

IDRC's New President Greet's IDRC Alumni

The past is prologue

Welcoming participants to the fifth IDRC Alumni Annual Seminar and later those gathered for the reception, Dr. David Malone, who became President of IDRC in June 2008, paid homage to the founders and the builders of the Centre.



As an example Dr Malone shared first thoughts on a new planning cycle where food security is likely to come to the fore. There is an opportunity for the Centre to seek inspiration from some of the earliest research it supported on food production. The historical perspective is a feature of management conversations at IDRC when key questions are asked about: What worked and is remembered? What didn't and is forgotten? That its past can be prologue for IDRC is its strength as a learning organization.

Dr Malone paid particular tribute to Dr David Hopper, acknowledging that the principles he followed to found IDRC's programming and practice continue to guide its vision for international development. As the Centre approaches its fortieth anniversary an opportunity will be found to honour Dr Hopper, he added.

Paying tribute to the Presidents who followed Dr Hopper, Dr Malone mentioned that the late Ivan Head had been an important personal mentor. Keith Bezanson and Maureen O'Neil had both been invaluable resources, he said, sharing their perspectives on the contexts that have shaped the evolution of IDRC over the decades. And he shared his pleasure at finding in the Centre competent and committed managers and staff.

Dr Malone reminded Alumni that his was not a 'grace and favour appointment'. He was pleased that IDRC had sought a new President through an open completion and was frankly delighted to have been given the opportunity to lead "an outstanding Canadian institution working for international development."

INSIDE: More pictures and reports on the seminar and reception.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Seminar & reception
- Where are they now?
- Research awards
- From the Centre
- In Memoriam
- Financial statements

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David Brooks leads the 2008 IDRC Alumni Seminar



Water matters ? a lot but is not going to cause wars



IDRC Alumnus, David Brooks was the guest speaker at the fifth Alumni Seminar, speaking on “Water, Science and Peace: Confrontation or Cooperation.”

To set the scene David gave an overview of the place that water has in a peaceful, well-ordered world. A major insight from IDRC-supported research on water in MERO countries is that all involved in political and territorial disputes have not, as a rule, denied enemies access to drinking water. From this David agrees with many other analysts that, though water scarcity is, and will continue to be, a source of conflict intra-nationally, it will not be a cause of international conflict. Further, the amount of water essential to sustain human life is surprisingly trivial when compared with the water demand for agriculture.

The core of David’s presentation offered a history of IDRC’s involvement with water research in MERO. The entrée was work David did when on self-funded leave from IDRC, which led to a book* on water in the Israeli-Palestine peace process, which in turn led to an invitation to speak to Israeli and Palestinian water officials at a meeting in Zurich in 1992. At about this same time, program changes in IDRC created the People Land and Water program initiative (PLAW) with an emphasis on water for the MERO region.

In 1994 IDRC, in cooperation with CIDA and DEFAIT, was asked for expertise on water issues as these arose in the ongoing Israeli and Palestinian peace process. Several of the PLAW projects, such as research into the management of the mountain aquifer on which both Israel and the Palestine depend, provided invaluable insights on how to promote joint management and new relationships among researchers that might possibly influence negotiations and the diplomatic and political tables.

IDRC-supported projects helped to create a network of water scientists in several MERO countries including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, all of which were part of the larger context ? the search for a lasting peace in the region.

Chris Smart

* Stephen C. Lonergan and David B. Brooks, *Watershed: The Role Of Fresh Water In The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Ottawa: IDRC Books, 1994; ISBN 0-88936-719-1.

Great Reception!

It may have been Hallowe'en but spirits were high at this year's reception which followed the seminar. Each year the reception pays tribute to a different regional office in its choice of décor, food and music. This year was the turn of ASRO. Many thanks to Angie and Barbara and their team for making it all happen.



Photos: Catherine Shearer

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Neill McKee



Neill gets a ride in the rain (“unusual for Tallahassee in November”) in the homecoming parade with Alexandra Sardarian, Grads Made Good student chair, who also presented the award.

John Hardie



Dramaturge and thespian in full flow...

'Grad Made Good' McKee Gets an Award and a New Job

IDRC'S FORMER CINEMATOGRAPHER Neill McKee was honoured in November as one of Florida State University's "Grads Made Good." The award, sponsored by the FSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, was presented at the Alumni Association's Homecoming Awards Breakfast.

McKee received his MSc in Communication, Phi Kappa Phi, in 1988 while on a sabbatical supported by IDRC. "For over 20 years Neill McKee has been at the forefront of the worldwide effort to combat HIV/AIDS," said Dr. John Mayo, dean of FSU's College of Communication and the person who nominated McKee for the award.

Neill recently moved to the Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D.C., where he is now Associate Director of the Center for Global Health Communication and Marketing, managing programs on behaviour and social change for health improvements in developing countries. It's the latest move in what has been quite a career since his days as a CUSO volunteer in Malaysia. From 2001 to 2007, Neill served in various capacities at the Center for Communication Programs (CCP) at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, providing technical assistance on HIV/AIDS, adolescent reproductive health and youth healthy lifestyle programs in various countries. He was stationed in Moscow with CCP from 2004 to 2007 as director of the USAID-funded Healthy Russia 2020 Project.

Neill spent a decade with UNICEF, serving as chief of basic education and adolescent development programs in Uganda, and as regional communication advisor and HIV/AIDS network coordinator in Eastern and Southern Africa. While in Africa, he helped develop and implement regional and country-based programs for HIV/AIDS prevention and care and other health and development issues. One such program is the "Sara Communication Initiative" for adolescents in Africa, which carries on in the private sector today.

With UNICEF in Bangladesh from 1990-93, McKee started and managed many communication programs for child survival and development, including the successful "Meena Communication Initiative" for girls in South Asia, which has now been launched in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Look who's on YouTube...

We knew John Hardie was stage struck — how else to explain the wonderful skits he and Terry Smutylo entertained us with at IDRC parties. Now enjoy John ? dramaturge and thespian ? in full flow. *King o' Men* the play, an homage to Robbie Burns, written and performed by John, offers a dose of Scottish culture and an old colleague having a grand time. John is scheduled to perform at the CelticFest in Vancouver in March 2009. For a preview...

King o' Men Act 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHQRlJEmQ3A>

King o' Men Act 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7h3OfCuSVY>

King o' Men Act 3

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tELS0_uMaus

...or search YouTube for King o' Men

Chris Smart

UPDATE

IDRC Alumni Research Awards

To mark its fifth anniversary in 2006 the IDRC Alumni launched an annual IDRC Alumni Research Award as a tangible link to the support IDRC provides for research for development, and capacity building through the training of researchers in the developing regions, the approach that makes IDRC such an exceptional agent for international development. The Alumni Awards go to IDRC Doctoral Research Awardees from developing countries enrolled for the PhD degree at a Canadian University. The Alumni provide awards of \$100 be used for the purchase of a book or journal subscription relevant to the awardee's current program of study.

The awards are funded from the Alumni's membership fees. On these occasions the awards were supported by a substantial gift from an individual Alumnus. With the completion of the third round of support in 2008 the IDRC Alumni have provided 48 Awards.

The Alumni wished to extend its support to the Regional Offices by making a similar award to the Office that is featured at the Annual Members' Reunion. In 2007 \$3,000 from the Alumni was matched by SARO's Regionally Administered Fund to make a grant of \$9,000 to the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka). The grant supports the RCSS annual *Mahub ul-Haq Award*, for collaborative research by young South Asians, each from a different country for joint research on non-traditional security issues with relevance to contemporary South Asia. Three awards were made.

For 2008 the IDRC Alumni partnered with MERO to fund training at the Economic Research Forum in Cairo which is the recipient of the IDRC-funded competition: Environmental Economic Research Consortium (EERC) for MENA. IDRC has pioneered capacity building in the environmental economic research and the Alumni award will support mentorships for the eight winners of the EERC to increase key skills by providing guidance on research methodology, interpreting research results, improving report writing, and dissemination. The \$3,000 from the IDRC Alumni will be matched with \$8,000 from the MERO Regionally Administered Funds. Again this year \$1,000 of the IDRC Alumni contribution has been a gift from an Alumna.

With completion of the MERO award the Alumni will have provided \$10,800 for links to IDRC's training programs and will have mobilized \$27,800 for capacity building within IDRC programming.



Mr. Armel Brice ADANHOUNME. Benin. Université de Montréal (HEC Montréal). *La citoyenneté au travail : Pratiques comparées dans l'industrie de l'aluminium au Canada et en Afrique de l'Ouest (Ghana et Canada)*

Mr. Haswinar ARIFIN. Indonesia. University of Toronto. *Land Reclaiming: Peasant's Struggle over Rights and Access to Agricultural Resources and Rural Differentiation in Java (Indonesia)*

Mr. Juan José AVEIRO-TALAVERA. Paraguay. University of Manitoba. *Environmental Impacts Associated with Human Livelihoods in the Neembucú Wetlands Ecoregion (Paraguay)*

List continues on page 6...

**IDRC ALUMNI
RESEARCH AWARD
RECIPIENTS 2008-2009**

AWARD RECIPIENTS CONTINUED...

Mr. Abel CHIKANDA. Zimbabwe. University of Western Ontario. *Emigration of Medical Doctors from Zimbabwe: Transnational Linkages and Migrant Experiences (South Africa and Zimbabwe)*

Mr. Khairul Islam CHOWDHURY. Bangladesh. York University. *Environmental Governance and Social Movements: Cultural Politics of Nature, Place and Identity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh)*

Ms. Pamela JUMA. Kenya. University of Ottawa. *Intersection of Policies on Nurses' Work in HIV/AIDS Care Provision (Kenya)*

Mr. Stephen MOIKO. Kenya. McGill University. *Uncertain Plains: Indigenism, Land Tenure Transformations, and Communal Property Systems in East-Africa's Pastoral Rangelands (Kenya)*

Mr. Bharat PUNJABI. India. University of Western Ontario. *Re-Claiming the Commons. The Intra-Rural Conflict over Water in the Mumbai Countryside, India*

Ms. Luz Dinora VERA. Colombia. Université de Montréal (HEC Montréal). *Logiques d'action des organisations du secteur minier artisanal, gestion et durabilité locale : l'expérience du programme Oro verde au Chocó colombien*

Mr. Mohamed Zubairu WAI. Sierra Leone. York University. *Understanding Contemporary Conflicts in Africa: The Sierra Leone Civil War and its Challenge to the Dominant Representations of African Conflicts (Sierra Leone)*

Mr. Marcos AGURTO. Peru. University of British Columbia. *Estimating the Impact of Rural Resource Use Technologies on Forest Extraction (Peru)*

Ms. Anne FORO. Burkina Faso. Université de Montréal. *Gouvernance et efficacité du programme VIH/SIDA en Haïti*

Mr. Franklin ODURO. Ghana. Carleton University. *Transitional Societies, Democratic Accountability and Policy Responses: The Formulation of the Truth Commission Approach to Transitional Justice Policy (South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana)*

FROM THE CENTRE

What are the lasting impacts of 40 years of IDRC-supported research? We'd like to find out.

IDRC will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2010. To mark the occasion, we want to document and write stories about some of the projects and activities supported by IDRC since its creation that have had and continue to have an impact — that have improved people's lives.

From disease-resistant banana varieties to health system improvements that reduced rates of death and illness, we would like you to share with us examples of how IDRC-supported research has made a difference. The goal is to show the range of work IDRC supports and has supported and the real impact it has had — and continues to have — on the lives of real people around the world.

What are the lasting impacts of 40 years of IDRC-supported research? You tell us. Please contact:

Lasting Impacts c/o Michelle Hibler
International Development Research Centre
PO Box 8500
Ottawa, ON, Canada K1G 3H9
impacts@idrc.ca

Charles Morin

IDRC 1973-2008



IN MEMORIAM

Charles Morin passed away on October 8, 2008, after a brief battle with cancer, at the age of 56. Charles retired from IDRC just last May, after 35 years of service, and he will be remembered fondly by his numerous friends and colleagues as an efficient and hard working IDRC staff member, a great advocate of “la francophonie”, but more importantly, as a very devoted family man, and loyal friend.

Predeceased by his parents Gertrude Laporte and Réginald Morin. He leaves to mourn his loving wife Diane Louis-Seize Morin, his beloved daughters Brigitte (Patrick), Geneviève (Isabelle) and Annick and his two granddaughters, Catherine and Camille.

**IDRC ALUMNI
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2007 – AUGUST 2008**

Revenues

Membership Fees (2007-2008)	\$ 1,999.85
Memberships – prepaid (2008-2011)	1,555.91
Reception	945.00
Donation – Book Prize	1,000.00
Donation – miscellaneous	15.00
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Total Revenues	5,515.76

Expenditures

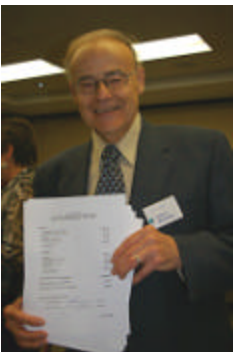
Reception	1,986.60
Office supplies, miscellaneous	142.37
Bank charges	146.48
Book Prize (13 recipients)	1,300.00
SARO Award	3,000.00
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Total Expenditures	6,575.45

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures **\$ <1,059.69>**

Balance carried over from 2006-2007 **5,213.04**

Bank Balance at year end (31 August 2008) **4,153.35**

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Gerald R. Bourrier _____ Treasurer

James C. Pfeifer _____ Chairman