

# Talk Development

SIPA

The newsletter of the Economic and Political Development Concentration at SIPA Spring 2004

## A Word from Corky

By Coralie Bryant  
EPD Concentration Director

Dear EPD alums,

We are delighted to send you this first issue of the EPD Newsletter. While much is changing at SIPA these days, as well as in the world around us, we first want to tell you how much we want to hear from you. Fida, Shubham, and I take great satisfaction in all that we hear about the work of our graduates. We are gladdened by your commitment to a more equitable, socially just, and peaceful world. Never has development work, or the core concept itself, been more needed and relevant than in this increasingly poor, and war torn world.

EPD is thriving with all the potential you remember. Classes are crowded; some difficult to get in to—I'll bet you remember how that felt! But the spirit of the EPDers is as amazing as always. We are the largest program in SIPA. Ayesha will tell you about our current Workshop—with its 14 projects (many teams have 7 or 8 participants). If you are in NYC or can get here—please consider coming to the Workshop presentations on April 29 and 30 (you can find a complete schedule in page 2). We now have open coffee and tea times in our little space just outside my office and Shubham's. Check with our current Program Assistants on exact times. These PAs are in that long tradition of exceptionally talented people; as always, holding us together! Augustin Flory (ahf2005) and Ayesha Haider (ash2017). Jeff Sachs is launching a joint SIPA-Earth Institute first ever doctoral program in Sustainable Development this coming fall 2004. Joe Stiglitz has a doctoral fellowship program starting then as well. You might want to check those out.

World events have been saddening us, as I suspect they have you. We are in a challenging and shortsighted policy quagmire nationally and internationally. Wars continue in many countries; vio-

lence in the Middle East seems intractable; chances for peace stymied. The fall in the dollar spells long term trouble; the concept and practice of pre-emptive strikes and unilateralism undermine long term security. Those working on reducing poverty have, again, been called upon to shift resources to emergency humanitarian work at the expense of longer term sustainable development programs, even while we know that those are the building blocks for crisis prevention and real security. All of us must increase every effort to point out how reducing poverty is among the ways to contribute to positive peace building. Towards that end on January 29, EPD hosted Francis Deng, former Ambassador to the US, Canada, and Scandinavia for the Sudan. As the Representative on Internally Displaced People for the Secretary General, Francis will talk about the relationships among Poverty, Displacement, and War. The depth of his background knowledge on this material is stunning; his wisdom, inspiring.

All of us here at EPD send you all our best wishes. Indeed, we salute you. Please stay in touch!

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# Talking (Work) Shop

By Ayesha Haider

This year, the EPD workshop is as exciting as ever with over 80 participants working across Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. EPD still requires the workshop as part of its core requirements as it serves as a fundamental way to put theory into practice. This year we have 14 diverse and challenging projects that reflect the varied interests of our student body. Two teams are working with microfinance institutions, one in El Salvador working with their client to develop strategies for microfinance institutions to draw upon the “learning organization” literature and the second team working with ACCION NY to assess the impact of microfinance lending in NY. We have yet another interesting project with the International Organization for Migration this year, assessing the effectiveness of programs designed to reintegrate demobilized soldiers in Bosnia Herzegovina. Students are involved in two projects with Technoserve in Africa this year, one studying global supply and demand trends for cashews and the second examining the complexities of voluntary re-

settlement projects. For the World Bank this year one team has been documenting Poland’s experience in accessing to the EU and Serbia’s attempts to do so with particular focus on EU social development requirements. Another Bank team has been working with the Honduran government and major donors on strengthening coordination efforts for meeting Education for All goals. This is just a taste of the interesting work EPD students have been involved in this year. To hear and learn more we encourage you to attend the EPD Workshop Final Presentations (information follows).

**SAVE THE DATE:** The EPD program cordially invites you to attend the presentation briefings this upcoming April 29-30<sup>th</sup>. The presentations will be attended by the clients and faculty supervisor and offer you a unique opportunity to keep abreast on ground breaking research and to network with other alumni and professionals in the field. We look forward to seeing you there! Mark the date—but stay tuned for the program for the two days.

## April 29

- 12:30 - 1:05 *Development and the Albanian Diaspora in the United States, UNDP*
- 1:15 - 1:50 *Process Evaluation of UNFPA's HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative in Sierra Leone*
- 2:00 - 2:35 *Empowering Small Rural Producers: The Case of La Coordinadora in El Salvador*
- 2:45 - 3:20 *Honduras Education for All Fast Track Initiative: Lessons Learned, World Bank*
- 3:30 - 4:05 *Learning to Learn: Helping Microfinance Institutions become Learning Organizations, ENLACE/CRS*
- 4:15 - 4:50 *The Impact of Nepal's WTO Accession on its Food Security, UNDP*
- 5:00 - 5:35 *Assessing Impact: ACCION New York's Microlending Activities*

## April 30

- 12:00 - 12:35 *Listening to the Voices of Jordanian Youth, UNICEF*
- 12:45 - 1:20 *New York's Mixteca: A Transnational Study No Borders Inter-Community Corporation / North American Integration & Dev. Center*
- 1:30 - 2:05 *A Critical Look at Voluntary Resettlement in Tanzania, Technoserve*
- 2:15 - 2:50 *From Barracks to Business, evaluation of IOM DDR program in Bosnia-Herzegovina, International Organization for Migration*
- 3:00 - 3:35 *Spilling the Beans: Microfinance Lessons from and for Ecuador's Rural Poor International Institute for Rural Reconstruction*
- 3:45 - 4:20 *Going Nuts in China: Market Potential for Mozambiquan Cashews, Technoserve Mozambique*
- 4:30 - 5:05 *Great Expectations: The EU and Social Development in Poland and Serbia, World Bank*
- 5:00 - 6:30 PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION!

This schedule is tentative. For updates please visit the EPD web site

## Alumni Corner



### FIGHTING AGAINST DISEASES OF MASS DESTRUCTION

By Marc de Fleurieu

The war on terrorism is evidently a top priority on the international community's agenda. But the debate about how best to deter terrorism should become a source of division for the international community. Consensus is needed for prompting a rapid legitimate response against terrorism. It is also needed because controversy tends to overshadow the remaining pressing issues on the agenda: the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against the most deadly and imminent threat the world has ever dealt with: communicable diseases.

In 2003, 3 million people died from HIV/AIDS; 2 million died from malaria and 2 million died from tuberculosis. Every year, communicable diseases kill 7 million people.

The only equivalent in modern history is the Second World War when genocide and war totalled 40 million victims in six years, i.e. a yearly average close to 7 million death. Today, the world total of warfare victims has fallen by 75%: in 2003, 1.6 million people died in a conflict.

In fact, with 22 million victims, HIV/AIDS has be-

come the most deadly epidemic in human history. And the epidemic is far from being under control. While infection rates recede in Latin America; they are still rapidly rising in the Caribbean region, Eastern Europe and Asia, especially in China and India. Moreover, The AIDS epidemic in Africa shows no signs of abating. There were 5 million people newly infected with HIV in 2003.

Stock-piling weapons and arms racing nevertheless, appear to be more important looking at the budget allocations. Each year, the world spends \$700 billion on the military but falls short of gathering \$10 billion for the global fund against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

As Jeffrey Sachs already stated, let's cut spending on weapons and save 40 million people infected with HIV.

*Marc de Fleurieu (MIA 2001) is currently a senior research assistant at the Brookings Institution, one of Washington's countless think-tanks. After his graduation, he worked with the European Commission on the implementation of the European Union's commitments at the UN conferences in Monterrey and in Johannesburg. In the fall of 2003 he moved back to the United States. His new assignment at Brookings includes measuring the macroeconomic impacts of population aging. It fulfils his strong interest in international economics.*

## Alumni Briefs

**Philip Gounev (MIA 2003)** is a Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Democracy, a think-tank based in Sofia, Bulgaria. He conducts research on issues related to organized crime. He was recently awarded a 2004-2005 International Policy Fellowship, an initiative of the Open Society Institute and the Central European University in Budapest. The fellowship seeks "to identify and nurture the next generation of open society leaders in the countries of the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, Mongolia, and

countries of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and North Africa." The initiative helps the Policy Fellows to develop their capacity to write professional policy documents, identify appropriate policy instruments, and effectively advocate policies. Fellows are accepted in the program with a personal policy project. Philip's project is to write a policy paper that seeks to estimate the costs that Bulgarian taxpayers pay due to lack of government social and economic development programs for the Roma minority in Bulgaria. He hopes that this paper

will convince policy makers in Bulgaria and the region, that investing in social and economic development programs would reduce government's expenses.

**Anna Segur (MIA 2003)** has recently been hired by Techoserve El Salvador as Manager of Project Operations and Evaluations after a brief consultancy with them. She originally had been in contact with them as an EPD student doing a project for Techoserve last year.

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(Alumni Briefs continued from page 3)

**Evelin Bermudez (MIA 1993):** After graduating from SIPA in 1993, I joined the World Bank to work in the field of sustainable development. Specifically, my work focussed in the design, monitoring and evaluation of projects, policies and programs which are environmentally and socially conscious. Following a career of almost 10 years at the Bank, I moved to Switzerland to be with my husband (a Swiss national). We are currently living in Luzern, in the central part of Switzerland. Adjusting to my new life has not been easy. The cultural and language barriers are proving to be much more challenging than envisioned. Learning German, for instance, is overwhelming. You see, people only use it when writing but converse in the local language known as Swiss-German. But the dialect is not uniform. Each city, almost, has its own version of Swiss-German.

Professionally though I am doing a bit better. I have founded my own consulting firm. The services I provide are: (i) Designing, monitoring and evaluating projects in the fields of micro-finance, education, trade, and social development; (ii) Conducting public consultations with a special focus on civil society and NGO participation in poverty reduction programs and projects; and (iii) Providing advice on corporate social responsibility issues. More specifically analyzing the linkages between the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and how companies can make their activities and investments more socially and environmentally responsible. I am currently working on a project with WWF International on promoting the use of sustainability assessments as a tool to address the environmental and social impacts of trade policies and programmes. It is a very challenging initiative and I enjoy being part of it.

## This Semester

**J**anuary 29<sup>th</sup>: Conference “Poverty, War and IDPs”, with Francis Deng, special representative of Kofi Annan for Internally Displaced People

**F**ebruary 3<sup>rd</sup>: Brown Bag “Community Driven Development: the role of community foundations” with John Heller, Synergos

**M**arch 3<sup>rd</sup>: American Jewish World Service

**M**arch 4<sup>th</sup> Meet the Professor with Malgosia Madajewicz

**M**arch 26<sup>th</sup>: EPD internship panel

**A**pril 1<sup>st</sup>: Brown bag “Conversation on pursuing careers in International Development” with Ashok Guring

**A**pril 7<sup>th</sup>: Brown Bag with Heiko Nitzchke International Peace Academy

**A**pril 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM: Joint EPD/PEPM social

**A**pril 24<sup>th</sup>: Washington, DC reception at Coralie Bryant’s (e-mail us if you have not received an invitation).

**A**pril 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>: EPD Workshop Reports presentation

## We want to hear from you...

Drop us a line with an update of your life at:  
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And join the new **sipa\_epd** Yahoo! group to communicate with alumni and students.

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