

ENGINEERS AGAINST POVERTY

Working with the engineering industry to help eliminate global poverty

the SPARK

No. 13 November 2009

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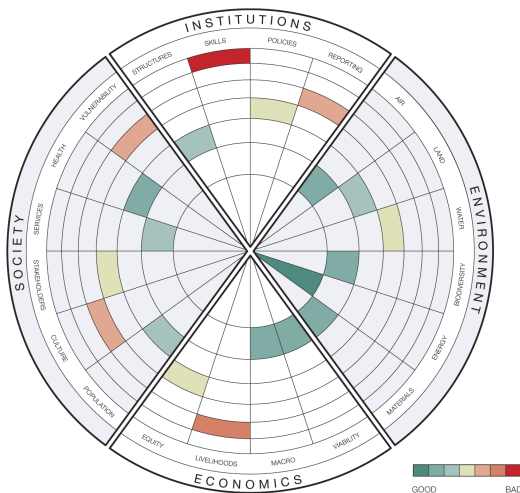
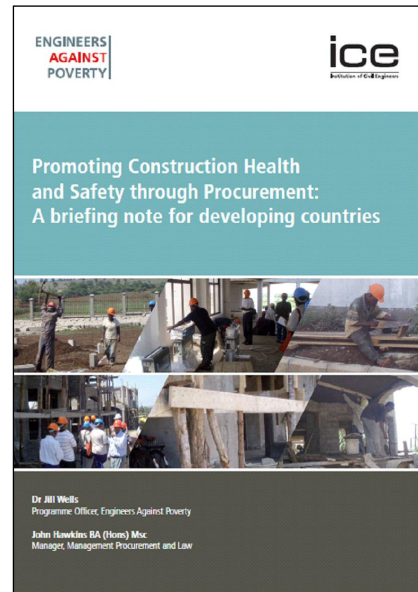
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Health & safety briefing note launched

EAP and the Institution of Civil Engineers have published a briefing note that provides practical advice on the use of procurement procedures to improve the health and safety of construction workers in developing countries. There are at least 60,000 fatal accidents a year on construction sites around the world. Many more workers suffer from work related injuries and ill-health. The report points out that the main causes of death and injury are both well understood and entirely preventable.

A number of international agencies have been working to improve health and safety in the workplace, but until now the use of procurement procedures has received very little attention. This briefing note explains how health and safety should be addressed at each stage of the procurement cycle.

The report is available at www.engineersagainstopoverty.org



ASPIRE software launched

EAP and Arup have launched ASPIRE, a software based tool for assessing the sustainability and poverty reduction performance of infrastructure projects in low and middle income countries.

EAP Programme Officer Matthew Lynch explained "ASPIRE is the result of a three year collaboration between EAP and Arup. We saw that there was no tool available that integrated sustainability and poverty reduction into a comprehensive appraisal framework for infrastructure developments and ASPIRE was developed to fill that gap."

ASPIRE is available on a free trial basis at <http://www.oasys-software.com/products/sustainability/aspire/>



Would you like to raise money for charity while having the experience of a lifetime?

Then sign up for our 2010 Vietnam-Cambodia Cycle challenge!

The challenge will take you from Ho Chi Minh city, through the Mekong Delta into Cambodia.

As well as experiencing breathtaking scenery and timeless cultures you will gain a real sense of achievement from this cycle trek.

EAP is an independent charity that works with industry, government and civil society to fight poverty and promote sustainable development.

To find out more about us please visit www.engineersagainstopoverty.org

To register for the challenge please contact Tendai Nyoka on 020 3206 0488 or at t.nyoka@engineersagainstopoverty.org

**ENGINEERS
AGAINST
POVERTY**
Charity number 1071974

**DISCOVER
Adventure**

From the Director

DFID recently published its fourth White Paper entitled 'Eliminating Global Poverty: Building our Common Future'. EAP welcomes its commitments on tackling climate change, promoting pro-poor growth and its renewed focus on conflict and fragile states. We are also encouraged that the White Paper explicitly acknowledges that the Washington Consensus has failed and that the IMF and World Bank need to move away from a one-size-fits-all approach to economic growth.

It is disappointing that the White Paper does not give greater emphasis to the role played by science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI). SETI are the drivers of economic growth and key contributors to meeting global challenges such as poverty, climate change and conflict.

Spark readers will be aware of EAP's work in this area. It is exemplified by the ASPIRE software that we have been developing in partnership with Arup. I'm pleased to report that ASPIRE is now complete and available for download.

You can find out more in this edition of the Spark.

The type of creative partnership that we have developed with Arup is one of the ways that EAP is responding to difficult economic circumstances. Whilst we are fortunate that our supporters have so far maintained their assistance, we take nothing for granted and know that we must continue to justify their commitment.

This edition of the Spark demonstrates some of the ways that we have attempted to do that. It reports on the publication of a new briefing note on health and safety, our work with 7 UK based universities aimed at helping them to incorporate 'global issues' such as poverty, climate change and sustainability into the curricula and news of our innovative work with some of the world's leading oil and gas companies.

Struggling NGOs will find some encouragement in the White Paper and its commitment to double non-humanitarian central funding for civil society to £300 million a year by 2013. It

does this in the context of maintaining its commitment to increase overall aid and meet the UN target of 0.7% of national income by 2013.

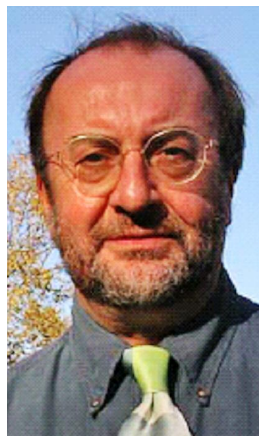
This commitment is very important given the global economic situation and the potential for backsliding on the aid commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005. But improved commitments on aid are not universally welcomed. In her recently published book 'Dead Aid', Dambisa Moyo argues that aid undermines progress in Africa and that it should be eliminated within ten years. You can read a debate on some of the issues raised by Moyo between John Hilary of War on Want and Philip Salter of the Adam Smith Institute inside.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that this edition of the Spark was made possible by an individual sponsor who generously donated £500 for its production. With characteristic modesty this old friend of EAP asked to remain anonymous. We are indebted to him.

Petter Matthews, *Executive Director*

ICE President's Apprentice Scheme

Professor Paul Jowitt became the 145th President of the Institution of Civil Engineers on 3rd November 2009. Professor Jowitt, who is a trustee of EAP, has identified international development as one of his Presidential themes. This theme will extend to the President's Apprentice Scheme. The apprentices have now been recruited and include graduate engineers from Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, China, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Scotland, Ireland and England. EAP will support the scheme through contributing to the professional development programme that is being offered to the participants. The Apprentices will also contribute to a toolkit/handbook entitled 'An Engineering Project Delivery Plan for International development and the UN MDGs' which will be available in 2010



Olympic Builders

The infrastructure for the 2012 Olympic Games is being developed in close proximity to four of London's most deprived boroughs; Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets. It represents a major opportunity to regenerate the area, not least through the construction jobs, training and careers opportunities it is expected to create.

EAP is collaborating with Platform Films, Marker Films and the University of Westminster to document the experiences of construction workers and trainees on the Olympic site. A documentary film will be produced that will record for posterity aspects of the construction process that are unlikely to receive attention in the mainstream media. The production of the film will also be used as an opportunity for local media students to gain practical experience.

If you would like to know more, or to support this initiative, contact Margaret Dickinson at mdickinson@ndirect.co.uk.

Global Reporting Initiative

EAP Programme Officer Dr Jill Wells has been invited to participate in a Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) working group to develop sector specific reporting guidelines for the Construction and Real Estate Industry. The GRI is a network-based organisation that has pioneered the development of the world's most widely used sustainability reporting framework. See www.globalreporting.org/Home

Lovells LLP formalises support to EAP

Leading international law firm Lovells LLP has formalised its agreement with EAP that enables the charity to receive pro bono legal advice and support. Lovells has contributed to the governance of the charity since 2003 through nominating a Partner to its board of trustees. The current Lovells nominated trustee is Tony Marshall.

EAP assisting IPIECA in developing local content guide

EAP is assisting the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) to develop a local content guidance document for its member companies. IPIECA was established in 1974 and is the single global association representing both the upstream and downstream oil and gas industry on key global environmental and social issues. Its membership includes the world's leading oil and gas companies.

Local content is an increasingly important strategic issue in the oil and gas industry. It is a key regulatory requirement of international companies in a

growing number of hydrocarbon-producing countries. These requirements to use local workers, contractors and suppliers are seen as a mechanism for capturing more of the benefits of hydrocarbon development locally. However, companies themselves also pursuing local content objectives as they see it as delivering a range of strategic and business benefits in enhancing the relationship with the host government and building licence to operate with host societies.

The guidance document is expected to be completed by March 2010.



Bayu-Undan, East Timor

Arup provides financial boost to EAP

Arup recently made a charitable donation of £10,000 to EAP. This is the second year that Arup has made a gift of this size and it represents an ongoing commitment by the company to support our charitable work. Commenting on the donation EAP Chairman Douglas Oakervee said: "We are extremely fortunate to have corporate supporters like Arup who are willing to stick with us despite the economic downturn. Not only do we benefit from corporate donations and the efforts of Arup staff who participate in our fundraising activities, Arup appreciate the value we can add to initiatives such as ASPIRE. Our partnership is a brilliant example of what can be achieved by companies and NGOs working together."

EWB Announces 'Know How Now' Event

Engineers Without Borders UK will be holding a Technical Support Service Fair & Forum on 6th November 2009 at the Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, SW1P 3AA. The event, entitled 'Know How Now', will bring together more than 60 organisations that offer technical support and advice to the international development and humanitarian aid sectors.

The event is supported by EAP, RedR UK and the ICE. Details are available from knowhownow@ewb-uk.org.



EAP hosts Commonwealth Professional Fellowship

EAP is hosting Eng Julius Kabyemera, President of the Institution of Engineers Tanzania, as part of a Professional Fellowship sponsored by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. Whilst in the UK, Eng Kabyemera will be meeting with a range of organisations to discuss issues including engineering education, professional registration and health and safety.

Incorporating a global dimension into engineering education

EAP has launched a new project that will work with seven UK based higher education institutions (HEIs) to help them incorporate global issues - such as sustainability, poverty reduction and climate change - into the teaching of students.

The project is funded by a grant from the Department for International Development and will be of three years duration, July 2009 to June 2012. It will be implemented by EAP in association with the Engineering Subject Centre, Engineering Council UK, Development Education Research Centre of the Institute of Education and the Engineering Professors' Council. The participating HEIs are University of Liverpool, Cardiff University, Queens University Belfast, University of Derby, University of Leeds, Northumbria University and University of Plymouth.

EAP Executive Director Petter Matthews said "This is a high level strategic partnership with the responsibility, expertise and influence necessary to bring about a step-change in the way that global issues are dealt with in engineering education."

Vietnam-Cambodia Cycle Challenge 2010

We have received an excellent response to our latest fundraising expedition that will see up to twenty people cycle through Vietnam and Cambodia next year. It's not too late to join the challenge as a few places remain available. More information can be obtained from Tendai Nyoka at t.nyoka@engineersagainstopoverty.org. You can donate to some of those who have already accepted the challenge at

www.justgiving.com/charity/search.aspx?cid=183930.





E-debate

Exploring the role of development aid

The recent publication of Dambisa Moyo's book 'Dead Aid' has once again focused attention on the role of aid in international development. Moyo argues that aid to Africa "is no longer part of the potential solution but it's part of the problem - in fact aid is the problem" (www.dambisamoyo.com). We felt it would be useful to examine some of the ideas behind Moyo's claim through inviting Philip Salter, Development Director at the Adam Smith Institute (www.adamsmith.org) to debate the issue with John Hilary, Executive Director of War on Want (www.waronwant.org).

Dear John

Following the release of Dambisa Moyo's *Dead Aid*, the efficacy of development aid is once again being seriously discussed in the media at large. Ms Moyo makes some very pertinent criticisms of development aid, arguing that it leads to market distortions, that it perpetuates an aid dependency syndrome, and that enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship suffer when all African leaders have to do is 'wait to bank cheques'. Fundamentally, *Dead Aid* convincingly sets out that development aid to Africa "is no longer part of the potential solution but it's part of the problem - in fact aid is the problem".

We have seen many before argue along similar lines. William Easterly's *White Man's Burden*, Paul Collier's *The Bottom Billion* and Phyllis Pomerantz's *Aid Effectiveness in Africa* to name but a few. These and other scholars are not against humanitarian assistance, which has a clear need, timeframe and measure of success, but they are critical of the amorphous world of development aid and its claim that it can promote economic growth and reduce poverty.

There are alternative and superior models of economic growth and poverty reduction than those set out by most of the development community. Although at face-value they do not appear to have the moral weight accorded to many on the other side of the argument, in practice those of us who are in favour of developing countries opening up their economies to free trade, allowing foreign direct investment (FDI) and engaging in international capital markets have been proven correct. Development aid has cost Western countries \$2.3 trillion over the last five decades with little success to show for it.

On a smaller scale, micro-finance such as the borrowing pioneered by Grameen Bank in Bangladesh certainly offers a positive model for economic growth. The key difference between micro-finance and alternative models of

development aid is that it accepts the precepts of capitalism as the basis for development: The lender is guided by his or her own concern for the investment, while the borrower will not take the money without the belief that he or she can pay off the debt. The contract between the two ensures the accountability so lacking in most development aid.

The examples of China and India are instructive of how countries work their way out of poverty. After years of stagnation under communist inspired policies, Deng Xiaoping and Manmohan Singh have both partially liberalised their respective economies and in the process lifted untold millions out of absolute poverty. Although of course government failures and interferences continue to blight economic growth throughout the world, intervention from more successful governments has largely proven ineffective. The push for change needs to come from the people of the country itself, outside interference is counter-productive.

Kind regards,

Philip



Carrying water in Mozambique

Dear Philip

You are right to point out the pitfalls of development aid. Perhaps the most harmful aspect of the dependency relationship is donors' deliberate use of aid to impose their own policy prescriptions on developing countries. Conditions attached to aid in this way have perpetuated dependency and undermined democracy in many recipient countries, preventing them from forging their own paths to development. The classic statement of this came in Teresa Hayter's 1971 study *Aid as Imperialism*; Yash Tandon's recent *Ending Aid Dependence* has updated the argument for our century.

Where we part company, however, is your suggestion that the world's poorest countries will do better to open up their economies to free trade. The evidence is against you. UN studies have shown that those least developed countries which opened up their economies most during the 1990s are the ones that experienced the greatest increases in poverty, while those which managed their economies more closely achieved significant reductions in poverty levels. Autarky à la North Korea is no model to follow, but free trade has been just as harmful.

Worst of all is where donors have forced aid-dependent countries into free market reforms as a condition of being granted financial assistance. Many donors have made their aid conditional upon policies such as trade liberalisation and privatisation, despite the damage those policies have caused to developing countries in the past. One of War on Want's proudest recent victories was the changing of UK government policy so that British aid can no longer have such strings attached.

Sadly, despite this change of policy, the UK government has continued to use aid to promote the privatisation of public services in developing countries. The Department for International Development has given large sums from the aid budget to British consultants on the

Continued page 5

understanding that they will 'advise' developing countries on how best to privatise their public services.

Privatisation consultants such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG and Deloitte have all made millions out of the UK aid budget in this way. But it would be wrong of me to overlook the tens of millions of pounds of 'aid' money granted to Adam Smith International, the consultancy born out of your own institute, for the purposes of promoting privatisation. Can we agree that this is one type of aid that should be discontinued?

Best wishes,

John

Dear John

As you state, conditions attached to aid are indeed an attempt to control the economic policies of foreign countries. This is not the conspiracy that you make it out to be, but instead a tacit acceptance of the failure of development aid to work as compared to economic liberalisation. In criticising the conditionalities often put on aid, you are failing to acknowledge the reasons such conditions have been felt necessary; namely, that donor governments and NGOs giving without conditions have often supported oppressive and corrupt governments and institutions while failing to bring about the promises of development.

Nevertheless, I do not defend development aid with strings attached either. The most that foreign governments should do to promote development is to further open up their markets while proving the case for economic liberalisation through force of argument. There are though things that individuals can do to improve the lives of people in the developing world beyond buying goods made in those countries. For

example, Kiva is a person-to-person micro-lending non-profit organisation that bypasses the dependency failures and inefficiencies of development aid in favour of a competitive and market oriented model. Although clearly no silver bullet, it is one of a number of solutions built upon the fundamentals of how economic growth is achieved.

Turning now to the crux of where we disagree, it is an incontrovertible fact that the globalised economy has benefited many of the poorest people in the world. Since the 1960s, the income of the average world citizen has doubled. The poorest fifth's income has increased by 75 percent, the average African's by 80 percent. In Asia, remarkably, the figure is 300 percent. More people have been lifted out of poverty in the 50 years, than in the preceding 500 – possibly more than in the entire course of human history. What's more, the evidence here is very clear: the more countries have liberalized their economies, the faster they have developed.

The very poorest have not been left out of this process. Absolute poverty, or those living on less than a dollar a day, has plummeted: in the early 1800s, some 85 percent of the world population is reckoned to have lived in absolute poverty. In 1950, it was 50 percent. By the turn of the millennium, the figure has dropped to 18 percent. This isn't just about money either: rising wealth has brought real improvements in living standards. Life expectancy has increased, infant mortality has fallen, and world hunger has declined. Compared with 1990, more than a billion additional people now have access to clean water.

And although it must be made absolutely clear that the rule of law, property rights and protections against the abuses of individuals and govern-

ments are vital for people to prosper, it is the free exchange of goods in the global marketplace that has seen these countless millions work their own way out of poverty. It is this model that offers hope for people whose governments still do not allow them such freedoms.

Despite their obvious good intentions, if War on Want were to achieve their political objectives it would undermine the competitive advantage of poor countries. By raising the costs for companies working in developing countries, the chances for people to work their own way out of poverty would be closed down. This is not to trivialise the poverty that many of the poorest still live in, yet the solution to their condition lies in taking the only path that has proven time and again to take people from the depths of poverty to prosperity. Is it not the case that aid has failed the people of developing world?

Kind regards,

Philip

Dear Philip

In order to understand aid conditionality fully, you need to distinguish economic policy conditions from fiduciary guarantees required of developing country recipients. The latter are justifiable requirements that money given in aid is actually spent on the purposes designated. The former are unjustifiable controls imposed on recipient countries for purposes of ideology and self-interest.

There is no secret conspiracy here: donors are open about using aid for their own ends. Tied aid is the most obvious abuse, forcing recipient countries to recycle aid money straight back to the donor economy. More subtle forms of 'technical assistance' perform the ideological function outlined in my earlier email. President Nixon's remark from 40 years ago still resonates: "Let us remember that the main purpose of aid is not to help other nations but to help ourselves."

On the broader issue, your defence of economic liberalisation is wholly misguided. There have indeed been successes in fighting poverty over the past 50 years, but they have nothing to do with free market fundamentalism. The greatest success stories have come from Asian countries which turned their backs on the free market model so assiduously promoted by the World



Constructing rural roads in Tanzania

Continued page 6

Bank and IMF, entering the global economy on their own terms and at their own pace. In so doing, they were of course following the example of the industrialised nations of the rich North at comparable points in their development.

By contrast, those countries which were forced to swallow the IMF's free market medicine as a condition of loans and debt relief have stagnated. Africa, in particular, has seen its share of global exports plummet by 70 per cent as a result of three decades of enforced liberalisation. Paul Collier gets this much right in the book you cite: "Don't count on trade to help the bottom billion. Based on present trends, it seems more likely to lock yet more of the bottom-billion countries into the natural resource trap than to save them through export diversification."

Yet there is one thing we agree on. Aid may provide a stop-gap for countries without sufficient domestic savings or state capacity for investment, but it cannot be the foundation for long-term, sustainable development. For societies to build strong and resilient economies in the long run, they need to put in place appropriate policies that will develop the most dynamic sectors of those economies. Those will not be the policies of the free market, but accountable, forward looking government.

Best wishes,
John

Dear John

To suggest that Asian countries have turned their backs on free markets is patently false. Compared to the communism and socialism practised in these countries prior to their rise, they have undertaken profound revolutions in liberating their economies. It is also incorrect to suggest that Asian countries rejected the World Bank and the IMF. Whether to their benefit or not, countries such as India have been heavily engaged with these institutions throughout their development.

Your quote of Paul Collier is taken slightly out of context. His wider point is that the reason trade is not working for the bottom billion is due to factors that inhibit economic activities in many African countries, namely conflict and bad governance. With peace and the rule of law, there is no reason to believe that African countries cannot replicate

the growth of every other country that has traded its way out of poverty. As M. Nathaniel Barnes, Liberia's ambassador to the United States and the country's former finance minister, states: "Instead of talking to USAID, I'd rather be talking to a company like Nike" ... "Having a partner like that means jobs and economic growth, and you just don't get that from aid." While Rwanda's President Paul Kagame is adamant that: "In Africa today, we recognise that trade and investment, and not aid, are pillars of development."

Perhaps you would agree with President Kagame, as you seem to agree that aid cannot be the foundation for development. However, to suggest that governments need to put in place appropriate policies that develop the most dynamic sectors of those economies puts the cart before the horse. Governments do not create wealth, people do. The free, open and natural economic interactions of individuals acting in their own perceived self-interest is the reason we both have the luxury of conducting this exchange. Countries are successful in spite of economic central planning, not because of it. As Michael Schuman shows in *The Miracle*, Asia's recent success was only possible once the heavy hand of the state had been circumvented.

Kind regards,
Philip

Dear Philip

Decent jobs, strong governance and broad-based growth are indeed the cornerstones of sustainable development. Countries are then able to integrate into the global economy on a successful basis, and to direct foreign investment towards productive rather than exploitative ends. Such state management of economic policy was the common denominator behind the Asian miracles, whether in capitalist South Korea or communist China.

Yet even with peace and good governance, Africa will still struggle. It is in chapter 6 of Collier's *Bottom Billion*, entitled 'On Missing the Boat', that he acknowledges the structural economic reasons preventing Africa from replicating the development model of Asia today. Put simply, there is no gap in production costs between African and Asian countries comparable to that which existed between Asian and Western countries 30 years ago. The

conditions for convergence do not pertain; pretending they do will only make matters worse.

Blind faith in neoliberal dogma is why Africa's trade record has been so catastrophic. Without satisfying any of the preconditions for successful liberalisation, the continent was forced to open its economies under IMF diktat and saw its meagre share of global exports evaporate as a result. To heap injury on injury, Africa is today suffering the effects of a global economic crisis which was itself caused by deficiencies in the neoliberal model and by market deregulation in the countries of the rich North.

The good news is that the current crisis may offer Africa "an opportunity for change", according to the latest report on the world's least developed countries published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) this July. The crisis has at last "exposed the myth of self-regulating markets", notes UNCTAD. Turning away from trade liberalisation, monetarism and other articles of the neoliberal faith, the world's poorest countries need to embrace the concept of the 'developmental state', just as the Asian miracles did in their day.

This cannot mean duplicating the policy choices of yesteryear, but forging new models of state involvement to promote agricultural and industrial development for the long term. It also means fairer rules at the international level on trade, investment, tax and corporate accountability – as well as debt cancellation to offset the expected decline in finance flows to the poorest economies in coming years. After 30 years of free market failure, that sounds like a future worth fighting for.

Best wishes,
John

Dear John

Your point that Africa lacks the comparative advantages available to Asian countries upon their liberalisation is overtly pessimistic and wrong. Firstly, it must be pointed out that such opinions were held about Asian countries prior to their rise. In Gunnar Myrdal's 1968 work *Asian Drama*, the then guru of development aid considered the continent also to be trapped in an unequal relationship with the West that only foreign governments could overcome with Soviet-style planning. Gunnar Myrdal's

Continued page 7

now discredited thesis – like the one you hold for Africa – rests on a belief that African people are unable to help themselves.

Also, let's not pretend that the neo-liberal paradigm has been the driving force across most of Africa. In fact, as the Economic Freedom of the World studies reveal, African economies remain amongst the most protected and susceptible to government intervention; while the Doing Business Index reveals that countries on the continent are amongst the most difficult places in the world to hire a worker, enforce a contract, fire a worker, register a business, import and export etc.

The real enemy of economic prosperity in the history of Africa have been such policies as import substitution in Kenya and ujamaa in Tanzania. In contradistinction the cases of Uganda and Botswana show how African countries can thrive if open to the global economy. President Museveni's policies of economic liberalisation have resulted in GDP growth of 6.9% and per capita growth of 3.5% in the 1990s, while Botswana's GDP per capita has risen from around \$1600 in 1975 to around \$8000 in 2004 thanks also to its market friendly economic policies.

Take a look at the case of mobile telephony in Kenya to see how the people of Africa can work their own way out of poverty without the help of governments, foreign or domestic. While the government of Kenya monopolized fixed-line telephony they left the market in mobile telephony free. As a result, two private enterprises invested heavily in the necessary base stations for the technology. Ten years later Kenya has in excess of 5 million subscribers (15 million users) and has helped pioneer GSM payment systems as well as seeing services such as mobile banking take off. This has been driven by private sector competition between Vodafone (British), MTN (South African) and Safaricom (Kenyan).

I will end though where we started this exchange: on the efficacy of development aid. It is my contention that the last fifty years have been a record of failure. By supporting despotic regimes, undermining democracy and the crowding out of private sector investment, it has even on occasion done more harm. Development aid is at best a distraction from the domestic reforms essential to these countries economic growth. I will give you one last example of human ingenuity under conditions of

freedom: Hong Kong. It transformed itself from fishing village to world-class city at great speed and should be a beacon of hope for the developing world.

Kind regards,

Philip

Dear Philip

Your claim that "African economies remain among the most protected" is two decades out of date. According to the World Bank's trade restrictiveness index, which takes into account both tariff and non-tariff barriers, the continent is now more open to agricultural trade than any other region in the world, including Europe and North America. Most worryingly, it is also more open to manufacturing trade than the countries of South Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Africa has tried trade liberalisation. It did not work. War on Want's recent report *Trading Away Our Jobs* details the massive losses in employment and industrial capacity seen in country after country as a result of the trade liberalisations of the past three decades. Far from stimulating growth and development, three in four of the African countries that underwent such economic restructuring actually experienced a decline in per capita incomes during the 1980s. Botswana's success was based not on the free market, as you suggest, but on central planning and state own-

ership of the country's diamonds, which represent 80% of national exports.

You look east for an example of how developing countries can transform themselves into economic powerhouses. I'm not sure how many African countries would see the tiny island economy of Hong Kong as comparable to their situations or relevant to their needs. A more appropriate model of a country which has won economic success through trade might be Vietnam: one of the most closely managed economies on the planet, with high tariffs, import quotas, export controls and state marketing boards. Not only has Vietnam achieved spectacular economic development; it has also translated that development into significant poverty reduction too.

To conclude, you and I agree that aid cannot be the answer to the needs of developing countries in the future. We also agree, though for different reasons, that much aid has been harmful in the past. War on Want wishes to see a global economic system which removes the need for aid and for the dependency which goes with it. That will only be possible when governments finally reject the failed neoliberal dogma of the Washington consensus and embark on genuine development policies which serve the needs of their own peoples.

Best wishes,

John

DFID visit EAP project in Tanzania

In June this year representatives from the Department for International Development and Triple Line Consulting visited an EAP project in Tanzania entitled 'Strengthening Workers Rights in the Tanzanian Construction Industry'. The visitors were hosted by EAP's project partner the Institution of Engineers Tanzania. They were able to meet with a range of project stakeholders, attend a health and safety training course and visit a construction site.

A full report of the visit is available at www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/funding/cscf/cscf-proj-visit-rpt-tz-june09.pdf

Progress on CoST

EAP is continuing to provide policy advice on the DFID and World Bank supported Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST). In June Dr. Jill Wells visited Hanoi, Vietnam with a delegation from the CoST International Advisory Group (IAG) to discuss the project with various representatives of the Vietnamese Government. In September she played a major role in a three day training course in London for coordinators from 6 of the seven pilot countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, UK, Vietnam and Zambia). The pilot project will run until September 2010 after which it is expected to enter a second phase.

Getting it Right: Making Corporate-Community Relations Work

The road to hell, it is said, is paved with good intentions. The wisdom of this view is borne out by numerous examples from the extractive industries where despite the efforts of companies to build good relations with local communities, confrontation and conflict have instead ensued.

In their recently published book 'Getting it Right: Making Corporate-Community Relations Work', authors Luc Zandvliet and Mary B Anderson analyse a range of examples where this has occurred. The observations in 'Getting it Right' are based on collaborative efforts by CDA's Corporate Engagement Project with over 60 international companies – mostly from the extractive industries, and operating in Africa, Asia, Australia, and North and South America. The research examined the broad spectrum of company activities that affect local communities – from hiring, compensation, and contracting, to community consultation, community projects, and working with NGOs and governments.

The lessons learned and the advice provided are both deeply considered and highly practical. The aim is to help corporate managers get it right with respect to interactions with local communities, so that they can more efficiently and effectively accomplish

Parliamentary group discusses engineering and development

The All Party Parliamentary Engineering and Information Technology Group recently invited EAP to speak at an event that explored Engineering and International Development. The event was chaired by Lord Broers and also included speakers from Arup and Engineers Without Borders. A report of the event will be published and available from the EAP website soon.

their production goals and, at the same time, ensure that local communities are better (rather than worse) off as a result of their presence. The book also addresses what has been learned about how companies can interact, appropriately and positively, with national governments and advocacy NGOs in ways that promote, rather than undermine,

the welfare of the citizens of the countries where they operate.

The book can be purchased for £22.50 from www.greenleaf-publishing.com.

More information on CDA's Corporate Engagement Project is available in the CDA website:

www.cdainc.com/cdawww/default.php.

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EAP welcomes Tendai Nyoka

EAP has appointed Tendai Nyoka as its Finance and Administration Officer. Tendai has an MBA in Finance, a BSc in Business Administration and French and is a Chartered Institute of Management Accounts Passed Finalist. Since her appointment in February and in addition to her principal responsibilities, Tendai has been promoting the Vietnam Cambodia Cycle Challenge 2010.

ENGINEERS
AGAINST
POVERTY

Chair: Douglas Oakervee, OBE Director: Petter Matthews
Engineers Against Poverty, 2nd Floor, Weston House, 246 High Holborn
London WC1V 7EX. Tel: +44 (0)20 3206 0488. Fax: +44 (0)20 3206 0490.
E-mail: t.nyoka@engineersagainstpoverity.org
Web: www.engineersagainstpoverity.org
Charity number: 1071974. Company number: 3613056

*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of EAP.
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