

EXCHANGE TO CHANGE

ECHANGER POUR CHANGER

IOB NEWSLETTER / MAGAZINE DE L'IOB

N°21 - MARCH / MARS 2012



**ALUMNI ON DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES AND DEVELOPMENT:
HOANG HA, MONICA PATRICIA NIÑO PEÑA, DEBAZOU Y. YANTIO**

TEN YEARS OF EXCHANGE TO CHANGE, TEN YEARS OF IOB

**TEN CANDLES ON THE CAKE FOR EXCHANGE TO CHANGE!
EXCHANGE TO CHANGE, 'THE HUMANISATION OF DEVELOPMENT'**

GREET ANNAERT: THE WELCOMING FACE OF IOB

OSCAR EDULE: 'AMNESTY OR PUNISHMENT?'

**LANI TANG: 'SOCIOLOGICAL CAUSES OF CRIMES IN TAGUIG CITY:
FRAMEWORK FOR INTERVENTION MODALITY'**



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Ten Years of Exchange to Change

I graduated from IOB in 2001. After one year of intensively studying together I missed the daily exchanges with my fellow students. For a while we kept in touch via a yahoo group which we had set up, but soon everyone was too busy with his/her own life and new challenges. I missed their voices, their faces, their views. I missed the talks and discussions that had changed me so much as a person and as a researcher. I wanted to fill the emotional and intellectual vacuum. That is how the idea for Exchange to Change began to grow.

I remember how I contacted the former IOB chairman, Filip Reyntjens. I was nervous but also very enthusiastic. I explained to him what I had in mind: a newsletter to reunite our IOB alumni, to strengthen this network of friendship, this global source of knowledge, this potential driving force for real and sustainable change. Why did we opt for 'Exchange to Change' as a title? Because human interaction is a key factor in IOB's educational vision; because exchanging knowledge is a duty and a right for all; because this newsletter aims to reunite alumni in order to strengthen networks and encourage a more meaningful dialogue.

Filip Reyntjens liked the idea and asked me to write a piece for the first edition. Its main article was a report on an IOB study trip to East Germany and Poland. The trip was organised as part of the Master's programme and was very enriching indeed, not merely because of our visits to Berlin, Potsdam, Poznan, Krakow and Auschwitz, but also because of the wonderful intercultural experience of having 20 nationalities live and travel together for a fortnight. This first edition of Exchange to Change was published exactly 10 years ago, in March 2002. It was not very professional then in terms of design and layout, but it succeeded in getting across its 'mission': to facilitate the exchange of experiences, views and ideas in order to achieve change at various levels – in ourselves, our professional environments, our world.

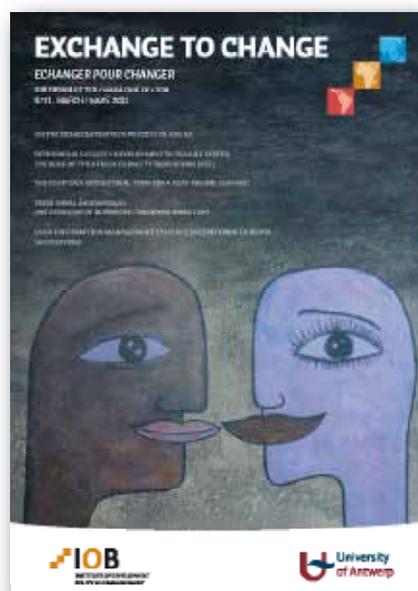
I still feel grateful to Filip Reyntjens for having allowed me to make Exchange to Change a representative voice of our alumni. I also feel grateful to the current chairman, Robrecht Renard, for his support in making this newsletter a valuable component of our alumni policy. Lastly, I would like to thank all IOB staff members and all alumni for their continuous efforts to make every issue of Exchange to Change even better than the previous one. Let us all continue to work together to develop a strong alumni network that promotes and facilitates exchange and will bring about real change!

Dear Alumni

IOB was established ten years and so was “Exchange to Change” and this is a cause for joy. In spite of the fact that celebrating anniversaries may cause us to focus too much on the achievements of the past, it is not only pleasant but also useful because it enables us to set time aside for a moment of recollection. Moreover, history matters. In this issue we reflect on how much we have changed over these first ten years and where we are heading. Talking about history, IOB was not created out of the blue. It came into being as the result of the merger of previously existing, smaller institutes. One of the institutes that was merged with IOB had itself grown out of a still older initiative and that initiative had in turn grown out of something else in an even more distant past, and so on. Reconstructing the Institute’s genealogical tree as far as we can, we arrive in the year 1920. In that year a tertiary education institute was created in Antwerp with the aim of training future administrators for the Belgian colonies of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. I expect that most of you did not know this. I hope you do not blame us for not bragging about it. Yes, we admit that there is this slightly colonial air to IOB, as there is to quite a few reputable development institutes in other European countries. All of us have outgrown our past and changed beyond recognition. So, does this fact have any relevance for the IOB of today or its future plans? I would argue that it does, for it raises a fundamental question. If colonial ambition was the driving force behind the interest in social science research and training with regard to the tropics in the first half of the 20th century then surely we must have other reasons to continue along the same road, but with other names and with a completely different mind-set, at the beginning of the 21st century. We can try to argue “Well, you know, we had social science studies focusing on the tropics in Antwerp a century ago so we thought we might as well just keep going on, and on, and on”. This sounds like a flimsy argument. So, what is a more convincing one? First, that development cooperation remains, for better or worse, an important instrument in the foreign policy of European countries such as Belgium and the European Union itself and that, for this reason, it is a duty of universities in Europe to study what has actually been achieved (or not), and how this affects local realities. Second, and more profoundly, the world has become a global village and development in poorer countries is a global public good and thus of concern to

all countries in the world, irrespective of their foreign policy objectives and of whether they provide development aid or not. We at IOB believe in a mutual learning process and our mission is to strengthen capacity-building and knowledge-sharing in order to contribute to sustainable and equitable global development. In this process many voices and many players are important. That is also the reason why we want to invest more in our alumni policy: to exchange views and experiences with and among our alumni in order to change the global development scene. “Exchange to change”, indeed.

Robrecht Renard, Chairman 



For the tenth birthday of Exchange to Change, we re-used the picture on the front page of the very first edition: a wall painting that was found on the Berlin wall during an IOB study trip in 2001. The two faces symbolize dialogue, and thus the core mission of Exchange to Change.

Alumni on Development Institutes and Development

IOB wants to strengthen its ties with its alumni and is curious to know their views on its role within the development field and on how it can help them in their own careers.

Exchange to Change interviewed three alumni to hear what they have to say on these topics: Haong Ha from Vietnam, Monica Patricia Niño Peña from Colombia, and Debazou Yantio from Cameroun.

Hoang Ha works for the German Development Institute as a researcher on the project Evaluation Methods for Budget Support, a contribution to the debate on methods for policy evaluation. Her work focuses on how to use qualitative research and evaluation methods when evaluating the effectiveness of non-financial components in budget support. Hoang Ha attended the Master of Development Evaluation and Management programme at IOB in 2004-2005.



How have your studies at IOB influenced your own work within development?

My current focus on research and evaluation has its roots in the courses I took at IOB. After IOB I joined Oxfam GB in Vietnam and was in charge of research and advocacy capacity-building for a network of Vietnamese NGOs. We conducted evaluations on the government's health policies for the poor and subsequently organised and conducted advocacy activities. This experience further reinforced my interest in research and evaluation in development. My most recent work in the field concerns the use of qualitative methods in establishing causality in order to evaluate the effectiveness of non-financial components in budget support. This assignment is being carried out for the German Federal Ministry

for Economic Cooperation and Development. I was pleasantly surprised by the wide range of qualitative research methods in other social science disciplines that could be usefully adapted for development aid evaluation purposes. It is thanks to IOB that I acquired a taste for academic research in my development work.

Do IOB and other development institutions in the North play a role in development in the South and, if so, how?

Definitely, institutions such as IOB provide the younger generation with valuable opportunities for exposure not only to technical knowledge but also to different ways of thinking and an awareness of what can be achieved. These young scholars then return to the South and act as agents of change. However, these changes remain limited to the micro-level and take place in an unsystematic manner.

- Do you think IOB and other development institutions in the North could/should rethink their role in the development field? If so, in what way?

Yes, I do think that institutions such as IOB can contribute to change in the South to a greater extent by complementing their training of scholars with more direct involvement in the South. They could transfer their expertise to a broader audience and at the same time bring about change through real-life interventions in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders. Depending on the specific context their input could consist of consulting, advising or mentoring key players in the South. In the specific case of Vietnam I can say that the press has been the most influential channel to achieve greater gov-

“...from my observations of Vietnam, my own country, I can conclude that there is slow but sure progress in the structure and functioning of civil society in general and of development institutions in particular. A vibrant civil society is emerging whose activities range from charity to advocacy.”

ernment accountability. There is now a strong sense that “what gets reported gets done”. When social and public pressure increases politicians make decisions and bureaucrats act upon them in no time. However, this change has only been achieved in fields where problems are highly visible and solutions are straightforward. In this context, IOB and its counterparts in the North could work together with think-tanks as well as university and civil society groups to call attention to problems and solutions that are much more complicated and that require the participation of multiple players. For instance, a participatory study on state-owned enterprise reform or land use rights which receives moral support from the press would put politicians under pressure to implement changes. Good starting points would be problems that have an immediate impact on a large number of people, such as traffic congestion or road accidents. These seemingly low-profile problems are often the direct result of the balance of political power, which affects how policies are designed and implemented. Consequently the underlying system which creates the problems will be exposed.

- Do you see an evolution in the role of development institutions in the South?

I cannot speak for all development institutions in the South. However, from my observations of Vietnam, my own country, I can conclude that there is slow but sure progress in the structure and functioning of civil society in general and of development institutions in particular. A vibrant civil society is emerging whose activities range from charity to advocacy. They are still far less well-organised than the mainstream organisations that have been operational for decades under the jurisdiction of the Communist party but they genuinely represent people’s interests and aim for real change. Nevertheless, these young organisations and networks are struggling in their efforts to play not just a technical but a more political role. Recently a number of development institutions have become more vocal and they are starting to ask the right questions with regard to public policies. Some of them have been closed down or forbidden to continue their work as a consequence. The growing process is proving to be painful, but I think change is inevitable.

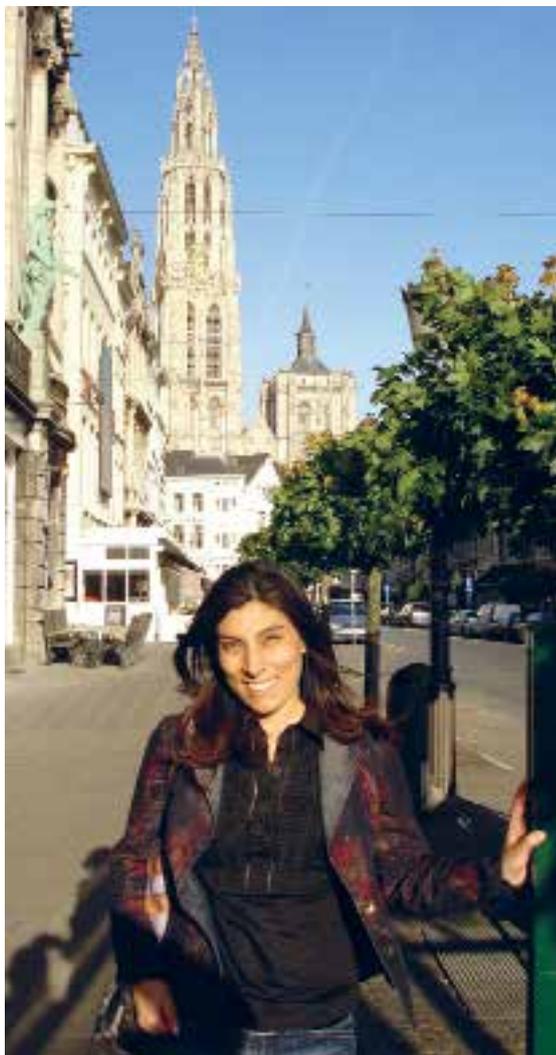
- How important do you think enhancing its alumni network is to IOB?

Every year graduates from developing countries arrive at IOB and bring with them fresh insights from the field. Their studies at IOB enable them to systematise their understanding and knowledge of development management, governance and globalisation. They leave IOB with sharper analytical skills and relevant technical skills and start occupying more senior positions back home in the South. They form an invaluable human resource that IOB could tap into. If IOB wishes to extend its influence in the field it will certainly have to make maximum use of its vital alumni network.



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Monica Patricia Niño Peña is an adviser with the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF). She obtained her Master's degree in Globalization and Development at IOB in 2010.



How have your studies at IOB influenced your own work within development?

My one-year experience as an IOB student has greatly improved my career opportunities and has been a factor in my personal development. In a few brief words I would like to communicate the lasting impressions of my year as an IOB student, the impact which this year has had on my career and, on the basis of my personal experience, what the measures are that development institutions should consider taking with a view to increasing their impact in developing countries.

In the course of my professional career I have mainly been involved in governmental social policy programmes. I am currently working as an adviser with a Colombian public institute specialised in providing

“A key strength of development institutions such as IOB is that they have very culturally diverse alumni, with people working in influential local and international development agencies, in government or in research institutions, all of which constitute a potentially powerful network of actors across the developing world.”

protection to children and supporting families. My studies at IOB have provided me as a government employee with a wider understanding of the problems of the developing world and with a set of tools that enable me to explore possible solutions, particularly as regards the way in which we should design and implement policies with greater impact on the poor and the most vulnerable.

I find my own country, Colombia, a very exciting place to work in development. The country is currently experiencing an interesting economic transition. From 2001 to 2007 Colombian GDP continued to grow at an average of 4.5%. Despite growth deceleration in 2008 and 2009 Colombia is expected to keep its growth rate above 4% in the coming years (World Bank, 2012). However, this economic growth is neither reflected in better living conditions for the poor nor in higher income per capita for a vast majority of the population (45% of people in Colombia are considered poor and 16% extremely poor). In addition, Colombia tops the list of countries in Latin America with the most pronounced inequality in income distribution with a Gini coefficient of 0.578. This offers challenges for those working in the development field in terms of considering and propos-

ing an array of possible measures to assist people in need. This means that Colombia needs more professionals who think critically, do research and design possible solutions in order to generate a more inclusive form of development.

Do IOB and other development institutions in the North play a role in development in the South and, if so, how?

The role played by IOB and other academic institutions in the North is significant as development professionals are not only given the opportunity to study different theories and concepts of development but also to discuss them within a multicultural environment. This opens up new perspectives and enables professionals to approach the major themes in the area of development in a critical manner. Having the opportunity to compare the reality which every student has experienced in his/her home country with the knowledge produced in developed countries, enables students to apply theories to specific contexts, which may lead to urgently required innovative solutions. More than mapping a route for development, the key contribution of development institutions in the North should be to provide tools which enable less developed countries to find their own paths to development.

Do you think IOB and other development institutions in the North could/should rethink their role in the development field? If so, in what way?

My personal belief, which has been reinforced by my studies at IOB, is that development cannot be studied by means of quantitative data analysis alone, independently of the people who are directly affected by development issues. In order to provide effective solutions to these problems it is necessary to understand the historical context and the culture of specific communities. That is why a multidisciplinary, holistic approach is needed. In this respect institutions in the North should avoid proposing ready-made solutions to the developing world but should instead broaden the perspectives of local players in the South in order to make them agents of change in their own societies. Development insti-

tutions should be aware of the fact that interacting with developing countries is a prerequisite for understanding their history and culture. Pursuing collaborative research with institutions in the developing world is one way of enhancing the role of these institutions in the development field.

Do you see an evolution in the role of development institutions in the South?

As I have already mentioned, it is a challenge for development institutions to expand their scope of work and make comparative studies of developing countries in different continents. Such work would make it possible to establish which solutions might work in some cases and not in some others. For instance, forced displacement is an issue which impacts on many families in developing countries. However, a solution that successfully tackles this problem in one country can be counterproductive in another since the reasons that triggered the phenomenon may be very different because of the specific historical and cultural contexts. Forced displacement is in some ways similar and in others radically different in countries affected by it. In order to understand this problem in its entirety it is important to carry out comparisons of different cases.

How important do you think enhancing its alumni network is to IOB?

I think that the growing IOB community consisting of academic staff, students and alumni can make a huge impact through active interaction. A key strength of development institutions such as IOB is that they have very culturally diverse alumni, with people working in influential local and international development agencies, in government or in research institutions, all of which constitute a potentially powerful network of actors across the developing world. All of this means that there is considerable potential for a more active role of development institutions in the South plus a lot of hands-on work that will have a real impact on the quality of life in developing societies.

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Debazou Y. Yantio is a policy and development evaluation specialist. He has participated in, or been in charge of, programme evaluation-related missions all over the world and has provided evaluation consulting services to major UN agencies, multilateral development institutions and NGOs. He now manages Monitoring & Evaluation at the Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Program of the Economic Community of Central African States. He attended the Master programme in Governing for Development at IOB in 2009.



How have your studies at IOB influenced your own work within development?

Studying at IOB has brought structure to my analysis of the development process, particularly the political factors that come into play. At the same time I have gained in-depth knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses on the supply side of development aid in the new architecture (Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness). I now have a more comprehensive perspective in my work as a policy and development evaluation professional.

Do IOB and other development institutions in the North play a role in development in the South and, if so, how?

It is obvious that this is the case. In his book "Knowledge to Policy: Making the Most of Development Research" (2009:4-5) Fred Carden argued that "International financial institutions and major aid donors often deploy considerable influence in Southern countries' policymaking. Politicians and officials in these countries need to anticipate the responses of these external influences as they prepare and adopt public policy". Access to financial

resources seems to depend on the outcome of such anticipation even though an increasing number of voices claim that these resources are wasted or misappropriated.

Do you think IOB and other development institutions in the North could/should rethink their role in the development field? If so, in what way?

No one would reasonably expect Northern governments and their institutions to abandon the use of aid as a political instrument. However, the international context calls for a cautious use of that instrument. There is a correlation between the widespread poverty and insecurity across the developing world as well as in developed countries with the political choices made in the North in the recent past. There is a growing consensus that developing countries need a more just, equitable and effective development aid policy. If aid does not deliver in accordance with the development expectations, no one in either the developed or developing world will be safe and sufficiently well-off. It is in the best interest of governments and institutions in the North to promote effective development programmes, for instance, by making their support dependent on the

“There is a growing consensus that developing countries need a more just, equitable and effective development aid policy. If aid does not deliver in accordance with the development expectations, no one in either the developed or developing world will be safe and sufficiently well-off.”

increased accountability of recipient governments as regards results. Making rigorous programme evaluation compulsory in national public institutions in the South and ensuring evidence-based policy-making at all government levels are proven ways to achieve good governance and guarantee better lives for people, unlike the outrageous military interventions the world has witnessed since the 1990s.

Do you see an evolution in the role of development institutions in the South?

The picture is uneven. Progress in terms of strengthened national institutions and development effectiveness is made in some countries of the South, whereas others are still lagging behind, the latter predominantly in Francophone Africa. To take the case of Cameroon, institutions whose task it is to ensure that policy-making is based on evidence do in fact exist but they fail to function properly. Research and knowledge generation are luxuries in our society; that is to say, the personal cost to the individual outweighs the benefits that would accrue to society, making it an unaffordable option to graduating students. In such a context the positive forces

that could transform society cannot be employed to their full potential, which leads to stagnation and poverty. Recent changes in the relations between Western and African countries reflect the fact that these positive forces which could transform society are being curtailed to the detriment of the Africans.

How important do you think enhancing its alumni network is to IOB?

Contributions by alumni are potentially important to IOB in many ways. First, alumni activity creates a sense of community with shared values and commitments, which is necessary for an (academic) organisation wishing to survive and grow. Hence, these values and commitments should be made clear to all. Second, as a knowledge resource alumni can contribute to ongoing research and scientific publications if appropriate arrangements are made to make this possible and sustainable. Finally, alumni can help IOB to play its role as knowledge broker in the relations between the Belgian government and its institutions on the one hand and the governments of recipient countries of Belgian aid on the other with a view to making development decisions more evidence-informed at both ends of the development aid spectrum.



Ten Years of Exchange to Change, Ten Years of IOB

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the launch of Exchange to Change we look both back and ahead. How has IOB developed over the past ten years? How is it affected by global changes in the development field? How does it respond to new challenges? What is the importance of a sound alumni policy? Four IOB professors recently discussed these questions over lunch: Robrecht Renard (RR), current chairman; Filip Reyntjens (FR), former chairman; Danny Cassimon (DC), vice-chairman; and Nathalie Holvoet (NH), senior lecturer and a member of the Aid Policy thematic group. Exchange to Change (EtC) reports:

EtC: *How has IOB developed over the past ten years?*

NH: Well, for starters, we have become much bigger!

DC: Yes, we have grown considerably. Actually, we should talk about our 'first' ten years instead of the 'past' ten years because IOB as we know it now was created ten years ago.

FR: Several departments of the University of Antwerp merged in 2000. In 2001 IOB effectively started functioning as an Institute. We have gone through a lot of changes since. We have developed very rapidly into a development institute that is increasingly well-known internationally thanks to our growing expertise. We have been able to improve our research capacity by consolidating and coordinating our research within the framework of four thematic groups, namely Aid Policy, Impact of Globalisation, Political Economy of the Great Lakes and Poverty and Well-being as a Local Institutional Process.

RR: Now we have reached the "post-thematic group" period. The thematic groups were very relevant in helping us to focus on research within each group but they did not encourage cross-thematic group research. We want to broaden our expertise by promoting inter-thematic research. We aim to achieve this over the coming months by replacing the thematic groups by more flexible research lines, thus combating the current "compartmentalisation". All IOB researchers will be able to opt freely for research within one or more of these research lines.

NH: The new structure will allow our researchers more flexibility and will hopefully create more incentives for joint research. A commission that will focus exclusively on research will coordinate everything. Within the current thematic structure some of the educational issues are discussed in the thematic groups, which is not useful for the researchers who attend the meetings but who are not themselves involved in education. In order to solve this problem, educational matters will in the new structure only be discussed in the education commission. The role of the course coordinators will also become more important.

DC: In other words, the thematic groups will disappear and we shall reorganise ourselves on the basis of thematic research lines. From a geographical perspective we are best known for our expertise in the African Great Lakes Region, so that will remain our focal point.

FR: Yes, we want to enhance the visibility of our expertise in the Great Lakes Region, which is an area where we have a considerable comparative advantage.

NH: We do not, however, want to abandon our research into other regions. As a matter of fact, such research is very relevant to our main area and vice versa. For example, research into land reform in the Great Lake Region can also be very relevant to research on land reform in Latin America or Asia. We all share the same themes and methodologies, only their actual application differs. Such comparative research is mutually reinforcing.



Eva Vergaelen interviewing Robrecht Renard, chairman of IOB and Filip Reyntjens, former chairman.

FR: That is the reason why we do not focus specifically on the Great Lakes Region in our educational programmes. We want to preserve the current diversity within our student population. By using English as the sole medium of instruction in our Master programmes we are attractive to a very broad range of students. It also shows that we follow a global trend within development studies.

EtC: *Which brings us to the next question. Have you noticed an evolution within development studies? And does IOB follow the same path?*

NH: The Anglophone influence has been increasing steadily. There is also a clear diversification as regards topics, such as the growing importance of climate change and migration.

RR: At the same time development studies are no longer isolated from other research. Development is now also studied within other disciplines. In economics, for example, development economics has become a highly respected field. Twenty years ago development economists like me had to criticise mainstream economists for not taking into consideration the specific situation of low and middle-income countries. Now there is much more cooperation.

NH: Yes, also in terms of methodology. There is a growing tendency towards interdisciplinary research.

DC: Bridging the gap between different methodologies facilitates research synergies and provides additional insights.

FR: Actually, IOB has from the very beginning opted for interdisciplinary approach. Development studies have been in the vanguard of interdisciplinary research and policy-oriented research, which is also the case at IOB. We always think in terms of policy relevance. This is also obvious in our educational programmes where we offer policy-oriented training that incorporates the latest socio-scientific insights relevant to the development challenges which our students face.

EtC: *Since we are talking about students, have you observed a change in the student population? And how does IOB attract its students?*

NH: Since we have abandoned French as the medium of instruction in our Master programmes we have had fewer students from French-speaking countries such as DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. I do not see this as a problem because English is becoming more important in these regions as well and





Nathalie Holvoet and
Danny Cassimon

in addition we encourage French-speaking students to enrol by offering them an intensive course in academic English.

RR: I think we have become much more selective and now attract those students that we want to attract. Since our classes are very interactive we pay a lot of attention to relevant work experience and expertise and we hope that each and every student can enrich others and learn from them at the same time.

FR: This interactive character of our Master programmes has to be preserved at all costs, which is why we have a strict selection procedure. Each year we receive more than one thousand applications, of which we accept approximately two hundred. We only have thirty institutional scholarships. Another thirty or forty students register without a scholarship or with the help of funding which they have been able to secure themselves. A total of sixty or seventy students is perfect for us.

DC: We would, however, like to attract some more students from the North. Maybe we should implement a more targeted promotion policy. The same goes for students from rapidly emerging countries such as China. In the past, when China was still a main aid receiver, we had many students from China. Now they no longer seem to be attracted to a

programme that includes the word 'development'. Maybe we should make more effort to attract them because of our reputation as an established centre of expertise on the Great Lakes Region. After all, China is very active there. The global context is changing quickly.

EtC: Yes, it is. How can IOB play a role in this changing global context?

FR: We are indirect players. Firstly, we increase the knowledge base and we help students who will subsequently play their own role in the development of their respective countries to acquire deeper insight into the challenges which they will be faced with. Secondly, most of our research is policy-relevant. Thirdly, we deliver services to governments, NGOs, donors and international organisations. In a more direct way we can be called a development agency because of our institutional partnerships with local institutions in the South, such as universities.

DC: We have institutional partnerships with universities in Ecuador, Nicaragua, DR Congo, Burundi and Uganda. We underline the importance of capacity-building based on equal relationships.

RR: IOB and many similar development institutes have roots in the colonial and immediate post-colonial era. Fortunately, the relationship between de-



Filip Reyntjens and Robrecht Renard

velopment institutions in the North and their partner institutes in the South is now, much more than before, based on equality.

FR: We do not have all the answers but we offer our students a set of tools that will help them to find their own remedies that fit their own specific contexts. Our students may even leave us with more questions than when they arrived. Actually, I hope that is the case! We want our students to be critical and to ask questions and we hope that we give them the tools to do this in a constructive, open-minded and cooperative way.

NH: I think we are successful in this. When I recently hosted a 'meet-and-greet session' with our alumni in Uganda I was amazed at the degree of cooperation between them. Alumni working in Parliament would consult alumni working in NGOs and research centres to discuss specific development matters. Actually, IOB should invest more in alumni networking.

DC: Yes, we should and we shall. We always talk about the IOB family but are we really a family? Not yet, although we are working on it. A properly functioning alumni network can be very useful in stimulating more just and sustainable development, which is our main goal after all.

EtC: *Is implementing a stronger alumni policy one of the challenges IOB faces?*

RR: Yes, it definitely is. And we are already increasing our efforts in this respect. It is work in progress. One of our staff now works half-time on enhancing our alumni policy.

FR: Since the start of IOB in 2001 almost 800 students have studied at the Institute. They come from more than 80 different countries and from very diverse backgrounds. They constitute a huge source of skills and knowledge that should be used more efficiently. We aim to facilitate contacts and exchanges between them and also between staff and alumni.

DC: Exchange to Change is one way of achieving our aims in this regard but we are exploring other ways as well.

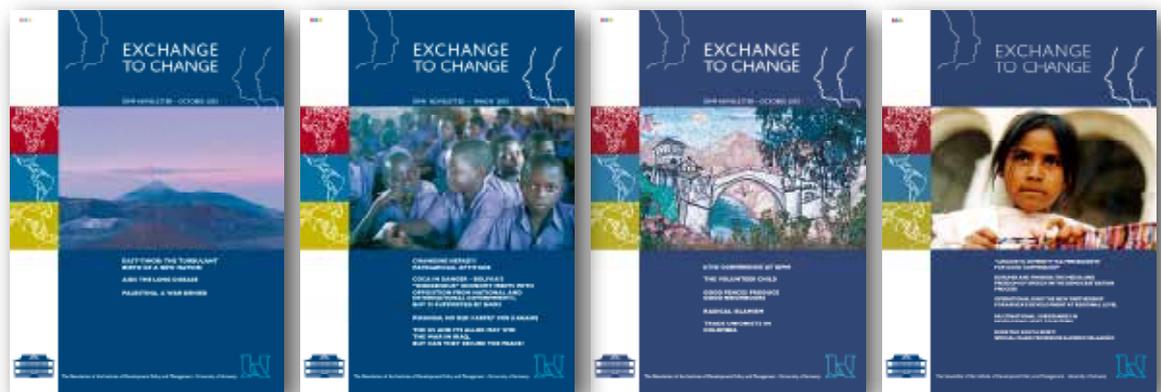
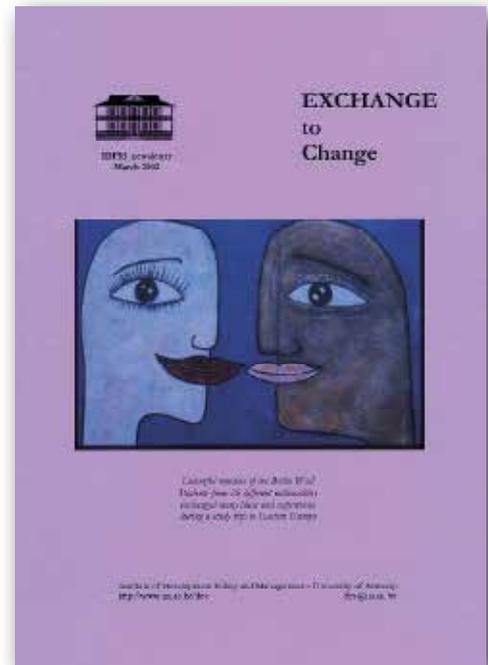
Let us conclude by appealing to our alumni to become more actively involved in local IOB alumni groups, to share their experience via Exchange to Change and other forums and to become local ambassadors for potential students in their respective countries.



Ten Candles on the Cake for Exchange to Change!

Exchange to Change, 'The Humanisation of Development'

Exactly ten years ago the very first edition of IOB's alumni letter 'Exchange to Change' was published. Since then twenty issues have appeared. The one which you are holding now is the twenty-first edition! On the occasion of this tenth anniversary let us have a brief look at how our alumni letter has developed.



CONCEPT

As has already been explained in the editorial of this alumni letter the goals of Exchange to Change are to reunite our IOB alumni and to strengthen this network of friendship and global knowledge with a view to promoting better dialogue and knowledge-sharing and bringing about real and sustainable change. Human interaction is a key factor in IOB's vision regarding its own role and the role of development itself. We believe that exchanging knowledge is both a duty and a right for all.



DESIGN

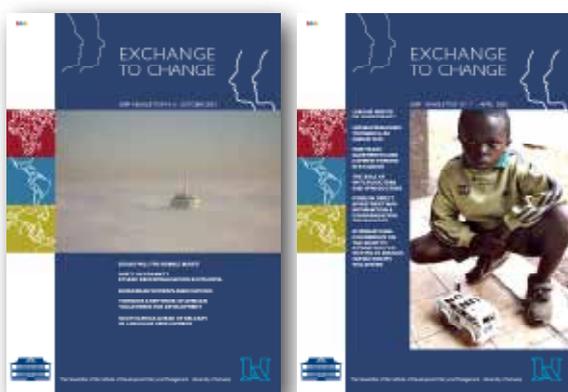
The first edition was a try-out. It contained only 12 pages and its lay-out was not very professional. As from the second edition the lay-out was therefore taken care of by a professional designer, Ward De Pelseneer and his team at Visual Design, to whom we feel very grateful for their continuous efforts to make every single Exchange to Change a pleasure for the eye. The house style of our alumni letter has changed twice, as has its linguistic 'policy'. During the first five years the alumni letter was published in our two educational languages (English and French) and every edition had 16 pages. When our Master programmes were offered only in English we stopped providing a French translation. To avoid excluding our French-speaking alumni we started adding one or two French articles to every edition,

which brought the number of pages to approximately 24. Thanks to the growing number of alumni we have received more contributions over the last three years and as a result we now provide an average of 28 pages per edition.

COUNTRY DIVERSITY

Exchange to Change successfully reflects the diversity of our student population. Although IOB is best known for its expertise in the African Great Lakes Region our students come from and work in all parts of the world, which means that we also receive contributions from alumni based in many different countries and continents. This is the list of countries that have explicitly been the focus of one or more articles:

Democratic Republic of Congo (8), Rwanda (5), Nicaragua (4), Vietnam (4), Belgium (4), Burundi (3), Egypt (3), Peru (3), China (3), Indonesia (3), Ecuador (3), Senegal (3), Ethiopia (3), East Timor (2), Bolivia (2), Liberia (2), Ivory Coast (2), Morocco (2), Colombia (2), India (2), the United States (2), Haiti (2), Bangladesh (2), Sierra Leone (2), the Philippines (2), Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia Herzegovina, Mexico, Southern Sudan, Papua New Guinea, Dubai, Ghana, Kenya, Poland, Djibouti, Central African Republic, Benin, Gambia, Nepal, Zambia, Moldova, Romania, Zimbabwe.





TOPIC DIVERSITY

The range of topics that have been addressed in our newsletter is also very broad. All topics are, of course, linked to development and are also examined in the courses offered on our Master programmes. To name but a few:

The rights of indigenous people in Bolivia; the role of trade unions in Colombia; volunteerism as a development tool in Egypt; freedom of speech in the democratisation process of Burundi; the Rwandan Gacaca tribunals; the development dimensions of the multilateral trading system; donor dilemma for engaging in fragile states; financing the millennium development goals in Ethiopia; gender budgeting; monitoring and evaluation in Vietnam; access to land in Nicaragua; decentralization and local governance in Sierra Leone; wages and the globalisation of production; and so on.

Exchange to Change also reports on IOB's policy options. There have been several articles on our institutional partnerships with the South, on our

policy advisory work and on our educational work. We often publish interviews on policy matters and research by IOB staff. We also update our alumni on IOB-related events such as conferences, seminars and, more recently, our 'meet-and-greet sessions'.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Besides containing contributions from our alumni each edition is also open to students who are currently enrolled in one of our Master programmes. We often publish reports by a member of the student committee and one of the most popular sections is the 'Student Portrait'. Each edition portrays two current students and explores their professional backgrounds, their reasons for enrolling at IOB and their future aspirations. Every single portrait aims to "humanise" development: through the personal story of one of our fascinating students we obtain a better understanding of the local realities with which the student and his or her society is confronted.

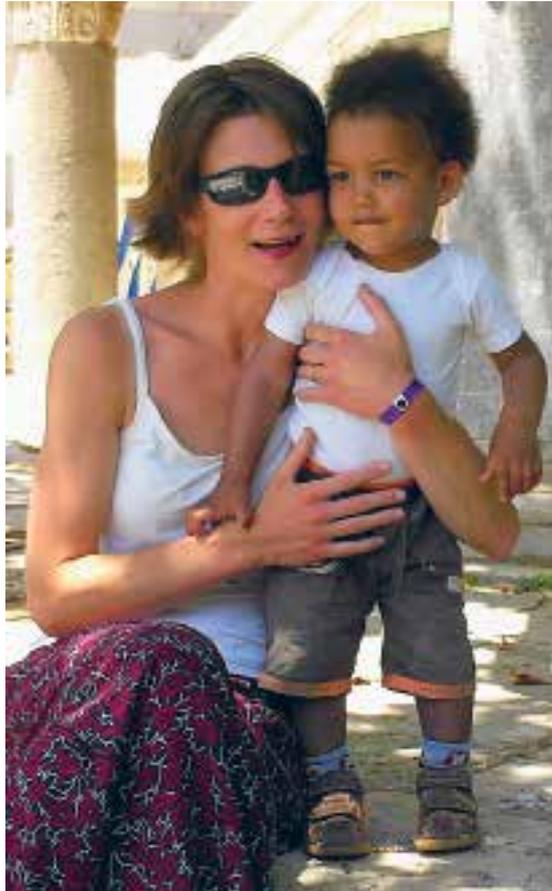


Greet Annaert: the welcoming face of IOB

Greet Annaert is far too modest to agree that she is the face of IOB but actually she is. She is the first person to welcome new students and the last person to say farewell to them. She guides students through their application process and helps them to meet the challenges of living abroad. Alumni remember her for her warm smile and respectful behaviour. In the tenth year of Exchange to Change we thought it was time for an interview with 'the welcoming face of IOB'.

How did you enter the IOB scene?

I have a Bachelor's degree in social and cultural work. I always wanted to work in the social sector and to work with people. My job at IOB is actually my first. When I read the vacancy I just knew that this was what I wanted to do. What attracted me was working with people from different backgrounds and setting up the Institute's social services and Student Office. At the beginning it was rather difficult because I was very young when I started - even younger than the students themselves - and because I was unfamiliar with the university system. But soon I started to find my way around, felt more confident and started taking on more responsibilities, such as providing assistance during the application and selection system. Thanks to all these different responsibilities this has turned out to be my dream job: a variety of challenging duties and responsibilities, the professional freedom to set up and organise the student and social services, involvement in decision-making, a multicultural environment and the world in my office! That is why I have been here for the last 13 years and so far I have no intention of leaving. I love the variety of all my tasks. No two days are the same. I assist the students and I try to help them by taking their needs into account. In the beginning, when I did not have a family of my own, I was more engaged in social activities with the students but that is no longer



Greet Annaert and her little son

an option for me. I miss the contacts with students outside the university but even in my official capacity I feel we have a special relationship.

Why do you think you have such a unique relationship with our students?

I am the first person they get to know, even before they are accepted at IOB. I guide interested candidates through the application process. I have a clear view of what is required because I helped to set up the application and selection system. As a matter of fact I carry out the first selection of candidates on the basis of objective criteria. After the academic selection, when a candidate is accepted I also help him or her through the scholarship process - if required - and then assist them in their preparations for the move to Belgium. The only thing I cannot help with is the visa application. I have noticed that calling an embassy to check up on the visa procedure can be counterproductive. For scholarship students it is easier to obtain a visa because it is the

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institution which grants the scholarship that actually applies for the visa. Upon the students' arrival I organise a pick-up service from the airport and the first person they meet at IOB is me since I am the one who helps them with accommodation, registration and other practicalities days before they enter a classroom. I guide students through the administrative process for obtaining both a residence permit and other official documents; I am at their side during the introduction week; I deal with their many first questions and worries. All of this forms the basis of my further relationship with them: my open door policy which they come to appreciate in the first few days after their arrival remains the same throughout the year.

So what makes you special to the students is that you already know each other before they arrive in Belgium?

That is partly the reason. I already know their names and backgrounds. But it is also because of my personal interest and involvement in their well-being. I cannot help them in their academic performance but I can assist them in creating a framework that makes their lives as students more comfortable. Some students face personal problems during their year in Belgium and come to me for help or a word of encouragement. These problems can be health-related or can be the result of homesickness. After all, it is very difficult to spend such a long time away from home. It is part of my job to assist them but it is also in my personality. I love helping people and learning from them. In my position you have to be a good communicator.

You fulfill a kind of bridging function?

Yes, I help to ease the communication flow between students and academic staff and between students and the outside world. This requires different types of communication skills: I have to be able to gather and pass on information, negotiate and provide general support. Although the students have my private phone number in case of emergencies, I know that they would never make use of it unless there was a very good reason. I communicate this to them at the beginning and they respect it. Actually, mutual respect is the key to our communica-

tion. Some of our students hold high-ranking professional positions and I sometimes feel very small compared to them but at the same time I treat them all with equal respect and I receive respect in return. Gaining respect is after all a result of one's own behaviour and one's ability to communicate openly.

Do you sometimes face communication-related problems?

Yes, of course. IOB is an environment that brings together people from different regions, backgrounds, languages and cultures and it is a true challenge to overcome the difficulties which this may pose while at the same time respecting these differences. I feel honoured to be a witness to the diversity that life has to offer and I am grateful to the students that they bring the world to my office. They have helped me to understand the world better.

How do you feel when students leave?

It is a dual feeling. On the one hand, I am proud of them because they have succeeded in their studies and can now play their role in the development of their countries but on the other hand, I miss them of course. It is always a pleasure to receive e-mails from alumni to update us on their personal and professional achievements in life. I absolutely support the decision taken by IOB to invest more in its alumni policy. It would be wonderful to be able to offer our former students an extensive alumni-based network that would provide increased opportunities for suitable career moves. After all, we have alumni from all around the world, from a wide range of sectors and active at different levels in the development field. I think this is a major asset that should be further developed and made ample use of. I am always looking forward to welcoming new students. Although September is a very hectic month for me as I am extremely busy with saying goodbye to the old students and organising the introduction activities for the new students, this is also the time when IOB is livelier than ever. I am very happy to play my own small part in this process of exchanging knowledge and experience.



IOB likes to follow the career paths of its alumni. In this issue we focus on two of our alumni: **Oscar Edele** from Uganda who recently had his book published under the title 'Amnesty or Punishment? Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda: The Quest for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace.'

Lani Tang from the Philippines, who recently obtained her PhD in Criminology for her research on the topic 'Sociological Causes of Crimes in Taguig City: Framework for Intervention Modality.'



Oscar Edele

AMNESTY OR PUNISHMENT?

Oscar Edele studied Governance and Development at IOB. He is currently the first secretary at the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva dealing mainly with Humanitarian Affairs, Disarmament, Migration and Human Rights. He has just published a book entitled 'Amnesty or Punishment? Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda: The Quest for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Sustainable Peace'.

Northern Uganda has experienced an atrocious war waged against the Government of Uganda mainly by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The brunt of the war has been borne by civilians. A range of attempts to solve the problem, including military operations, peace talks and offers of amnesty, have not yielded a comprehensive solution. The book provides an analysis of the situation with a particular focus on the use of transitional justice, not only as a means of dealing with the past in a post-conflict situation but also as an instrument to end an on-going conflict. What follows is its abstract.

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CONCEPT OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

The concept of transitional justice is premised on the belief that the conundrum is how to serve the best interests of victims and survivors of horrific abuses “in a way that treads the delicate balance between averting a relapse into conflict or crisis on the one hand, and on the other hand consolidating long-term peace based on equity, respect and inclusion.” (Mani, 1995: 55). Although Mani emphasises the justice aspect of the problem I take a broad view encompassing peace, justice, and reconciliation.

The case study is the situation in Northern Uganda where a war characterised by gross human rights abuses has been fought between the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and government forces since 1986/7. In dealing with this subject I treat transitional justice not only as a means of dealing with the past but also as a mechanism for ending violence especially in on-going conflicts such as that in Northern Uganda.

THREE MECHANISMS

Three approaches are examined here, namely:

- 1** Amnesty: this investigates the current situation regarding amnesty in Uganda by analysing its strengths and weaknesses and proposing some areas for improvement;
- 2** Trials in the specific context of the International Criminal Court. We also explore possible opportunities for using national judicial processes;
- 3** Indigenous justice and reconciliation mechanisms: Here the main focus is on the Acholi traditional justice and reconciliation mechanism known as Mato Oput without losing sight of other available indigenous mechanisms which could be incorporated into the main mechanisms so as to be able to deal adequately with this complex situation.

I argue that none of the three mechanisms under consideration is appropriate for addressing the complex nature of the situation, let alone the multiple, intertwined and wide-ranging interests of the victims, survivors and perpetrators. In order to achieve a meaningful outcome where peace, justice and reconciliation interests can be adequately addressed there is a strong case for applying a multi-pronged approach. Another important consideration when deciding on the mechanism(s) or combinations of the approaches must be the complex and unique nature of the situation as well as the timing of the intervention and the necessity to allow the victims’ and survivors’ interests to take centre stage.

THE CASE OF NORTHERN UGANDA

For over 20 years Northern Uganda has been plagued by war, massacres and untold suffering inflicted upon ordinary people by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel outfit led by Joseph Kony, a self-proclaimed ‘messenger’ from God. Years of brutal attacks on civilians and civilian targets and the characteristic indiscriminate killings perhaps attest otherwise. Kony’s claims to be a messenger from God are in complete contradiction with his cruel acts.

The LRA has waged a brutal war against the Government of Uganda but the heaviest toll has been paid by civilians who have been attacked in their villages and later also in Internally Displaced Persons’ (IDPs) camps, whose properties have been looted or destroyed, who have had their houses, villages or camps burnt down, who have been maimed, killed or abducted - in the latter case mainly children between the ages of 6-17. Although it is not precisely known how many children have been abducted in the past 20 years we know that most of them have been used as porters to carry looted items, as fighters (child soldiers) or sex slaves (mainly the girls) or, allegedly, to be sold as slaves or exchanged for guns. The World Bank (World Bank, 2007) recently reported, “At least 66,000 are thought to have been forcibly recruited into the LRA”. The brutality is so widespread that Doom and Vlassenroot (1999: 6) refer to Kony’s actions as based on blind terror.

Activists, humanitarian NGOs, human rights organisations, UN agencies and the government put the number of people displaced in Internally Displaced Persons' camps between 1.5 and 2 million.

Considerable efforts have been made to put an end to the untold social, political and economic suffering inflicted on the people of Northern Uganda by the war between the LRA rebels and the Ugandan government forces, the UPDF. The ongoing peace negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the LRA constitute the latest of these efforts. These negotiations, which are taking place in Juba in Southern Sudan, started in July 2006. The peace talks, which are being facilitated by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), have also attracted observers from Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and the African Union (AU), while Joachim Chissano, the former Mozambican President has been appointed as the United Nations Secretary General's Envoy to the LRA affected areas.

The aim of these peace negotiations is to bring the war to an end and achieve sustainable peace and development not only for Northern Uganda but also for Southern Sudan and the region in general. The fact that quite a few attempts have had to be made so far in order to end the conflict reflects the complex nature of conflict resolutions and proves, as I will argue later, that there are no easy mechanisms or quick fixes for very complex conflicts. As Goldstone has pointed out (1998: 199), the "decisions as to the best or most appropriate policy for the resolution of any conflict are always complex and difficult and will always have to take into account many varied factors - historical, political, socio-economic, and frequently military."

While the peace process and other factors appear to be yielding positive results, which may eventually lead to an end to the war, questions relating to how to deal with the past still remain crucial. For instance, how should the perpetrators of the war be dealt with? Should they be punished or granted amnesty? To put it in broader terms, which type of strategy or mechanism of transitional justice would be most suitable to address the specific situation

of Northern Uganda? Trials, truth-telling or truth commissions, amnesty, amnesia, or combinations of these? These are the questions that ought to be considered in the context of transitional justice processes in Northern Uganda. These questions should preoccupy human rights activists, scholars and academics of transitional justice, peace initiators, as well as both the victims and the perpetrators.

In the specific context of Northern Uganda a number of mechanisms including formal justice or legal systems and alternative indigenous justice systems (the Acholi traditional justice and reconciliation system-Mato Oput) are being considered as strategies for transitional justice. For the purpose of this book I shall consider amnesty, trials (in the specific context of the International Criminal Court-ICC process), and the Acholi traditional justice and reconciliation system known as Mato Oput and their applicability and implications when dealing with the injustices of the war.

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Lani Tang received an “outstanding dissertation” award for her PhD research on the subject of Sociological Causes of Crimes in Taguig City: Framework for Intervention Modality. She is now a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology at the Philippine College of Criminology. What follows is her dissertation abstract.

SOCIOLOGICAL CAUSES OF CRIMES IN TAGUIG CITY: FRAMEWORK FOR INTERVENTION MODALITY

The study focuses on the sociological causes of crimes as postulated by sociological criminologists. Society - and the life it creates - has to be comprehended on its own terms, not on those of individual human beings. However, individualism has often been defended as a moral principle and one has sought to understand the central importance of individuality in modern life and deal with its consequences. I shall attempt to describe and assess the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes in Taguig City as a framework for intervention modality.

The following findings were obtained: the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes is as follows: social causes - grand weighted mean 3.84, environmental causes - grand weighted mean 3.94, economic causes - grand weighted mean 3.94, ecological causes - grand weighted mean 3.75, political causes - grand weighted mean 3.90, mass-media causes - grand weighted mean 3.91.

The significant differences in the assessment of the various groups of respondents with regard to the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes were as follows, social causes - 1.47, environmental causes - 1.56, economic causes - 1.55, ecological causes - 1.01, political causes - 1.13, mass-media causes - 1.13; the overall f-computed was 0.72, while the overall f-critical was 2.62; not significant at .05 level.

The effectiveness of the measures undertaken to address the sociological causes of crimes was family control - grand weighted mean 3.95, societal control - grand weighted mean 3.93, school control - grand weighted mean 3.90, peer group control - grand weighted mean 4.02, government control - grand weighted mean 4.10, and religious control - grand weighted mean 4.05.

The significant differences in the assessment of respondents as regards the perceived effectiveness of the measures undertaken to address the sociological causes of crimes were as follows: family control - 1.15; societal control - 1.13, school control - 1.08; peer group control - 1.22; government control - 1.27; religious control - 1.26; the overall f-computed was 1.19, which was lower than the f-critical of 2.62; not significant at .05 level.

The proposed intervention modality to address sociological causes of crimes as presented in the appendix to this research work contains contemporary measures to minimise, if not totally eliminate, the varied causes of sociological crimes. This is expected to suit the needs of the particular locality best in effectively addressing the prevalence of conditions which are the root causes of and breeding ground for the sociological causes of crimes at the grass-roots level.

Based on the above findings, the following conclusions were drawn: the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes in the research locale of the study, based on the following variables, are social causes - serious; environmental causes - serious; economic causes - serious; ecological causes - serious; political causes - serious; mass-media causes - serious.

The hypothesis of no significant differences in the assessment of the various groups of respondents as regards the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes in the said locality in terms of social causes, environmental causes, economic causes, ecological causes, political causes, and mass-media causes - was confirmed.

The effectiveness of the measures undertaken to address the sociological causes of crimes in the research locality of the study, based on the following variables, are family control - effective; societal control - effective; school control - effective; peer group control - effective; government control - effective; and religious control - effective.

The hypothesis of no significant differences in the assessment of the various groups of respondents as regards the perceived effectiveness of the measures undertaken to address the sociological causes of crimes in the said locality in terms of family control, societal control, school control, peer group control, government control, and religious control - was confirmed.

The proposed intervention modality proposed in this study would be able to address the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes effectively provided that due consideration was given to the best possible implementation. Moreover, it is also expected to be able to eliminate predisposing factors which can lead to the emergence of such sociological causes.

In the light of the above findings and conclusions the following recommendations were made: consultations with the various sectors of society by means of seminars and workshops to be spearheaded by the Local Government Units (LGUs) concerned; securing their help, their active cooperation and participation in addressing the sociological causes of crimes; promoting self-policing among the members of the community itself; the creation of a local anti-crime board in the particular locality composed of the varied sections of the community, with the local Peace and Order Council (LPOC) taking the lead in the implementation of the various programmes, projects and activities to prevent and control crimes, particularly those resulting from the many social causes; strengthening the range of measures taken to address the sociological causes of crimes by making the various control mechanisms, such as family, society, school, peer group, government, and religion more accountable with regard to maintaining peace and order and ensuring public safety as end-products of individual or collective tasks so as to prevent and control crime; adoption of the proposed intervention modality formulated in this study and subsequent implementation, taking into consideration the whole range of sociological causes, which is expected to address effectively the problems which constitute breeding grounds for crimes and social decay in the various neighbourhoods of the particular locality; finally, conducting a similar study in another place and at a different time to examine again the degree of seriousness of the sociological causes of crimes, in which particular attention should again be paid to the social, environmental, economic, ecological, political and mass-media causes with the aim of refuting or confirming the findings of the present study.





Asel Kadyrbaeva, Kyrgyzstan,
Globalisation and Development

Asel Kadyrbaeva is one of those admirable students who combine study and work. Since her home country, Kyrgyzstan, is not on the list of VLIR scholarships she has to continue to work so as to be able to cover all her expenses. She is lucky though to have a very flexible job. As a matter of fact any place can be her office. That is why we met in the student room of IOB, where she was sitting at her laptop with a cup of coffee, providing the world with greatly needed information on responsible investment in a globalised context. “Immediately after my studies in economics at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek I started working as an independent analyst for RepRisk. RepRisk is a Zurich-based company that ranks companies on the basis of a RepRisk index, which is a quantitative risk measurement that assesses criticism and quantifies a company’s or project’s exposure to controversial environmental and social issues. These include climate change, human rights, labour conditions, corruption and transparency, and the other principles of the UN Global Compact. Our purpose is to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies. Responsible behaviour is becoming increasingly im-

portant in business. Many large companies start to think more long-term since a more sustainable investment increases their profits in the long run. But I do not feel too optimistic yet since many businesses still refuse to recognise their negative impact on climate change and social well-being. I think we need to address these life-threatening challenges on a wider scale. All levels of society and all countries have to be involved. Farmers in developing countries are the first to feel the negative impact of climate change. They should organise themselves so as to be able to provide information to civil society organisations which then have to pressure their governments into taking a stance against polluting companies and foreign investors who should be held accountable. This is, of course, not easy: farmers are often too focused on their own daily needs for survival and governments are often too dependent on foreign investors and aid. Also, as long as major players, such as the US, do not cooperate, it will remain difficult to push for change on a global level. As an economics student I only thought about globalisation in terms of profit-making. Through my work I have come to understand the impact of

“Farmers in developing countries are the first to feel the negative impact of climate change. They should organise themselves so as to be able to provide information to civil society organisations which then have to pressure their governments into taking a stance against polluting companies and foreign investors who should be held accountable.”

globalisation on the everyday life of each and every individual. However, I also felt the urge to acquire more academic knowledge and more skills in order to analyse this impact. That is why I applied for the Master's programme in Globalisation and Development at IOB. Being together with other students from developing countries I have come to realise how all of us share the same challenges. These similarities also strengthen the bond between us. Although we speak different languages and come from different backgrounds we understand each other and we do not have to explain every little thing. I love the interactive character of the courses at IOB. We learn so much from each other. At IOB development becomes personalised. When I now hear something on the news about, for example, Uganda, I think of my Ugandan friend and the story acquires a face, so to speak, and becomes a matter of human concern. Similarly, through me my country becomes more real to my fellow students. For me this is the positive impact of globalisation: it could and should lead to a more humane approach of 'the other'.”



Although Belgium has a large Arab community IOB does not often have Arab students. This year, however, we are proud to host two students from the Arab world, both of them from Palestine. **Nadeem Abu Shaikha** is one of them. With his gentle smile, calm voice and intelligent remarks he can easily be regarded as a spokesperson for the Arab alumni community of IOB.

“I studied sociology and anthropology at Birzeit University. As a sociologist I find it very interesting to observe the impact of the social media in the reshaping of the Arab world. What is happening in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Syria affects us all. We all follow what is happening there, not only on TV but mostly through Facebook and other social media. I believe that Facebook makes all of us activists. We in Palestine are very restricted in our movements since we live under occupation. In my own country I am more of a virtual activist because I cannot really play an active role in the Arab revolution. Here in Belgium I have more freedom. I have come to IOB with a very clear purpose: as an Arab I see it as my duty to gain knowledge about good governance and conflict resolution in order to be able to take part in the Arab uprising and actually make a change.

Since it is not easy as a Palestinian to get an exit permit I was never able to acquire any working experience abroad. After my studies I worked for the Palestinian Central Election Commission as a coordinator of the 2006 election campaign. It was very interesting but very intensive since the elections were held in a context of occupation and violence. After that I worked at the Ministry of Social Affairs for one year as a researcher into financial problems within Palestinian households. That year Hamas was democratically elected and international aid to Palestine dropped dramatically. Like many other civil servants I was without a salary for nearly a year and I had to combine my job with work as a waiter and a building constructor. You can imagine that it was hard to remain motivated without an income.

In 2007 I started working for the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), whose local office is based in Ramallah and which supports the Palestinian Authority in matters of good governance and security. DCAF was established in 2000 on the initiative of the Swiss govern-





Nadeem Abu Shaikha,
Palestine, Governance and
Development

ment and has offices in Geneva, Brussels, Ljubljana, Ramallah and Beirut. DCAF works in the areas of security sector reform and security sector governance. It provides advisory support and practical assistance programmes and makes policy recommendations to ensure effective democratic governance in the security sector. I first started working for DCAF as an assistant researcher but soon I became the coordinator of seminars and workshops. In that position I felt the urge to acquire a better knowledge of what good governance entails since I believe that it provides the key to conflict resolution and thus to development. This is why I applied for the Master's programme in Governance and Development.

In the future I would love to continue working in the field of good governance and security policy. It would be very interesting to gain some work experience in other Arab countries in transition, such as Tunisia or Egypt. We Arabs can learn a lot from each other since we share many problems and challenges. I would like to create a forum for communication and research on security, transparency and good governance in the Arab world. A prosperous Arab world would also benefit Europe because it would drastically reduce the number of migrants and increase Europe's investment and market opportunities on the other side of the Mediterranean.

Although at IOB there is as yet not much experience with regard to the Arab region I have learned a lot from the theoretical courses on good governance

*“Without freedom
there is no development.
My country, my region and
my people need freedom in
order to solve our problems
and prosper once again.”*

and from the experiences of fellow students from developing countries. Many of us share the same stories about repression, corruption and poverty. I like IOB because of its international context. I am so excited about the interaction with people from different backgrounds and countries. Every single lecture and every single meeting enriches me. However, I miss interaction with the local population. Perhaps IOB could organise events, city trips for example, in which we could meet and get to know Belgian students. It is just amazing that in a matter of hours you can travel from Antwerp to Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin or London. As a Palestinian who has lived under constant restrictions this means absolute freedom to me. It is a life-changing experience to live in a free country and this inspires me greatly. Without freedom there is no development. My country, my region and my people need freedom in order to solve our problems and prosper once again.”



IOB news: Strengthening the Institute's Ties with its Alumni

UPCOMING MEET-AND-GREET SESSIONS:

Meet-and-greet sessions are organised whenever an IOB staff member visits a country where many IOB alumni reside. The meet-and-greet session is hosted by an IOB professor and is open to all IOB alumni living or working in the area. IOB covers the costs of the gathering (drinks) and brings some promotion and information material. Unfortunately, transportation costs to and from the meet-and-greet session cannot be reimbursed. So far IOB meet-and-greet sessions have been organised in Burundi (Bujumbura), Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), Rwanda (Kigali), Ecuador (Quito) and Uganda (Kampala). A report on the latter can be found further on in this issue. See the photos of these events on our website.

A new IOB meet-and-greet session will be organised in Nairobi, Kenya.

Prof. Danny Cassimon will be hosting the session.

IOB alumni are invited to come to the Mukutan garden cafe (the Fair View Hotel on Bishops Road) on Thursday the 19th of April 2012 at 7 pm.

Another IOB meet-and-greet session will be organised in Cotonou, Benin.

Prof. Marijke Verpoorten will be hosting the session.

The exact location and date will be communicated in the near future.

We warmly invite all IOB alumni to participate in the meet-and-greet sessions! Please let us know if you would like to attend: alumni.iob@ua.ac.be

E-VENTS:

Tune in to IOB for some interesting live seminars!! (via the E-events section on the alumni website)

On **Wednesday the 9th of May 2012 IOB Prof. Devon Curtis** (University of Cambridge) will give a guest lecture entitled **"From Rebel Movements to Political Parties"**.

On **Tuesday the 29th of May 2012 Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan** (director of the 'Ecoles des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales EHESS and researcher at Lasdel Niamey, Niger) will present a session on **"Building Research Capacity in the South: the Experience of Lasdel (Niamey, Niger)"**. The seminar is being organised in cooperation with VLIRUOS.

IOB has experimented with e-seminars before and will continue to do so in order to be able to share interesting debates, training sessions and lectures with its alumni. However, IOB will for the first time try out a new kind of experiment - an e-refresher course for alumni. **Prof. Robrecht Renard** and **Prof. Nadia Molenaers** will be the first to take part in this exciting e-learning adventure.

The introductory course **'The economics and politics of development cooperation'** will be made available online through the IOB Alumni Community in June 2012 (<http://iobalumni.ua.ac.be>). Alumni will need to log onto the community and will then be able to access the e-sessions.

The course will be made available in two different formats.

The first format targets alumni who did not take this course while studying at IOB and who now want to follow the entire course. These alumni can follow the sessions live. The dates for the sessions are available on the alumni website. The first session will start on the 21st of March 2012. This format will provide the e-student with the same information as the regular student, i.e. the actual lectures as well as the powerpoint slides. The sessions can be viewed live - with the possibility of asking ques-

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tions or formulating remarks - but, of course, they can also be watched later on at your own convenience. If you watch the sessions later questions can be sent to iob_alumni@ua.ac.be and will be forwarded to the lecturer, who will address them during the next lesson.

The second format, which targets alumni who have already attended this course when studying at IOB or who are familiar with the topic, offers the e-students selected material from the sessions. The compilation of certain parts of the sessions will allow the alumni to refresh their knowledge on the topic. Clearly, you can cherry-pick the sessions that interest you most or focus on particular issues which you need to brush up on.

For both types of e-students additional references, texts, powerpoint slides and details of interesting websites will be provided.

The course '*The economics and politics of development cooperation*' provides students with a solid background to critically assess discourses and practice in the field of development and development cooperation. It helps students to understand the motivations and institutional characteristics of the key international players (multilateral development organisations, bilateral donors, international development NGOs) and how their interaction with national players (government, civil society, the private sector) shape developmental outcomes. Moreover, it also familiarises students with the changing views on development and development cooperation of both donors and critical outsiders. In the sessions students will learn how to look for, use and interpret widely used statistical data and indicators of aid. The course will enable students to take part in the ongoing debate on the role of aid in development, its successes and failures.

LAUNCH OF THE IOB ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Ninety percent of the IOB alumni use email to communicate with other alumni. However, email addresses tend to change over the years. That is why many alumni in our survey indicated the need to put together a directory of IOB alumni and their contact details so they can keep in touch with each other and get to know other IOB alumni in their respective countries. This is why we have been developing an IOB Online Alumni Community:

And now it is finally ready! On TUESDAY the 20th of MARCH 2012 at 4 pm (GMT) the IOB Alumni Community has been launched at

<http://alumniob.ua.ac.be>

The basic function of the Alumni Community is to enable you to retrieve the contact details of your former fellow students and of other IOB alumni who live near you, but whom you have not yet met, or to find IOB alumni working in the same field as you do. Of course, it is important for you to update your own details so that we can keep in touch with you as well. Moreover, the password and username you will receive through the IOB Alumni Community will allow you to obtain access to a secured website which makes e-learning facilities available.

To encourage you all to register immediately and to check whether your details in the community database are up-to-date the first and twentieth persons to register and update their personal details will be given a 30 € voucher towards the purchase of a book on amazon.com. So make sure you are the first!!

IOB ALUMNI SEMINAR 2012: CALL FOR PAPERS

In 2011 the first IOB alumni seminar was organised. The purpose was to provide alumni with a platform for the presentation of their research or policy papers. To this end a call for papers was launched in April 2011. Twenty-two alumni submitted high-quality papers. Unfortunately it was only possible to select one presentation and the academic review committee opted for Joseph Asunka's paper on The impact of targeted social transfers on cooperative behavior in beneficiary communities: a case study of Ghana's cash transfer program. The seminar was attended by some fifty IOB staff and students and followed online by alumni from all over the world (Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Cambodia, Cameroon, Denmark, UK, Kenya, Korea, Pakistan, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, USA, Zimbabwe). Given the success of the alumni seminar the initiative will be repeated this year, albeit in a slightly different format. As IOB has decided to organise at least one IOB Research Day each year the alumni seminar will be integrated into it with a view to maximising the interaction between the visiting alumnus and the IOB staff. The IOB Research Day will take place the 21st of June, 2012 and will thus be a one-day seminar in the course of which all research lines will be represented and researchers at all levels (PhD students, Professors and Alumni) will present their work.

All IOB alumni are warmly invited to participate by submitting an academic or policy-oriented paper for the IOB Research Day (deadline 21st of May, 2012). A selection committee will offer one or two alumni the opportunity to present their papers during the IOB Research Day in Antwerp together with the other IOB researchers. IOB will cover the cost of travel to Antwerp and of accommodation in Antwerp. The presentation by the selected alumni will

again be broadcast live so that all alumni can tune in for the IOB Research Day! Alumni who submitted a paper for the 2011 Seminar are very welcome to participate again. All alumni will also receive a separate call for papers specifying all practical information regarding the seminar (exact date, deadline for submission, submission format, etc.) as well as the requirements for participation.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to present your work to all IOB staff by submitting your paper!

PROMOTION

IOB is looking for an original slogan to promote its Master programmes. Why did you choose to enrol at IOB? How would you encourage others to enrol? Please send us your promotion slogan. A jury consisting of staff members involved in alumni policy will choose the best slogan to be used for future promotion purposes. The winner of the slogan will receive a book voucher worth 30 euros.

Please send your slogans to:
eva.vergaelen@hotmail.com and/or
sara.dewachter@ua.ac.be.

ALUMNI REPORTING ON RECENT MEET-AND-GREET SESSIONS

As part of its alumni policy IOB encourages and supports local alumni events. In its attempt to strengthen its alumni relations IOB regularly holds 'meet-and-greet sessions' in different countries where its alumni reside.

Recently two new 'meet-and-greet sessions' were held, one in Uganda and one in Ecuador. Two participating alumni report.

IOB MEET-AND-GREET SESSION IN

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UGANDA

by Joseph Kakeeto Kizito

The first Ugandan IOB alumni meet-and-greet session took place on 23rd October 2011 at the Cayenne Restaurant & Lounge in the country's capital, Kampala. It is amazing how time flies, but the alumni who were able to make it to this meeting had ample opportunity to reminisce and exchange stories once again about how they spent their time during their stay in Belgium, and more specifically at IOB, University of Antwerp.

As for me personally, my stay at IOB is what I would

call a mission well accomplished and as a result IOB has continued to play a major role in shaping my professional career by equipping me with the right skills to carry out my professional duties. It is my continued hope that IOB will continue to give more fellow Ugandans the chance to experience this wonderful professional and academic opportunity for many years to come.

Back to the meet-and-greet session. Right from the start it was a success and it was obvious that this meeting was long overdue. First of all, I must thank Professor Nathalie Holvoet & Ms Liesbeth Inberg,

ECUADOR

by Jesenia Verdezoto

On 7th October 2011 the Ecuadorian meet-and-greet session took place in Quito at the "La Choza" restaurant. In attendance were five alumni namely, Felipe Cisneros – G&D, Karina Jara – GED, Lucía Morales – GED, David Sotomayor – MID, and Jesenia Verdezoto – GD. Prof. German Calfat, who served as the moderator, was the official IOB representative at the meeting. There was visible excitement and joy, perhaps as a result of being reunited with old friends and being able to meet new ones.

The most popular conversation topic was life as a Master student at IOB and in particular writing the Master's dissertation. What came out clearly was that though we all had the same demanding student life our personal experiences were quite different. The same can be said about our individual experiences once we had returned home. All the alumni were in agreement that thanks to our year at IOB we had acquired lots of practical knowledge but nevertheless it was not lost on us that on our return we had all encountered challenges in our search for job opportunities in Ecuador.

A second popular topic concerned our current goals

and job positions. We all had different jobs, some in the public and some in the private sector, but it was clear that we all enjoyed what we were doing. Nevertheless the dream of obtaining a Ph.D. is still there. After a considerable period of work, why not start thinking about doing a PhD? After a very pleasant lunch with traditional food we had a photo session and went our separate ways after having promised each other that we would try to be active and positive ambassadors for the Institute of Development Policy and Management.

Looking ahead, we decided to keep in touch as an IOB alumni community in Ecuador and also to keep the link with IOB alive, for example, via the staff and the website. We hope that we will be able to have more of these meet-and-greet sessions in order to forge closer links within the alumni network.

The meet-and-greet sessions are an excellent way to interact with the IOB community network and keep it alive as well as to enhance the personal commitment of students in development areas. Furthermore, this meeting made us eager to continue to be part of the network. After all, it is important for the IOB alumni to keep in touch as we are in one way or another spokespersons for development and cooperation.

In a further attempt to make the Institute better

who represented IOB, for a job well done and I want to say to the Ugandan IOB alumni who were able to attend this event “you guys were really great”. To those who could not make it for one reason or another I can only say: please try to be there next time so that we can strengthen our network.

This event was sponsored by IOB and enabled us to exchange professional experiences but we also much appreciated the great local food and drinks. Some of the suggestions that were heard during the conversations with the IOB team concerned the establishment of a Ugandan IOB alumni leadership

team so as to facilitate the organisation of alumni events as well as activities by the alumni themselves.

For the Ugandan alumni the event reminded us of the continued need to ensure that we develop a spirit of networking amongst ourselves so that we will be able to create a pool of experts in development-related issues who can lend a helping hand with creative IOB development solutions/interventions in the future.

IOB MEET-AND-GREET SESSION IN

known we also organised a Promotion Session at the School of Business and International Affairs of the Catholic University of Ecuador. The event was a great success, mainly attended by final-year students from various faculties. They were particularly interested in obtaining information about the various Master’s degrees at the Institute of Development and Policy Management (IOB).

strengthen its relations with its alumni in view of the fact that participation is an empowering and enriching instrument with respect to the creation of strong social networks and capital.

In the end, it was agreed that the Institute should



Meet & Greet in Ecuador hosted by IOB professor Germán Calfat.

Sitting from left to right: David Sotomayor, Lucía Morales and Karina Jara.

Standing from left to right: Jesenia Verdezoto, Germán Calfat and Felipe Cisneros.

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Publisher: Robrecht Renard

Layout: Ward De Pelseneer

<http://www.visual-design.be>

