

ENGINEERS AGAINST POVERTY

Working with the engineering industry to help eliminate global poverty

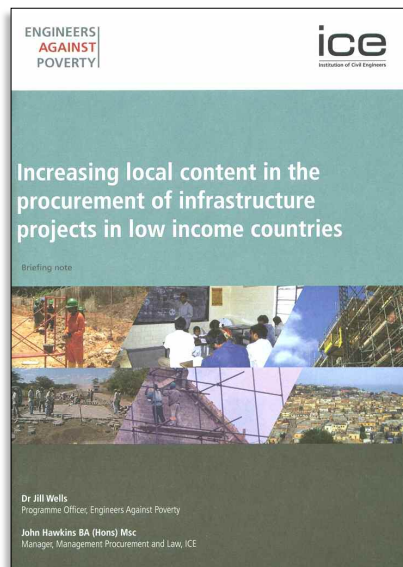
the SPARK

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New Publication



A new report 'Increasing local content in the procurement of infrastructure projects in low income countries' has been published by EAP and the Institution of Civil Engineers. It can be downloaded from www.engineersagainstopoverty.org and www.ice.org.uk

Climbers reach roof of Africa



The EAP Kilimanjaro Expedition Team

On a dark, dismal day in December, I was one of eleven Arup staff, in a group of seventeen that also included participants from AMEC, MWH, Institution of Civil Engineers and Coventry University, to leave London to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for Engineers Against Poverty. We left with Arup Chairman Terry Hill's warm words in our ears, and we were greeted at Heathrow Airport with the words "Hello, I am your Doctor" – I am sure I was not the only one not to know whether to be reassured or worried by this statement!

Some ten months of preparation had gone into this trip, involving fundraising for Engineers Against Poverty and training to climb the world's highest free standing mountain.

The trek took place over six days during which time we climbed from 1,800m to 5895m, experiencing five different levels of vegetation on the way and temperature fluctuations from 25°C to -15°C. Reaching the summit is an experience that is hard to describe – how can you put into words what it feels like to stand on the Roof of Africa, above the clouds, surrounded by a breathtaking expanse of snow and glaciers? The real joy is we worked together as a team and we all made it!

Once the final accounting is complete, we expect to have raised close to £25,000 for Engineers Against Poverty. The money will be used on a project to strengthen the ability of construction workers in Tanzania to exercise their

A group of seventeen intrepid climbers recently scaled Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise funds in support of our work in that country. We invited one of them, Susan Thomas who is an Associate Director of Arup, to share her experience with Spark readers.

right to a safe and healthy workplace. We would all like to thank our employers, colleagues and others for their generous support and sponsorship. Jambo!

The expedition team comprised Claire Lloyd, Harriet Lambert, Mike Bingham, Nicola Perandin, Nikolaos Socratous, Paul Brown, Sam Beaumont, Sam Styles, Simon Jackson, Susan Thomas, Vera Bukachi, Anna Murray, Stuart Coetzer, Richard Rider, Stephen Pritchard, James Mashhour and John Hawkins.

It's not too late to make a donation. Just go to www.justgiving.com/engineersagainstopoverty for full details. If you are interested in similar events, please register your interest by e mail to t.nyoka@engineersagainstopoverty.org with 'expeditions' in the subject heading.

Spark goes fully electronic

The next edition of the Spark will be produced in electronic format only. We are no longer producing hard copies as a cost saving measure. If you currently receive a hard copy and would like to continue to receive future editions in electronic format, please send an e mail from the address you would like to use to t.nyoka@engineersagainstopoverty.org with 'Spark' in the subject heading.

The global economy is experiencing its worst crisis in sixty years that will have far-reaching, but as yet unknown consequences. The crisis may have originated in the wealthiest countries, but it is the poorest who are likely to suffer most as the value of their exports fall, foreign investment declines and poor people begin to lose jobs and income. Even before the economic crisis, the World Bank had estimated that more than 2 billion people were living below \$2 per day and that the food-price increases of 2007-08, had caused an extra 100 million people to be pushed below the poverty line of \$1 per day.

In order to understand the food crisis, its causes and measures that could be taken to avoid similar crisis in the future, we asked Eric Holt Giménez, Executive Director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy in California, to debate the issues with Rob Lyons, writer and deputy editor of Spiked, the online news analysis and commentary website. You can read their exchange in the latest 'e debate' inside this edition of the Spark.

As the situation deteriorates in the developing world, there is a danger of a

corresponding deterioration in the ability of NGOs and international agencies to respond. Aid budgets are likely to come under pressure and individual charitable giving may decline as household budgets are cut back. EAP is not immune to these trends and we are seeking our own cost savings through postponing recruitment and capital expenditure plans. But we are also focusing on strengthening existing partnerships. We are very fortunate to have excellent links with the engineering industry and profession and even in these difficult times, we are continuing to receive generous donations from individual and corporate supporters, as you will read on the following pages.

We have also benefited recently (as you will have seen on the cover page) from the extraordinary efforts of 17 people who participated in a fundraising expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I had an opportunity to meet with them just prior to their departure and found their energy and enthusiasm to be inspirational. So good were their efforts on our behalf that we plan to organise similar fundraising expeditions on an annual basis.

The global financial system has collapsed

with spectacular and highly damaging results. The economic recession of the 1970s caused what is referred to as the 'lost decade' of development as progress was reversed and poverty and inequality increased throughout the developing world. It is essential that this is not allowed to happen again. We can avoid this outcome if we see this crisis as an opportunity to secure the long-overdue reform of the global institutions that have acted as a break on development for decades. Jeffrey Sachs argued recently that just as we need an overhaul of market regulation, we also need an overhaul of the mechanisms of development finance.

The decisions we make now will shape the prospects for development for decades to come. Sachs is right of course, but reforms must go further and they have to address the systemic causes of poverty. If we make the right choices now, we can look back on 2009 as the year in which a new sense of solidarity and commitment to international development emerged that eventually led to the elimination of global poverty.

Petter Matthews

EAP Addresses government and entrepreneurs in Malaysia



EAP Programme Manager Matthew Lynch at the Malaysian Conference

EAP was recently invited to Malaysia to address an audience of over 300 entrepreneurs and policy makers on how to improve business linkages between local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and large international firms. The invitation came from the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysian government's principal agency for the promotion of the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia.

"This invitation was an indicator of the commercial and strategic value of EAP's programme lessons" said EAP Programme Manager Matthew Lynch.

"This was an audience predominantly of entrepreneurs. Our ideas can better equip these entrepreneurs as well as large multinationals to build the linkages which are so important for spreading the benefits of foreign direct investment more broadly."

"EAP's unique position allows us to see the opportunities and challenges of supply chain linkages from both the perspective of both small local firms and that of large multi-nationals and to use that perspective to link supply chain management with international development goals."

Staff changes

Ian Neal left EAP in June after six years as a Programme Officer. He started work in July in a new position as Training Officer with Excellent Development, and NGO that works on soil and water conservation and food production in Africa.

Hongjie 'Jeff' Wang left EAP in January after almost two years as our Finance and Administration Officer. His departure came after a period of compassionate leave in which he was caring for his wife.

We are pleased to welcome Tendai Nyoka who has joined us as part time Finance and Administration Officer. Tendai is a Chartered Institute of Management Accounts Passed Finalist she has a Bsc in Business Management and French and is currently studying for an MBA in Finance.

EAP/ICE procurement research moves into second phase

The way in which infrastructure projects are procured can have a significant impact on the performance of the assets and on the achievement of broader social and economic goals. This was amongst the findings of research carried out by EAP and the Institution of Civil Engineers, captured in a report entitled *Modifying Infrastructure Procurement to Enhance Social Development* and published in November 2006. The report can be downloaded from the EAP or ICE websites. This work has recently moved into a second phase.

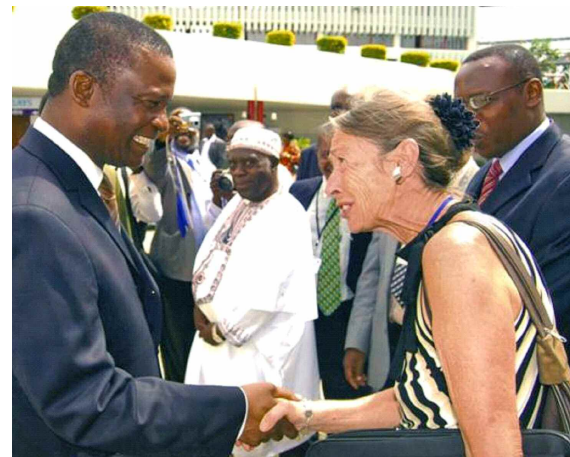
In April 2007, Jill Wells of EAP and John Hawkins of ICE presented the report to a specially convened workshop at the African Development Bank. Participants at that workshop expressed extreme disquiet at the fact that very little of the expenditure on infrastructure projects in Africa is of benefit to contractors, suppliers and workers from within the region. If the continent is to develop, more of the money spent on infrastructure must stay in Africa and help strengthen indigenous capability. Building the capacity of local consultants, contractors and suppliers is therefore a high priority.

This conclusion was reinforced at workshops held subsequently with local procurement officials, engineering consultants and contractors in Kenya and Tanzania. Participants reported significant progress in incorporating capacity development objectives into water sector projects, as well as in programmes specifically targeted at communities through 'social action' or community development' funds. Projects under these programmes are generally implemented at the local level and designed to require community participation. They are regarded as special cases. The challenge is to show

how to incorporate the same objectives and methods into large infrastructure projects at the national level.

In the second phase of the research we have been assembling evidence of successful attempts to use procurement to increase the input of local labour, goods and services ('local content') in the delivery of infrastructure projects in developing countries and build local capacity. On the basis of the assembled evidence and an extensive review of the literature, we have published a briefing note entitled *Increasing Local Content in the Delivery of Infrastructure Projects in Low Income countries*. The briefing note has two aims: (1) to show policy makers that expanding local content of infrastructure projects is an achievable objective with real long term benefits and (2) to provide practical guidance to assist government to achieve this through minor modifications to the procurement process.

The publication is intended for the use of national governments (especially policy makers in ministries of finance, industry, enterprise/industry, labour and infrastructure), procurement officials, public sector clients and clients' advisers. It is divided into two parts. Part 1 focuses on promoting local content as a policy objective. It shows that the use of procurement to promote economic development is supported by international agencies and has been practiced by a number of countries over many years. However the ability of some of the poorest countries to use procurement to support development is currently constrained by conflicting interests among donors and beneficiary governments, the failure of international agencies to balance objectives and lack of knowledge among procurement officials.



EAP Programme Officer Dr. Jill Wells meeting Dr. Shukuru Kawambwa, Tanzanian Minister for Infrastructure Development in Arusha

Part II provides practical guidance to assist governments to overcome the constraints and achieve specific policy objectives, through actions at various stages of the procurement cycle. While recognising that there are very real capacity constraints, we show that there are a number of ways to promote the objectives without necessarily sacrificing on cost or quality. We also show that this can be done without any major change to procurement regulations.

The briefing note was launched at the international conference of the Institution of Engineers Tanzania, in Arusha in December. It is available on the websites of ICE and EAP.

If you would like to receive a hard copy please contact the authors:

Jill Wells
(j.wells@engineersagainstopoverty.org)
or John Hawkins
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CoST initiative launched in 7 countries

The Construction Sector Transparency (CoST) initiative is being piloted in seven countries; Ethiopia, Malawi, Philippines, Tanzania, UK, Vietnam and Zambia. CoST is a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve transparency and accountability in the construction sector through the public disclosure of project information. The ultimate aim is to enhance the accountability of procuring bodies and construction companies for the cost and quality of public-sector construction projects.

CoST was initiated by the Department for International Development and is supported by the World Bank. It is being implemented by an International Secretariat led by Pricewaterhousecoopers in collaboration with Engineers Against Poverty, the Institution of Civil Engineers, Tiri and British Expertise.

More details can be found at the CoST website
www.constructiontransparency.org

Fluor Corporation backs EAP

Fluor recently contributed £5,000 to EAP in support of our work in Africa and Asia. Ian Thomas, senior vice president of Fluor's Corporate Strategy & Emerging Markets Group and a former Trustee of EAP, was instrumental in securing this support. When accepting the donation, EAP's Executive Director Petter Matthews said "it is very gratifying that such a prominent and respected international company as Fluor, values our work and is prepared to support it. Ian has remained a committed supporter of EAP and I'm delighted that we are able to continue our association with him."

Health and safety training forges ahead in Tanzania

In Spark 11 we reported on a project that EAP is implementing, in partnership with the Institution of Engineers Tanzania (IET) and the UK Department of International Development through its Civil Society Challenge Fund. The project is aimed at improving occupational health and safety (OHS) practices in the Tanzanian construction industry. The project is providing intensive training to a core group of men and women drawn from all the major stakeholders in the construction industry and those responsible for the regulation of construction safety and health. The key idea of the project is that this group of trained people will be assisted to train others among their peers, co-workers and employees to a recognised national standard.

Last year we trained 19 Tanzanians in Dar es Salaam and a further 16 in the northern town of Arusha. The course included a practical exercise involving the identification of hazards on live construction sites. A select group of these trainees have produced training materials, in both English and Swahili and appropriate to the local situation.

These have recently been tested on a pilot training session for contractors in Dar es Salaam.

This progress was consolidated recently with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and the formation of a project steering committee between the IET, Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) and the Contractors Registration Board (CRB). OSHA is responsible for regulating OHS and can impose sanctions on those who fail to meet the required standards. The CRB

can reward good practice by upgrading contractors to a higher registration class. The involvement of these organisations will help ensure the sustainability of the training after the project funding ceases.

It is expected that what is being achieved in the construction sector through this project will have positive spill-over (through OSHA) into other sectors in Tanzania and (through ILO, trade union and other regional and international networks) into other countries of the region and beyond.



Participants conduct a construction site visit in Arusha

EAP publishes briefing note on managing social risks

EAP has published a new briefing note presenting practical guidance for project managers on taking a systematic approach to managing social risk and opportunity on oil, gas and mining projects and large infrastructure developments. The briefing note was produced with the support and assistance of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The importance of managing social risk is increasingly recognised by the proponents and financiers of these large projects.

Social risks arise primarily from the dissatisfaction and grievances of community and non-governmental stakeholders. Experience shows that failure to manage these issues can have enormous economic costs, damage the reputations of organisations involved and put entire investments in jeopardy.

Community stakeholders, however, should not just be seen as a potential source of negative risk. Establishing good relationships with local stakeholders and focusing on their needs and concerns can generate significant positive opportunities for both projects and communities.

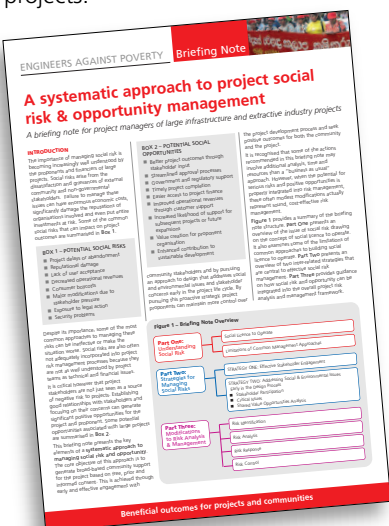
The briefing note summarises the lessons from EAP's extractive industries and public infrastructure programmes, including collaborative research with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), International Alert and the Actuarial Profession/Institution of Civil Engineers Joint Working Party on Project Risk Appraisal. It also draws on leading international thinking on social risk management from organisations such as the International Finance Corporation, the World Resources Institute and the CSR Initiative at the Kennedy School of

Government at Harvard University.

The core objective of the approach presented by EAP is to generate broad-based community support for the project based on free, prior and informed consent. This is achieved through early and effective engagement with community stakeholders and by pursuing an approach to design that addresses social and environmental issues and stakeholder concerns early in the project life cycle. By adopting this proactive strategy, project proponents can maintain greater control over the project development process and seek positive outcomes for both the community and the project. The final section of the briefing note provides guidance on how this approach can be systematically integrated into existing project risk analysis and management frameworks.

The briefing note is available to download from the EAP website.

If you have comments on the briefing note or require more information, please contact EAP Programme Manager Matthew Lynch at m.lynych@engineersagainstopoverty.org





E-debate

Understanding the food crisis

The price of food has risen dramatically in recent years creating a global crisis that has left millions more of the world's most vulnerable people facing hunger and starvation. These developments, in the context of the international economic crisis, have the potential to reverse decades of progress in human development. But what are their causes and how can we improve food production in the global south to avert this crisis and prevent similar problems in the future? We asked Eric Holt Giménez, Executive Director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy in California, to debate the issues with Rob Lyons, writer and deputy editor of Spiked, the online news and commentary website.

Dear Rob

Food price inflation is a symptom of a system in crisis. The reasons given for spiraling prices include; droughts in major wheat-producing countries in 2005-06, low grain reserves; high oil prices; a doubling of per-capita meat consumption in some developing countries, the diversion of 5% of the world's cereals to agrofuels, and a flood of speculative investment in commodity futures. These are only proximate causes of the food crisis itself.

The root cause of the crisis is a global food system that is highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shock. This vulnerability springs from the risks, inequities and externalities inherent in national food systems that are globally dominated by an industrial agri-foods complex. Built over the past half-century -largely with public funds for grain subsidies, foreign aid, and international agricultural research and development - the industrial agri-foods complex is made up of multinational grain traders, giant seed, chemical and fertilizer corporations, processors and global supermarket chains. Forty years ago, the global South had yearly trade surpluses in food of \$7 billion. Today, after four "Development Decades" and the expansion of the industrial agri-foods complex, the southern food deficit has ballooned to US \$11 billion/year. The rise of food deficits in the global South mirrors the rise of food surpluses and market expansion of the industrial North.

The destruction of Southern food systems occurred through a series of northern economic development projects: First the Green Revolution (1960-90) industrialized southern farm inputs leading to northern monopoly of seed and inputs, the loss of 90% of agrobiodiversity, and the displacement of millions of peasants to fragile hillsides, shrinking forests and urban slums. The Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) of the 1980s-90s imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund followed, dismantling marketing boards, price guarantees and entire research and extension systems,

breaking down tariffs and flooding local markets with OECD countries' subsidized grain. This tied southern food security to global markets dominated by the north. Regional Free Trade Agreements and World Trade Organization rules then cemented the SAPs into international treaties that overrode national law.

We need to address the proximate and root causes of the dysfunctional food system. Good first steps would be taking agriculture out of the WTO, a moratorium on renewable fuel targets in the north, regulating investment in commodity futures, and re-establishing national grain reserves. Then, policies and directed investment can re-build national food systems that support diverse, smallholder farming rather than global monopoly interests.

Eric

Dear Eric

I'm not a fan of the free market; a system that is based on private profit will not always meet social need. But your diagnosis of the problem seems perverse at times and solutions would, I believe, make things worse.

First, we need to ask whether we are facing a technical problem of feeding the world. The answer is a resolute 'no'. The leaps in productivity we have experienced over the last few decades mean we are producing more and more. The green revolution, which you seem to dismiss as simply a con to hand more power to the industrialised North, helped to feed the world at a time when widespread starvation was assumed to be inevitable by many commentators



Farmers in Northern Uganda

like Paul Ehrlich. Whatever the cause of current food prices, it is not a lack of food per se.

Your list of the proximate causes of the current food price rises would seem about right. Agrofuels may well prove to be useful in the long run, but current technology, especially that based on American maize, means it is an expensive diversion at present. I would add that rising productivity has led, in recent years, to a decline in prices. As a result, there has been little incentive to invest in expanding production. In fact, a recent trend has been for the retirement of land from production, particularly in Europe and North America. This could be reversed if necessary, something that rising demand in China, India and other developing countries will encourage.

One of the major problems is not the trade in food, but the fact that the world market makes up such a small proportion of total food produced. Most food is produced and consumed domestically. There are relatively few exporters – the US is overwhelmingly dominant in this regard. So, far from a promotion of small-scale agriculture, we need a global shift towards the most advanced methods in farming so that the world is not so dependent on American surpluses. A drought here, or a steady increase in demand there, should not cause such a disproportionate shift in prices.

In turn, we don't need food out of the WTO – we need a more thorough-going shift to real free trade. American and European protectionism is not in the interests of the developing world or consumers in the North.

In the circumstances, I probably sound like a raving free marketeer. But the promotion of trade and the application of the best technology to agriculture seems far preferable to the current small-is-beautiful fad.

Rob

Dear Rob

Shortly after Paul Ehrlich (whose Malthusian population predictions never came to pass) wrote 'The Population

Bomb', Amartya Sen—who lived through the Bengal famine of 1943—did his Nobel-prize winning work on famines. Basically, Sen found that people starve not because of lack of food, but because they are too poor to buy food.

Sen's findings are still true today. Sadly, small farmers make up most of the world's poor. This is not, as you suggest, because they are incapable of high productivity. On the contrary, pound per acre they consistently out-produce industrial agriculture—when they have the land and the resources. Unfortunately, they have been displaced on to marginal lands, denied credit and fair prices, and can't compete with the subsidies provided to northern agribusiness.

You are right, there is no food shortage. The U.N. estimates we have 1.5 times more than we need. And yes, over two decades, the Green Revolution increased food per capita by 11%. However, because it concentrated land and resources in fewer and fewer hands, the number of hungry people also increased by 11%. This was not the result of a lack of technology or global markets - the solutions you espouse - but due to the disenfranchisement of people from food-producing resources.

Industrial food production cannot be separated from industrial market power. Again, forty years ago the global South had yearly trade surpluses of \$7 billion. Now they have a deficit of \$11 billion. This trend parallels the rise of global "free" trade and the expansion of industrial technologies. It also correlates with the rise of agribusiness monopolies: The four largest agrochemical companies now control 60 percent of the world's fertilizer. Monsanto controls three-fifths of seed production. In the last quarter of 2007—even as the world food crisis was spreading—earnings of grain giants Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill jumped 42% and 86%, respectively. Monsanto's earnings increased 45%, and Mosaic Fertilizer's profits rose 1200%. (On a roll, Monsanto just doubled the price of its Roundup Ready seed and obligatory glyphosate herbicide). Proprietary technology and market power have put a vise grip on the world's food systems. Asking these monopolies to solve the food crisis is like asking an arsonist to put out the fire.

Einstein defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Its time to stop to this agro-industrial/free trade madness.

Eric

Dear Eric

Amartya Sen is no doubt right. Small producers are motivated to make maximum use of every inch of their land within their means, and to apply as much labour - including that of their families - to eke out bigger returns. But my point was about labour productivity, and in the long run that is far more important to producing food on the huge scale a growing world population will need.

Very small farmers struggle to apply the kind of machinery, chemicals and all the other methods that make industrialised agriculture so productive. Every other sector of society has become more productive by specialisation and the division of labour. Why buck that trend for agriculture in the developing world?

Do you really want to promote small-scale agriculture? That seems like a recipe for keeping poor people poor. Without access to better technologies and the markets to sell their increased production, the best outcome would seem to be that such farmers manage to feed themselves with enough of a surplus to make a tough existence bearable. Where is the room in that picture for education, travel, leisure, healthcare - all the things we take for granted in the West? Small-scale farming is hardly an inspiring vision for the long-term and, with the vagaries of nature and food markets as they stand, it seems an insecure one, too. Marx, of all people, rightly praised capitalism for at least freeing people from the 'idiocy of rural life'.

That said, we need to start from where we are if a transition to an urbanised and more productive economy is to be made. That means fair markets for developing world farmers, as you suggest, and the means to access them. For the European Union, for example, to pay farmers to grow food, then pay them to export it, or even pay for farmers not to grow food, is both wasteful for European consumers and devastating to the poor in the South.

There are advantages to monopolies in certain situations, but not when they are in private hands. When profit is the ultimate arbiter, a monopoly allows a company to make its money by screwing over customers rather than through socially useful innovation. The situation regarding Monsanto, particularly in regard to GM technology, is particularly concerning. It may be time to repeat the lessons of Standard Oil or AT&T and break the company up.

All the best, Rob

Dear Rob

I suspected we were close on some points, and happily, that is the case. However, I cannot agree that the path to world food security is the wasteful, poisonous, energy and water-guzzling, GHG spewing, inequitable industrial agriculture you insist is "more productive." Neither do I accept that rural life need be a dead end or that total urbanization is inevitable or desirable.

The strategy you espouse has already failed in Africa. By abandoning smallholder agriculture African countries increased their urban population sevenfold. Two-thirds of urban Africans now live in slums. Despite decades of international aid, foreign direct investment and World Bank conditional loans, the industrial sector has stagnated at 30% of GDP since 1961. In the countryside, as larger-scale plantations expanded, smallholders were crowded onto smaller plots. Local food production plummeted and poverty grew. African countries spend 54% of their GDP on food imports, leaving them vulnerable to the global food price inflation that sparked the food crisis. The industrial transition did not slow population growth because it actually increased poverty and insecurity in both rural and urban areas. Africa's population growth is not the cause of its hunger crisis per se, but the result of poverty - brought on by the programmed destruction of African smallholder systems.

Regarding farm drudgery, there are many, many highly effective small-scale technologies and agroecological management techniques that significantly reduce the need for labor and chemicals in agriculture. It is large-scale monocrops that increase our food system's vulnerability to the hazards of climate change. Diverse, small-scale agroecosystems spread risk much more evenly and so are not only the planet's best hedge against droughts, floods and plain erratic weather, they will help cool the planet as well.

Half the world's people are hungry because they are poor. Three-fifths of the poor are farmers who have low incomes because they don't have enough land, access to water, roads, credit or fair treatment in the market. There is no work for them in the cities and no new industrial revolution for them on the horizon. If we don't improve their farming conditions we will not eradicate poverty or hunger. We need land reform, investment in rural

schools, health, roads and yes, massive investment in smallholder agriculture if we are to get out of this mess. To solve the food crisis we need to transform the food system, democratizing it in favor of the poor. We need food sovereignty.

Best Eric

Dear Eric

Poverty is, indeed, the bottom line. But far too often these days, the problem of poverty is buried under discussion about the environment. 'Development' turns into 'sustainable development', which really means little or no development. Industrial agriculture is not the problem. It's the social system - capitalism - that ensures that most people do not benefit from the gains in productivity that arise from industrialisation.

Measures to increase productivity for small farmers would be beneficial. But such measures would hopefully be short-term, designed to get rural societies back on their feet so they have a chance to aim for something better. In recent years, a tendency to view 'intermediate' and 'appropriate' technology as an endpoint in itself - rather than a stepping stone to broader and fuller economic development - has set back the possibility of transforming these societies. I believe that environmentalism has further encouraged this backward outlook.

Farmers will embrace opportunities with little encouragement if given access to the tools they need and the economic incentive to produce as much as they can. Credit, subsidies for inputs and truly free trade would help a lot. Until someone replaces hydrocarbons as the

principle source of energy, that means transporting things around the world and boosting production using artificial fertilisers and other chemicals - none of which fits into the usual notion of 'sustainable'.

The problems of capitalism have been magnified by the way in which the richest countries have exploited the poorest. It is undoubtedly the case that Africa has been the victim of one detrimental Western fashion after another, from attempts to fast-forward the continent into the modern world with one-off glamour projects that were disconnected from the wider economy, through savage cuts in public spending to repay loans, to 'debt relief' (often illusory) tied to 'conditionalities'. Poor

countries don't just need food sovereignty - they need sovereignty, full stop.

Wealthy, broad-based economies provide the greatest security for their populations. That's what we have in the developed world and that is what is increasingly becoming true of previously very poor countries like China and India. It is an aspiration held by millions of Africans, too. Western intervention in the continent has ended up denying that aspiration. For me, only industrialisation, urbanisation and production on a global scale can bring an end to human need once and for all.

All the best, Rob

AMEC steps-up support for EAP

AMEC recently donated £7,000 in support of EAP's work in Africa and Asia. This contribution is in addition to a £3,000 donation in support of the AMEC participants in the Kilimanjaro Trek and £1,000 that was donated by its Growth Regions Team, as the result of it winning a COO Safety Award. AMEC has been one of EAP's most consistent supporters over many years. Not only has it contributed financially, it has used its international network of contacts to create project opportunities for EAP and it has supported the governance of the charity by nominating a senior staff member to our board of trustees. The

current AMEC nominated trustee is Neil Bruce who is Chief operating Officer of its Natural Resources division.



EAP Executive Director Petter Matthews with Tony Cruddas, President of AMEC's Growth Regions team

Nichols Group makes donation to EAP



Nichols Group has contributed £2,000 to EAP in support of our charitable work. The Nichols Group is an independent management consultancy founded over 30 years ago. It specialises in advising on and managing large-scale, complex and rapid changes - covering both major capital investments and business change programmes. The Group aims to contribute as positively and significantly as it can to the environment and society in which it operates, and indeed towards initiatives to deal with wider global challenges - such as the United Nation's Millennium Goals. Michael Nichols, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Group says that Nichols team are strongly committed to achieving an outstanding level of demonstrated success in pursuing Group sustainability strategy.

EAP participates in NEPAD-OECD Expert Roundtable in Uganda

EAP was invited to attend the High-Level Meeting and the Expert Roundtable of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative in Kampala on 10-11 December 2008. EAP's Executive Director Petter Matthews spoke about EAP's work on risk management, procurement and conflict sensitive business practice. Outcomes of the event include a range of practical recommendations for accelerating investment policy reform, maximising investment in African infrastructure and more effectively mobilising the private sector to meet development goals.

EAP's extractive industry programme showcased at World Petroleum Congress

Engineers Against Poverty's partnership with AMEC was one of twelve leading social responsibility initiatives to be showcased at the World Petroleum Congress in Madrid in June 2008. This event is held every three years and is one of the most important occasions for the industry internationally.

The Social Responsibility Global Village showcased "the oil and gas industry's commitment to social, community and environmental initiatives worldwide". Other organisations included Marathon Oil, Total, IPEICA, BP Solar and the Corporate Engagement Programme.

EAP's stand presented our work with AMEC and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on the Shell Malampaya Project in the Philippines and the ConocoPhillips Bayu Undan project in the Timor Sea. It also communicated the general lessons for operating companies arising from this work on the underutilised role of major services contractors in local economic and social development. These services contractors have core competencies that are directly relevant to meeting the challenges of delivering local content and sustainable local development, while building and maintaining a project's social licence to operate. Deploying these competencies can support and enhance the effectiveness of the operating company's own community investment and supplier development programs.

EAP's stand and presentations attracted interest from industry representatives from all over the world. More information on the Social responsibility Global Village is available at: <http://www.19wpc.com/socialresponsibility.php>

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Arup becomes corporate supporter of EAP

Global design, engineering and planning consultant Arup is the latest company to join EAP's corporate supporter scheme with a donation of £10,000 made through the Arup Charitable Trust. This contribution is in addition to the support provided by Arup to its employees who participated in the Kilimanjaro expedition.

Commenting on the donation, EAP Chairman Douglas Oakervee said "the support we receive from Arup at a corporate level is mirrored by the commitment of many individual staff members who involve themselves in activities aimed at supporting our work in Africa and Asia. Our relationship is a genuine partnership. It involves a charitable contribution to our work, but also an exchange of ideas and lessons learned through experience. We are indebted to Terry Hill, Martin Young, Jo da Silva and many others in the company for the tremendous support they are providing to us."

Tony Marshall appointed as EAP Trustee



Tony Marshall, Partner of Lovells LLP, recently became a Trustee of EAP.

Tony has wide-ranging contentious and non-contentious construction contract experience, gained on projects in England and Africa and latterly in Hong Kong, where he was based from 1987, heading the firm's regional practice in this field from 1994 to 2002.

He was responsible for drafting contract conditions for use in substantial parts of Hong Kong's new airport project (which involved major reclamation in order to construct most of the airport in the sea, as well as the creation of an entirely new road and rail infrastructure linking the airport with the Central business district on Hong Kong Island). These conditions were tailored to the needs of a massive project which required to be built within budget and to the strictest timescale. He has also worked on the forms of contract for use in projects around the Asian region, and latterly in the UK, involving a range of types of development. These have included: airports, residential and office buildings, hotels, power plants, process plants, railways and light rail systems, reclamation schemes, water treatment plants and waste-to-energy plants.

Tony has also advised on issues arising between the parties in the course of many of these projects, and handled the resolution of disputes where necessary. This has included extensive experience of major arbitration and court proceedings, as well as mediation, adjudication, dispute review boards and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

If you would like to sponsor a future edition of *the Spark* contact Petter Matthews at p.matthews@engineersagainstopoverty.org

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