



IDRC Alumni Newsletter

September 2003—Issue No. 3

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Annual Meeting & Reception

Where: IDRC Conference Facility
250 Albert Street
14th floor
Ottawa, Ontario
When: October 24, 2003
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The 2003 IDRC Alumni reception and meeting will be held October 24, 2003 in Ottawa from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. An invitation has also been extended to those alumni who have not yet joined the group but plan on doing so in 2003/04. We are fortunate again this year to be able to use the IDRC facilities on the 14th floor at 250 Albert Street.

We will be providing beer, wine, soft drinks, appetizers, as well as the opportunity for laughter, great conversation and renewal of old acquaintances at the reception. The individual cost for the reception is \$15.00. Spouses/partners are also welcome. To allow us to plan accordingly and ensure we have adequate refreshments, please RSVP to Mary Baker Blackwell at blackme@cyberus.ca or Alison Craig at alisoncraig@cyberus.ca on or before October 1, 2003. Last year was a great success with more than 100 former employees attending. We had a number of people who confirmed their attendance and did not appear. Unfortunately we had to pay for those individuals so it is imperative you keep us informed if your plans change.

Just prior to the reception and meeting October 24, **we will be holding a development seminar titled International Development and the Rule of Law.** The seminar will be on the **14th floor at IDRC from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Admission is free and interested alumni members are invited to attend.

For the convenience of those traveling to Ottawa from out-of-town we have reserved a number of hotel rooms at a group rate of \$129.00 (single/double) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Skyline) located at 101 Lyon Street. This rate and the rooms will be held only until October 1. If you wish to take advantage of these arrangements please contact the Crowne Plaza Hotel directly at 1-800-227-6963 or by email at crowneottawa@chipreit.com. All communications with the hotel should refer to the IDRC Alumni and the group number #IDR129 must be referenced.

2003-2004 MEMBERSHIP FEES

In the past year we have accomplished great things (at least that is the feedback we are receiving) and we now have 160 alumni members from all over the world in our group. We have produced two very newsy newsletters and provided our members with an alumni directory with over 350 names, locations and email addresses. This will be our third and last newsletter in 2003.

Membership fees for 2003-2004 remain at \$20.00 Cdn or \$15.00 U.S. and may be paid at the reception or by mail to Alison Craig, Ten Driveway, Apt 704, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1C7

.... from the Board

Newsletter Number 3 and a further progress report. Preparations for the October 24 Annual Reception and Meeting are well underway.

As in 2002 at the first meeting of IDRC Alumni, we will, in the course of the Reception, hold a brief business meeting. That meeting will include an Agenda item for financial statements, the IDRC Alumni constitutional status, Member renewals and Member's business.

Financial: There will be available a financial statement from the Treasurer, Gerry Bourrier, showing current cash on hand. Our current cash balance at any time is a reflection of membership fees paid. While the balance at the time of the meeting will be around \$2,000.00, we anticipate that increased Member activities in the future will produce a reduction in the amount of the balance.

Constitutional: IDRC Alumni is continuing to operate under the Board of Directors who had constituted the first Founding Committee of the organization. The Board includes The Chairman – Jim Pfeifer, Secretary – Mary Blackwell, Treasurer – Gerry Bourrier, Director-Memberships – Alison Craig, Director Programs and Activities - Claude Paul Boivin and IDRC representatives Angie Anton and Jean-Marc Fleury.

At the present time we are not recommending a change in our organizational structure. As indicated at the founding meeting, more detailed recommendations will be presented to the 2004 Meeting. The Board and Members who have expressed views continue to favour a simple organizational structure. Members who are interested in working with the Board are asked to contact any Board member.

If any member wishes to have an issue placed on the agenda, please inform Mary prior to October 1.

We look forward to seeing you October 24.



On September 12, 2003 a reception, hosted by Maureen O'Neil, Gordon Smith and the University of Toronto Press was held at IDRC to launch a book entitled "Humanizing Our Global Order: Essays in Honour of Ivan Head". The University of Toronto Press published this book, with support from IDRC. Two of Ivan Head's former students, Dr. Obiora Chinedu Okafor and Dr. Obijiofor Aginam, edited the book. Most of the contributions are also by Ivan's former students and associates. The topics addressed include multilateral environmental agreements, competition law, international trade, the prevention of civil war through minority protection and the use of force.

Update on Members

Eva Rathgeber (1982-2001) is currently the Joint Chair in Women's Studies at the University of Ottawa/Carleton University, where she teaches a graduate course on gender, science and technology. She also does consulting and serves on many international committees.

Réal Lavergne (1986-2000) was recruited by the CIDA Policy Branch shortly after leaving IDRC. He works in the Analysis and Research Division, and is CIDA's Senior Analyst for capacity development and program-based approaches as central elements of CIDA's aid effectiveness strategy.

Gordon MacNeil (1975-1988) has been associated directly with the CGIAR since leaving IDRC. This started in May 1988 as Director of Finance and Administration at WARDA in Côte d'Ivoire (until late 1992), then as Senior Finance Officer at the CG Secretariat in the World Bank (1992-1998), then as Treasurer and Director for Finance at IRRI (1998-2002), then back at the Bank to complete the leave of absence requirement until early 2003, and now at ISNAR for a year as Director of Finance and Administration as ISNAR winds up its existence in The Netherlands by early 2004. Joan completed her PhD in the mid-90s and took up a senior HIV-AIDS position at the World Bank in August this year. Bruce and Andrew are in Canada (Vancouver and Montreal respectively), and Bruce and LeeAnn have a four-year old son.

M. Gary Costello (1978-1986) and his family reside in Washington D.C. Since 1996, he has worked as a consultant for the World Bank in the area of Environment and Sustainable Development. He has continued to work in Latin America and most recently in India. Gary is married to Francia Torres, a GIS Specialist with the Washington D.C. Government and together they have a two-year old son, Timothy.

George Brown (1970-1977) was Director, Population and Health Sciences at IDRC from 1970-1975, and Director, Program Policy from 1976-1977. He left IDRC in 1977 to join the Population Council in New York as Vice President, International Programs. During

his 23-year tenure in this position, he greatly expanded the Council's program of research, technical assistance, and training in reproductive health in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 2000 as Associate Director, Health Equity, where he facilitated the establishment of the International Partnership for Microbicides, a new organization committed to the development of female-controlled vaginal microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Since April 2003, George has moved to consultant status with the Foundation, focusing on AIDS prevention. He also serves as Senior Fellow, International Center for Research on Women. George is also a founding Board member of Action Canada for Population and Development, headquartered in Ottawa. He lives in New York City.

Carole Joling (1991-2001), formerly Director RIMS/Centre Library, has finally transitioned from managing books to reading the stuff! And what a library she has waiting – a collection gathered over 33 years of wishful reading. On her 10-acre Osgoode property, she swims, gardens, bikes, etc., at leisure with every day a promise of possibilities. Volunteering is a new hobby, interspersed with courses at Carleton University and an occasional consultancy keeping her skills fresh. An all-season RV has just been acquired to criss-cross Canada with her husband and enjoy this great country. A five-year plan is in the works!

Robin Hallam (1973-1994) just received his first superannuation check and was pleasantly surprised at how much indexing has added to the pension over the past ten years. Now he is self-employed, and over employed with a home inspection business he started up on Vancouver Island. The hours are long but the rewards are great, providing a service that clients are so appreciative of.

Nagla Rizk (1983-1987) earned tenure in May 2003 and was promoted to Associate Professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo. Nagla lives in Cairo with her husband Khaled and her two children, Aslya, a beautiful 13 year-old young lady and Hatem, a handsome young man of almost 8 years.



Nagla, Aslya and Hatem



Hello, IDRC Alumni. This is **Chris Smart**, just retired from IDRC. And there is no truth to the rumour that this was timed to make me eligible to attend the Alumni meeting on 24 October! I think some canny ex-IDRCer dreamt up the Alumni so that we, the elect of Canada's development workers, all had one more chance - later in life – to be a newbie!



When asked to contribute something to the Newsletter I groaned – life at IDRC did seem to be one long essay writing competition – and I was not enthused at the idea of doing more keyboard duty. But, IDRC craft lingers: since I had the file for the few remarks I made at my 'demob' party I thought you would understand if I did once more what we have all done in the past – recycle a bit of text to make a deadline. Though I must say that not having the stimulus of writing to appropriate (cajole?) a few bucks of a D, or DG or VP takes the edge off!

Although I have worked at IDRC since July 1979 it has been in my consciousness since 1970. I learned about IDRC when a graduate student at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex because one of my Profs, Geoffrey Oldham, was making frequent visits to Canada to help set up 'something new and very exciting'. I took note and went off to Papua New Guinea. And Geoff Oldham took a joint appointment – Deputy Director of SPRU and Associate Director for the Science and Technology Policy Program at IDRC.

I next ran into IDRC – or rather IDRC ran into me – when I was teaching at the University of Papua New Guinea. Martin Bell (another one of my Profs from SPRU) and prototype PO for IDRC made a visit, saddlebags loaded with CAD and looking for projects. (Some things never change – I hear you say.) Martin and I spent half a day together as I pitched him on the merits of supporting research on the STP issues that were emerging in PNG – the building of gold mines being front and center. (Some things never change – I hear you say.) I lived in expectation for the rest of my four years at UPNG but heard nothing more from Martin. What had I done to deserve the silence? (Some things never change – I hear you say.)

I returned to Canada in 1976 and worked for WUSC until 1979 when on a whim – to see what was happening in what had been 'my field' – I went, in May 1979, to a symposium IDRC convened at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto on *Canada's Role in Science and Technology for Development*¹, to collate Canada's contribution to the United Nations

¹ Canada's Role in Science and Technology for Development Proceedings of a symposium held at the Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, Canada 10-13 May 1979 J. King Gordon Editor. A scanned version is available at <http://idrinfo.idrc.ca/archive/corpdocs/036529>. This is worth a read if you want to see a rogue's gallery of staff and recipients around IDRC in 1979. No apologies for this footnote. By definition every serious IDRC document has to have a footnote!

Conference on Science and Technology (UNCSTD) that was to take place in Vienna in August 1979. I met Geoff Oldham at this symposium and within two weeks I had been recruited to IDRC. (Some things DO change – I hear you say.)

And from the start IDRC has been an adventure. Which is as good a way as I can think of to say that you never knew what to expect next! Adventure began on my first day when I arrived in the office to learn that Tony Tillett, my boss, was traveling. (Some things never change – I hear you say.) Tony had left instructions that I summarize the report on my desk. Nuclear Power and Development – The Case of Korea by Kun Mo Chung. No problem. Flipping past the title page I was confronted with 100 pages written in Korean. When I regained consciousness --- I realized I was about to start work with an interesting chap. I came to love Tony and those of you who know him will understand that. He became my teacher for IDRC – telling me what to revere and protect and what to take with a grain of salt – there were many very gritty / saline moments.

On the Tuesday of my second week at IDRC I was told (by Elwood Pye, Deputy Director, SSD) to stand by for training on Thursday. On Wednesday I wrote my first DAP – Division Activity Project (what we call an RSP today). (DAP afforded Tony and me no end of hilarity because in Wales – where we both spent our childhood – a ‘dap’ is an ugly but serviceable running shoe.) Thursday passed and I am still waiting for that training and orientation session. I heard later that Elwood, after reading my first DAP, figured I had the Centre worked out and could fly --- in other words I had shown I had the gift of the social science baffle gab and could carry on granting. (Some things never change – I hear you say.)

One day I met Martin Bell again – he who had visited UPNG and then fallen silent. Well actually I met myself – in one of Martin’s Trip Reports. Going through an archive in my first year with the Centre I came across Martin’s TR for the visit he had made to PNG and learned that as challenging and fertile as PNG was, the IDRC would find itself primarily supporting a bunch of expats acting as gatekeepers to the PNG researchers. So there I was, featured in an IDRC Trip Report as part of the problem rather than as part of the solution. (I dare you to say – Some things never change.)

We are of a generation of IDRCers for whom seeking approval for every project over \$100,000 was an adventure. It had to be presented to the Board and often turned into an oral exam, equivalent to a thesis defence. The academic equivalent of unarmed combat to get approval for a grant. (Some things never change – I hear you say.)

The rest is the window dressing of an IDRC career – PO to SPO in the S & TP unit of SSD; AD then DD with FAD; back to SSD as DD and finally to CAID as DD SIP (later converted to PPD and SID). And a path marked with DAPs, PAPs, Pss, AAPPs that gave the world a few projects and the odd book. (If you need an acronym decoder, you’re probably a CIDA or DFAIT imposter, masquerading as an ex-IDRCer to get into our exclusive club!) The work was the adventure – we never had to apologize for the endeavour. But nothing at IDRC has been better (even on a bad day) than the people I had as colleagues.

I look forward to being a member of the IDRC Alumni.

Where Are They Now

Bob, Isabel and Abbey Huggan, Mas Blanc, Tornac, France



Bob left IDRC in 1987 to join ICRAF in Nairobi, Kenya, as their first Director of Information and Communication, with a view to getting an InfoComm division off the ground. This took three years, after which he joined INIBAP in Montpellier, France, with a similar role. After three years, IRRI asked him to head up their Information Centre and their Communication and Publication Services in Los Baños, Philippines, on a four-year contract. When this had been completed, he stayed on at IRRI for another year-and-a-half as Senior Adviser to the Director General with specific responsibility for public awareness. He retired from IRRI at the end of September 1998.

In 1994, Bob and Isabel bought an old (early 1700s) stone farmhouse in the department of the Gard, France, about a 50-minute drive north of Montpellier. They worked on it for three summers during annual leave from IRRI, and had masonry work done during their absence. Isabel took up residence there in April 1998, Bob following after his retirement. Bob then set up a communications consulting business, on his own and also in a loose partnership (www.communica-international.org) with a scientific editor and two translators.

Currently, his clients include the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), the European Union's Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the French Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), ICRAF and INIBAP. Bob's main activities are writing, editing, translating (French to English), directing workshops in public awareness for agricultural and environmental NGOs in African and Caribbean countries and, most recently, one of a four-member team that advises on freedom of the press (he taught journalism before joining IDRC in 1980).

Isabel has just had her third book ("Belonging: Home Away from Home") published in Canada by Random House's Knopf Canada Division, and spent most of the month of May doing readings and book signings in Ontario and British Columbia, and speaking at the Victoria Writers Festival. She returned to Canada in mid-July to teach at her annual creative writing workshop at Humber College, Toronto (she is a part-time faculty member there and mentors a group of beginning writers by correspondence from January to July every year). In October, she'll be back again, appearing at a number of writers festivals across the country.

Daughter Abbey received her International Baccalaureat in Manila, then got her BA from McGill. She then worked at EarthRoots, a Toronto-based environmental NGO, and is now working part-time and studying full-time at the Ontario College of Art and Design. She visits Mom and Dad at Christmas and in the summer.

The Huggan house, Mas Blanc, is at the foot of the Cévennes Mountains, so there is lots of opportunity for outdoor activity. Isabel and Bob are members of a local hiking club that organizes walks in the mountains twice a month. The region is also rich in history, with bits of Roman pottery turning up when fields are ploughed. When not consulting or writing books, the Huggans are busy tending their dozen very old olive trees, another dozen very young fruit trees and a vegetable garden. There are vineyards on two sides of the house, and the local Cave Coopérative is just a five-minute drive away, so he says that there's no lack of excellent libation to accompany the local cuisine.

JINGJAI HANCHANLASH

Jingjai was working at the Department of Technical & Economic Operation in Thailand when he met Bhekh Thapa. The Vice-President International for IDRC Bhekh Thapa convinced Jingjai to join this new, exciting, international organization as a liaison officer in his office. When Jingjai arrived in Ottawa to take up his new responsibilities in August, 1973 Bhekh Thapa had returned to Nepal and Gordon



Cox had been appointed as Acting Vice-President. When the dust finally settled, Cheikh Hamidou Kane was appointed Vice-President International and was extremely fortunate to find the most cheerful, accommodating and efficient Jingjai on his staff. Jingjai and his wife Suda remained in Ottawa until 1976 when he was appointed Regional Director in the Singapore Office. Jingjai enjoyed many happy, successful years in Singapore and left ASRO in 1993. He did not abandon IDRC but rather undertook new responsibilities on an IDRC-CIDA small grants program in Vietnam, based in Bangkok, for a further three years.

In September 1996 Jingjai joined Loxley Public Co. located in Bangkok. Sadly, his wife Suda passed away that same month. Jingjai has prospered in the private sector. He became Vice President of the Thai-Canada Chamber of Commerce for a period of time. Currently he is Co-Chairman of the Franco-Thai Business Council as well as a Board member of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. He continues to carry out social work as well as development work. He is Secretary General of the Development Cooperation Foundation (DCF), a NGO financed by USAID and CIDA to fund other NGO activities in community development. During 1998-1999 CIDA provided a grant to DCF to carry out a Good Governance Program in Thailand and Jingjai was the Project Director (concurrently with his other responsibilities). In 2002 he became a member of the Executive Board of Health Promotion Fund (HPF), a public organization set up by the

Government using excise tax (2%), which is a great deal of money. The mandate is quite simple – to use funds to promote health. The first major success was anti-smoking, thanks to HPF. There is now a law banning smoking in public places. Jingjai's connection with Canada and particularly with the IDRC continues. He is presently working with the Evaluation Unit of IDRC to introduce a valuation mapping technique to HPF.



In October 1997 Jingjai married Khunying Chamnongsri. Khunying is a title bestowed by the King of Thailand and is given to women in recognition of their contribution to the country. Sri is a renowned writer and poet and has published several books. As well, she is the owner of the Rutnin Hospital; the oldest and largest eye hospital in Thailand. Her late husband, Dr. Uthai Rutnin, an internationally reputed ophthalmologist, established the hospital. Sri's son, also an ophthalmologist trained in Canada, now works at the hospital. His wife Sirithorn Rutnin grew up in Toronto.

She became President of the Thai-Canada Chamber of Commerce during 2001-2002. With his marriage to Sri, Jingjai acquired a charming, ready-made family including several grandchildren. Jingjai plays tennis daily and together with Sri and their family, enjoys a very busy, happy life in Bangkok.

PAULINE ROBERT BRADLEY

After having worked on the visit of the Pope to Canada in 1984, I began to think that work with an international flair was what I needed. In the fall of 1986, my hopes were answered through an ad in the Citizen seeking an Assistant Corporate Secretary for IDRC. I had never heard of IDRC so I called an acquaintance who was quite senior at Foreign Affairs. He hadn't heard of IDRC either! Back then IDRC was Canada's best-kept secret. Nevertheless, I applied for the job and in December 1986 I appeared at the Queen Street offices for an interview with Robert Auger, Allan Rix and Rob Robertson. This was a most unusual interview. With the exception of Rob's questions, which related to the position and were more typical of the sort normally asked during an interview, Robert and Allan dwelled on philosophical issues and the role of church in society.



My first day at work, in mid-January 1987, coincided with the first day that IDRC was officially moved to 250 Albert Street. Free manicures were being offered to all the ladies as a token of appreciation for the work undertaken in the move. The IDRC building

seemed very plush to me, especially after the very plain office environment at the Conference of Bishops.

My years as Assistant Corporate Secretary included two out-of-town Board meetings. The first one to Nairobi was my first time in a developing country and I was shocked by the poverty I witnessed. The second meeting was in the bustling city of Bangkok, where we were housed at the elegant Royal Orchid Hotel overlooking the Chao Praya River. A negative article appeared in *The Citizen* naming everyone who attended the Board meeting (the only time my name has ever appeared in a newspaper!) and ended the practice of taking the Board meeting on the road.

In 1992, I became the Special Assistant to newly appointed President Keith Bezanson and Secretary to the Senior Management Committee. Anyone who knows Keith will recall his exuberant personality and I enjoyed the challenge of trying to keep up to him. The early years of his presidency sadly involved much downsizing and participation in the meetings where very painful staffing decisions were taken.

My occasional travels with Keith were always an adventure. In Uruguay I got to meet the President of the country and sample an “asado” – a Uruguayan version of a barbecue where numerous types of meats are cooked on a huge outdoor grill. In an elaborate ceremony in Kisumu, Kenya, we were made honorary members of the Luo tribe and given names based on the time of birth. I was named “Akinyee” as I was born in the early morning.

The government of China invited Keith to review the state of science and technology in that country. I was invited to join him, Geoff Oldham and Randy Spence on the excursion. The trip included visits to isolated areas and involved a harrowing flight on Air China, an overnight stay on a crowded train, and a two day voyage down the Yangtze and through the magnificent Three Gorges aboard a local (read “derelict”) ferry. It was a wonderful learning opportunity and a trip that I will never forget.

It was during the time I worked for Keith that I honed my minute-taking skills, summarizing meetings of several days duration to a few pages. Participants would often comment that they were happy to receive the minutes to find out what had happened at the meeting.

I continued as Special Assistant when Maureen O’Neil took over as President and then was appointed Corporate Secretary, in June 1998. Under the leadership of Gordon Smith and Maureen O’Neil, the Board became more strategic and focussed on the big issues facing IDRC.

I left in April 2001 to take up a position as Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors, at the Bank of Canada. Leaving IDRC was not an easy decision but after 14 years, I needed new challenges. IDRC was and is a wonderful place to work and I still value the principles of its mandate.

While the work at the Bank of Canada is essentially the same, the subject matter and corporate culture are very different so there was a learning curve in my early days. The

Governor of the Bank of Canada is responsible for monetary policy and the Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the management of the Bank. The Board is smaller and meets more frequently than the IDRC Board. The Board meets once per year in a Canadian city other than Ottawa but I have to admit that Halifax is slightly less exotic than Bangkok. And my nails are getting pretty long, waiting for another free manicure!

In my spare time, my husband John and I, enjoy ballroom and Latin dancing. No matter how much we practice, we will never be mistaken for Fred and Ginger! We enjoy international travel. Last November we hiked in New Zealand and this November we are visiting Chile to hike, practice the samba and finally ponder those deep philosophical issues I have been too busy to think about since the day I was interviewed at IDRC.

In Memoriam

ANDRÉ MCNICOLL



Accidentally, in Thailand, June 14, 2003 at the age of 60. André leaves a very dear friend, Khomson Cherdungnoen of Bangkok, two brothers, a sister, his former wife and long-time friend and many relatives in Canada.

André graduated from Carleton University in 1965 with a degree in sociology. After working for mental health agencies in Ottawa and at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, he moved to England and graduated in 1970 from London University with a M.Sc. in Medical Sociology. André taught at Algonquin College, the University of Quebec and at the Canadian Police College. He worked for CIDA and then IDRC from 1983 to 1985 as a Senior Editor in the Communications Division. He was a highly professional, meticulous editor with creative ideas. Essentially a free lancer all his working

life, he became a writer, journalist and broadcaster in Canada and overseas, focusing on his interests in the social sciences, international development and drug addiction. André moved to Thailand in 1989 and taught at the Asian Institute of Technology and lectured at Chaing Mai University. He worked as a media and marketing consultant for Canadian, Asian and international development projects and edited a number of magazines and journals. André retained a life-long interest in psychology, anthropology and religion and practiced Buddhist meditation. He wrote poetry and short stories, in French and English, and published two studies, one on contemporary movements in Catholicism and one on the international drug trade. According to André's wishes, cremation took place in Thailand. A commemorative service was held in Ottawa July 19, 2003.



EcoHealth in the news!

On May 18-23, IDRC hosted the first International Forum on Ecosystems Approaches to Human Health. Organized by the Ecosystems Approaches to Human Health (Ecohealth) Program Initiative, the forum allowed more than 300 researchers, decision-makers, and civil society delegates from around the world to meet in Montreal to discuss this innovative approach to improving the health of both people and their environments. As reported in more than 20 newspaper and magazine articles, as well as on radio and television, ecosystem approaches cannot be overlooked in public health protection; ecohealth can no longer be considered as only an environmental management priority.



Created in 1996, IDRC's ecohealth program builds on decades of research that recognizes the inextricable links between humans and their biophysical, social, and economic environments, and that these links are reflected in a population's state of health. Since 1996, close to 60 research projects have been supported in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In an opening videotaped address, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General of the World Health Organization, stressed that human and ecosystem health are intimately tied to poverty and that research plays a determining role in the quest for sustainable development.

The forum offered IDRC an ideal venue in which to launch the new volume *Health: An Ecosystem Approach*, by Ecohealth PI team leader, Jean Lebel who explores IDRC's experience in this field. A series of 12 case studies was also published in English, French, and Spanish. These materials are available full-text on a new Web site (www.idrc.ca/ecohealth) that also provides many other articles, reports, and complementary resources, including forum webcasts.

Notable in itself, the forum marked the culmination of two years of efforts to ensure that decision-makers around the globe increasingly support the ecohealth approach. IDRC partners in the forum include the Canadian International Development Agency as well as the Biodôme de Montréal, Environment Canada, Health Canada, the International Society for Ecosystem Health, the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Foundation, the Université du Québec à Montréal, and the World Health Organization.

Credits

The Board members thank Michèle Wilson for translating the Newsletter and Reg MacIntyre for providing editorial assistance.