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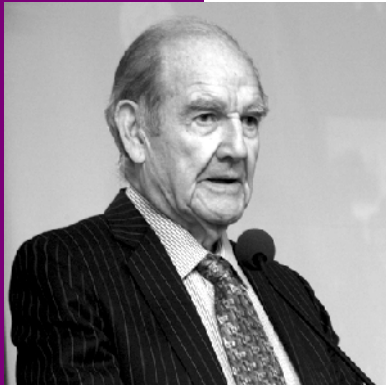
THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SECURITY PROJECT

SUMMER 2001

The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty: Special Release and Discussion of the New 2001 IFAD Rural Poverty Report

World attention needs to refocus on rural poverty and its critical importance to poverty in general, according to a new International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) report released to the public on **7 February 2001**, at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Nearly 150 people attended the report's release and a subsequent discussion, while many more watched via live Web cast. (The archived Web cast is available at <http://ecsp.si.edu/rurpov.ram>.)



George McGovern

Three-quarters of the 1.2 billion people in extreme poverty live in rural areas. *Rural Poverty Report 2001: The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty* details their livelihoods, the factors that keep them impoverished, and the steps the world must take to help them.

The rural poor are caught in a matrix of pernicious circumstances and forces: little access to schools, hospitals, markets, credit, and technology; dry and marginal lands; low levels of literacy; bigger families, higher mortality, and more hunger and disease (including HIV/AIDS); and fewer employment opportunities off the land.

"The Rural Poor Must Be The Focus"

In introducing the report, IFAD President **Fawzi Al-Sultan** warned that today's rate of poverty reduction is less than a third of that needed to achieve the UN Millennium Summit's target of halving global poverty by the year 2015. He called for a reversal of the twelve-year decline in agricultural development aid given to developing countries, saying that "the rural poor must be the focus in any effort to eradicate poverty."

The IFAD report emphasizes four specific and critical needs of rural farmers: assets, markets, technology, and institutions. Poor farmers own very little land and cannot use what they have for their own benefit, said Al-Sultan; they need more land and water access as well as more financial support and land titles. Local markets and infrastructure also need to be developed to give rural farmers' access to better

prices. In addition, both existing and new technologies need to be brought to smallholder agriculture, and agricultural research needs to refocus on crops of use and importance to these farmers. Finally, institutions must become more responsive to and equitable for the rural poor.

Other rural residents especially vulnerable to poverty include landless wage laborers, displaced people, and female householders. Al-Sultan noted that impoverished rural women and children often suffer the most, having even less access to land, water, credit, and social services than their male counterparts.

Agricultural Reform Key to Poverty Eradication

George McGovern, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Agencies, called the IFAD report a wonderful statement of the need to deal more strongly and effectively with rural poverty. The drive to halve global hunger and poverty by 2015 is "perfectly practical and achievable," said McGovern. "I am sure we can do this in 15 years."

But he questioned whether donor and recipient governments have the interest or competence to use the resources now available to achieve the 2015 goal. To combat this inertia, McGovern called for a campaign focused on the 300 million hungry children worldwide. Calling nutrition "the handmaiden of education," McGovern stressed that school lunch programs are the best weapon to promote education and hence increased literacy, better health, and lower birthrates. He also vowed to lobby President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on the importance of the report and the unparalleled effectiveness of investing in girls' education.

ABT Associates President **John Mellor** said that he was hopeful the IFAD report could spur foreign donors to return to their higher agricultural aid levels of the 1980s, which were extraordinarily successful in reducing rural poverty. While there is now much talk of the ascendancy of urban poverty, said Mellor, absolute urban poverty in Asian countries (for example) has essentially ceased to exist. Agricultural

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ECSP Meetings

“The Urban Explosion”— A Film in the 2001 Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital

featuring *Hal Weiner*, writer and director of “The Urban Explosion”

Marilyn Weiner, producer of “The Urban Explosion”

Maureen O’Neill, Senior Regional Urban Coordinator,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

Michael White, Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Center

co-sponsored by the Environmental Change and Security Project & the Comparative Urban Studies Project

21 March 2001

More than half the world’s population now lives in cities. A major dilemma facing civic, national, and global institutions is how to service this exploding urban base without destroying the delicate natural balance that makes urbanization possible in the first place.

“The Urban Explosion,” an hour-long film from Screenscope Inc. originally broadcast as part of the “Journey to Planet Earth” series on PBS, details the dramatic environmental problems of four rapidly growing megacities—Mexico City, Istanbul, Shanghai, and New York—as well as efforts in these metropolises to work towards sustainability. The film was shown at the Woodrow Wilson Center and was followed by a panel discussion that included the filmmakers.



Marilyn Weiner

Degradation and Hope

“The Urban Explosion” argues that vast waves of immigration have fueled tremendous rates of urban population growth around the world, leading to dangerous levels of air and water pollution as well as health crises and resource stress that threaten these cities’ ultimate viability. For example, breathing the smoggy air of Mexico City (which has 20 million residents and is growing by three million annually) is like smoking two packs of cigarettes daily. And toxic waste runs in the city’s open canals and brings cholera to the surrounding valley.

In Istanbul, green space is swallowed up by illegal housing developments, and 50 percent of the city’s sewage runs untreated into the neighboring Bosphorous

Strait, virtually ruining one of the world’s most productive fisheries. In Shanghai, the “mecca of materialism” for China, smog from low-grade coal burning, buses, and autos chokes the city. East Harlem is home to six of seven New York City bus depots and suffers from an epidemic of asthma caused by diesel exhaust.

But “The Urban Explosion” also finds hopeful efforts in these cities—by both governments and community groups—to counteract environmental degradation and its assault on livability. Besides tightening their emissions standards and enhancing their rapid transit systems to address air pollution, both Mexico City and Shanghai are building deep-tunnel sewage drainage systems in an effort to eliminate open wastewater canals. Texcoco Lake and nearby lands have been restored using treated Mexico City water. Community groups in Istanbul are sponsoring construction of sustainable housing with nearby hospitals, schools, green spaces, and infrastructure. Sweat equity and investment are helping to recapture neighborhoods and common spaces in the South Bronx and Brooklyn. “The Urban Explosion” ends by arguing that the right to sustainability is as much a human right as democratic or economic freedom.

New York: Success and Challenges

Maureen O’Neill of the U.S. E.P.A. Region 2 began the post-screening panel discussion by detailing some of the environmental successes and remaining challenges for New York City. Immigration and the diversity of the city impact how government must deal with environmental issues, said O’Neill: for example, a campaign against a number of illegal pesticides sold on the city’s street corners and in its bodegas must be

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Risks of Conflict: Resource and Population Pressures

featuring *Sir Crispin Tickell*, Chancellor of the University of Kent and Canterbury,
Chairman of the Climate Institute of Washington, D.C.,
and President of the Earth Centre in South Yorkshire

10 April 2001

There are few greater challenges to human society than the risks of conflict arising from human population growth and resource depletion. Sir Crispin Tickell, a longtime British diplomat and former British Permanent Representative to the United Nations who has also headed a variety of scientific, environmental, and sustainability initiatives, detailed these challenges and the world's difficulty in addressing them in a bracing talk.

“A Malignant Maladaptation”

Sir Crispin began by stating that the “world looks a messier place than I have known it during my 36 years as a diplomat.” He noted, for example, that violence within societies has increased: of the 27 armed conflicts in 1999, all but two were within national boundaries. Power is also devolving—from nation-states to international institutions, to regional and local communities, and to citizens through old and new technologies of communication.

And the enormous growth in human population and its ever-increasing demands on global resources, said Sir Crispin, are compromising the health of the planet as well as local conditions. In the last century, human population has quadrupled, while air pollution has increased by a factor of five, water use by nine, sulphur emissions by 13, energy use by 16, carbon dioxide emissions by 17, marine fish catches by 35, and industrial output by 40. Sir Crispin maintained that there are few precedents for the current impact on the earth by the human species, whose dominance he called a “malignant maladaptation.”

The Five Drivers for Global Change

Sir Crispin went on to argue that most of the implications of these trends remain unrecognized, although they are straining human communities everywhere and

increasing the potential for violence. He identified five main drivers for global change—each associated with the others, and all pointing towards risks of social breakdown and conflict.

The first driver is the rate of human population increase, with attendant hyperurbanization and increased absolute poverty. Sir Crispin noted that, between 1992 and 2000, some 450 million new people came to inhabit the earth. “If the increase had been in elephants, swallows, sharks, mushrooms, or cockroaches, we would have been scared silly,” he said, “but as it is ourselves, we shrug our shoulders as if it were the most normal thing in the world.”

The second driver is the condition of the land. Increasing populations are claiming more and more space and resources, resulting in widespread soil degradation and advancing deserts. Soil depletion, said Sir Crispin, affects some 10 percent of current world agricultural areas. Meanwhile, increases in food supplies have not kept pace with population growth, and almost a billion

people are today undernourished. Similarly, while demand for water (the third driver) doubles every 21 years, water supplies have remained at the same level they were at thousands of years ago. The United Nations Environmental Programme has already referred to the existence of “a global water crisis,” as major rivers become toxic streams and ocean fish stocks decline past recoverability.

Damage to ecosystems is an additional factor. Sir Crispin said that humans are causing extinction at 1000 times the normal rate, altering the course of evolution itself. The consequences are reduced food supplies and medicine as well as severe damage to forests, wetlands, soil fertility, and the natural cycles of waste reclamation. The final driver, atmospheric chemistry changes, includes acidification from industry, depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer, and the degree of global warm-

“If the increase had been in elephants, swallows, sharks, mushrooms, or cockroaches, we would have been scared silly, but as it is ourselves, we shrug our shoulders as if it were the most normal thing in the world.”

From the Field

Integrating Population Into Environmental Field Projects

By John Williams

John Williams is a Michigan International Development Associate at Conservation International's headquarters office in Washington, DC. John has master's degrees in environmental management and in public policy from Duke University as well as a B.A. in biology from Colorado College. He has worked overseas on conservation projects in Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Guatemala.

While Conservation International (CI) has involved communities and local peoples in its conservation strategies and field activities since the organization's founding in 1987, CI's specific focus on the intersection of human population dynamics and healthy ecosystems is a relatively new development. Although development professionals and ecologists have long acknowledged that rapid population growth poses threats to both human welfare and

natural resources, only relatively recently have environmental organizations taken steps to address population growth in the places they work.

CI started its first population-environment (PE) field project in 1998 in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) in Guatemala's northern Petén region. In this area ravaged by a decades-long civil war and plagued by unregulated immigration and high fertility rates, the MBR—one of Central America's last large rainforest remnants—was at

exceptionally high risk of being converted into agricultural and pastoral lands. Based on community-needs-assessment surveys and focus groups, CI identified both *reproductive health* and *access to family planning* as major unmet needs for communities around the MBR. In an effort to address these needs as well as to help reduce poverty, infant and maternal mortality, and pressures on forest resources, CI (a) implemented midwife and community health promoter training courses; (b) set up the first network of community-based contraceptive delivery volunteers (CBDs) in the region; and (c) facilitated the opening of Guatemalan NGO Aprofam's first reproductive health and family planning clinic in the Petén.

Building a Model

My placement at CI as a Michigan International Development Associate in January 2000 coincided with a growing enthusiasm within the organization both to build on the successes of the Guatemala example and to examine the possibilities of integrating PE components into additional field programs. This enthusiasm got an extra boost when, in the same month and in conjunction with CI, Population Action International (PAI) published its report *Nature's Place*—which showed that population growth rates and density had reached alarming levels in the majority of CI's priority biodiversity hotspots (including the Philippines, Mesoamerica and the Guinean Forests of West Africa). Fortuitously, interest in PE projects was also reaching new heights in the donor community.

Trying to harness the favorable conditions above and working closely with motivated CI staff in both Washington and the field, I surveyed a number of CI country programs and potential donors to identify the best prospects for a match. The Selva Lacandona of Chiapas, Mexico as well as two forest corridors of the Philippines appeared to be the most promising opportunities for multiple reasons: (a) obvious empirical needs for both the populations and the ecosystems in question, (b) enthusiasm and energy on behalf of CI country staff members and promising potential partners, and (c) manifest interest on behalf of several foundations.

When CI staff members were designing the programmatic interventions for the Petén, the political and institutional conditions there were such that no established reproductive-health NGO was willing to enter into a programmatic partnership in which it would be delivering services. Thus, in order to deliver such services to the rural communities of the MBR, CI had to conduct the training modules and stock the CBDs itself. This was not the ideal model—for CI (as a conservation organization) does not seek to develop in-house capacity for reproductive health delivery. Instead, CI prefers where possible to partner with established local experts in the provision of reproductive health services.

In Mexico and the Philippines (where significant



Rossana Cifuentes and Rosalinda Trujillo of the Remedios Team accompany a CI-trained midwife (seated) on her rounds in the Maya Biosphere Reserve

capacity exists in both the governmental and non-profit reproductive health sectors), CI sought to design its PE interventions through such partnerships. After working with the respective CI-field programs and associated partners in the Mexico and Philippines locations to put together successful grant proposals, I have since been involved in helping the teams refine and execute their project designs.

The New Partnerships

In Mexico, CI has formed partnerships with the family planning NGO Mexfam and the Mexican Government's Institute for Social Security (IMSS). These partnerships have the goals of (a) improving the level of reproductive health services available at rural health clinics and (b) establishing CBD networks where no health clinics, exist. CI will take advantage of extensive coverage of the IMSS clinics around the Selva Lacandona by developing didactic materials (on both natural resource management and wildlife protection) for inclusion in training modules for health clinic personnel. As part of the community-based conservation efforts in the Selva Lacandona, CI is also including family planning information as part of the materials available to men participating in agricultural extension activities. In addition, CI is providing information on micro-credit and income-generating opportunities for women who participate in CBD and reproductive health activities. PAI is helping CI document its efforts in the region and providing assistance with project monitoring, evaluation, and networking with local NGOs.

In the Philippines, CI is partnering with Population Communications International (PCI) and a to-be-identified family planning service provider to address PE issues in a holistic and multifaceted approach. Popula-

tion Communications International specializes in crafting entertaining and educational TV and radio soap operas that address the variety of social and cultural issues associated with reproductive health, family planning, and gender equity. PCI will collaborate with CI to develop material that specifically addresses the issues surrounding some of the Philippines' key conservation challenges—including forest conversion, migration, and marine resource degradation.

In addition to being the primary liaison between CI and PCI, I have been involved in negotiating with several promising Philippine and international reproduc-

tive health organizations to identify at least one with whom we will work to ensure that communities around key protected Philippines areas get improved access and service quality. Finally, I am working with CI-Philippines staff and conservation partners (especially in the Sierra Madre biological corridor of northern Luzon) to see how CI can assist established communities to strengthen their land tenure rights as a means of protecting themselves from land-

grabbing by certain groups of well-organized new migrants.

By having someone who is dedicated full-time to promoting the importance of the population-environment nexus, Conservation International has been able to triple the number of its country programs that are implementing PE activities. Although the Mexico and Philippines projects are still in incipient stages, they appear to be off to a strong start and are including carefully thought out baseline statistics and monitoring measures—an important step in ensuring that CI and its partners will be able to learn from and improve on these pioneering projects. Future prospects for CI population-environment projects include the Guyana Shield, West Africa, and Belize. ■

“Although development professionals and ecologists have long acknowledged that rapid population growth poses threats to both human welfare and natural resources, only relatively recently have environmental organizations taken steps to address population growth in the places they work.”



China Environment Series Four is now available!

Articles featured in this issue include Hot Air and Cold Water: The Unexpected Fall in China's Energy Use ■ Local Environmental Management in China ■ Paying for the Environment in China: The Growing Role of the Market ■ and Total Emission Control of Major Pollutants in China.

Book Review

How Americans View World Population Issues: A Survey of Public Opinion

By David Adamson, Nancy Belden, Julia DaVanzo, and Sally Patterson.
Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2000. 123 pages.

Reviewed by *Simona Wexler*

Through its *Population Matters* project, RAND has published this intriguing survey of how Americans view demographic issues and trends in the context of U.S. international aid. While the sample of individuals interviewed for the project is fairly small (about 1,500 people), *How Americans View Population Issues* nonetheless provides useful insights into how much Americans know and care about population issues. The questions of the survey were targeted at (a) the general views on U.S. international economic assistance and its recipients, (b) general knowledge about population issues such as demographic trends, and (c) specific issues such as family planning and abortion.

According to this survey, 59 percent of Americans support international economic assistance—the highest level since 1974. In particular, Americans consider humanitarian programs and health-related programs addressing environmental, children, women, and human rights issues to be particular priorities. Slowing the birth rate in the developing world, however, seemed to respondents not as important an issue: only 22 percent of the respondents felt it was of critical concern.

One of the most interesting findings in *How Americans View Population Issues* is the lack of knowledge Americans have about the world's demographic trends. Only 14 percent of the interviewees were aware that the world population reached the six billion mark, and roughly 40 percent did not know the current size of the world's population. Furthermore, many respondents did not seem to be able to correctly estimate the rate of population growth. In fact, almost half predicted world population will double in the next 20 years, far sooner than the estimated prediction of 50 years. However, the survey indicated that Americans do believe the world is overpopulated. While they do not perceive rapid population growth to be as severe a problem as hunger or disease, 27 percent of the individuals surveyed believe it contributes to other problems such as environ-

mental degradation, civil unrest, and slow economic growth.

Family planning was a major focus of the survey. Fully ninety-two percent of Americans favor both (a) the right of an individual and a family to decide the number of children they will have in their lifetime, and (b) that information to achieve that goal should be available to all. Abortion, however, remains a controversial and divisive issue for Americans, who seem evenly split

on this issue. Almost half of those interviewed for this survey opposes abortion except when rape, incest, or danger to the mother's life are involved. The other half does support unfettered legal access to abortion. However, the survey seems to indicate that abortion is not a black and white issue, and that many Americans approve or

disapprove of it depending on the circumstances. Supporters of legal abortion believe that the procedure can save women's lives, while opponents are convinced that women use it as a contraceptive method and that its legality promotes sexual promiscuity among teenagers and unmarried couples. However, the survey also found that two-thirds of the interviewees that oppose abortion *approve* of funding family planning programs. In fact, one of the most interesting findings of the survey is the confusion among the respondents of the term "family planning." While 46 percent believes that the term includes abortion, 52 percent believes it does not. Attitudes of the American public regarding congressional actions on international family planning also reflect a deep divide. While 50 percent did approve of the 1996 congressional vote to reduce funding for family planning, 51 percent disapproved of Congress denying funding to family planning organization that provided abortions (despite the fact that no U.S. "family planning" assistance funding goes to support abortion).

Despite the relatively small number of the people interviewed for it, *How Americans View Population Issues* is a well-conducted survey that sheds light on the

"While the majority of Americans does support economic and family planning assistance to the developing world, it is clear that most Americans are not highly informed on a variety of issues regarding the topic."

views and attitudes many Americans have on U.S. international economic assistance. While the majority of Americans does support economic and family planning assistance to the developing world, it is clear that most Americans are not highly informed on a variety of issues regarding the topic. The survey also highlights important findings for the policy community, which should pay close attention to some of its more perplexing findings. Few of those questioned, for instance, are aware about growth and population size despite the focused international attention on the “Day of Six Billion” in October 1999. From the survey it also emerges that the general public has yet to make the important connection between population issues and environmental degradation. And while there is strong support for the fund-

ing of international family planning, half of the respondents did not object to congressional cuts for family programs in the developing world. While this opinion may be due to the fact that most Americans overestimate what the U.S. government contributes to foreign aid, it is clear that the public should be better informed about the subject. Policymakers should also prioritize educating the public about the benefits of providing family planning—which (among other things) has decreased the numbers of abortions in countries such as Russia, Bangladesh, Hungary, South Korea, and Kazakhstan. Finally, it is clear from the survey that a clear definition of “family planning” is much needed, and that Americans are uncertain whether or not the term encompasses abortion. ■

Sir Crispin (continued from page 3)

ing that greenhouse gases will spur. Sir Crispin stated that the combination of these five drivers is most worrying. Impelled by continued human population growth and economic expansion, these factors will eventually result in a creeping contagion of economic breakdown and state failure.

The Conflict-Resource Connection

Sir Crispin said that, while triggers for individual conflicts over resources are most difficult to predict, resource depletion in poor countries has led to a myriad of conflict precursors: poverty, inequity, community tension, and weakened institutions. He also argued that, while industrial countries’ vulnerability to these problems is masked by their overconsumption and dependence on fossil fuels, they are generally more vulnerable than supposed. Modern conflicts between nation-states over resources have so far been rare (with the exception of oil); but this may change. Disputes over water could be a *casus belli*, as could transboundary export of pollution. “What states do to the environment within their boundaries is no longer for them alone,” he said.

Refugees are an additional consequence as well as a cause of environmental and state destabilization. Although cases overlap, Sir Crispin noted that there are more environmental refugees (25 million) than there are political refugees, with particularly large numbers in sub-Saharan Africa. And since one-third of humanity lives within 60 kilometers of a coastline, predicted sea-level increases caused by climate change could cause additional massive migrations and tremendous stress on both developed and developing nations.

Sir Crispin concluded on a note of some pessimism.

He noted that, while there are prominent cases of transboundary cooperation in the management of environmental flashpoints, catastrophe may be needed to shock people into thinking of the environment, population, and conflict as globally interrelated dynamics.

Bush, Kyoto, and The Future

In response to audience questions, Sir Crispin called the current vogue for market forces as a final arbiter of value a “fashionable delusion,” and said that in the last resort the public interest must prevail. He said that the next fifty years will be an extremely difficult period and will see much more disorder and painful adjustment to the limits of environmental resources and population growth.

A regular adviser to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on environmental issues, Sir Crispin said that most governments and institutions are not at the moment well-gearred to these problems, and that authoritarian governments often set such big concerns aside altogether because of their ineffective chains of command. He castigated the Bush administration for its recent disavowal of the Kyoto Protocols, saying that the move “shocked and dismayed” Europeans and was an abdication of responsibility “truly out of step with the rest of the world.” He raised the possibility that European governments might impose import taxes on U.S. imports to redress the competitive balance, and noted that German consumers are organizing boycotts of U.S. products as a result of the Kyoto announcement. ■

A complete text of Sir Crispin’s address is available on the Wilson Center’s Web site at <http://ecsp.si.edu/pdf/crispspeech.pdf>

IFAD Report (continued from page 1)

reform is the proven engine of poverty eradication, he stressed, not only because most poverty is rural, but because of the profound multiplier effect of rising rural income: for every one agriculture job created, two to three are created in domestic goods and services.

The Importance of Empowering Women

Geeta Rao Gupta, president of the International Center for Research on Women, called the IFAD report both a great resource and a prime advocacy tool. But she warned that the UN Millennium Summit pledge cannot be met or sustained without significantly involving poor rural women in the effort. Such involvement is both *smart* and *right*, said Rao Gupta: smart because women are crucial players in food security, and right because gender disparities are greatest among the rural poor. “A gender perspective needs to be woven through all the analyses and recommendations of the IFAD report,” she said.

Rao Gupta also noted that the UN Security Council’s recent discussion of AIDS as a national security issue afforded an opportunity to place food security on the international agenda as well. Citing the success of advocacy for girls’ education, she argued that comprehensive national data on women’s poverty would be crucial in convincing skeptical officials of the need for action.

Implementing the Report

Audience questions focused on implementing the report’s conclusions and recommendations. Calling the issue of rural poverty as important as that of debt relief, Al-Sultan noted the difficulty of getting rural agricultural programs onto the agenda of developing countries’ governments. But he also noted that, after a long period of budgetary restraint, some developed countries have a renewed interest in foreign development aid.

A full discussion period followed the report’s presentation. Asserting that agricultural aid has been neglected inadvertently in foreign aid budgets of the last decade, **Peter McPherson** (president of Michigan State University and co-chair of the Partnership to Cut Hunger in Africa) called for an “NIH-like” professional approach to the problem of increasing agricultural productivity worldwide. McPherson said that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is deeply interested in African affairs and will be receptive to such an approach. “The technological capabilities for food production are just exploding,” said McPherson. “But if we continue our short-term view, more people will die.”

Bread for the World President **David Beckmann** announced that a recent survey by his organization

showed that 83 percent of the American public wants the U.S. government to support the effort to halve global poverty by 2015—and is willing to pay \$50/person annually to accomplish it. He said that \$4 billion in additional and effective poverty reduction assistance (\$1 billion more from the United States) would ensure reaching that goal, and he added that he is hopeful both the Bush administration as well as Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) will be open to this initiative. “We need institutional reforms, too,” said Beckmann, “but money is a clear sign of will to alleviate this problem.”

Rajul Pandya Lorch (head of the 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute) called the IFAD report the clearest and most compelling report to date on rural poverty and how to eradicate it. However, she was pessimistic—given the intractability of global rural food insecurity—that the Millennium Summit goal could be reached. Pandya Lorch noted that food insecurity is entrenched in Asia and has doubled in sub-Saharan Africa since the 1970s. She also cited urbanization, HIV/AIDS, and globalization as major developments that could block poverty eradication efforts.

“Looking for Openings”

Beckmann said that the IFAD report’s proposals were entirely consistent with President Bush’s platform of “compassionate conservatism.” And he defended his openness to working with Senator Helms, saying that Helms’ staff members have told him the Senator wants to reform the U.S. Agency for International Development, not eliminate it. “I’m hopeful, not optimistic,” said Beckmann. “We’re looking for openings.”

George McGovern echoed Beckmann’s optimism and added that there has never been a better time to launch an effort to eradicate poverty. McGovern said that, while \$16 billion in productivity is lost annually because of world hunger, \$6-8 billion yearly would end it. “There is a real possibility that the kind of interesting common sense proposals heard today could be sold to the U.S. government and my UN colleagues,” added McGovern.

All participants agreed with Pandya Lorch that, while foreign aid is welcome, the real goal is agricultural self-sufficiency for developing countries. She added that there must be a strong element of community participation from the beginning in any new program of agricultural assistance. Wesley of IFAD said that the report will be presented to aid-recipient countries precisely to generate such self-initiative. Beckmann concluded by lauding the IFAD report’s case studies highlighting programs that increased productivity and political empowerment for the world’s poor. ■

Urban Explosion (continued from page 2)

conducted in the 140 languages spoken there.

But there have been major environmental successes both in New York (such as the recent city-state watershed protection plan) and the United States (where the aggregate six priority pollutants have gone down since 1970 despite rises in GDP and vehicle miles driven over the same period). “You can have clean air and a healthy economy—they’re not opposed,” argued O’Neill. She warned, however, that dramatic climate change will affect New York City disproportionately: any rise in sea-level because of polar ice-cap melting, for instance, would be disastrous for this predominantly coastal city.

Past and Present Urban Explosions

Demographer Michael White followed by contextualizing and historicizing urban population trends. According to White, “urban explosion” has been an oft-repeated theme dating back to the 1950s. In fact, today’s urbanization is not out of pace with other urban population booms of the past: many cities have grown rapidly in brief periods, a dynamic usually tied to economic development and in-migration.

What is different about today, said White, is that urbanization is taking place under “incomplete demographic transition”—that is, overall national population growth rates are also growing along with those of their cities. Megacities are also now sprouting up in countries (such as China) that are making fundamental political and economic transitions. While it takes tremendous resources and money to stem environmental degradation, White also argued that strong institutions, governmental regulation, and the prodding of nongovernmental organizations and community groups are also essential to this process. He ended by noting that 90 percent of the world’s urbanized population does not live in megacities but will have to respond to the same environmental issues.

The Making of “The Urban Explosion”

Filmmakers Hal and Marilyn Weiner talked about the making of “The Urban Explosion” (which was originally broadcast in 1999) as well as their plans for future films in the upcoming “Journey to Planet Earth” season. Hal Weiner said that the films they currently have in production will discuss environmental injustice (which he called a “terribly, terribly important is-

sue”) as well as emphasize U.S. responsibility in environmental degradation and the state of the planet. Marilyn Weiner added that grassland loss, infectious diseases, and environmental security issues are also critical to potential global destabilization.

In response to audience questions, Hal Weiner said that recent Bush administration actions have galvanized the environmental community, and that a counter-effort against the weakening of governmental environmental regulations is imminent. Michael White added that the “environment vs. jobs” debate so prevalent today is a false one—that we can have economic development without environmental degradation, but that community groups need to speak out to promote environmental equity. White also noted that discrepancies in resources and general issues of development affect

the relative capacities of cities to carry out environmental restoration projects. “What New York City can spend on water resources is vastly different than what Mexico City or Shanghai can spend,” said White.

Marilyn Weiner related that U.S. audiences are still very provincial and have to be convinced that conditions in other countries are worth caring about. Hal

Weiner concluded by lamenting that the West seems to have written off Africa. He called Africa’s lack of health infrastructure and economic development as well as its epidemic of HIV/AIDS “desperate and terribly unfair,” and also noted the chronic epidemic of vector-borne diseases in southern Africa. (For example, 11 percent of Kenyan children under 5 die of malaria—a disease easily curable with the proper medicines). ■

“What New York City can spend on water resources is vastly different than what Mexico City or Shanghai can spend.”

Michael White, Woodrow Wilson Center Fellow

HIV/AIDS and Human Security in Southern Africa

A video is now available of the 90-minute September 2000 program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Hosted by Woodrow Wilson Center Director **Lee H. Hamilton**, the program includes panelists **Makate Sheila Sisulu**, South African Ambassador to the United States; **Ron Dellums**, President, Healthcare International Management Company, and **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIH). For more information, please e-mail lalas@rl@wwic.si.edu.

Project News

UPDATE

- ECSP Deputy Director **Shanda Leather** has moved with her husband from Washington, DC to West Virginia, where he has taken a job with The Nature Conservancy. Shanda had her first baby (named Aodhan Edward Minney) on May 14. She will work with ECSP on special projects as a consultant.
- The “**Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum**” (cosponsored by ECSP and the University of Hong Kong’s Centre for Asian Studies as well as its Journalism and Media Studies Centre) was held in Hong Kong on 9-10 April. This two-day workshop brought together for the first time environmental NGO activists and journalists from Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The workshop promoted information exchanges and provided opportunities for 65 participants to discuss improving NGO capacity and the quality of environmental reporting in the region. The workshop also helped these activists and professionals to better understand each other’s work as well as to investigate joint activities. In addition, participants discussed and compared environmental movements, environmental education methods, and NGO networking strategies. The workshop was supported by grants from the United States Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson Center.
- In conjunction with the University of Michigan PECS Initiative, ECSP co-sponsored a “**Workshop on the Future of the U.S.-Mexico Border: Population, Development, and Water**” in Tijuana, Mexico on 7-9 May. The workshop brought together experts from the United States and Mexico to discuss the linkages between future water, population, and development realities in the border region. Participants discussed the opportunities and constraints facing border citizens and decision-makers over the next 25 years with regard to transboundary water, health, and demographic issues. Special attention was given to the capabilities of existing binational, federal, and nongovernmental institutions to meet these future challenges.
- Calling HIV/AIDS “probably the greatest human tragedy of our time,” **Dr. Helene Gayle** of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told a May 15-17 conference and simulation cosponsored by the Environmental Change and Security Project, the U.S. Army War College, and the University of Michigan Population Fellows Program

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & SECURITY PROJECT’S E-MAIL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION, AND SECURITY ISSUES

The Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) is pleased to announce its new e-mail forum for environment, population, and security issues—ECSP-FORUM. This forum, which operates via e-mail, serves as a means for practitioners, scholars, and policymakers to participate in a dialogue with others in the community. The purpose of ECSP-FORUM is to provide a forum for: discussing relevant issues and research; posting current policy questions; and listings relevant policy, scholarly, and teaching resources. Accessible from the ECSP Web site or by e-mail, it is a convenient and resourceful tool for all interested in the topics of environment, population, and security. Discussions will be archived and fully searchable through the ECSP Web site, providing a useful reference point for accessing information at a later date. There is no charge to subscribe.

To subscribe to the ECSP Forum, send an e-mail to listproc@listproc.net and:

- 1) Leave the Subject heading blank
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Now Available in ECSP Report Issue 6

- Feature Articles on Environmental Conflict in the Niger Delta, and Human Population Stresses in the 21st Century.
- Special Report from the National Intelligence Council on the Global Infectious Disease Threat and Its Implications for the U.S.
- Commentaries, ECSP Meetings Summaries, and a Bibliographic Guide.

Coming Soon: ECSP Report Issue 7

- Feature Articles on Environmental Stress and Human Security in North Pakistan, Hunger and Conflict, and Conservation: The Brazilian Amazon.
- Commentaries on the National Intelligence Council's *Global Trends 2015* Report
- Forum: Is There a Population Implosion?

that India may be the key to the epidemic's global course.

Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, Sexual Transmitted Disease, and Tuberculosis Prevention, addressed "**Contagion and Stability**," a two-day simulation conference hosted by the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. High-level representatives from the U.S. government, foreign embassies, and nongovernmental organizations joined leading scientists, scholars, and researchers to explore and negotiate over a scenario of plague epidemic in India and what such an epidemic would mean for regional and global security.

Besides calling for an increase in funding for care and prevention programs, Gayle outlined a multifaceted approach to address HIV/AIDS worldwide. Keys to the effort are a high-level political commitment to destigmatizing HIV and allowing those affected to seek services without fear of retribution or ostracization. Other steps Gayle out-

lined were: widespread distribution of and education about condoms; private-sector involvement; quality assurance of generic anti-retroviral therapies; and the recruitment of men to HIV prevention.

- The Woodrow Wilson Center awards academic year **residential fellowships** to individuals from any country with outstanding project proposals on national and/or international issues—topics that intersect with questions of public policy or provide the historical framework to illumine policy issues of contemporary importance. The application deadline is October 1, 2001. For eligibility requirements and application guidelines please contact: The Scholar Selection and Services Office at Tel: 202-691-4170; Fax: 202-691-4001; E-mail: fellowships@wwic.si.edu; or visit our website to download an application at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org>.

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EDITOR
Robert Lalasz

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Richard Thomas

PHOTOGRAPHS
Richard Thomas
John Williams

ECSP STAFF:
Geoffrey D. Dabelko
Robert Lalasz
Richard Thomas
Jennifer Turner
Clair Twigg

Environmental Change and
Security Project
The Woodrow Wilson Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
Washington, DC 20004-3027
Tel: 202-691-4130
Fax: 202-691-4184
E-mail: ecspwwic@wwic.si.edu
Internet: <http://ecsp.si.edu>

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The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, located in the Ronald Reagan Building in the heart of Washington D.C., was founded in 1968 by Congress as the nation's memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. Through its renowned fellows program and a range of regional and functional programmatic activities, the non-partisan center fosters scholarship and dialogue in the humanities and the social sciences. As such, The Wilson Center serves as an ideal meeting place for scholars and practitioners of widely divergent ideological and professional backgrounds. Meetings are marked by free intellectual exchange, reflecting a tradition of bringing together people who differ in discipline, profession, and nationality, but who share an interest in a subject and in having their views challenged in lively debate. The Wilson Center is directed by The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton and its Board of Directors is chaired by Joseph A. Cari, Jr., Esq. Prior to becoming Director, Lee Hamilton served for thirty-four years as a United States Congressman from Indiana. He served as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, now the Committee on International Relations, for his entire tenure.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND
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Since October 1994, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) has provided specialists and interested individuals with a "road-map" to the myriad conceptions, activities and policy initiatives related to environment, population and security. The Project pursues three basic activities: (1) gathering information on related international academic and policy initiatives; (2) organizing meetings of experts and public seminars; and (3) publishing the *ECSP Report*, *The China Environment Series*, and related papers. ECSP is directed by Geoffrey Dabelko and housed in the Wilson Center's Division of International Studies—headed by Robert S. Litwak. ECSP explores a wide range of academic and policy-related topics: various theoretical linkages among environment, population and security; how environment, population and security ideas are nested in the broader debates over redefining security; the ways in which policymakers in the United States and other countries are utilizing these ideas and making related policies; and how governments, NGOs, businesses, and other organizations respond to the causes and symptoms of environmental and demographic issues.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SECURITY PROJECT
THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER
ONE WOODROW WILSON PLAZA
1300 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
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