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Better late than never: Annual Alumni meeting at new IDRC HQ January 25

Blame it on “the move”. Our Annual General Meeting and members’ reunion normally takes place at IDRC HQ in late October. But this year that would have clashed with the Centre’s planned move to new quarters. So it was decided to hold the event earlier ? until our hosts at IDRC decided that was still too close to the moving date for comfort. More negotiations followed, and your executive finally settled on January 25 as the best available date. Which means, of course, that the 2007 AGM will be held in 2008, but that’s a mere technicality! And on the plus side, we all get to take a look at the new HQ (see below).

As always this year’s gathering will have a regional theme, with the focus being on South Asia, in cooperation with the Centre’s South Asia Regional Office in New Delhi. There will of course be appropriate decor, food, drink and entertainment, as well as the opportunity to renew contact with former colleagues.

The event begins at 5:00, and as in previous years will be preceded at 3:15 by a seminar, which this year will feature an informal session with the authors of the forthcoming history of IDRC, Professors Ron Harpelle and Bruce Muirhead (see *Alumni Newsletter* No.14).

When is a door not an address?

With the move of IDRC HQ from 250 Albert Street to the nearby complex called Constitution Square there is some question as to what its address really is. The most convenient entrance for visitors to IDRC, and the one we recommend, is the door at 150 Kent Street. Visitors will see the IDRC display and take the bank of elevators on the right. Easy.

However, according to Canada Post, IDRC’s “real” address is 340 Albert Street, a.k.a. Tower Three of Constitution Square. Canada Post says that this door is an address because it has a Postal Code! If you post yourselves through this door, veer to the left and you’ll end up in that lobby with the IDRC display and the bank of elevators, which is now on your left. Still easy. Of course, the mailing address remains unchanged at PO Box 8500, Ottawa, K1G 3H9.

All this to let you know where to come when you attend the Seminar, AGM and Members Reunion on January 25, 2008 as described above and on page 2 of this newsletter. And yes, we are aware that the 25th is Robbie Burns Night ? kilts are optional!

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From the Board...



To begin, our fifth Annual General Meeting is now scheduled to take place on Friday, 25 January, in the new Headquarters of IDRC in Ottawa. The new building housing IDRC is located at 150 Kent Street at Albert, and is approximately one-half block west of the former HQ Building (250 Albert Street). The new building is part of a major one block complex, which has entry doors at intervals along Albert Street beyond the Kent Street intersection. If you enter further down Albert Street, the elevators will not lead you to IDRC.

Please remember, as you walk from Bank Street towards Kent Street on Albert, you arrive at the corner of Albert and Kent. The doorway on the Kent Street side, facing you to the left, is number 150. You should enter there. In the lobby you will see an IDRC display on your right, with a bank of elevators on your left. Take an elevator there to the 8th floor, which is the Conference Centre of IDRC. This is where our Board meeting and AGM will take place. Note that you cannot enter other floors of the building without a pass. We'll explain that later, if you wish to visit IDRC staff.

For the seminar preceding the AGM, we will be holding an informal session with the authors of the forthcoming history of IDRC, Professors Ron Harpelle and Bruce Muirhead. Time is 3:15 p.m. in the 8th floor Boardroom, followed by the AGM in the conference section. I think you will find the session interesting, as the authors draw out your recollections of event in certain time frames in the Centre's history.

It is with great pleasure that I advise you that IDRC, to christen its new HQ, is naming the Board Room the Lester B. Pearson Boardroom, and the major Conference Rooms the W. David Hopper Suite, to commemorate the founding figures.

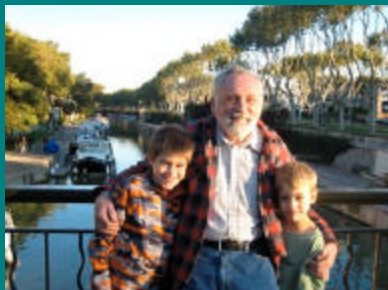
You have received from Maria Williams the new schedule of fees for membership in the Alumni. May I urge you to pay your membership at the meeting this year, as our new initiatives in partnership with IDRC in project activities creates a need for our base funding to be in place earlier. This year (the AGM is officially the 2007 AGM) we are cooperating with IDRC's South Asia Regional Office in New Delhi, in indigenous training. Chris Smart will provide the details on that when you arrive. The theme of the AGM therefore, will be South Asia. Bring your saris.

Your Board: Chris Smart (Secretary), Gerry Bourrier (Treasurer), Maria Williams (Membership), Bob Stanley (Newsletter Editor), Claude-Paul Boivin (Special Programs), Angie Anton (Director), Jean-Marc Fleury (Director), IDRC Staff Directors: Kim Daly and Cathy Raymond Martin, Chairman-James Pfeifer. Any member wishing the heady experience of working on the Board should mention this to me at the AGM. We look forward to seeing you in January.

James Pfeifer
Chairman

Where are they now?

Bob Huggan
IDRC 1980-1987



Bob and friends

Still communicating development at 75!

I returned to my home in France on 13 May from St Kitts, where I taught a short course on public awareness to nutritionists and food security officers from a dozen Caribbean countries. On 23 May I left again for a month in Kenya, courtesy of the United Nations. I have been asked to write and produce a report on the first three years of the UN Millennium Development Goals Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa, which is based in Nairobi.

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions--income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion--while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights--the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security.

An important component of the MDGs is the creation of Millennium Villages. These are based on a single idea: impoverished villages can transform themselves and meet the MDGs if they are empowered with proven, practical technologies. By investing in health, food production, education, access to clean water, and essential infrastructure, these community-led interventions will enable impoverished villages to escape extreme poverty, something that now affects more than 1 billion people worldwide.

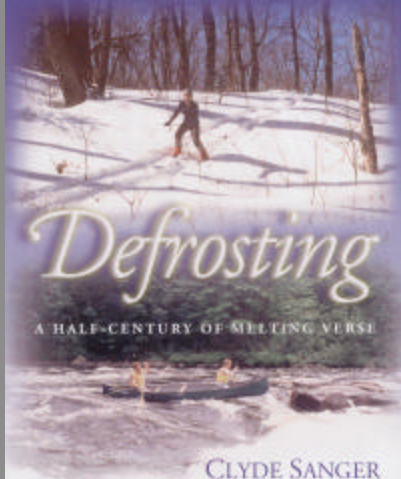
Some of my writing involved visiting and interviewing residents of Millennium Villages. One, in particular, Sauri in western Kenya, has seen some remarkable changes since it was started in August 2004, with the involvement of villagers, local and national governments and other partners in implementing a path out of poverty. Some of the results achieved so far include:

- ✍ Maize production in Sauri has more than tripled - from 1.9 tons/ha to 6.2 tons/ha.
- ✍ A school feeding program has been implemented in all 28 primary schools across the Sauri cluster, providing lunches of nutritious, locally produced food to almost 18,000 students.
- ✍ Out of the district's 385 primary schools, Bar Sauri Primary School is now one of the top academic performers, leaping from 195th to the top 10.
- ✍ The prevalence of malaria in Sauri is down from 55 percent to 13 percent due to the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets and improved clinics.

My assignment included writing, coordinating MDG Centre staff inputs, editing text, selection of images, supervising a graphic design team, and delivery of the finished product to a selected printing firm.

What was particularly welcome about this assignment was that it took me back to Nairobi, where I still have many friends, having spent three years there with ICRAF (now the World Agroforestry Centre), after leaving IDRC in 1987.

Book review



Memories enough to share

Many of us have a secret stash of poetry. But who of us has the courage to share memory.

Clyde Sanger (IDRC's Associate Director for Communications from 1971 to 1977 before moving on to the North South Institute) has done just that in *Defrosting A Century and a half of melting Verse*. Those of you who know Clyde well may recognize people—family and friends—in this small volume. For example...

For Maureen

(with mild apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

Maureen, I'll miss you. Let me count the ways.

I'll miss your hat. I'll miss your open door.

I'll miss our chats about the Gwyns and Greys.

I'll miss your whistling in the corridor.

I'll miss your miniskirt and maxi-smile.

I'll miss you telling whose ideas will fly;

And how, returned from lunch, you blithely spill

Delicious gossip, harvested on high.

I'll miss your speedy synthesis

On countless panels, and questions from

The media neatly handled. And I'll miss

Your Spanish fricatives and French aplomb.

Now, as they pass, let me with cheer salute

The happy dog-days of the Institute.

The sonnet was written to mark Maureen O'Neil's leaving the North South Institute to move to IDRC.

Defrosting is available from clydesanger@sympatico.ca. It costs \$15 and proceeds go to the Steven Lewis Foundation to fight HIV AIDS in Africa.

Chris Smart

Come in from the cold

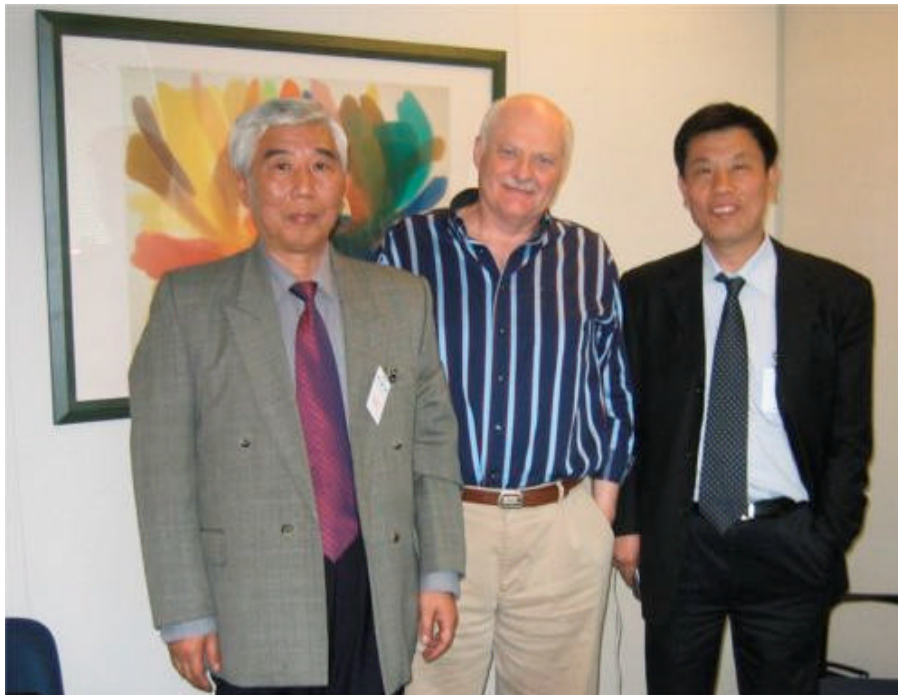
As this issue goes to press we know that it will be delivered to 130 paid up members of the IDRC Alumni for 2006- 2007. But the 'network' tells us that many more former colleagues read and enjoy bootlegged copies. So this squib is for the 'lurkers, an invitation to come to the source for your IDRC Alumni news. Do consider joining (or renewing) your membership. Just \$20 a year for very own copies of the Newsletter? three times a year—delivered to your desktop.

Our membership director is: **Maria Williams, 40 Amberwood Crescent, Ottawa ON, Canada K2E 7B9.**

Email: mariawx@rogers.com

Postscript to Mr Huang

Following up on his article *Remembering Mr Huang* (Newsletter No.13) Kerry Broadbent writes that Mr Huang was able to visit Canada in May after an absence of some 20 years to attend a conference in Montreal.

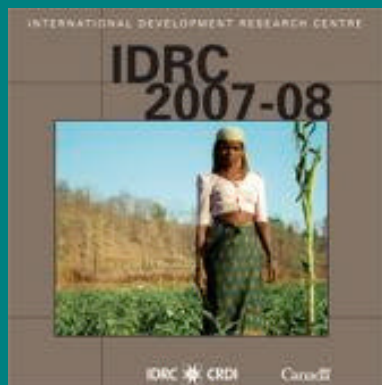


At IDRC Mr Huang met with Rob Robertson, the only contemporary staff member still available. There was mutual interest in their respective programs and as a result a promise to keep in further personal and professional contact. Regretfully, lack of time in Ottawa did not permit contact with some of his former Alumni colleagues but Mr Huang wishes them all the very best.

A treasure trove of IDRC output

The IDRC has again put out a two-CD set of material designed to keep the world in touch with the Centre's work. Disk 1 is material from the IDRC website including the Annual Report 2006-2007; IDRC Bulletin, Research That Matters fact sheets and new editions of the In_Focus series. Disk 2 holds 101 e-books, including new titles from 2006 and early 2007.

For former IDRC colleagues still in harness this is a great addition to your professional library—with the help of the full-text search feature the collection becomes a virtual encyclopaedia, a quick way to look up content from the full range of IDRC research for development, and a way to copy and distribute material to others in your network. For those no longer in the field, but who stay in touch with their specialty, here is a way to quickly browse to learn what former colleagues and the next generation are writing. Best of all, it's free! An e-mail to Isabelle Lacroix (ilacroix@idrc.ca) is all it takes to get your hands on this treasure trove of IDRC output.



Luis Navarro



In Memoriam

Luis Alberto Navarro died on July 12, 2007, in Chile. Luis joined IDRC as a Regional Program Officer in 1989, working in the Centre's Eastern and Southern Africa regional office in Nairobi until he became ill in 2006.

Born in Osorno, Chile, Luis graduated from the Universidad Austral de Chile with a BSc in Agronomy. He subsequently obtained an MSc in Agricultural Economics North Dakota State University and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Oregon State University.

Luis worked at CATIE (Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza) as a Senior Agricultural Economist in the Crop Production Department from 1975-85, where he was an innovator and leader in developing what became known as "farming systems research."

After leaving CATIE, Luis spent several years as an Associate Professor in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department of Oregon State University before joining IDRC. His interest in systems approaches made him a natural champion of interdisciplinary research within IDRC and his thinking, mentoring, and writing, in areas such as oilseeds, food systems under stress, and participatory research, contributed both to the maturing of IDRC's approaches in environment and natural resource management, and to the legitimatization of interdisciplinary research for rural development in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Luis is survived by his wife Elizabeth Ulloa, his son Luis Andrés, his daughter Aivy Roxana, and two grandchildren.

Paz Buttedahl



Dr. Paz Buttedahl died on October 8, 2007 in Victoria B.C. Paz worked for almost a decade at IDRC as Deputy Director of Fellowships and Awards.

Born in Santiago, Chile, Paz created a vast network of friends, colleagues and students throughout the world through a long and distinguished career. She taught at several universities in Canada, the United States and Latin America, including a faculty position at the University of British Columbia and most recently, at Royal Roads University in Victoria. Paz was sought after as a researcher and educator specializing in international development issues, and was a consultant with many international agencies and organizations including CIDA, UNESCO, USAID and the OAS.

In the early 1990s, as international development issues became more and more intertwined with issues of security, Paz was invited to the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario, where she contributed as the academic advisor to the Commandant. A subsequent posting to the Centre for National Security Studies provided a base for her research linking issues of sustainable development to those of human security.

Continued...

Dr. Paz Buttedahl...

Paz's knowledge and experience found a home in the creation of the Master of Arts in Human Security and Peacebuilding (MAHSP) programme at Royal Roads University. As founder and programme head, Paz worked tirelessly to build the programme and to ensure its sustainability and its relevance to the international development and security issues of today's world. A celebration of her life was held on October 21 at Royal Roads University.

In case you were wondering...

Yes, this issue of the *Alumni Newsletter* is late. This is the issue you would normally have received in September, but the need for some surgery and subsequent recuperation got in the way. We'll get back on schedule in 2008.

BobS