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IDRC Alumni to Support Annual Research Award

At its May meeting the IDRC Alumni Executive unanimously agreed to provide funds for an award that will assist recipients of the IDRC Doctoral Research Award who are from developing countries and who are enrolled at Canadian universities.

The decision to support what will be known as the **IDRC Alumni Research Award** reflects the fact that after four years the IDRC Alumni is now well established, has a loyal core membership, a healthy bank balance, and continues to attract new members.

The AGM, Seminar, Reunion and Newsletter deliver all of the elements covered in the Mission Statement. In addition, a project to adopt one of IDRC's meeting rooms as an "Alumni themed" room is underway. This project will raise the profile of the IDRC Alumni with serving IDRC staff encouraging membership when they leave IDRC.

With all these elements now well in hand the question was posed: What more might the IDRC Alumni offer? The IDRC Alumni Research Award was proposed as a project that will strengthen the continuing concern for development that is found in our Mission Statement, and will do this in a manner consistent with IDRC's organizational culture.

The announcement of this prize each year at the annual reunion will remind members of the ongoing link to knowledge-led international development. Where possible the award will go to recipients whose principle work is in the region chosen for the theme of that year's gathering.

The Award will provide a minimum of \$100 each to students from developing countries enrolled for PhD studies at Canadian universities under the IDRC Doctoral Research Award programme. It is to be used for the purchase of a book or journal subscription relevant to the recipient's program of study. A maximum of 20 awards will be available in any one year, subject to the availability of funds. Recipients will also receive a letter from the Chair of the Alumni Executive explaining the nature of the organization and the purpose of the award.



From the Board...

IDRC Alumni is at the mid-point of its fourth year and we find ourselves preparing for our fourth Reception and Annual General Meeting of members, which will be held on 27 October at IDRC HQ in Ottawa. The regional theme for this year's meeting will be Africa, with the focus on the IDRC West African Regional Office (WARO) and the East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), with the assistance of their Regional Directors, Giles Forget and Connie Freeman respectively. The meeting will also welcome and pay tribute to David and Ruth Hopper, our founding President and his wife, the first Director of Social Sciences of the Centre.

Late last year we lost the services of our French translator, Michèle Wilson, owing to the increasing pressures of her translation practice. Michèle's absence significantly hampered our ability to produce quality French versions of our Newsletter and other documents. A demonstration of our members' willingness to help deal with such problems resulted. Danielle Vinette, Lyse Lavictoire, Bob Huggan and Jean-Marc Fleury offered to help out with the January edition. For this edition most of the load has fallen on Danielle and Jean-Marc, and more volunteers will be needed in future. If you can help out, please contact the Newsletter editor, Bob Stanley.

Over the past four years our Treasurer has accumulated a balance in the IDRC Alumni bank account. As a result, the Board is now able to consider allocating some funds for development activities. Accordingly, with the careful development work of Chris Smart, the Board has agreed to create an Annual IDRC Alumni Research Award, for recipients of the IDRC Doctoral Research Award for developing country scholars enrolled in PhD work at Canadian Universities. The individual award for each scholar will consist of \$100, to be used for the purchase of books or journals related to the study program.

Again we remind you of our up-coming meeting on 27 October, to be preceded again by a meeting of our interested members with the President and senior staff of IDRC. We continue to welcome your suggestions for activities to further the aims of our association.

James Pfeifer
Chairman

IDRC Alumni Board of Directors: Jim Pfeifer (Chairman), Gerry Bourrier (Treasurer), Chris Smart (Secretary), Bob Stanley (Newsletter Editor), Angie Anton (Annual Meeting Coordinator), Claude-Paul Boivin (Special Projects), Maria Williams (Membership), Jean-Marc Fleury and Kim Daly (IDRC Staff Representatives).

Where Are They Now?



Pierre Sané
IDRC 1977-1992

GERRY BOURRIER REPORTS ON TWO FORMER SENEGALESE STAFFERS WHO ARE FREQUENTLY IN THE NEWS...

FROM RESEARCH TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Since leaving IDRC, **Pierre Sané**, has pursued a career campaigning extensively to raise concerns for human rights worldwide and to strengthen the human rights movement.

After serving as Secretary-General of Amnesty International from 1992 to 2001, Pierre joined UNESCO in Paris as Assistant Director-General for Social Sciences and Human Sciences, Ethics and Human Rights, where he is still working.

In a recent speech in Dublin, Pierre said: " It seems to me that at a time when the world is being frozen into so called antagonistic cultures and civilizations, divided between bad guys and good guys we need to uphold five lines of action – always put the victim first; reject logic that says the ends justify the means; stress our common humanity as opposed to our differences; speed up our efforts to build a global coalition for human rights; devise long-term strategies."

At IDRC, Pierre, a Senegalese national, was a Regional Comptroller in Dakar and then in Nairobi, prior to coming to Ottawa to work in Finance. He subsequently served as Regional Director in both the West and East African regional offices.

FROM IDRC TO THE FAO

Dr Jacques Diouf served as IDRC Regional Director in Senegal and Special Advisor to the President of IDRC. He has a PhD in Social Sciences of the Rural Sector (Agricultural Economics) from la Faculté de Droit et de Sciences économiques, Panthéon, at the Sorbonne in Paris.

He has had a long and illustrious public sector career including Executive Secretary of the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA), Secretary of State for Science and Technology in the Senegalese Government and Member of the Senegalese Parliament, Secretary-General of the Central Bank for West African States, Special Advisor to the Governor of the Central Bank for West African States, and Senegalese Ambassador to the United Nations.

In 1993 Dr Diouf was elected as Director-General of the FAO, a position that he still holds today.



Jacques Diouf
IDRC 1984-1985

From the Centre

Last October, just before the Annual Reunion, senior staff of the Centre put on a one-hour seminar to bring interested Alumni members up to date on the Centre's activities. The emphasis was on Southeast and East Asia to match the Asian theme of the 2005 Reunion.

Following is a summary of the information presented at that seminar for the benefit of those who couldn't be there.

For those of us who go all the way back to the days of Programme Divisions there's some new terminology to learn: the Centre now has four Program Areas, each of which encompasses several Program Initiatives (PIs)

Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM)

includes three PIs: Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (Ecohealth), Rural Poverty and Environment (RPE), and Urban Poverty and Environment (UPE), as well as one Secretariat, the International Model Forest Network. Projects place particular emphasis on both water and gender issues.

RPE builds on the work of three earlier regional initiatives: the lines of work of the former Asian-based Community Based Natural Resource Management program are central to this initiative, including regional centres of excellence; global strategic partnering on community forestry and indigenous peoples; poor peoples livelihoods and markets; payments for environmental services; community-based coastal management and adaptation to climate change. Regional highlights include: work on dengue and pandemic influenza (Ecohealth); active model forests in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, China and Japan; networking for training and fundraising; water and sanitation in urban slums (UPE); and the human health impacts of artisanal industries (Ecohealth).

Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D)

has two PIs: Pan Asia Networking (PAN) PI, with programming in Asia, and the Acacia PI, with programming in Africa. Another initiative, the Telecentre Support Network, or *telecentre.org* is a partnership with Microsoft to help community telecentres around the world increase their capacity to promote digital inclusion. The PAN initiative supports strong Asian networks to build: software tools and skills for content development in neglected Asian languages; pedagogy and tools for distance learning programs in Asia's mega open universities; national reviews of digital policies, telecommunications regulatory reform, and, with public and private partners, seed grants to small scale innovators. PAN's Laos telecentre partner was recently awarded the Magsaysay Award. ICT4D also includes three corporate projects and the Bellanet Secretariat.

Social and Economic Policy (SEP) comprises a series of PIs focused on areas of social and economic policy that are critical to poverty reduction, human rights, and social equity:

Governance, Equity and Health (GEH); Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP); Trade, Employment and Competitiveness (TEC); and Peace, Conflict and Development (PCD). The Gender Unit has been integrated

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From the Centre continued...

into the programme area, and support for tobacco control research has been more closely linked with other health-related programming. A new strategy for work on peace and conflict issues has been approved by the Board of Governors. Existing work on trade policy and poverty will be combined in a new initiative focused on the links between globalization, growth and poverty. In Asia, MIMAP plays a leading role in poverty analysis and monitoring. There is renewed support in Vietnam to expand research and advocacy on trade and poverty-related policies. An Asian Research and Training Network has been established, and the highly successful Economy and Environment Program of South-East Asia (EEPSEA) Secretariat, based in the Singapore Office, has extended to a global portfolio (in Latin America and South Asia, with prospects in Africa and the Middle East. PCD has played an intermediary role in Kashmir through the Singapore Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies.

Innovation, Policy and Science (IPS) is a new Programme Area that consolidates Centre work on science and technology issues, liaises with Canada's science and technology community, and provides a bridge between Centre programs and the efforts of Canada's science grants councils to internationalize their work. IPS will include the work of Research on Knowledge Systems (ROKS) and the New Technologies (biotechnology and nanotechnology) explorations, efforts to engage Canadian grants councils, as well as participation in the development of Canada's public policy agenda in S&T and development. Regional highlights include: the launch of the SciDev portal in Chinese; research on the nature of sub-sectoral innovation systems in biosciences and biopharmaceuticals in Vietnam; regional consultations on biosafety and on intellectual property; and the formation of incipient innovation networks.

We'd like to hear from YOU...

...so drop us a line. Let us know what you're doing, where you've been. Got a new job? Moved to another country? Just back from another country? Our members like to hear news of their former colleagues — people consistently tell us that they turn to the "Where are they now?" feature first when they receive their newsletter. It's a great way to stay in touch.

So don't be shy. Whether you send a few paragraphs or a detailed article we'll be happy to publish your contributions. And if you can send a picture as well, so much the better. By email or snail mail will be fine. The addresses are on the front page. Look forward to hearing from you.



IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD FINLAY passed away recently from complications arising from severe diabetes that had afflicted him for many years. He was 60. As a Project Advisor with the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division from December 1972 until September 1976, he worked as a plant breeder on an intercropping project in Morogoro, Tanzania. Prior to that, he and his wife spent two years with CUSO, also in Tanzania.

Richard was married for 26 years, and other than their overseas postings and four years spent at the University of Manitoba on his PhD studies, he and his wife, Wilna, lived in Lindsay, Ontario. He is survived by Wilna, three sons (Dale, Tim, and Michael), three daughters (Wendy, Sarina, and Tracy) and two grandchildren..

PAUL BUSTOS died suddenly at his home in Ottawa from a massive heart attack at the age of just 45. He worked at IDRC from August 1993 until June 1995 in various areas, MIS and Office of the Secretary.

Paul was the son of Jacqueline and Luis Bustos. Jacquie she worked at IDRC from 1971 until 1986, in Social Sciences and Fellowship and Awards (see newsletter No.5). Paul is survived by his wife Michelle, his parents, and his sister Marie Francoise.

JOHN JAFFRAY passed away in South Africa on 19 February 2006. Friends and colleagues will remember not only for his contributions to the work of the Centre but also his sense of humour.

John worked with the Programme on Innovation Systems Management (PRISM) and the Small, Medium, and Micro-Enterprise Innovation and Technology (SMMEIT) programme initiative for the Centre's now-closed Regional Office for Southern Africa in Johannesburg until November 1997, when he retired, choosing to remain in South Africa.
