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The IDRC Alumni provides opportunities for former IDRC employees to maintain personal and professional links, and supports continuing dialogue on development issues.

Bulletin

No. 54 / May 2018

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Honoring MERO

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IN MEMORIAM

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The IN MEMORIAM Book on line / IDRC Alumni Bulletin Archive on line

Thanks to Michèle Wilson for Translation.

Wish to support the IDRC Alumni Association? Contributions can be made annually or over a three-year period:

1 year	\$25
2 years	\$45
3 years	\$65

Cheques payable to the **IDRC Alumni Association**.

Return to: Kim Daley, 452 River Rd, Ottawa, ON. K1V 1E7

Electronic transfer is also possible for Alumni across Canada and in other parts of the world who have Canadian accounts. For details contact Gerald Bourrier <bici@sympatico.ca>

Annual General Meeting & Luncheon: Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Honoring MERO
Watch for the invitation and RSVP through *Evite*

Breaking News!!



Minister Bibeau announces appointments of IDRC's President and new members of the Board of Governors

From the Chair

Rob Robertson

The Airport of the Past



For many years IDRC travellers were captives to the folly of an international airport located in the middle of nowhere. Mirabel was billed as the “airport of the future,” featuring the largest surface area of any airport of that era. Designed as the international hub for Montreal and Ottawa, it was located far from either city, stranded in expropriated farmlands, without the high-speed train links that would have rushed passengers to it. Montrealers naturally preferred the much more accessible Dorval airport that did not require a 50 km cab

ride. Eventually there was a split responsibility for overseas and North American flights between the two airports. But then you would have to make the transfer from Dorval to Mirabel to go overseas, and who wanted to do that.



Our Ottawa-Mirabel trips were either in a First Air DC-3, previously seen only in black and white movies, or in an upscale limo complete with peaked cap chauffeur devoting his entire afternoon just to you, driving through the vacant Quebec countryside. Upon arrival you never knew how many people to expect in the terminal. Sometimes there was no one,

reflecting the unbalanced flight schedule, and sometimes there were crowds waiting for the big international flights or stranded charter passengers with nowhere to go. And who can forget the big white people movers, sometimes called “mobile lounges”, slowly trundling along the tarmac to the planes, then elevating themselves up to the passenger door like some contraption from Star Wars.



Eventually Mirabel lived up to its symbol, a white elephant. The economic growth of Toronto and western cities and longer-range planes made the idea of a Montreal hub obsolete. The big black terminal at Mirabel has been torn down, and the remaining facilities are devoted to cargo flights. And IDRC travelers can now actually

catch a flight to Europe from their home city, and look down at the airport of the future that quickly became the airport of the past.

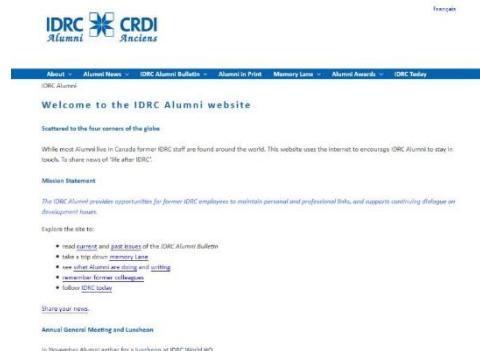
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We have a Website!

It's taken a while but, as indicated with the addition to the Bulletin's Masthead, there is now an [IDRC Alumni Website](#).

A click is a worth a thousand words so explore the site to:

- read [current](#) and [past issues](#) of the *IDRC Alumni Bulletin*
- take a trip down [Memory Lane](#)
- see [what Alumni are doing](#) and [writing](#)
- [remember former colleagues](#)
- follow [IDRC today](#)



What's missing? Have you souvenirs (stories and photo of people, places, objects and events) from your years at IDRC to share? Have you news to share. The sharing starts [here](#).

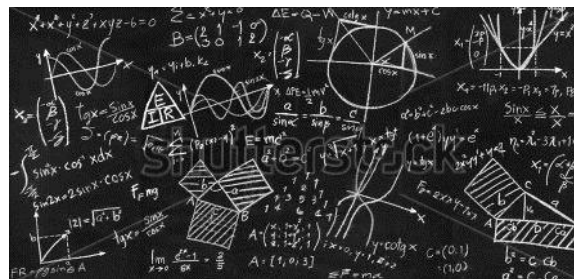
Would you like to join the group maintaining the alumni website? Training provided if you are new to this and want to learn.

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Doing Alumni Math?

At last count the Alumni mailing list had 423 addresses of which 55 are for Alumni living outside Canada. We send the Bulletin to all Alumni for whom we have an address. We'd like to reach more of our colleagues living outside of Canada. Do please consider passing on our email contact to Alumni you are in touch with and who may not know about the Alumni and the *Bulletin*.

The Alumni has a few expenses...registration and subscription for the website, Bulletin and secretarial supplies. We use the funds from the Alumni who are supporters for the Rachel Des Rosier Alumni Award. From 2007 to date the \$25,000 from the Alumni in partnership with the IDRC has mobilized \$126,000 to support 12 young scholars in the IDRC regions.



Currently 86 Alumni are supporters, donating \$25 or more a year to the Alumni research award. We think the IDRC Alumni is unique among the family of Canada's Crown Corporations to have Alumni supporting, in a modest way, the work of the 'mothership' and a new generation of the researchers who fit the guiding premise of IDRC... "to assist the developing regions to build up the research capabilities, the innovative skills and the institutions required to solve their problems." (Clause 4b, IDRC Act)

If not yet a supporter consider being one. [Contact us](#).

Alumni Executive

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Alumni News

Denise Deby

Denise works for the NGO, the [Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership](#). On March 21 the City of Ottawa convened an [Addressing anti-black racism Town Hall](#) where Denise was interviewed by Adrian Harewood on [CBC's Ottawa News](#) (at about the 30 minute mark).



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Pauline Robert-Bradley's return to Chiang Mai

After a near 30-year hiatus I recently returned to the city of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. The old walled city with its Buddhist temples remains as striking as ever. However the small provincial town has morphed into a city filled with expats from all over the world and restaurants, tailors, foot massage parlours and tour operators ready to serve them.

What has not changed is the renowned warm Thai hospitality of two former IDRC colleagues.



Jingjai Hanchanlash, former long-serving Regional Director of IDRC's Singapore office invited my husband and me to join him and his wife Sri and a group of their friends for dinner at the lovely Saenkham Terrace restaurant overlooking a picturesque rice paddy. What a party it was reminiscing and laughing (of course!) with Jingjai about the "good old days" at IDRC. In typical Jingjai fashion he was jetting off to Vietnam the next day to participate in high level meetings.



Kobkun Rayanakorn and I became friends when she spent 3 months as an intern in OSGC in 1988 writing about Women and the Law in Canada and Thailand. After the Board of Governors meeting in Bangkok in 1990, I visited her in Chiang Mai and she and her husband Mongkon were most gracious in their hospitality. Though we lost touch over the years, through Jingjai's good offices, we reconnected in Chiang Mai and spent a day together. Fortified with noodles, we hiked to prehistoric rock paintings in Op Luang National Park. This was followed by a delicious Thai meal of ruby fish and other delectable dishes and a pledge not to lose contact with each other again. Kobkun has very fond memories of her time at IDRC and sends warm greetings to former colleagues.

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The Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarships



In Memory of the work of Geoff Oldham, IDRC and the University of Sussex (Science Policy Research Unit) will support scholarships for young researchers of science policy.

Funds contributed by Geoff's friends and former colleagues are matched on a one to one basis by the University of Sussex. The Geoffrey Oldham Memorial Scholarship Fund totals £90,000 (CAD\$153,000): an IDRC contribution of CAD\$25,000 (£15,000), individual contributions totalling CAD\$42,500 (£25,000), the university match of about £40,000 (CAD\$68,000) and an additional contribution by SPRU of £10,000 (CAD\$17,000). This will support at least nine scholarships for advanced study in Science and Technology for international development.

To celebrate the work and legacy of Geoff, on April 13 IDRC and the University of Sussex co-sponsored a seminar on *Preserving Geoff's legacy, developing future Science, Technology and Innovation policy-making processes*. The story of a remarkable life and career is found here. <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/about/history/geoffoldham>

I exercise editorial privilege to underscore the key role that Keith Bezanson, spurred by friendship and memories of generous collegiality, played in this initiative to celebrate Geoff. As Keith made clear in thoughts he offered when Geoff was remembered at the Alumni gathering in November 2017, thoughts shared by many of the Alumni from the early days of IDRC, without the intellect and vision Geoff brought to the committee tasked with the creation of a unique Canadian contribution to the challenges of international development, IDRC as we now celebrate it would not have happened.

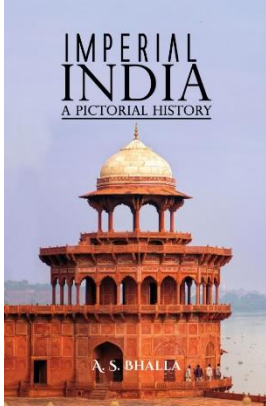
Ed



Alumni in Print

Ajit Bahla

Imperial India: A Pictorial History



Expected publication date: 30 April 2018. ISBN no. 978-152890-279-3. Price: £23.99, € 28.99.

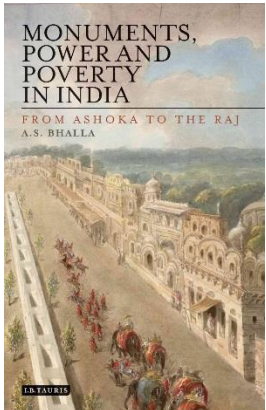
“Magnificent palaces, forts and fortresses, victory towers and memorials among other things are symbols of imperial lavishness in India. The book describes and illustrates royal edifices from Agra, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Fatehpur, Sikri, Hyderabad, Lahore, Madras, Poona, Rawalpindi, Quetta, and Simla. The physical history of the above architecture is juxtaposed with social history of the time; for example segregation of The British rulers from their subjects, and habits and customs of the colonial rulers and Indian and Burmese princes. The cultural history of the times is captured by the establishment of Shakespearean

theatre, musical comedies and drama in the Indian sub-continent. Transport history is addressed through a discussion and illustration of Indian railways, among the largest transport networks in the world.”

Ajit’s private and rare vintage postcards published in Germany and the UK 1905 and 1910 is the main source of illustrations in the book.

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Monuments, Power and Poverty in India: From Ashoka to the Raj



I.B.Tauris, ISBN-13: 978-1784530877 Hardcover: ISBN-10: 1784530875 Paper

“Much has been written about the Imperial architecture of the Indian subcontinent, but this is the first book to dig deeply into the extent of imperial extravagance set against the economic and social conditions of ordinary subjects. Bhalla uses an extensive collection of illustrations to complement this apparent paradox, assessing three Indian empires – Hindu, Muslim and British. From the 3rd century BC through to the end of British colonialism, splendid and often deliberately ostentatious buildings glorified the contemporary social structures.”

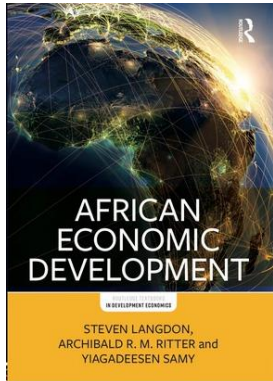
‘... an important and original contribution to Indian studies at a time when it is being increasingly realized that multi-disciplinary approaches are needed to deepen our understanding not only of the past, considered as history for its own sake, important as that may be, but of the way it continues to shape the contemporary world we live in.’

– James Mayall, Emeritus Sir Patrick Sheehy Professor of International Relations, University of Cambridge

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Steven Langdon

[African Economic Development](#) Routledge; 2018. ISBN-10: 1138915017 Paper ISBN-13: 978-1138915015 Hard Cover.



“Sub-Saharan Africa is at a turning point. The barriers to economic growth seen in the 1980-2000 era are disappearing and new optimism is spreading. However, difficult goals of eliminating poverty, achieving equity and overcoming environmental threats continue. This much-needed and insightful textbook has been written to help us understand this combination of emerging improvements and significant challenges.

African Economic Development is a clear and comprehensive textbook suitable for courses on African economic development, development economics, African studies and development studies.”

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Neill McKee

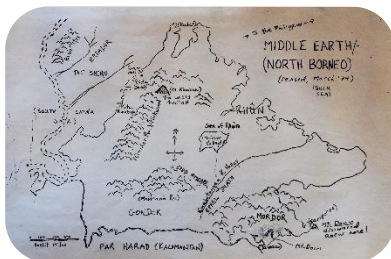
Retired from international development work, Neill and Elizabeth moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2015. Since then, Neill has focused on creative non-fiction/literary memoir, tapping experience from 45 years working and living in many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and in Russia. He enrolled in creative writing courses at the University of New Mexico, his ‘workforce retraining!’ Neill now has a manuscript, *North Borneo Sojourns*, based on his first overseas assignment as a CUSO volunteer teacher and program administrator in Sabah, Malaysia.



An essay, *Unpacking the Batik Painting*, published on [The Ekphrastic Review](#), is a condensed version of a chapter in his Borneo memoir.

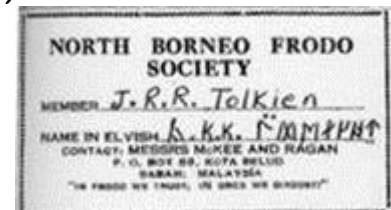
News of the publication of the full memoir will be included in a future *Alumni in Print*. Ed.

Neill writes: While a CUSO volunteer in Sabah, 1968-70, I sensed that I was experiencing Middle-



Earth, the country Tolkien imagined for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*; Mount Kinabalu was The Lonely Mountain, and I found my small town, Kota Belud, was really Rivendell. My Peace Corps buddy and I launched the *North Borneo Frodo Society*.

[J.R.R. Tolkien](#) joined in 1971.



Alumni are invited to click on the [NBFS](#) to learn more. Put your email address at the bottom of the NBFS webpage to receive an update on the release of the memoir and how to receive your own NBFS membership card, a newer version of the one Tolkien received and cherished.

I have long been convinced that Hobbits were attracted to IDRC., 'research the journey to find "Knowledge. The one thing to rule them all" ...Our Gandalf on the top floor? Here's your chance to come in from the cold. Ed.

Gallery



Ed and Elizabeth Weber at home were featured in [Our Homes: The City of Ottawa Spring 2018](#)



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The David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Fund

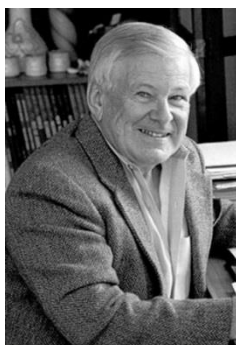


[Elizabeth Solorzano](#) was selected for the David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Fellowship in Latin America and the Caribbean, through a closed call process managed by IDRC's regional office in Latin America. Elizabeth is affiliated with the applied entomology and parasitology laboratory at the University San Carlos de Guatemala. Her research focus is the

relationship between cutaneous reactions to pharmaceuticals used to treat Chagas disease and the genotypes of molecules involved in immunological recognition in two population groups of different ethnic origin.

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IN MEMORIAM



Louis Berlinguet
1926-2018

From [IDRC's Tribute...](#)

“One of IDRC's pioneers passed away on January 21, 2018. Louis Berlinguet joined the Centre at its infancy, at the request of IDRC's first president, David Hopper.

In his roles as vice chairperson of the Board of Governors and chairperson of the Board Executive Committee from 1970-1976, and later as senior vice-president of the Centre until 1979, Berlinguet helped to manage the Centre's activities and assumed several functions of the president's office....

For his contributions to the field of teaching and for advancing scientific research in Quebec and Canada, he was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1974. “IDRC is indeed proud to have such a distinguished Canadian as a member of its governing board,” wrote Hopper in a letter to the Board. “You deserve it, we're very proud to know you; your appointment adds luster to the honour.”...

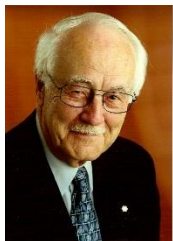
Berlinguet's contributions in IDRC's early days helped to establish the Centre's reputation, in Canada and globally, as an important contributor to groundbreaking international development research.”

IDRC's good fortune...its founding directors...

Dr. Roger Blais

Reading the achievements of Dr. Berlinguet I came across an item that underscored the Centre's good fortune to have on its foundation Board of Governors outstanding researchers and practitioners. Dr. Roger Blais was one such, recognized posthumously, named in 2010, a [Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes académiques](#). Dr. Blais' other honours include his being a Companion in the Order of Canada, Ordre national du Québec, Prix Armand Frappier, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes académiques, at the Polytechnique Montréal, the Meilleures thèses de doctorat - Prix Roger-A. Blais rewards outstanding scholarship and honorary doctorates from Université Laval and the University of Ottawa.*

Ed



*“His achievements in this capacity included forming a research council and hiring numerous young researchers; spearheading a massive communications effort between the institution and funding bodies; implementing a ground-breaking institutional research program; launching a graduate student funding program unique in Canada; and creating a number of research centres in advanced fields. Within a few years, led by Professor Blais, Polytechnique -- previously focused mainly on teaching -- had made research a central pillar of its mission. Unparalleled growth ensued, turning Polytechnique into one of the largest university institutions for engineering research in Canada....

Researcher, educator, manager, visionary, leader ... Any portrait of Roger A. Blais would be incomplete without a mention of his great ability to convey to young people his passion for knowledge and commitment to the community.”

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A grandson celebrates a grandfather...

From Kenya, to London, to Ottawa, and everywhere in-between, **Inderjeet Singh Bhoi** lived a truly eventful life. Inder's unique stories ranged from important life lessons to amusing anecdotes, always involving a cast of

colourful characters. Relayed with enthusiasm, concision, and spot-on descriptions, everyone from close family members to complete strangers loved hearing him speak. In the summer of 2017, Inder's grandson Vikram began documenting some of these fascinating tales.



With Inder's daughter's, Tavinder Nijawan's permission one of the Vikram's stories of his grandfather is shared.

Rising Through the Ranks: Nairobi, 1960

Upon receiving his law degree at King's College in London, Inder returned to his home in Kenya. He desired to work for a firm in Britain, and intended to go back there. However, Inder's father had established a law firm in Kenya, and fully expected his son to take over his practice.

In the newspaper, it was announced that Kenya would gain its independence from Britain in two years; nine applicants would be hired to replace the former British administrators. Hearing about these available positions, Inder's father encouraged him to apply for the job. Doubtful he would get it, Inder reluctantly applied for this position to satisfy his father.

The young lawyer was surprised when he was called back for an interview; he must have been chosen out of hundreds of applicants. During the interview, Inder deliberately criticized the British rule in Kenya, hoping that his harshness would upset the interviewers so he would not get the job. He addressed the tough British policies placed in Kenya, along with the atrocities committed by the British, such as during the Mau-Mau Uprising.

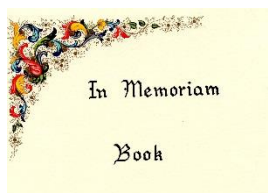
Unfortunately for Inder, his plan was not successful. Three weeks later, he received a letter in the mail saying he had been chosen as one of the nine candidates; over the next two years, he would be trained to take over the position.

Inder's speciality within law was foreign affairs, specifically concerning treaty law. Prior to Kenya's independence, Britain had maintained several treaties with other nations; now that the country was autonomous, these treaties had to be dealt with through termination, review, or revision.

Among all of the candidates, Inder was the only person of non-African heritage. His dreams of being a big-shot lawyer in Britain was over; now, a new career path stretched before him.

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The IN MEMORIAM book on line



The [Alumni In Memoriam Book](#) is found on the [IDRC Alumni Website](#).

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Bulletin Archive on Line



[Past issues of the IDRC Alumni Bulletin](#), from the first edition in January 2003, are available on the [IDRC Alumni website](#).

Bulletins for 1 to 26 are either English or French. From 27-39 they are bilingual and from 40 on, either English or French.



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at "IDRC Alumni" group and / or "IDRC" page.*



<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/556623107712593/>