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Editorial

Charlie McConnell

The first six months of 2016 has been an incredibly busy period for our volunteer- led, member-funded organisation. In 1989 I first joined the IACD and have been a regular visitor to our Practice Insights magazine for the delay in the publication of this issue. We had changes at our head office in Scotland, with the departure of our two part time staff, Anna Chiswok and Jacky Arrasza, and the appointment of Coim Munday. This meant that our volunteer Board had to step up to the mark, committing even more time to planning our biannual international conference to be held in America in July, to organising our Practice Exchange programme and India Roundtable, to developing the Global Community Development Exchange repository (to be launched later this year), and to enhancing our profile at the UN. This delay, however, has allowed us to include a feature on our international Practice Exchange programme to India and Nepal held in March. Participants met with practitioners coping with the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Nepal. And barely a month after the group left India, some of the communities visited were hit by extensive forest fires, the result of years of drought in the northern regions. These demonstrate so clearly the vulnerability of many communities to natural and man-made disasters. And of why the building of resilience, the theme of Practice Insights Issue 3, must be at the top of the agenda for community development work. In India we also arranged a Roundtable conference for India and other members from around the world, on the implications of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for community development work. Our partnership with the US Community Development Society (CDS) in organising this year’s international conference also focuses upon the SDGs. This will be the largest gathering of community developers from around the world examining the implications of the SDGs and the issue of the sustainability. Let me take the opportunity in this issue of warmly welcoming all participants to the conference. At the time of writing we have had over 150 confirmed presentations from practitioners, academics and others working in our field, together with keynote presentations from governmental, philanthropic and business sectors and the World Bank. The next issue of Practice Insights will include papers from the conference.

This issue also includes articles from Europe, China, Oceania and North America. Stuart Hashagen reflects upon the first twenty five years of the work of the European Community Development Network. The European Union is currently facing an existential crisis with the re-emergence of xenophobic political parties across the continent and the fracturing of the EU with the departure of my own country Britain (albeit perhaps not Scotland where IACD’s HQ is based). The tragic conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, together with eight years of austerity policies, have left millions of the poorest across Europe and on its borders, hugely vulnerable. Expenditure across Europe has reduced significantly for developing and community development programmes in all countries, although the EU remains collectively the largest funder of overseas international development work. Alongside the challenges of climate change, xenophobia and austerity, longstanding inequalities go on across the world. The articles by Guiqing Wong on Accessibility: The Social Change Movement of the 21st and by Jill Bedford and Holly Shadbolt on Women, Leadership and Power highlight community development in relation to the empowerment of people with disabilities and of women. KF-Fung’s article on community Economic Development in Hong Kong, also focusses upon community development work with women, in response to the increasing severity of poverty and to political change as Hong Kong becomes more closely integrated within China. Paul Lachapelle’s article looks at the history of the United States Land Grant University System, set against the context of huge changes impacting upon rural America and the support role of Community Development Extension Professionals.

It is against these challenges of change and challenge for community development practice that we include the two ‘reflection’ pieces, by Fiona Ballantyne and Mark Langdon on Community Development in Scotland: Have We Lost Our Way and, by Randy Adams – Am I Wishing To Be Changed? Both question our practice as community developers and development agencies. Fiona and Mark’s work in the West of Scotland, where public investment in community development was at one time the largest in Europe by a municipal authority, has seen the building of stronger communities, but high levels of poverty and inequality remain and are growing. Randy Adams, our retiring Vice President, looks back on over 50 years of a career of work in community development, ending with that ever inspiring quote by Lilia Watson, “If you have come to help, stay home. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then work together.” This issue marks the end of my period of office as President of IACD and of 18 years as a Board member (1993-2004 and 2015-2016). I joined IACD in the mid 1970s when teaching community development. In those days the association published its own journal and had no website, yet this was an invaluable resource for teaching and learning about community development around the world! Since then the Board and several years later instigated its move of HQ to Scotland. I was involved in forging our special link with the Community Development Journal and with several national and regional community development networks around the world, including the US Community Development Society and the European Community Development Network. I remain a strong believer that our association’s strength must be built upon having close, coherent national and regional networks in the world upon the bridge between practice and academia through our links with CD journals and magazines and the providers of professional community development education and training. One of my priorities as President has been for the association to be more supportive to community development teachers and students, as the latter seek to enter a career in development work, together with the various bodies around the world that set professional standards and training programmes. Together we form the architecture of support for our discipline. Although fragile at best and non-existent in many part of the world, there has never more been a time when we must be supporting ourselves, as a professional discipline, improving our continuous professional development and highlighting to others more clearly what it is that we do.

As I stand down as President this July, it gives me huge pleasure to be handing the baton over to Paul Lachapelle, our first American President since the 1960s. With huge thanks to the many IACD friends and colleagues with whom I have worked around the world.

Charlie McConnell
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www.iacdglobal.org

About IACD

IACD is the only global network for professional community development practitioners. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities to realise greater social and economic protection and political democracy.

What do we do?

IACD links people to each other. We facilitate learning and practice exchange, both virtually and face-to-face. We work with partners to deliver regional, national and international events, study visits and conferences. We document the work that our members are doing around the world by collecting case studies, tools and materials on community development, and sharing these through our website, publications and ebulletins. We carry out research projects, drawing on international experience.

IACD aims to give its members a voice at the global level, advocating for community development principles and practice in international forums and consultations. IACD has consultative status with the UN and its agencies.

Contributing articles

Our international Practice Insights publications are issued twice a year, each one focusing on a particular theme of relevance to community development. If you would like further information or to contribute to future editions, please contact charlie.mcconnell@iacdglobal.org

Alternatively, IACD members are welcome at any time to contribute news items, research, case studies or other materials to our regular ebulletins and to the IACD website.

Join us

For full details and join, go to www.iacdglobal.org/join-us.

Benefits of membership include:

• Regular ebulletins and email updates
• Access to restricted areas of the IACD website, with opportunities for learning and practice exchange
• Opportunities to participate in study visits and other face-to-face learning events
• Discounted rates at IACD conferences
• Discounted subscriptions to the Community Development Journal
• Opportunities to share your work and experiences with a global audience, through our website, ebulletins, newsletters and other publications

Members also have the opportunity to nominate themselves or others to serve on the IACD Board of Directors. Our next Annual General Meeting will take place in July 2016. For more details please contact Charlie McConnell, IACD President - charlie.mcconnell@iacdglobal.org

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The European Community Development Network reaches 25!

Stuart Hashagen

In April 2016, members of the European Community Development Network (EuCDN) got together in Budapest, Hungary to celebrate 25 years of collaboration and learning exchange. ‘The following thoughts are drawn from members’ contributions to a forthcoming review of work of the network, formerly known as the Combined European Bureau for Social Development.

In 1990 when the network was launched at a European conference in the UK, the fall of the Berlin wall and the successful reunification of Germany and the transformation of the Central, Eastern European states gave the post-war European project new life. Civil society movements had a key role in these changes. There was a sense of hope in the possibility of a “New Europe”, where social rights would merge with economic rights, where local, regional, national, and European borders would blend together, and where equality would be embedded in public policy.

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The social activists, who founded the European community development network, knew that governments and public policy cannot generate the participation of citizens in this New Europe without local and economic development in local communities. They saw the threat of “Fortress Europe” where the rich get richer on globally generated wealth and the poor get poorer as local economies fail. In the early 1990s it was already clear that policies, which breed insecurity and exclusion, also breed criminalisation and right wing radicalisation at local and national level.

The founding members of the network knew then that social inclusion needs a “bottom-up” perspective and cooperation across boundaries and borders. There was an emphasis on the social economy where wealth is generated locally and local communities both benefit and participate. The initial idea was to have a trading organisation that would facilitate joint projects and applications in the European context. From the mid-1990s CEBSD began to develop more as a network and started to organise more systematic contacts and exchanges between national community work organisations. It also sought to promote community development at the European level; to create learning opportunities for participating institutes and their staff members as well as assess whether or not it would be possible to obtain funding for common projects.

During our intensive and eventful meetings, study visits, conferences and joint projects we all have discovered something important about the other’s work, which we could then apply in our own environment and circumstances. For the Hungarian network member the way in which people treat each other in Europe was an attractive example for democracy and self-consciousness were present in every contact made.

We were continuously learning what the culture of democracy means in the family, at work, on the street, while shopping or going about our business, or when representing local issues in local social and public life and participating in decision-making. Democracy is an incredibly rich terrain for analysis as a way of life, a form of social partnership, a way of working, or an area of policy.

Community development workers, managers and trainers were able to learn about different models and practice of community development. The word ‘information’ is too limited a description of the process of learning and sharing between the representatives who were closely involved with CEBSD and of the communications between those representatives and community development workers and helping agencies in their own countries. The process was also about beginning to understand the political and social context in which CD was operating, about engaging with the textures of peoples’ neighbourhoods and the ways in which local people might act together. Above all, it was about the experience of beginning to get close to the hopes and realities of individuals committed to understanding and pushing forward CD.

The model underlined the importance given to staying close to community development practice, to observe the experiences of local people – some of them often living in very difficult social and material conditions – and to seek to understand the community development response, what was the underlying strategy? What human and financial resources were available to support community development? What were the skills and knowledge being used by community development workers? And what training opportunities were there? Often, when we discussed these questions with local and regional community development organisations we were told how helpful our observations had been to projects.

A strong community development voice at the heart of Europe can make a key input into addressing some of the major and urgent challenges that face the European Union, its Member States and other European countries. If we are to build a more social, a more inclusive and a more sustainable Europe then it is essential that the experience of people working at local level is heard at the policy making level.

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From a degree of proximity to practice and from discussion and analysis of what CEBSD representatives saw and heard, attempts were made to identify key ideas – theories – about community development. CEBSD was – and is – in a position to do this in the European context, to make sense of what the key elements of community development are across several countries.

A strong community development voice at the heart of Europe can make a key input into addressing some of the major and urgent challenges that face the European Union, its Member States and other European countries. If we are to build a more social, a more inclusive and a more sustainable Europe then it is essential that the experience of people working at local level is heard at the policy making level.

As well as continuing to promote exchange and learning between community development practitioners and as well as ensuring that a community development voice is heard on these key issues at European level, the European Community Development Network can do more. It can also play a key role in the role of working to build a progressive movement for change that is built from the struggles for a better future at a local level into national, European and international movements.

The full review of the work EuCDN over the past 25 years will be published in the summer – it will include up to 25 case studies of the impact of community development work as well as more reflections and more consideration of the challenges ahead. Keep an eye on the website at eucdn.net or become our friend on Facebook to keep in touch.

Article by Stuart Hashagen, Chair European Union Community Development Network
**Accessibility: the social change movement of the 21st Century?**

Qiujing Wong

Imagine a world where every person, building and community is truly accessible!

A world where we can go anywhere without barriers and limitations, where people believe in the value and contribution that all people can make, and where each one us, whether we have a disability or not, has the courage and confidence to achieve our potential.

**Accessibility**

According to Be.

Accessibility is more than just removing barriers for the one in four of us who lives with a disability. It’s about creating a society where possibility, generosity and accessibility are in abundance.

For the past five years, the Be Institute, led by Minnie Baragwanath, has worked with hundreds of businesses, organisations and leaders, big and small, individually and collaboratively, to grow a more accessible world. Be acknowledges that every person has a part to play in the creation of accessibility regardless of how big or small the change. “New Zealanders are by nature inclusive and socially aware, and we are seeking to build on this through specific practices in our programmes. Our view is that if we get it right for disabled people, we get it right for all people” – Minnie Baragwanath, CEO, Be Institute.

In New Zealand, more than 800,000 people live with a disability of some kind. Add to this older people who acquire impairments as they age, as well as parents with young children, people with temporary injuries or illnesses, and visitors from overseas who may have limited understanding of the English language and the Kiwi culture, and we have possibly the fastest growing consumer group on our planet. Be calls this the “access customer” group – the group for whom greater access means the ability to engage with, use, participate in, and belong to, the world around us.

The spending power of this group is significant both socially and economically and points to a valid case for change. Good access means customers are able to spend easily. Businesses earn more, and economies are healthier leading to greater wellbeing for all. The economic power of the access economy is a positive force for the access community, creating a kind of “financial self identification” and a way to define and value the economic contribution we all make to society.

Be takes a strengths-based approach to its work and has developed a holistic programme that allows any business or organisation to understand its level of current accessibility, to develop pathways to improving this and to then find innovative ways to create change. Be’s unique assessment programme addresses the physical aspects of the business or organisation as well as levels of accessible customer service, organisational culture and willingness of leadership teams to embrace change.

Language plays an important role in creating social change. Be has coined the terms “access customers”, “access employees”, “access tourism” and the “access economy”. The purpose of these phrases is to reframe how we think about people with access needs – rather than being a cost to our economy and society, we invite others to see the value and contribution that this group makes.

To complement the creation of an accessible world, is the equally important role that access leaders have in shaping culture, society and attitudes. Be has developed a unique and intensive leadership programme to provide up to 20 individuals with experience of disability the opportunity to develop their leadership potential over one year. To date 80 Be leaders have graduated from the Be Leadership programme.

In New Delhi in March 2016, the IACD Board approved the association’s four year plan 2016-20

This plan is the result of three months consultation with IACD members. The Board, with members’ endorsement, has decided to focus much of our work over the coming period upon supporting members and the community development world in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please see the IACD website for the four year plan in full: www.iacdglobal.org/about/strategic-plan-2016-2020

We are currently reviewing how best to update IACD members

We want to provide you with contemporary news and information about what is happening in the world of community development on a more regular basis. Since April 2016 we have been utilising our main Facebook Page much more, to post daily updates on events, resources and news. We have been covering news from Alaska to Mongolia, Hungary to Brazil, from the United Nations to the smallest grassroots community development agency. If you have not yet looked at the IACD Facebook Page, please do so.

www.iacdglobal.org

Qiujing Wong is the Campaign Director for the Be. Institute and a Co-Director of BORDERLESS, a Social Change Agency dedicated to inspiring positive change through commercials, films and creative campaigns

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A t the IACD Glasgow conference, we sought to create a vibrant space to encourage challenging and insightful conversations around women, leadership and power. We planned for group discussion, versus lecture, and ambitiously sought to address these complex questions and ideas in our session. To facilitate group discussion, we split participants into groups using fruit – pomegranates, pineapples, and grapes.

changes were pleased to support the attendance of six women at the conference from the cohort of women from the African Diaspora they were working with at the time. We were excited for opportunities to have discussions around power, leadership and change; benefitting women looking to develop their leadership confidence and become more active in community, public and global life. This seemed assured, as the discussions in the leadership programme were directly related to the theme for that two-day conference – harnessing the wealth of communities. This theme complimented our collaborative efforts with our Diaspora leadership programme, offering opportunities to share experiences in the journeys and challenges faced around leadership for self, family, community and wider society.

Traditionally, the assumed identity of a ‘leader’ is male. Therefore, there are important discussions around gender and power that must accompany a process of women recognizing themselves, and being recognized as leaders (hence the term “transformative” in our session).

During the session, Lucy Mayes of Heart Works Australia, wrote a blog entry about the workshop for the September edition of the Australian Journal of Community Development. More pointedly, we were interested in how Lucy described the discussions in the session, and the way she highlighted the visions participants had vis-à-vis the potential contributions the increased involvement of women could bring to community development:

Normative behaviour extends into issues of sexuality, race, class, and nationality. The concept of “intersectionality” describes the dynamic that individuals may experience multiple differences that define them in cultural or social categories that are non-normative, or out of step with the most valued traits.

So, what is the opinion of the pomegranates, would it look like in a world where women aren’t valued equally and valuing themselves? It didn’t, as you would know, take too much imagination (please note, these lists came out of a five minute brainstorm with a small group of people and are only scratching the surface of where these excellent questions might take us). There would be: breakdown of family units; family violence; stagnant development; loss of skills to society; compromised mental health, spiritual health, general health and children’s health; lack of representation and democratic deficit; and disempowered communities.

And if we (women) were more involved in creating the wealth, what might that look like? We decided there would be: more checks and balances in the system; more focus on social justice, social services, human rights and environmental protection; families and communities would be healthier physically, emotionally and spiritually; there would be more diverse economies and increased family income; balanced leadership and increased collaborative decision-making; women and children would be safer; compassion and sensitivity would be given higher value; we would enjoy a more holistic world; there would be better emotional health for both men and women; and there would be a better balance between the domestic economy and the wealth economy.

Lucy speaks to the negative ways our gendered binary plays out in community development. When one gender is pushed to an extreme, limited in how it may be expressed, the other side of that binary system is equally limited: the more women’s gendered expectations (beauty, servitude, passive behaviour) are narrowed, the more men’s (oppositional gendered expectations, masculine appearance, dominance, active leadership) are narrowed as well. In terms of leadership, the more men are pushed into the role as leaders, and their gendered traits valued as conditions of leadership, the more women are pushed out, and devalued when they adopt leadership behaviours.

It is in these ways that gender is shaped by our daily interactions, creating the context for how women, girls, men, and boys live their lives. Strict gendered expectations limit the expressions for everyone.

where those voices are important to be considered, are formed within expectations of gender normative behaviour.

Normative behaviour extends into issues of sexuality, race, class, and nationality. The concept of “intersectionality” describes the dynamic that individuals may experience multiple differences that define them in cultural or social categories that are non-normative, or out of step with the most valued traits. This could include people of colour in a society defined by whiteness, or being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender in a world defined by hetero-normativity (the assumption that all people couple with only differently sexed partners). Minority religious practices may also be a contributor to issues of intersectionality, as a factor for exclusion, repression, or marginalization in economy, society, or community life. As practitioners and academics in community development, the heart of our work is to recognize these differences and work toward equality, as our field understands that societies are enriched by our differences. This is the backbone of social justice.

Developing leaders, then, becomes a process of social change – addressing social roles, conducting social activities. Leaders must seek to identify how they can have these conversations and push our daily interactions, creating the context for change.

We are eager to continue these conversations by asking, how can we:

- Engage men and women in these conversations
- Challenge media representation of women
- Look for alternative positive role models of active influential women
- Encourage collaboration between men and women
- Question structures that favour a ‘male’ style of working
- Explore solutions and conversational styles together
- Other childcare and avoid token women at the table

Further, we are looking to how we can have these conversations and push these important and critical issues of gender and difference using community development processes.

Co-authorship of this piece by: Jill Bedford, Director changeus
Holly Scheib, PhD MPH MSW, Director, Sage Consulting, USA

….with timely contribution from Lucy Mayes, Heart Works, Australia

[1] We aim to increase the pool of women who make a pivotal difference women who influence change as well as support others to find their ‘leader within’. www.wacwgloballab.org/publications-and-resources/conferences/lisbon-papers

Women, leadership and power: equalities, social justice and community development

Jill Bedford and Holly Scheib

This workshop, facilitated by changes/Working for Change hoped to develop some of the themes that emerged from changes’ workshop at the prior IACD Lisbon conference, where the focus was on women and transformational leadership.[1]
Sustainable Communities: The IACD 2016 Practice Exchange

As part of our continuing professional development support for members, IACD organizes Practice Exchanges to different parts of the world. Practice Exchanges are an opportunity for a small group of community developers from different countries to join together in visiting community development in practice.

Our 2016 Practice Exchange returned to India, following the highly successful trip four years earlier to Southern India. This year our focus was upon community development practice as it was addressing sustainable development in Northern India. Our partner was the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation. Eighteen community development practitioners, policy makers and academics from nine countries embarked on a two week journey, exploring and sharing practice, knowledge, and engaging in dialogue amongst India’s rural and urban communities.

We started our trip with an IACD India round table mini-conference, where we were joined by over 40 IACD India members, held at the India International Centre in New Delhi. Here we focused upon the implications for community development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The round table was a wonderful opportunity to engage with Indian IACD members on a policy priority for the association. We shall be running further CD and SDG round table mini-conferences in different global regions during the year. It also provided for the Practice Exchange participants a key insight into the national challenges in India.

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Day 1-3 New Delhi
UN Sustainable Development Goals Roundtable: The role of community development in the implementation of SDGs.
Visit to: Aga Khan Development Network Trust for Culture: Nizamuddin Basti Urban Renewal Project
Community projects, Old Delhi

Day 4-7 Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
Visits to: Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation
www.grassrootsindia.com
Holistic mountain development program, focusing on community-driven ecological restoration activities along with interventions in water, energy, food security and livelihood opportunities.
Community projects and Self Help Groups, Uttarakhand
Umang: Producer’s company
Collective of self Help groups and producer-shareholders in the Himalayas, promoting sustainable livelihoods.
Aarohi (www.aarohi.org): A not-for-profit grassroots organisation, committed to creating development opportunities for rural Himalayan communities through quality healthcare and education, enterprise promotion, sustainable natural resource use, and the revival of traditional culture

Day 8-10 Jaipur, Rajasthan
Visit to: Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society CECOEDECON
(www.cecoedecon.org.in)
One of Rajasthan’s leading civil society organisations, working towards promoting inclusion and making communities resilient through innovative interventions ranging from natural resource management, creating sustainable rural livelihoods and human rights approaches
Community projects and Self Help Groups, Rajasthan

“The round table was a wonderful opportunity to engage with Indian IACD members on a policy priority for the association. We shall be running further CD and SDG round table mini-conferences in different global regions during the year. It also provided for the Practice Exchange participants a key insight into the national challenges in India”.

Bhattacharya, Vice president, Breakthrough, India, Manas Satpathy, Executive Director, PRADAN, Mathew Chenian, Chairman, Voluntary Agency Network of India(VANI), Radhika Mathur, Program officer- SDGs, National Foundation of India (NFI) and Jyotsna Lail, Director Programs – AKTC- Aga Khan Foundation.

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Participants’ reflections:

The international professional development experience of a lifetime

Put 19 Community Development specialists on a train together in India and you have much more than a mobile party. You have the international professional development experience of a lifetime. Our hosts Anita and Kalyan Paul founded and co-lead the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation - an inspiring organisation with a real depth of community development experience and innovation. This includes the house of Umang, its fair trade enterprise and store.

The Foundation also has a very advanced understanding of mountain ecology informing both its community forestry and sustainable agriculture efforts to improve livelihoods, nutrition, food security and environmental protection. Of particular interest to me was their small scale biogas plants. These units – despite being an advanced technology – are still able to be managed and maintained in the village and produce clean gas, saving trees and improving the health of users.

Overall, the trip left me with an appreciation of how much more we need to learn and do to incorporate the SDGs into CD. It also highlighted the tremendous potential of using these goals as a framework for collaboration across civil society and with the state and private sectors. If you ever have the opportunity to participate in an IACD practice exchange grab it with both hands. I am sure my colleagues will agree, we shared a rich and refreshing experience that will inform our planning and shape our future practice.

Empowering communities for sustainable outcomes

In Kenya, I manage projects involving construction of water and sewerage facilities, like dams, water pans, and water & sewer treatment plants. I also work with rural communities assisting them to develop small community water projects.

India is famed to have best innovation in provision of sanitation services to the poor and I was keen to witness a few projects of this nature, among others. Highlights of the Practice Exchange included the visits to Water and Sanitation projects, where the promotion of appropriate technology and empowerment of communities to operate and maintain facilities resulted in sustainable outcomes, and the focus on Sustainable Livelihoods – using a holistic development approach that combines eco-restoration, sustainable farming practices and innovative micro-enterprise.

Practice Exchange was an eye opener especially on issues surrounding Global Warming and SDGs. Through the round-table discussions and reflection sessions, I realized the importance of ensuring SDGs are articulated and addressed in my organization’s interventions and reporting processes. Moving forward, some key lessons learned include:

- Empowerment of women contributes immensely to success of projects implemented at community level.
- We need to value and harness local knowledge for success of community projects.
- Practice Exchange must be promoted amongst community projects locally.
- Most importantly, inspire people to work with the heart!

Simon Mwaniki, Project Manager, Athi Water Services Board, Kenya

Women leading the change

The practice exchange programme in India was a real opportunity to think about my place in the world. I learned that climate change really is affecting people now. It is affecting the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable environments. Communities in India are taking action to counter its adverse effects with brilliant reforestation, hydrology and biomass fuel projects.

I noticed that women are leading the change in communities. They are being well supported to get started and the self-help model is strong, building resilience and making positive change for whole communities. This progressive realisation of human rights for women is key for contributing to the SDGs locally and globally.

I rediscovered that we must come to our work with heart. Bringing our whole selves to our community development practice. Believing in people. Believing in change and believing in the power of the collective. It only takes a few passionate people to make real change happen and if their action is taken with heart anything is possible. I feel renewed.

Clare MacGillivray, Development Coordinator for Edinburgh Tenants Federation, Scotland.

Learning from the Indian experience

Programme content to provide exposure to sustainable grassroots Community Development initiatives which have a strong focus on ‘Self Help’ and ‘Leadership’.

To really understand Self Help Community Development processes can be a challenge in India as it is a large and diverse country. Therefore it was difficult to build the broader perspective of the participants to get the message across. What is heartening is that despite these constraints we all settled on the Community Development journey together in India and all came out a s more knowledgeable experts.

Apart from the content of the programme, India itself is an experience - the accommodation, the food, the train rides, and the toilets were all new experiences. We had cultural breaks and the participants enjoyed the Indian Shopping experience too.

There is a lot that participants learned from the Indian practice exchange which I hope will be used and reflected in practice and teaching, particularly regarding Community Development and community mobilisation.

IACD is an excellent membership based network which can help add value to International Community Development processes and frameworks.

Mini Bedi, Development Support Team NGO, Pune, India and Chair Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation
Finding ourselves a new community of practice

Stories gathered from communities throughout the 2016 Practice Exchange in India were a continual reminder of how critical community-based groups are to creating sustainable communities and livelihoods. Moving beyond a group’s specific goal and the positive impact they can have when developing a particular project, the wider benefits of community, camaraderie, self-help and collective action for challenging power and injustice were constantly reinforced. Community groups are often small with a dedicated leadership, and are driven by the positive impact of the projects they visit. In fact, they should be adopted at National level as innovative models of development to contribute to population retention and sustainability of rural areas. The impact of that would be felt in the cities by reducing rural–urban migration.

A rural solution to an urban problem?
Andrew Anderson, Head of Partnerships, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland

Our mountains have been up in flames for over a week now. These fires have been extremely bad and probably the extent of damage has been so significant that some changes may take place regarding management of forests.

Would you believe that the commons of forests may take place regarding management of forests.

Indian colleagues, but the IACD Practice Exchange delegation provided an extra dimension that I hadn’t properly anticipated, adding a varied set of Community Development focused minds and thoughts to stretch and heighten the experience. To hijack a lovely quote, in our sameness we connected and through our differences we grew.

Holly Notcutt, Community Development Manager, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, England

The IACD Practice exchanges provide a unique opportunity for our international Community of Practice to learn, share, explore and reflect. This year’s Practice Exchange was no exception, as the reflections show. We look forward to shaping and planning the next trip!

It was a marvellous experience. It struck me early on that fundamentally community development projects which we observed in India and are involved with in Scotland require the same core principles to be followed – building capacity, empowering the local community and supporting long term survival through development of social enterprise. The great difference is that while in Scotland we are aiming to improve quality of life and opportunities in communities, in India the work we see is making changes to improve basic health and survival.

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The contrasting problems in urban and rural areas were of great interest. The extreme poverty witnessed in example Nizamuddin Basti is of a different order to what I have seen in Scotland. I was more at home in the rural areas, and impressed by the positive impact of the projects we visited.

We contacted NDTV, a leading TV channel here in India, to focus on this sad event and must say they did a great job by focusing prime time television on this event, with other news channels following in their wake. Any support is welcome!

Our next day found us touring youth–tuk-tuks and dinner tables.

Our tour guide Yogendra (Yogi) Kayastha who worked tirelessly to coordinate our entire trip. We began with a meeting with Dr. Govinda Pokharel, CEO of the government’s Earthquake Reconstruction Division who shared with us the progress and many challenges in the aftermath of the 7.8M earthquake that struck Nepal April 25, 2015 resulting in over 8,000 fatalities, 21,000 injuries and hundreds of thousands of people made homeless with entire villages flattened. We then toured the Buddhist temple Swyambhunath followed by a visit to Patan Durbar Square and discussed tourism and the effects the earthquake has had on tourist visitation and revenue.

Our second day brought us to the ancient city of Bhaktapur where we witnessed the devastating effects of the earthquake on the houses and temples. We next toured the Women’s Foundation, an inspiring organization run by Shanti Sharma helping women and children in Nepal who are victims of violence, abuse and poverty. We were greeted by the foundation’s children who welcomed us with song and dance – a poignant reminder of the love and compassion that exists even in extreme destitution! We concluded the day with an evening at Boudhanath Temple where we witnessed hundreds of Buddhist devotees circumnambulating the temple lit by thousands of butter lamps along the path. Our next day found us touring youth-related organizations with visits to 4-H Nepal and Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness. We concluded the day with a stop at Dasyuwa, a new organization working to build a management of young leaders who are guided by shared values of collaborating, innovating, and serving in Nepal.

On our fourth day, we visited the Siewa Kendra Leprosy Clinic and Boudha Ashram Nursing Home and met with Dr. Hira Pradhan and her staff to learn about their community work and discuss their views on leadership styles. We also had a chance to visit Pashupatinath Temple before leaving for 2-nights at the Balthali Village Resort a 2 hour drive from Kathmandu. For our final days, we visited the Namu Buddha monastery and hiked through local orange orchards and discussed the challenges and qualities of rural Nepal. We, The IACD Nepal Community Development Study Tour provided an opportunity for IACD members to witness, experience, engage, and interact with colleagues in Nepal and foster mutual learning and understanding. It was truly an inspiring and motivating tour by making the world just a little smaller through new friendships and contacts.

The View from Nepal 2016

A number of participants from the India Practice Exchange went on to spend time visiting projects and local communities in Nepal. Here, IACD President Elect, Paul Lachapelle and Marisa de Andrade reflect on their experiences.

A Reflection

It’s been about a month, and I’m still trying to process my experiences in India and Nepal on IACD’s practice exchange programme. The photographs (above) of infinite prayer flags taken at Namobuddha, one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Nepal, captures my state of mind better than words can. There was so much positivity, determination and kindness in the work of grassroots organisations. There is also so much work still to be done – poverty and inequality on a massive scale. I’m a researcher in health policy and practice and am now even more inspired to forge micro-macro linkages and connect local efforts to global initiatives such as SDGs. My work feels bolder, more creative and connected to people and the planet. I’m searching for a purpose in my practice (and life) that I hadn’t realised was missing. Thank you for the incredible opportunity.

Dr Marisa de Andrade, Lecturer, Programme Director: Integrated Service Improvement. School of Health in Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh, UK
Community Development in Scotland: have we lost our way?

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here are many excellent examples across Scotland of communities being supported by community development (CD) practitioners to address local needs and build community strengths. However the Scottish Community Development Network (SCDN) would suggest that there is less evidence of work that helps communities to analyse, understand and address the root causes of the issues that they are working on. The SCDN 2015 annual conference: Revolution or Bust: How can CD reclaim valued based practice? provided an opportunity for over 100 practitioners to consider the findings of our engagement report “Community Development in Scotland: The Reality behind the Rhetoric” (SCDN 2015). There was unanimous agreement from those in attendance that our network should encourage SCDN to promote valued based CD practice at national and local level.

In the process of compiling the ‘Reality behind the Rhetoric’ report SCDN had engaged with 456 CD practitioners from 25 of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland, working (paid or unpaid) within a broad range of public and voluntary agencies and community organisations.

Across all of our engagements most practitioners reported they were operating within a top down environment, with externally determined outcomes and short timescales for CD interventions. They reported that there was little space to nurture independent practice. And yet, grassroots CD practitioners feel that their CD skills are underutilised, with key processes missing and that they are often hampered in their roles by anxiety of inappropriate censure, exacerbated by increasing job insecurity. In addition, practitioners feel that there is a general lack of understanding of the complex skills involved in community development practice. Practitioners feel undervalued, under-resourced and over stretched.

SCDN would add that the current context in Scotland also evidences that CD has been sliced and diced into bits parts, colonised by agency agendas and sanitised to such an extent that “CD Lite”, is now the predominant practice with core values and principles, whilst practiced by many individuals, were being cast aside as the result of successive policy and managerial changes, thus leaving value based CD practice somewhere in the background of our collective consciousness.

We would raise the question: To what extent, within this context can communities work collectively to achieve sustainable, positive change? SCDN would assert that only by reclaiming our values, can we help communities to organise to achieve positive sustainable change and to challenge the predominant neoliberal agenda. To allow a critical discourse of community development practice to be meaningful, it is necessary, in the current context more than ever, to define our terms. As Tom Slater points out in his excellent article, “The Myth of Broken Britain” (T.Slater, 2012. The Myth of “Broken Britain”: Welfare Reform and the Production of ignorance, http://institucional.us.es/revistas/cuestiones/23/M_3.pdf) there is less evidence of work that helps communities to work with communities to challenge the root causes of the disadvantage, social injustice and inequalities they live with. “...this at a time when ideas of democracy and equality are increasingly being eroded by wide scale neoliberal hegemony.” (Morr and Crowthor 2014)

Many SCDN members feel that the impact of much of our current “CDlite” practice context is that communities are now less equipped to really understand the root causes of the disadvantage, social injustice and inequalities they live with. “...this at a time when ideas of democracy and equality are increasingly being eroded by wide scale neoliberal hegemony.” (Morr and Crowthor 2014)

Community development practice also seems to have lost its way in relation to the politically awakened population in Scotland. The case in point for Slater is evident in the unprecedented increase in voting and the fundamental shift in political allegiances in the UK independence referendum of 2014, was Scottish people, in the build up to the Scottish independence referendum of 2014, was unprecedented. The subsequent huge increase in voting and the fundamental shift in political allegiances in the UK general elections in May 2015 demonstrated the potential that exists to work with communities to challenge a ‘business as usual’ approach to politics and policy.

Have we also lost our way in relation to current policy priorities in Scotland? The Scottish Government has up to the election of May 2016 arguably developed a stronger focus on social justice and addressing inequalities. Current policy and statutory drivers, including the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the report by the Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy, potentially provide a critical role for community development practitioners. And yet, grassroots CD practitioners indicate practice environments where there is little space to work with communities to challenge power imbalances, social injustice, inequality and structural disadvantage. SCDN welcomes the renewed interest in community development within the Scottish Government and welcomes the opportunity to work with our CD partners, our communities and with governmental and non-governmental agencies, to clarify the key mechanisms one could use to build relationships with citizens and policy, to define and develop our values, can we help communities to organise to achieve positive sustainable change and to challenge the predominant neoliberal agenda. To allow a critical discourse of community development practice to be meaningful, it is necessary, in the current context more than ever, to define our terms. As Tom Slater points out in his excellent article, “The Myth of Broken Britain” (T.Slater, 2012. The Myth of “Broken Britain”: Welfare Reform and the Production of ignorance, http://institucional.us.es/revistas/cuestiones/23/M_3.pdf) there is less evidence of work that helps communities to work with communities to challenge the root causes of the disadvantage, social injustice and inequalities they live with. “...this at a time when ideas of democracy and equality are increasingly being eroded by wide scale neoliberal hegemony.” (Morr and Crowthor 2014)
As I am retiring and stepping down from the Board of IACD, I was asked to share first as a practitioner and then as an academic, a few critical things about the theory and practice of community development that I have learned over my career.

I remember a joke from years ago asking the question, “How many people does it take to change a light bulb?” The answer was, “One, but only if the bulb needs (or wants) changing!” I would suggest, more seriously, that the same is true for people, groups, and “communities.” (For the following essay, “communities” will include “communities of practice” and/or “geographic communities” – local, national, and international.) More importantly, I think it is also true of those academics, practitioners, and/or community leaders whose profession entails the “change of others.” We too need to be willing to change the way we work as we learn from our experiences and from what others have learned.

In brief, I hope to share a few stories with you of events that “changed” my way of thinking about the profession that became my career and how it affected the way I worked.

First of all, the most fascinating thing about the field of community development is that you get to meet so many unique, engaged, and interesting people. I have had the opportunity to work with people in over 40 countries. Their countries’ history, culture, and vision of a quality of life always opened opportunity to work with people in over 40 countries. Their countries’ history, culture, and vision of a quality of life always opened

The Profession of Community Organizing/Development

Above all, what I have learned is that we are all organizers and doers to some degree. The difference between a “professional” and a lay person or community leader is that the professional has learned about the history of various schools of thought on the subject matter, a variety of research methods, and a tool box of organizing techniques. A good professional, simply shares that knowledge and skill as well as their experience with those engaged in their own individual and community development activities to assist them in achieving what they want to improve their quality of life. We learn together… and change together!

“If you have come because your liberation is bound up with ours, then let us work together.” – Lila Watson

Randy Adams is the Vice President of IACD and retired in July 2016. Randy was also a former President of the USA Community Development Society.
Community Development through the United States Land Grant University System: The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

Paul Lachapelle

The United States has a system of “land-grant” universities created through a series of federal congressional acts starting in 1862. These acts funded universities by granting federally-controlled land to individual states for them to use and raise funds to establish and endow “land-grant” institutions. As a response to the industrial revolution, the original intent of these institutions was to focus on the teaching of practical agriculture, science, military science, engineering, and classical studies. While most land-grant institutions became large public universities today, offer a full spectrum of educational opportunities, some land-grant colleges have become private schools, including Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The U.S. Cooperative Extension Service (or simply ‘Extension’) has just celebrated its centennial and was created as a way to “extend” the resources of land-grant institutions to rural community members. Created in 1914 as a response to rural needs in the United States, Extension is a public-fund university system that provides education and research to citizens who are not traditional campus-based students. Extension faculty work in the four areas of agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences and natural resources, youth development, and applied social science research that advance community development practices.

Additional funding and legislative language addressed the need to provide research and education to help supplement farm income by strengthening and expanding agri-related industries and economic opportunities and hire rural educators (termed “development agents”). The intent was that these agents would live in communities across each state and work directly with citizens on applied research and educational activities. Today, funds are provided on a formula basis to state land-grant institutions for extension projects related to a host of community and economic development-related work. For more on the history and contemporary issues associated with the Extension community development, see an excellent article by Ba Beaulieu and Sam Cordes in a 2014 article of the Journal of Extension: www.joe.org/joe/2014October/comm1.php.

Each of the four program areas in Extension have their own national association and for community development faculty, that is the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals, or NACDEP (www.nacdep.net). NACDEP is “an organization dedicated to improving the visibility, coordination, professional status and resource base of community and economic development extension programs and professionals.” With its first national conference held in 2005, the association has grown to over 325 members representing nearly every state.

Purpose of NACDEP

NACDEP has several objectives:

- To bring community and economic development extension professionals together to discuss issues, needs and opportunities of mutual interest, and to facilitate information sharing.
- To promote cooperation on community development issues, and educational and training efforts between the various states and regions, as well as between governmental agencies, private community development groups, related organizations and other community development professionals.
- To discuss, develop, sponsor, and promote educational and training programs and activities that advance sound community development practices.
- To provide support and promote activities and programs at the national level that advance community and economic development, education, training, and diversity in the workforce.
- To advance the professional status of community and economic development extension professionals by encouraging professional self-improvement.
- To strengthen communication with Extension Administration.
- To see expanded investments in applied social science research that is critical to the generation of knowledge needed to undergird the development of timely, high priority Extension community development education programs.
- To promote the importance of community and economic development through education, advocacy, and coordination within the land grant system.

While the focus of extension community development has traditionally been rural and focused on value added agriculture, new and innovative programming is becoming standard across the land grant system.

NACDEP is intended primarily as the organizational vehicle by which those working in Extension can strengthen rural community and economic development programs. NACDEP’s 2017 conference will be held in Big Sky, Montana, USA June 11-14 and is being co-sponsored by the US-based Community Development Society. IACD will be supporting this event with an exhibition and presentation about the association’s work. More information about the 2017 conference can be found at: www.2017cds-nacdep.org/

Paul Lachapelle, IACD’s North American Director and from July 2016 IACD’s President
In Hong Kong, community development continues to flourish after the handover of political sovereignty from Britain to China in 1997. There are organizations and community workers who have been committed to developing strategies of community development in order to strengthen the capacity of communities in response to deteriorating quality of living and social disintegration. There has been a widening gap in income, increasing severity of poverty and inter-class, group and political conflicts in the local context. Among the strategies, community economic development has been gathering momentum in the past two decades as evidenced in the rising number of social services and community organizations delivering community economic development projects.

Community economic development projects are geared with the greatest majority of them mobilizing the participation of low-income women by tapping their skills which are no longer part of the formal economy and it led to the start of the project ‘Women’s Work in Tin Shui Wai (WWTSW).’ In the past few years, economic activities organized by WWTSW included group purchase, street markets, selling organic vegetables and producing healthy food products. These activities are now to the community, and are considered innovative in the Hong Kong context. They have drawn the attention of community workers when the project first started. The venders who were residents of the community have been organizing their street market that operated very early in the morning and finished before government offices start naming it the ‘skylight market.’ The market was not allowed to continue when it drew increasing numbers of visitors and media attention.

The need to provide necessary infra-structure for informal economy and opportunities for street vendors to survive has become the core concern of community workers and the vendors. They have launched a series of community actions in the past three years to express views on town planning, district management and strategies to facilitate the development of street markets/bazaars. In May-June 2016, the first Hong Kong Bazaar Festival was organized with street vendors in different localities operating markets for a definite period of time. The Festival targeted at arousing public concern on the domination of shopping centres/malls in Hong Kong which has resulted in diminishing space for small shops and hawkers to survive, and the drastic rises in rents that led to rising living costs for the low-income communities. It also represents the joint effort and commitment of many local community organizations in engaging in a social movement that challenges the dominant model of economy and policy making and calling for participation to connect and empower.

Kwok Kin Fung is Assistant Professor and Programme Director in the Department of Social Work, Hong Kong Baptist University. He is also the IACD East Asia Director.
Join a global network

The International Association for Community Development (IACD) is the only global network for community development workers, researchers and activists. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities, to realise greater social and economic equality, environmental protection and political democracy. We are a non-governmental organisation accredited with the UN.

There are many ways that you can become involved in IACD. If you are a development agency manager, funder, fieldwork practitioner, academic, student or volunteer community activist, IACD can help you through our international practice exchanges, events and publications. If you have a passion for effective community development, then please make contact with us – we welcome your participation!

Join today and become a part of this dynamic network!

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