programmes in the former Yugoslavia. By taking this MA course I would like to develop my professional skills, hoping to contribute to the sustainable recovery of war-torn societies and/or societies in need.
NGO coordination

Arne Strand has worked with Norwegian NGOs in Afghanistan for the last 10 years, and has just completed his MA in Post-war Recovery at The University of York.
e-mail: as149@york.ac.uk

The Research Council of Norway has confirmed their grant for a 3 year DPhil research for Arne Strand, to be located at and administered by the PRDU. The title of the project is: NGO Coordination, to the Benefit of Forced Migrants? and the funding stems from the Council’s grant for research on forced migration.

The evident lack of coordination between relief providers, despite an increasing demand from donors to strengthen such efforts in order to maximise the impact of the relief, is an interesting and topical area of research.

The main objective of this study is thus to analyse the limitations and restrictions affecting the coordination between NGOs operating in complex emergency situations, and the effects of such coordination on NGOs' involvement towards prevention, protection, repatriation and resettlement of forced migrants. Of special interest is the relationship between Islamic, National and Western NGOs.

This project aims to provide a better understanding of the actors involved in coordination and their capacities and restrictions when operating together. With field research in Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina, it will review the NGO coordination efforts taking place, focusing on how the coordinating bodies are able to add to the assistance and protection work being implemented by single NGOs towards forced migrants. The study will:

- establish a typology of the actors within the coordination;
- review the NGOs’ coordinating bodies’ relationship with external actors;
- analyse their effectiveness and potential extended roles;
- examine the existing opportunities and obstacles to the coordination;
- explore any possible negative effects of a stronger coordinated role.

The overall ambition of the project is to be able to present recommendations for an enhanced role of NGO coordinating bodies, with special consideration of a closer involvement of the rights and capacities of the forced migrants.

The increased amount of PhD research now being undertaken at the PRDU reflects the growth of the Unit and demonstrates a broadening of expertise within it. The researchers welcome comments and suggestions, either directly by e-mail or through the PRDU.

Reviving rural settlements in war-torn areas

Carol Richter has worked in LINDP in Guatemala and has been an assessor for the Dutch government. He has been active in supporting the peace process in Guatemala as an advisor for the peace negotiation and as a field worker in rural settings. For the last two years he has worked with Movomondo Molis as a project director, undertaking research and publications on rural development after civil war.
e-mail: cjr100@york.ac.uk

The aim is to understand more about reconstructing and developing rural settlements from both a quantitative and a qualitative perspective, and to analyse the mechanisms and factors affecting and supporting integration for returned displaced persons and refugees who have suffered a civil war. Internal conflict is the most widespread form of armed conflict in the contemporary world. Civil wars have caused massive rural displacements and the disintegration of rural livelihoods. Guatemala, where the case study will be implemented, has recently signed peace agreements on reform, reconciliation and reconstruction; but the powers that conducted the war hide behind artificially created government intentions; they control the media, communications and can interfere whenever they need (as in the case of the political murder of Monsignor Girardi). Civil society fears the untrue concept of freedom of speech and distrusts the process of democracy, development and justice.

Political movements that are aiming towards the next elections are causing the post-war violence that Guatemala is undergoing. The Government, aiming for re-election, has invested mostly in infrastructure to ensure that the civilians visually notice its work. At the same time decentralisation is initiated without implementing fair local capacity building programmes. There is a barrier for participation, and problems because of land ownership and ethnic cleansing are increasing. Recently Guatemala was hit by hurricane ‘Mitch’ and the government lost all its visual political investments. The probability that war lords and drug barons will gain more power because of the economic and social effect of this current disaster is substantial.

The research will focus on contexts of post-war and the opportunities to contribute to rebuilding society and their settlements. Components of the post-Cold War political adjustments are targeted for thorough analysis. The framework will be based on: an analysis of conflict and its effects (context); reconstruction and development (aim); capacity building and participation for planning (method). Learning from people who are the centre of attention during the research is the driving force.
Integrating disaster preparedness & mitigation into cultural management

Craig Wilson studied building surveying in Glasgow before obtaining a Masters degree in Building Conservation at The University of York. Since then he has been working in the field of ‘cultural heritage and war’ in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and in York.

e-mail: csW107@york.ac.uk

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espite the litany of destructive military conflicts and natural disasters, we as a society have continuously failed to sufficiently utilise the knowledge of experience to prepare and mitigate against impending upheaval. This has led to compounding disasters, economic, social, human and cultural cost and highly damaging interventions in the attempted rescue and repair of historic buildings and communities. Much of the world’s outstanding heritage is in environments without the economic or political will to provide greater support when disaster strikes. Thus it is necessary to analyse, evaluate and utilise the limited resources available to prepare for the threat of disaster, limit its impact, and ensure a sensitive and viable programme for reconstruction.

The subject can create a new discipline of knowledge to specifically integrate the role of post-war reconstruction with disaster prevention of cultural heritage, within the urban infrastructure, leading to a more secure future for endangered heritage and a more stable human environment.

The study will encompass: analysis of the definition of natural and man-made disaster; relationships between cultural heritage and its modern urban environment; prioritisation of financial and physical resources between humanitarian and heritage agendas in the event of disaster, defining common ground in resource allocation; utilisation of domestic skills and human resources in heritage management, liaising and defining the remit of the emergency services.

Research will be based around a key building in the UK (eg York Minister), to see what lessons were learned from previous disasters and how this influenced and adapted current preparedness programmes. The counter-weight to this will be a post-war environment to analyse how the reconstruction process is being carried out to plan against future disasters. From this the proposals made may be tested against secondary case-studies in Central America or the far-east. The aim is to create a standard model for utilising all accessible resources to provide a detailed plan of realisable objectives where the need for protection and prevention is greatest.

Reconstruction of Palestine

Ghassan El Kahlout – one of last year’s graduates from the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies here in York – is a Palestinian architect, and lecturer at the Islamic University in Gaza. His PhD topic ‘Reconstruction of the Palestinian State, an Evaluation of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Policies since 1994, and Proposing Guidelines for the future’ reflects his concern that the growth in reconstruction in Gaza over the last few years has lacked a planned and analytical approach.

e-mail: gek100@york.ac.uk

The challenges which face the Palestinian dealing with the issue of reconstruction are tremendous. A limited natural resources base, the lack of time for planning, the lack of qualified professionals, and the high degree of vulnerability to external shocks all make the planning and management of the reconstruction of Palestinian Territories a very delicate and difficult problem. The mistrust between the PNA and the community, and the community lack of faith in the current peace process, add to the problem.

Real opportunities to build the Palestinian dreams do, however, exist. These include the Palestinians’ inspiration to build their nation, their motivation and imagination, learning from others’ experiences, the productive private sector, and the current world sympathy. In the meantime the planning for sustainable reconstruction needs a great effort of study, research and preparation of professionals who are qualified to lead.

This research seeks to answer the question of how the PNA could create a national philosophy of reconstruction under challenging conditions to build the new state and to rehabilitate the Palestinian people’s character, building on the existing opportunities and overcoming the obstacles. The research question will consider the different national, regional and international players and their influences.

The main aim of the research is to identify a set of recommendations which should help the PNA policy makers to formulate such a philosophy, and explain the role of the different actors who are involved in the reconstruction process (national, regional, international, governmental and non governmental organisations). In order to achieve this a set of objectives is proposed to:

1. develop a theoretical understanding of the current political conditions facing the Palestinian decision makers;

2. establish a theoretical background of some of the different issues and principles of reconstruction policies;

3. examine in detail a number of reconstruction case studies, highlighting the pros and cons of each case;

4. focus on the Palestinian case through: examining the situation after the Israeli redeployment of 1994; studying the PLO plan for the reconstruction and the development of the Palestinian Territories; assessing the PNA policies and what has been done; recommending short- and long-term policies for the reconstruction in the Palestinian Territories.

Finally the researcher hopes, through his work, to develop his own knowledge and thus contribute positively to the reconstruction of his country.

York Minster suffered two disastrous fires last century, and in 1984 another fire broke out during a freak summer storm.
MA placements 1997/98

An important element of the MA programme is a six-week placement with a renowned organisation working in the area of humanitarian action, development or reconstruction, either in the field or at headquarters. To broaden their knowledge and understanding, students are encouraged to seek placements either in a new field, or at a different level within the organisational structure than their previous experience. As mid-career professionals, our students are able to make a real contribution to the host organisation. We would like to express our appreciation to the hosts listed below, whose support is invaluable. On their return to York students are required to submit a placement report for assessment, and two students have kindly agreed to summarise their placement experience here.

The placement gave me a deeper understanding of the enormity and complexity of the IDP problem in the Tuzla Region. Further, the analysis of the survey combined with academic knowledge gained at University, resulted in practical recommendations which were made to HaMD on how to most effectively address the needs of its beneficiaries.

The placement in Habitat head office was a good opportunity to help put the Afghanistan programme into perspective with Habitat’s other disaster management programmes worldwide. In particular, I gained a greater understanding of Habitat’s organisational approach for reconstruction in post-war situations.

My placement was spent in Nairobi, working with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat). Before the placement my understandings of post-war reconstruction were gained mainly from the media, literature and the University course modules, which provide theoretical and academic knowledge. A visit to Afghanistan in December 1997 was my first experience of a field project, and here I was impressed by the community-based approach which UNCHS (Habitat) took for the rehabilitation programme in Kabul.

The placement in Habitat head office was a good opportunity to help put the Afghanistan programme into perspective with Habitat’s other disaster management programmes worldwide. In particular, I gained a greater understanding of Habitat’s organisational approach for reconstruction in post-war situations.
Dr Walker’s speech are highlighted on this page, and the full text can be found on the PRDU website.

Professor Ron Cooke, the Vice-Chancellor of The University of York welcomed participants and referred to the diverse professional experiences of students attending the MA in Post-war Recovery Studies. He explained that York provides a haven from the stressful world of conflict response which gives participants the opportunity to reflect in a peaceful environment.

The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Derek Smallwood emphasised that the PRDU is an example of reconstruction, not only of buildings damaged by wars but also, and more importantly, of the people involved and the need to rebuild their lives. He was pleased that the PRDU and the City of York were reaching out to the rest of the world, looking at the best of the past, to build the best of the future.

York’s MP, Mr Hugh Bayley, congratulated The University of York on its response to real issues. He referred to the British government’s White Paper on “Eliminating World Poverty” and stated that part of their development policy is to halve the world’s poverty by the year 2015. He explained that UNDP had identified US$60 billion would be needed over five years to eliminate poverty. Thirty-four poor countries are listed as currently engaged in armed conflict, and this emphasised the importance of the goal of poverty alleviation.

Colonel Tony Barton, Deputy Chief of Staff, 2nd Division expressed the absolute support of the military towards the PRDU. He commented on the healthy association and mutual assistance which exists between the military, the City Council, the police and the community. He hoped that the MA course would draw on the military’s experience in communications, logistics, and personal security, and mentioned the team-building programme organised by the military for this year’s students (see page 3).

Several PRDU students, past and present, spoke of their personal experiences, including Tajma Kurt who graduated this year and has since returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tajma talked about her home town of Mostar, and felt that her study in York had provided her with the requisite skills to build positively on her work within the field of reconstruction.

The afternoon session featured presentations from invited speakers, including Gianni Ruffini, Director of VOICE in Brussels, who emphasised the importance of his relationship with the PRDU and looked forward to further partnerships. One of the projects he is working on is a set of post-conflict rehabilitation guidelines for practitioners in the field.

Shahul Hasbullah from Kandy University, a researcher on Internally Displaced People in Sri Lanka, said that the recent workshop in Colombo (see page 2) had given hope to the future of post-conflict rehabilitation in Sri Lanka. He hoped for joint research with the PRDU and its colleagues.

Dr Haleh Afshar from the Department of Politics at The University of York, praised their emerging relations with the PRDU – including a two-way exchange of expertise between students through lectures and other joint ventures – and stated that this could only further enhance the role of the University in international development.

Alistair Duncan of the Altajir World of Islam Trust sent a letter of apology that he could not be present. “The work initiated in York by the PRDU should be sustained and developed right now” he wrote; continuing “It is my fervent hope that all of you present will join Barakat Trust and ourselves in this truly inspired programme, which could, with support from us all, make a significant and exemplary contribution towards the resolution of one of the world’s most pressing problems today.”

The PRDU would like to acknowledge the following for their generous support:

- Al Tajir World of Islam Trust
- The Barakat Trust

The reality today is that international disaster response is kept afloat on a remarkably small funding base... What is needed is not a tinkering with the system but a much more radical look at how international humanitarian assistance is financed... If we want the international system to reappraise its humanitarian funding mechanisms, what can they in turn expect from us? I believe we need to defend and expand our humanitarian space. We can allow the constraints – legal, security, political – to hem us in and define in a limited way, our space. Or we can seek to expand that space, increasing the common notion of what is accountable and quality humanitarian action. In a small way the Sphere standards programme does just this by clearly placing human rights and refugee rights, as well as International Humanitarian Law, at the centre of our work.

The Sphere standards represent just one way in which agencies are asserting their commitment to promoting the rights of disaster victims and those caught up in conflict. In many ways this course, the PRDL, does the same, for it takes as its central thesis that communities are the starting point of reconstruction, not economies. It looks to provide field workers and policy makers alike with the tools that will help them plan and implement post-war reconstruction to meet the rights and aspirations of those who will have to live in the reborn communities. This is why I am so excited about the growing links between the PRDL and aid agencies. We are working to a common agenda and, hopefully, in the future will be able to strengthen our ties for the better promotion of that agenda.

Extracts from Peter Walker’s Speech

Our individual workers need the reflective and analytical skills that come from the academic environment, and the time out from field work afforded by this course, to help them come to terms with, and better understand, what they have witnessed and experienced in their post-conflict work. As an organisation we need these skills, or regular access to them, if we are to be able to meet each new challenge with a fresh mind rather than recycled old ideas.

The globalisation of the economy is the single-most important process to affect mankind since the end of the Second World War. It will bring increased prosperity... and with this... a widening gap between the rich and the poor... who will form the core of those most in need of social welfare support, most at risk in disaster and most disadvantage, disenfranchised and thus most given to seeking alternative – perhaps criminal, often violent – means to acquire the wherewithal for life with dignity.

...humanitarian work is not confined to war victims, refugees and IDPs. In this year’s UN ECOSOC debate the industrialised countries focused their interventions around conflict and security issues. Southern countries echoed the Federation’s concerns over the ever-present and growing threat from natural disasters... we risk to overlook the impact of natural disasters and in particular that which we could label the “new complex disasters” where natural disaster overlays economic crisis and rapid political change... illustrated today in Indonesia, the Sahel and Russia.

The PRDU would like to acknowledge the following for their generous support.
Thursday 9 July 1998 saw the conferment of degrees to the PRDU’s first cohort of students (1996-97). Present in York to collect their certificates were Haneef Atmar and Zaki Nakkash. Haneef flew in from Afghanistan and Zaki from Lebanon to celebrate the occasion in York. Congratulations also go to those unable to attend: Shaun Bickley, Monica Honn, Nicholas MacDonald, Akbar Nour and Magnus Wolfe Murray.

Humanitarian Affairs Review is a quarterly journal published with support of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Brussels-based Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE). It aims to cover issues of importance to policymakers, analysts and experts in the fields of humanitarian and development aid, and to offer the more general reader in government, business and the media an informative insight into the global debate on aid policies.

Members of the Review’s Advisory Board are: Aldo Ajello Special Envoy of the European Union for the Great Lakes region; Sultan Barakat Director of the PRDU; Urs Boegli Head of Communications of the ICRC; Antonio de Menezes Head of Communications at ECHO; José Maria Mendiluce MEP and vice-president of the Committee for Foreign Affairs; Giles Merritt (Editor) Director of Forum Europe; Pietro Petrucci Spokesman for European Commissioner Emma Bonino; Ian Piper Director of Communications at the IFRCRCs; Jean-Baptiste Richardier Director of Handicap International in France; Giovanni Rufini Coordinator of VOICE; Pietro Veronesi Special Correspondent for the Italian daily newspaper ‘La Repubblica’; Sergio Vieira de Mello LIN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

For more details contact: FORUM EUROPE, Rue des Patriotes, 88, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 736 14 30 Fax: +32 2 736 32 16 e-mail: info@forum-europe.com

Dissertation titles (1997–98)

Sean Deely Lead Agency: Post-War Rehabilitation and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Ghassan El-Kahlout Possible Rehabilitation and Development of the Palestinian Refugees: a Study of the Camp in the Gaza Strip.

Fahim Hakim Challenges of Post-War Urban Rehabilitation in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Christopher Hutton A farewell to arms: an integrated approach for the demobilization to reintegration continuum.

Abel Kalonda The Living Environment for Refugees: The Case of the Meheba Refugee Settlement in Zambia.

Tajma Kurt What Future for the Internally Displaced Persons: With Special Reference to Tuzla Region, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Fernando Lopes Soares Communicating Humanitarian Assistance: The Role of the Media in Conflict.

Barbara Manzi The Impact of Emergency Programmes on Long-Term Recovery, With Special Reference to the Reconstruction in Angola.

Akayo Omura Urban Rehabilitation in War-Torn Societies: The Role of Outsiders.

Carol Seikaly Mind the Gap: The Disintegration of Beirut Central District from its Surrounding Areas.

George Somerwill Wrestling with Fate: The Disintegration of Beirut Central District from its Surrounding Areas.

Arne Strand Bridging the Gap between Islamic and Western NGOs working in Conflict Areas.

Nermina Tankovic NGO Accountability to Beneficiaries: Think Globally, Act Locally!

Nato Tsintsabadze Protection of Cultural Heritage in War-Affected Zones: with Special Reference to the Tbilisi Historic Centre.

Jolanda van Dijk Human Rights in Post-Conflict Societies.

Recent & Forthcoming Publications

Institutional Development of Southern NGOs: What Role for Northern NGOs? MA Dissertation
Mohammed Haneef Atmar (PRDU/The University of York, c100pp, £20.00)
In this book the author studies the philosophy and practice of NGO institutional development and makes practical recommendations, where necessary, for policy makers and practitioners. A theoretical understanding of the concept of NGO institutional and organisational development is developed, and current practice scrutinised.
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From Rhetoric to Reality
The role of aid in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan
Edited by Haneef Atmar, Sultan Barakat & Arne Strand (PRDU, The University of York, 106pp, £20.00, ISBN 0 904761 66 5)
In January 1998 a group of practitioners, policy makers and donors were invited to York to: debate lessons learned; discuss the challenges of the current operating environment in Afghanistan; develop further initiatives/guidelines which could enhance local capacities for peace. This report of presentations, case-studies and group discussions sets out specific challenges, recommendations and commitments.
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Urban Triumph or Urban Disaster?
dilemmas of contemporary post-war reconstruction
Workshop Report
Sultan Barakat, Jon Calame & Esther Charlesworth (MIT/PRDU, The University of York, £20.00, ISBN 0 904761 64 9)
Draws on the considerable experience of the Workshop participants to tackle questions & dilemmas of contemporary post-war reconstruction. With particular reference to Warsaw, Beirut, Hanoi, Dubrovnik and Mostar, it looks into: who benefits from rebuilding programmes; why foreign aid so often gets lost in the bureaucratic labyrinth; and whether the comparison of different cities’ experiences can be useful?
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If you produce a publication which might be of interest to other revival readers, please send a copy to Gavin Ward at the address on the front cover. Please remember to include price, with address and tel/fax numbers for ordering if not included in the publication itself.

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