Due to the response generated by the first issue, published last July, we have doubled the size of revival and can now share with you eight pages of news and information from around the world.

Thank you for your initial interest which we hope will grow with the publication. We plan to develop revival into a distance-learning tool or journal, through which we can all share work and experience. We are particularly looking for articles on refugees and displaced people for Issue 3, which will be coming out in March 1995.

The launch of this newsletter is just one of a number of events which has made 1994 a very successful year for the PRDU. Together with our other publications, it has increased our ability to exchange information and knowledge on a world platform. We have seen the Study Centre we helped establish in Dubrovnik successfully host its first international workshop.

In turn, the workshops on Sarajevo & Afghanistan created much positive feedback. Our research programmes have expanded and are flourishing.

May we take this opportunity to wish you, wherever you may be, a successful, happy and peaceful 1995.

Fax us. Write to us. Phone us even. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gavin Ward BSc (UWIST) Editor revival

Three years since the outbreak of war in former Yugoslavia settlement reconstruction is still a priority all over Croatia. Rural areas present a particular challenge. Refugees and displaced people need, and want, to be enticed from the numerous camps and centres so that communities can start to live again. But which areas should be rebuilt initially, by what means, and how do the authorities ensure these developments will become self-sustainable and of long-term benefit to the future of the country? After all, even before the war the younger generations had started leaving the rural areas for the perceived attractions of urban life.

A comprehensive summary of this workshop appears on a leaflet accompanying this newsletter.

Reconstruction in the village of Tocionik is being carried out using traditional materials

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Cultural Heritage at Risk

A joint UNESCO/ICOMOS project has been initiated entitled ‘Integrating the Protection of Cultural Heritage into National Disaster Preparedness Planning’. The Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) at the University of York has been asked to manage the project. Dr Sultan Barakat will act as project director, with Muriel de Boch as the ICOMOS project coordinator based in Paris.

The main aims will be to:

♦ Integrate the protection of cultural sites, monuments and objects into the national disaster preparedness planning.

♦ Encourage linkage and cooperation efforts between the 80 National Committees of ICOMOS, and where they do not exist, UNESCO national commissions and those of the IDNDR.*

♦ Build an international communication network to exchange information on strategies for risk preparedness and the cultural heritage.

♦ Explore the concept of the ‘Blue Shield’ for emergency response at the national and regional level.

These will be accomplished with the participation of ICCROM, ICOM and UNESCO. ICCROM has already taken the lead by incorporating Cultural Heritage at Risk into their Architectural Conservation Course, and Dr Barakat will be lecturing on this subject in Rome next February.

The project was born out of three annual round table meetings in Paris. During the latest meeting, in October 1994, it was agreed that any action taken by UNESCO and ICOMOS on the protection of cultural heritage should be:

♦ Co-ordinated with the existing efforts of other UN Organisations in the field of disaster reduction and relief, in the spirit of the IDNDR.

♦ Locally based, in that local and national experts have to be involved in the development process and be ready to respond in times of emergency to protect their cultural heritage.

Initial work on the planning and development of the project is underway and will continue until the end of February 1995. If you are interested in finding out more about the project please contact Sultan Barakat at the King’s Manor, York.

*The United Nations General Assembly has declared 1990-2000 as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The aim of IDNDR is to encourage pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation, as well as post-disaster relief and reconstruction on a comprehensive and co-ordinated basis at the national, regional and international levels. During the last few years, the IDNDR has led to the establishment of National Committees/Focal Points in 136 member states of the United Nations.

Development in Conflict

Since the end of the Cold War we have witnessed a period of turbulent change in both global and local economic, social and political institutions. In many countries this is manifesting itself in increased levels of abject poverty and violent conflict. At the same time there has been a huge increase in funding, much of it politically motivated, available to organisations working in areas of conflict. For example, Peter Walker says that his organisation, the International Federation of The Red Cross, has spent the same amount in Rwanda this year as its total relief budget for 1989.

As a result, institutions working for development and poverty alleviation are increasingly confronted with violent change and warfare. Their inexperience in these situations of conflict has led many to re-evaluate their objectives.

In the last issue of revival we reported on the April 1994 workshop in Pakistan entitled ‘Working with Conflict’ and the University of York has been asked to manage the project. Dr Sultan Barakat will act as project director, with Muriel de Boch as the ICOMOS project coordinator based in Paris.

The main aims will be to:

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A significant step has now been taken by ACORD (the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development), Responding to Conflict (a UK charity which develops conflict-handling skills) and the University of Birmingham School of Public Policy. Their November 1994 workshop, in Birmingham UK, brought together policy makers, development practitioners and analysts to share experience and analysis of the organisational adaptations that are required to carry out development work in situations of conflict.

It was agreed that these institutions must develop Strategic Management programmes including; strategic planning (already implemented by businesses who have to deal with rapid change, unpredictability and new contexts); good information, monitoring and evaluation systems; a learning environment based on openness and sharing; devolved decision making; serious training for all personnel.

Other areas of agreement included the need to:

♦ Analyse situations before responding, to drive funding and lead to long-term projects

♦ Introduce standards – a code of conduct for agencies

♦ Develop techniques for identifying good local NGOs, governments, institutions; and then employing them

♦ Strengthen inter-agency links through mutual respect.

The PRDU was represented at this workshop by Mike Cunningham. He is a director of Scottish European Aid (SEA), working in Bosnia and Romania, and is currently finishing his MA here on the subject of Management and Organisation of Construction NGOs. SEA is a fairly new organisation and therefore ‘born into’ conflict rather than adapting to it. Mike felt that because of this SEA and other similar, newly-formed organisations shared a different view on aid, and could give constructive input to future meetings.

Responding to Conflict will be bringing its ‘Working with Conflict’ course participants to the King’s Manor next February for a one-day workshop and discussion period.

The fifth annual PRDU Forum will be held in York on 27-28 February 1995. This is an excellent opportunity for friends and contacts of the PRDU to meet and discuss our past and present work, and plan for the future. For details please write to the Editor.
UN Challenge

A three-day Seminar on 'The Challenge of Rebuilding Wartorn Societies' will be held in Geneva at the end of November 1994. It will bring together high-level representatives from the principal organisations (multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental) providing external assistance in conflict & post-conflict situations, as well as researchers and representatives from wartorn countries. Sultan Barakat (PRDU York) and Marija Kojakovic (SCRD Dubrovnik) will be participating.

The seminar is a joint venture between the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS) of the Graduate Institute of International Studies. A preliminary meeting in April 1993 and subsequent consultations, have stressed the importance of a thorough analysis of ongoing experiences in conflict and post-conflict situations, particularly the complex interaction between different policy approaches (humanitarian, military, political and development cooperation) and the relationship between external and internal actors.

Reconstruction and Urban Development in Palestine

National reconstruction is one of the most important challenges facing Palestinians during the coming years; the speedy development of effective institutions to manage public life is thus a priority need. To this end the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) was established by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

PECDAR aims to promote long-term development strategies by assisting institutions to develop their own capabilities in project planning and implementation. A major role will be to formulate and maintain a regulated framework within which reconstruction projects can be implemented, thereby setting standards and controlling quality and style of work. It will also introduce programmes and services through which Palestine can share the technical expertise of the international community.

Although PECDAR's operational headquarters are in Jerusalem, a temporary Planning Unit has been established in London. Its wide-ranging mandate includes: housing; municipal development; manpower training; legal procedures; contract negotiations; industrial and research parks and promoting the twinning of Palestinian and European cities. The PRDU is among a number of organisations concerned with development in Palestine who are contributing to the activities of this Unit. Other groups with reconstruction experience would be welcome.

One of the major projects that the Planning Unit is working on currently is Urban Development in Palestine, managed by the Director of the Planning Unit, Dr A.B. Zahlan and coordinated by Joumana Lababidi. This project will assess and adapt available technologies, systems and international experiences in reconstruction and development through the preparation of a Background Document. It will also provide the means to bring together the numerous and diverse Palestinian and international activities which are concerned with housing, and organise public debate on architectural aspects and town planning regulations with respect to urban development programmes.

The Background Document will lead to the convening of a Conference Planning Committee. They will be responsible for organising a major Conference in Jerusalem or Amman to which representatives of institutions and organisations involved in aspects of housing and town planning will be invited.

Clean water from the Sun

"At the request of the Iranian Red Crescent Society I conducted a reconnaissance and assessment mission of the problems faced both by the refugees and the over-stretched society... The result of this mission required us to do some swift lateral thinking. The ever-riding need was for a large water purification project... The project supplied clean drinking water to 350,000 refugees and their animals for six months. Death and disease in the camps was reduced by 80%... until we made public the need for clean water and food, most agencies were sending in medical teams who could only deal with the effects of the problem rather than the cause."

This extract is from a paper by International Pioneer Rescue Officer, Patrick Stanton, which he presented at the PRDU 'International Disaster Intervention' workshop in 1993. His work with Kurdish refugees at the Iraq/Iran border in 1991, shows just how crucial a supply of clean water is; but in a disaster area such a supply can be very difficult to secure.

A company called Kestrel Solar Technology Limited has designed and manufactured a unique product for use in emergency situations such as this. Solagen is a compact, highly efficient, mobile, solar power station with onboard refrigeration and the ability to pump and purify up to 3,500 gallons of brackish water a day. The unit has surplus electric power and a 50 hour reserve for night time/bad weather use.

Kestrel Solar Technology Limited and its subsidiary Kestrel Solar Research Inc. in Florida are leading photovoltaic systems manufacturers. They produce a range of affordable, custom-built systems – for power generation, water purification, lighting and refrigeration – that are powered by the sun and can be used in remote, mobile or permanent locations.

The Company advises the United Nations Development Programme in Zimbabwe, and has collaborated closely with governments and their associated departments, aid agencies and donor organisations. Its accredited distributors encompass the Far East, Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

The PRDU is building up a Manufacturers Support Group for Reconstruction, and Kestrel Solar Technology Ltd is one of our initial contacts. For further information on them and/or our Support Group project please contact the Editor.
The Workshop was held in the International Centre of Croatian Universities which was bombarded by the Serbs in early December 1991 and completely gutted by the resulting fires (see left). Within three weeks the government had decided to reconstruct the building and work began in September 1992. One year later the ground floor was re-opened. It was the first building of its size to be reconstructed in Croatia, although due to lack of funds the complete internal restoration of all four floors has yet to be achieved. The photograph on the right was taken during the workshop.

Working "under the clouds of war" was a difficult experience according to Boris Ramljak of 'Konstruktor-inzenjerij', the firm contracted to carry out the rebuilding. Their normal project-planning procedures presumed qualities and quantities which had been altered greatly by the war. The mental strain on people led to unexpected reactions and behaviour. Vital resources like water, food, electricity and accommodation were scarce. Basic building materials had to be transported from many parts of Croatia and Europe, causing logistical problems and increasing the overall cost of the project.

The main aim of this workshop was to provide a forum where these and many other related issues could be discussed. It enabled the 115 participants to share and evaluate past and present experiences of reconstruction and development after war. The most significant aspect of this workshop was that it was locally designed and driven. Thus Croatians, from a wide range of professions, felt the event belonged to them and were encouraged to initiate discussions and contacts with each other and with the many international delegates who were present. This network will provide vital ongoing support and direction to the post-war reconstruction and development of Croatia.

During the workshop we heard progress reports from Dubrovnik, Karlovac, Lipik, Osijek, Pakrac, Petrinja, Split, Vukovar and Zadar. All showed that a tremendous amount of work, especially documentation, has already been carried out both during and since the war in Croatia.

What is important now is that the information and findings from these reports are disseminated among all the Croatian professionals involved in the reconstruction and development of their country. This, together with the help and experience of sympathetic colleagues from outside the country, can be used to ensure that the next stages of reconstruction are better prioritised, managed and of long-term benefit to Croatia and its inhabitants.

Further workshops and the setting up of a formal network, complete with database and newsletter, were suggested as ways to help achieve these goals.

During 1994 the reconstruction of member states which have suffered disasters or wars has been of particular importance to a strategic review undertaken by the Cultural Heritage Division of the Council of Europe. Croatia is of primary concern in the ways in which help could be given to save its physical heritage.

As the scale and cost of the intervention that is required in Europe has risen, so the resources to assist from public funds have decreased. However, the Council of Europe is now in the final stages of setting up a Cultural Heritage Fund which has the primary purpose of acting as an enabler or catalyst for funding.

Dr Roger Wools, a heritage consultant based in York, has written the report and constitution of this Fund for the Council of Europe. He contributed to the workshop in Dubrovnik with support from UNESCO Paris, and to the PRDU ‘Rebuilding Sarajevo’ workshop in York last May, chiefly in order to get reactions to his proposals before finalising his report.

According to Dr Wools, the potential of the cultural heritage in facilitating the reconstruction of member states is acknowledged. Urban programmes which are based on cultural diversity and which support the restoration of the built heritage will encourage co-existence and strengthen civil and social organisation. But with relatively limited resources how will a public organisation like the Council of Europe play an active and effective role in reconstruction?

Many projects, particularly in the cultural field, fail to be undertaken or encounter severe problems whilst in progress because the initial structuring of the project or the thinking behind it, has been inadequate. The Council wishes to fund studies which look at the feasibility or viability of cultural projects in their earliest stages. These reports will be focused on the financial aspects of the project not primarily on the architectural aspects. The sustainability of the completed buildings once in use is of paramount importance in order not to cause problems for future generations.

This is not in any sense a stepping back from the problem or a delaying tactic but a recognition that these feasibility studies will act as keys in unlocking funds from a wide range of sources. A well researched study will enable member states to present their reconstruction programmes in better ways to persuade other funding agencies, such as national and commercial banks, institutions, foundations or investors of the need and the viability of the project.

The Cultural Heritage Division hopes that, once approved by the Council of Europe, the Cultural Heritage Fund will enable resources and expertise to be spread more widely and effectively among its member states, and particularly among the newer states like Croatia which are engaged in reconstruction programmes.
Settlement Reconstruction in Croatia

From Hospital to Host

In the summer of 1991 an architect from Dubrovnik lay in a London hospital, recovering from shrapnel wounds incurred during the siege of her home city. Whilst in Britain she got to hear of the work of the Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit (PRDU) at the University of York. This struck a chord, and she came to see what we were doing.

Ever since then a friendship has blossomed, and it was with her that we developed our first Reconstruction Workshop on Croatia. With our help and support, but mostly through her own resolve and sheer hard work, she has set up the Study Centre for Reconstruction and Development (SCRD) in Dubrovnik.

Three years on and Marija Kojakovic was organising and hosting this international workshop on Settlement Reconstruction in Croatia. As Managing Director of the SCRD she has built up a group of dedicated, multi-disciplinary professionals to help achieve the reconstruction of their country.

The SCRD acts as an independent multi-disciplinary forum to develop Croatian professionals’ understanding and expertise in the reconstruction, provision, use and conservation of the natural and built environment that has been devastated by the war. The Centre’s main activities are focused on:

◆ Providing continuing education for professionals on issues of post-war reconstruction planning and implementation.
◆ Carrying out inter-disciplinary field based research to add to the existing knowledge in the field of reconstruction.
◆ Conducting consultancy work and establishing methodological reconstruction models.
◆ Documenting Croatian experiences of reconstruction.
◆ Acting as a base for research in aspects of settlement reconstruction, for individuals and academic institutions.

The SCRD-Dubrovnik and the PRDU-University of York have put forward a proposal to co-operate in providing professional development training in Croatia. Funding for a 4-year programme is being sought from the British Council.

The programme will be initiated and managed by the SCRD. Training will be developed by the PRDU and provided jointly with the SCRD. The contents and structure are partly a response to professional opinions voiced at the Settlement Reconstruction in Croatia workshop. The programme is in three complementary parts which are:

Training development: methods and techniques for training in strategic planning & design in Croatia.

Training provision: management of private professional practices and small enterprises. Project management and evaluation. Communication, mediation and conflict resolution skills.

Co-operative research: the enterprise is to be the basis of an academic research study, from which a documented ‘professional development guide’ for design professionals in Croatia, and other East European countries, will be produced.

US/ICOMOS to Sponsor Workshop Report

Since this Workshop we have received very good news from Terry B. Morton, President of US/ICOMOS. Terry, who participated in Dubrovnik along with her husband Hamilton, has written offering financial backing and sponsorship from her organisation, for the production of the workshop report. In her letter she says that as the workshop was such an important undertaking it is necessary to publish the report as soon as possible.

Naturally we agree entirely with this sentiment. It is important to keep the momentum of dialogue and information exchange going. The SCRD have been working on the document since the end of the workshop and, together with the PRDU, hope to publish the report, in Croatian and English, early in the New Year. This would not be possible, however, without the generous offer from Mrs Morton on behalf of US/ICOMOS. For this we are most grateful.

A PRDU publication from a previous workshop on Croatia is available now from The King’s Manor, York. Price £8.00. 
Post-war reconstruction and conservation in Croatia records a one-week study tour and conference in November 1992, specifically designed for 20 invited Croatian planners, architects and conservators. The aim was to investigate relevant experiences of reconstruction and conservation by their joint working with British professionals and organisations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: ATLAS TRAVEL AGENCY DUBROVNIK; BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CROATIA; GAVIN HESEN; CROATIAN CREDIT BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION; CROATIAN INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE; DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY, SARAJEVO; DISPLACED MUNICIPALITIES OF PETINJA; VUKOVAR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT FOR REFUGEES, ZAGREB; ICCROM, INA-GEOEHNKA; INSTITUTE FOR RECONSTRUCTION, DUBROVNIK; IRC; ISRC; MAYOR OF DUBROVNIK, NIKOLA OBULJEN; MINISTRIES OF BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OSUJEK & ZAGREB; MINISTRY FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, MOSTAR; MINISTRY OF CULTURE, ZAGREB; MUNICIPALITIES OF DUBROVNIK, KARLOVAC, LIPIK, PAKRAC, ZADAR; REFUGEES COMMUNITY OF CROATIA; REGIONAL OFFICE FOR DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES, DUBROVNIK; UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, VIENNA; UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION; UNESCO, PARIS; UNHCR, SPLIT; US/ICOMOS; THE BRITISH COUNCIL, ZAGREB; DIRECTOR IAN STEWART; THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE; THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK; THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB; THE WORLD BANK.
Focus on Bosnia & Herzegovina

City Twinning to help revive Sarajevo Communities

By twinning with communities in Sarajevo, European cities can assist in Community Based Projects designed to help this besieged, war-torn Capital to reconstruct and develop.

This is one of the proposals to come out of a recent report “Considering Community Based Projects as proposed by Action Group City Development of International Management Group (IMG).” Martin Kentie, who represented the Amsterdam Housing Department at the PRDU Workshop Rebuilding Sarajevo last May, and his colleague Niko Koers produced the report on behalf of IMG, Eurocities and UNPROFOR Special Coordinator Office Sarajevo (SCS).

Community Based Projects have proved to be effective in Western and Eastern Europe. They begin with a survey, carried out by a team of local architects and urbanists, which provides detailed analysis of both physical and socio-economic damage in the Community. This information is used to develop action-programmes which prioritise aims and goals. Local workshops are then established as places to pool, provide and manage construction resources.

Important features of these projects are that they:

- strike a political accord with local authorities
- involve community-groups, based on solidarity of civilians built-up during the war
- enable teams of local architects to work together with Eurocities experts
- function as an integrating framework for other fields of expertise.

In three areas in and around Sarajevo – Skenderija, Hranso and Trnovo – the Community Projects are now in the survey phase. The first two are in Bosnian government held territory, the third is held by Bosnian Serbs. It is part of the concept that these three projects are teamed together, to develop at the same time and in the same manner. More projects in other communities must follow as soon as possible.

The report recommends that two programmes be initiated within the Community Projects. Firstly, a Land Policy Programme to look at: goals; assets; steering instruments; types of leasehold; planning. Secondly, the setting up of housing NGOs to: commission repairs; distribute materials; level profits and losses.

The City of Amsterdam offers to assist Sarajevo by:

- using its expertise and experience to coach and support Sarajevans in areas such as: survey report presentation; workshop planning; property ownership; management of urban renewal; land value; housing NGOs.
- organising exchanges of architectural students and teachers.
- studying the possibility of joint ventures between Dutch contracting firms and small-scale building workshops in Sarajevo.
- proposing a series of international workshops in Sarajevo, through the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA), in which architects and related professionals from Bosnia and abroad can work on problems and solutions raised by various Community Project action plans.

Amsterdam supports the concept of community projects and is willing to work on this concept in cooperation with other European cities who could provide necessary expertise, help find funding (donations) and financing (investments), and give other practical assistance through their networks.

Mostar 2004

This Pilot Project for the rebuilding of multicultural Bosnia and Herzegovina came out of a month-long workshop in Istanbul during July and August 1994. Because of the length of the workshop the report is quite detailed, but a number of key issues were raised.

- Reconstructed Mostar shall accommodate a multi-cultural population, reflecting its cultural and religious make-up before the war
- As much of the historic centre of Mostar as practicable shall be reconstructed to its pre-war condition
- All reconstruction and development work shall be carried out within an agreed master plan
- Landmarks, components and public spaces will be graded for historic and architectural significance, and any restoration/reconstruction work shall respect this
- Three areas of Mostar have been earmarked for development

Sultan Barakat writes: “Mostar is more than just a bridge. The locals have already bridged the river Neretva with a temporary structure.

Priority must be for peace; rebuilding housing, reviving the economy and bringing the two warring communities together.

Urgent work on the old bridge should only comprise rescuing, categorising and storing the original stone, as well as detailed planning of the eventual rebuilding.

The reconstruction of this famous landmark can then be used as a celebration of the revival of the City.”
Dear Editor,

I am currently enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Sydney, under the supervision of Professor Serge Domicelj. I am engaged in analysing user satisfaction of permanent post-earthquake housing, in rural areas of Iran.

My emphasis is on the environmental change in shelter and resettled areas, which have taken place over years, after earthquakes have struck. I am in the process of evaluating the 1990 programme of reconstruction, as applied by the government, by a survey carried out in 1993 collecting empirical and non-empirical data.

I am interested in exchanging my findings with others who are involved in such studies.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Alireza Fallahi

Department of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture
The University of Sydney
NSW, 2006
Australia

We bring you a gift from Rwanda

Once upon a time, August and September 1994, an emergency water-team worked in the war zone of Central Africa in the small country of Rwanda. The people and especially the children were dying from cholera, dysentery, enteritis, dehydration and starvation. The water-team was successful in its battle against disease and before they left the area of Ruhango the children, aged between 6 and 11 years, made the models below as presents for the team. The houses on the left are replicas of those the children lived in, or would like to live in. The models in the centre are their interpretations of the team’s landrover, and a UN helicopter. Those on the right are their concept of what the house of the “water-boss” might look like in the UK. The children had little or no formal education and constructed the models with razor blades. A beautiful example of the natural ability to build!

Natural Disaster Specialists

Ian Davis, Managing Director of the Oxford Centre for Disaster Studies, is renowned for his expertise in natural disasters, and his Centre is a major contributor to research and training in this field. He has also been a faithful supporter of the PRDU since its conception, and participated in the first two workshops we held in the late 1980s.

Ian has been a major contributor to a number of recent publications. ‘Rehabilitation and Reconstruction’ is a disaster management training programme for UNDP and DHA which he has developed with Yasemin Aysan from IFRCS in Geneva. The two have also worked on books in the ‘Building for Safety’ series which are written for individuals involved in post-disaster reconstruction or pre-disaster preparedness. Ian has also been a joint author of the volume ‘At Risk’. This book reasserts the significance of the human factor in disasters. It draws practical and policy conclusions with a view to disaster reduction and the promotion of a safer environment.

For further information write to Ian Davis at PO Box 137, Oxford OX4 1BB, United Kingdom

Tuzla Revisited – SEA in Bosnia

Scottish European Aid (SEA), a relatively new organisation, began operations in Bosnia during the winter of 1992 in the towns and villages surrounding Tuzla city. Initially, a generous grant from the Soros Foundation enabled it to carry out several major projects. Mike Cunningham, who in January 1995 takes up his new position as Managing Director of SEA in Edinburgh, sent us this report on his November 1994 mission to Bosnia.

“I have just returned from an inspirational trip to Tuzla, 80 miles north of Sarajevo. When I was last there, in November 1993, I assisted in the writing of a shelter proposal. The first village that I visited then had been ransacked during a three day occupation by Serb forces, who had thrown phosphor bombs into over 700 houses. Only the burnt skeletons of the buildings remained. The feeling of desolation and desperation was incredible.

This year I had coffee in the warm, dry kitchen of one of these very houses, one of the 120 in the village that SEA has so far helped to repair. The house owner and her children had worked on the rebuilding themselves.

The local joiner is kept busy manufacturing new doors and windows from the oak and pine that SEA brings in. The new roofs are grey concrete, provided by a local company that SEA supplied with tile machines and cement, and who now employ 20 men full-time. The village is rebuilding its life, and looking to the future with renewed hope.

SEA has now helped re-roof over 300 homes in four different villages in the Tuzla region. We estimate that our water projects have assisted about 250,000 people. Our local candle factory staff have produced over 100,000 candles which have been distributed all over Bosnia. Next year we will start working in collective centres to help improve the lives of people who cannot return home.

We hope you can see what we saw in these simple models from Rwanda’s war-children.

Pascal Mugiraneza / Patrick & Eva Stanton

Pascal Mugiraneza, an economist from Rwanda, came to Britain in September 1994. He has since joined the PRDU community in York to study post-war reconstruction as an MA degree subject. Pascal would like to make contact with any volunteers/relief workers who have worked in Rwanda during the crisis.

Patrick and Eva Stanton are leading members of the Association of Pioneer Rescue Officers (APRO). Patrick – the “water-boss” – is an international officer with world-wide experience in disaster intervention. Both obtained MA degrees here at the King’s Manor in 1990.
Research & Degree Topics

1. AT THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
The role of NGOs in reorienting government institutions affecting shelter & settlement in African Capitalist States. Carl O’Coill, architect from Ireland.
Investigating the effects of short- and long-term reconstruction projects on Bosnia-Herzegovina and its people. Alpaslan Özerdem, Turkey.
Reconstruction of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the light of the recent ceasefire. Anna Kokoliadi, architect from Greece.

2. AT OTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTES
The Design and Construction of Shelter for Disaster Relief. Sue Ellis, architect from UK; research at University of Luton, with Dr Barakat as an external advisor.
Success of Preservation and Revitalisation Strategies in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Jon Calame, research at Columbia school of architecture, New York, USA, with Dr Barakat as an external advisor.

Publications

NGOs and Peace-Building in Afghanistan; workshop report, 3-7 April 1994 Barakat, Ehsan & Strand (IoAAS, 60pp, £8.00)
This workshop brought together 30 senior staff members and representatives from Afghan and International NGOs, as well as UN agencies involved in programmes of emergency relief and settlement reconstruction in Afghanistan.
From the intensive discussions, it emerged that today, despite the fact that more than 200 NGOs are working in Afghanistan (spending $250 million in 1992), there is very little to show for their efforts in terms of reconstruction and people’s return to normality. This is mainly due to the continuation of the conflict and also because of the absence of long-term vision within the NGO community.
Recording the Workshop proceedings, this publication includes a derived Set of Principles for NGOs Working for Peace-building and Reconstruction in Afghanistan, and recommendations on how the role of NGOs and ‘donors’ can be improved.

Disaster Management Journal:
War and its aftermath; rebuilding war-torn societies
Guest Editor; Dr Sultan Barakat
This issue of the quarterly journal of contingency planning for large scale emergencies is dedicated to ‘War and its aftermath’. Articles include:
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Our Aims
The PRDU is part of the University of York’s Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, which is a leading research and Continuing Professional Development institution. The PRDU is a unique academic unit that specialises in the research, consultancy and training of professionals on issues of planning and management of reconstruction after war, with experience in countries, such as Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Northern Ireland, Palestine & Yemen.

The PRDU aims to provide:

1. An accessible and professionally relevant multi-disciplinary training and post-graduate educational programme, on issues of disaster intervention and post-war reconstruction planning and management. The PRDU is particularly keen on developing a ‘country-centred’ approach for training.
2. A research resource, based on field work in countries devastated by war, to add to the existing knowledge and to support local organisations through the transfer of experiences.
3. An international forum for the exchange of information and experience between practising disaster interventionists and reconstruction professionals.
4. A focus for the dissemination of knowledge on the subject of reconstruction through publishing bibliographies and a series of Research Working Papers and Workshop Reports.
5. Help, to create and co-ordinate a network of Study Centres in countries devastated by war, which can intensify research, training of professionals and the dissemination of knowledge.

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