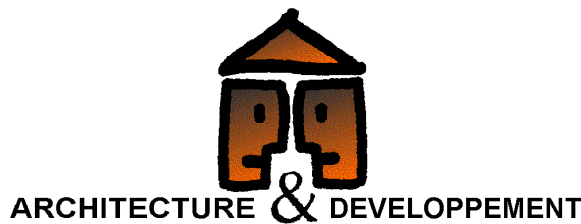


Goa, 3-5 April 2008

**BOOSTING AND UPGRADING THE HUMAN CAPITAL REQUIRED BY
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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**ENABLE A NEW GENERATION OF
SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONALS**

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME
EUROPE – INDIA**

(This concept note aims at concisely presenting the draft programme proposal
to the EuroIndia centre members towards a partnership.)

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

We intend to design, set-up and run a three-year exchange programme between India and European countries, on sustainable built environment (SBE) issues and practices.

The programme has 3 parallel aims; to provide on-the-job training opportunities for 20 junior professionals, to support projects and initiatives in any fields related to the built environment and to create a cooperation network of development stakeholders to enhance knowledge and good practices.

Principal programme activities consist in; the organisation of internships on SBE projects, networking and cooperation with SBE stakeholders in Europe and India,



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promotion of innovative SBE methodology and practices (through the animation of a website and the organisation of conference on the programme outcomes).

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1. A&D IN FRANCE & INDIA – ITS CAPACITIES IN SBE NETWORKS & INTERNSHIPS

Architecture & Development is a **non-governmental organization for international solidarity**, founded in 1997 in Paris, France. A&D's **aim** is to reinforce the capacities of built environment professionals as actors of sustainable development, emphasizing their social responsibility and technical competences. A&D builds capacity-building networks and think-tanks in fields such as appropriate and green architecture, urban and rural development and post-conflict and disaster reconstruction processes. Over ten years it has worked with **partners** from ten African countries and at least five countries each in Asia, Europe and the Americas. It advises, offers expertise and methodological and technical assistance to **habitat and construction projects**, sets up and implements pilot projects with local partners, carries out feasibility studies and evaluations, organises awareness-raising events, **training** programmes, scholarships, North / South and South/ South **exchanges**.

A&D's counterpart in southern **India**, Architecture & Development India is an independent trust, registered in 2002. It works in **partnership** with many other NGOs interested in issues related to sustainable built environment. **Activities** range from habitat and infrastructure project planning and implementation, networking between NGOs, professionals and academia, information dissemination to marginalised communities and running exchange programmes. A&D India's main **objectives** are to pool resources and expertise in development and sustainable built environment, to reinforce professional competences and to affirm habitat professionals' role and civil responsibilities in society. A&D India's head office is in Visakhapatnam. For its current post-tsunami "reconstruction for development" programme, it has three field offices in Nagercoil, Pondicherry and Bangalore. Since July 2007, A&D India is heading the Secretariat of Indian Habitat Forum, a network of 150 organisations involved in urban and housing issues. In October 2007, A&D was awarded a **special jury prize from the international Eco Building Performance Exhibition** for an integrated and environmental friendly housing project in Tamil Nadu.

A&D has been organising **exchange programmes** since 2000 when, supported by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, it launched an architectural and urban practices exchange programme between France, three African countries and India. Up to 2005, this programme facilitated internships for over 50 post graduate students.

In 2003, A&D ran a two-year 'Multi-media Interactive Platform for Appropriate Architecture (MIPAA)' aimed at improving access to **information for rural habitat** programmes leading to **better living conditions**. This project, co-financed by the European Union Asia IT&C Programme, encompassed workshops, seminars, the elaboration of user-friendly learning material and the setting up of a database.

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A new EU-funded programme, Be! Sharp (Built Environment Sustainable Habitat and ARchitecture Partnership), was carried out with Belgian, French, Indian and Italian partners in 2005 and 2006. The programme set up a **network** between academic, professional and non-governmental organisations through a series of conferences and networks, through media and communication tools such as a website, films and a resource centre, as well as by running an **internship programme** for another 50 young professionals. Another EU-funded internship programme was run over three years on the theme of tackling **urban exclusion** in Europe.

Over ten years of its existence, A&D has provided internships for over 160 students and young professionals of 19 different nationalities, 17% being Indians.

2. NEEDS, TARGET GROUPS, OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED RESULTS for programme

This programme intends to respond to the following identified needs :

- * A global context of **deteriorating climatic conditions and ecosystems** and **increasingly unsustainable human settlements** makes integrated and participatory SBE development approaches an urgent imperative.
- * It is today estimated that in the residential sector there is still a **housing shortage** of 19.4 million units out of which 6.7 million are in urban India. Urban development is thus just being started and one can yet witness its significant **impact on the environment**.
- * Construction activities in India have resulted in pressure on its finite natural resources, besides creating impacts on human health and well-being. Unplanned and unsustainable urban development has led to severe environmental pressures.
- * The green cover and ground water resources have been severely depleted to give way to urban centres. Modern buildings in Indian cities have high levels of energy consumption because of requirements of air-conditioning and lighting. At national level, domestic and commercial buildings account for more than 30% of annual electricity consumption.
- * A growing number of **communities in rural and urban areas** endure an unsustainable built environment, characterised by social exclusion, health hazard, poor quality of life and inadequate shelter, infrastructure and basic services. This situation requires far-reaching improvements.
- * The opening of its economy to the world market has brought about in India a rush of foreign investments and technologies in consequence of which decision-making process, planning and design are not locally sound nor appropriate with the environmental scenario. Conversely, numerous endeavours carried out by the government, local authorities and para-governmental

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organisations (BEE, TERI, IIEC...) for the past 10 years have attempted to arouse interest of users and stakeholders involved in the construction sector toward energy conservation and green practices.

* **Green market** as a possible market opportunity: eco-friendly values have started gaining a wider acceptance amongst the public. Green features are perceived as responsive and cost effective by the users and lots of builders have seen a great business opening to promote and associate it with real estate development. Hence there is an opportunity for regular builders with a prior interest in these issues to grasp the emerging market for sustainable constructions in India.

* **Young people** who are embarking on their professional careers **need to be exposed to SBE** and urban development issues, as these are lacking in their formal education and professional experiences, and to **gain working experience on projects** in the field and abroad.

* There are many **organisations and companies** in Europe and India working on SBE issues who are calling for trans-border links to exchange and **reinforce their ideas and practices**

The target groups of the programme :

Interns : junior professionals such as architects, engineers, urban planners and designers, sociologists, geographers with a minimum of two years of professional experience may apply to the programme.

Hosting organisations :

- **Public and professional bodies** involved in built environment and urban planning, design and management
- **Companies of the building sector**
- **Urban local bodies, municipalities**
- **Educational institutions, research, & training centres**
- **Small and medium-sized enterprises**
- **NGOs**

Programme Objectives :

Youth orientated objectives

- Enable a new generation of committed habitat professionals; exposure (broaden perspectives) for junior professionals to become change-makers and development actors, confront them with local and global realities and issues, reinforce their SBE capacities, give them an opportunity to contribute to a better urban development and to gain project management and cross-cultural skills.

Development objectives and institutional objectives

- give support to innovative initiatives.
- Promote city to city cooperation and exchange of methodologies and approaches.

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- Open strategic alliances between NGOs, public and corporate sectors
- promote diversity and context driven solutions
- create awareness and demonstrate relevance of green practices at various scales

Expected results / impact

- For the **young professionals** – through training and work experience, **increased awareness** of SBE issues, **increased capacity** to become SBE development actors and change-makers
- For the **hosting organisations** – participation in a high visible trans-frontier **network**, benefitting of **international exposure** and expertise, **experimenting** innovative SBE projects, become a best practice, bridging technical and methodological gaps, benchmarking and leverage for future SBE projects,

3. PROGRAMME DESIGN & CALENDAR

Summary of the 3-year programme:

- * **elaboration** of programme – including single zone and three-zone workshops
- * **4 to 6 month internship sessions** (2 weeks of orientation, 4-5 months of internship abroad, 2 weeks of evaluation and capitalisation).
- * programme monitoring and revision **workshops, advisory committee meetings, conferences**, a final evaluation workshop.
- * programme **evaluation & follow-up**.

Continuous **networking** and use of programme **website**

4. PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

The **programme elaboration** aims to set up an operational network of partners in Europe and India , as well as to establish the institutional & logistical framework necessary for the programme. It will start with joint A&D France & India **feasibility visits** in order to meet potential partners and present the programme concept.

Workshops among potential partners will be held in each of the two zones to get to know each other, to work on the adaptability and feasibility of the draft programme for the zone, to validate zone coordinators etc. Partners should confirm their participation in the programme after these workshops, with a final sanction of the **advisory committee**,

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resulting in common **programme content and methodology** with **tools and procedures** for the internship sessions.

one internship sessions will be organised each year:

Selection of interns will happen after a call of interest based on the offer of projects/organisations identified by the programme. Zone coordinators will **prepare the session**, confirm host projects, appoint interns and tutors and draw up contracts between themselves. Interns start with an **orientation session** in each zone. They will be in constant contact with their peers and the zone coordinator. They will also be in closer contact with two peers – one from the project where they will be going and one who will be coming to their project.

Interns and host projects will be working on **themes** related to the sustainable built environment, including appropriate technologies, use of renewable resources, promoting traditional know how, community participation, cost-effective social housing, public spaces and services, urban planning etc.

The actual **activities carried out by the interns** within a host projects may typically include : project design and coordination, preparation of project proposals and technical reports, information collecting and documentation, technical assistance and drafting work, training activities and site supervision, undertaking diagnostic studies, research and development, community consultation and facilitating community participation.

Then follows an **internship abroad** , remaining in contact with their peers and with a mid-term intern meeting in each zone. Interns return home after 4-5 months and participate in an **evaluation and capitalisation session**. Some of the returned interns, selected on performance and motivation, will have the opportunity to present their work during the annual EuroIndia Forum, on top of the capitalisation event organised by the programme team.

Steering Committee meetings are held at the end of each internship session in order to monitor progress and revise the methodology.

In parallel, **conferences** on different SBE issues, open to partners outside the network and partially prepared and attended by interns, will be held, one in each zone.

Throughout the running of the programme, the **website** is updated in order to serve the network, **newsletters** are produced and bi- or multi-lateral **exchanges** are facilitated.

Notes: Some definitions

Built Environment – The built environment refers to the man-made (constructed / modified) surroundings that provide the primary setting for human activity, ranging from large-scale

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civic surroundings to individual habitat. It includes buildings, infrastructure, public services and green spaces.

Sustainability – Sustainability is a principle guiding decisions on the preservation and enhancement of our quality of life, ensuring that present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires an integrated consideration of environmental, economic, and community factors.

Sustainable Built Environment is a human settlement context that has been designed responsibly in terms of the health, safety and welfare of people and the planet, reducing significantly or eliminating any negative impact on the environment and its occupants.

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5. PROGRAMME PARTNERS

In Europe

Implementing body– A&D France

European Coordinator. A&D already has a number of contacts in other European countries, but needs to develop partnerships with English-speaking organisations.

In India

Indian Coordinator – A&D India. Through its previous exchange and multi-media programmes (MIPAA & Be! Sharp), as well as its post-tsunami “Reconstruction for Development” programme, A&D India already has an extensive and operational network of organisations working on SBE.

The **EuroIndia Centre** will play a key role in the programme :

- priority to its members to become a hosting organisation
- selected members to become peers and build the steering committee
- Credibility and visibility of the internships
- Platform for dissemination of outcomes and practices
- Lobby to the policy makers
- Hosting the annual exhibition/presentation of the programme

Sponsors :

Corporate sponsors will benefit from the programme with

- an outstanding panel of innovative SBE projects
- a reservoir of young people with international experience
- an enriched understanding of trends and perspectives for new business
- reports and media material to be used for internal/external communication
-

ANNEXE

SOME INTERNSHIP AND PROJECT EXAMPLES FROM A&D'S PREVIOUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

iii. A young Indian works in Belgium on the use of bamboo

Initially trained in interior design, Vaibhav Kaley wrote his dissertation on the use of bamboo as a construction material. He then worked for a number of public and private pilot projects to gain experience.

Vaibhav was aged 28 when he participated in the Be ! Sharp internship exchange programme as an intern at the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management. This public body deals with environmental and energy resource matters for the region of Brussels in Belgium. It carries out research and planning in these matters, is an advice and information agency, as well as being the public authorisation and monitoring body. The organisation's scope of activities includes waste, air quality, noise, green spaces, water and energy.

Vaibhav was placed in the green spaces department, whose director, discovering Vaibhav's passion for bamboo, proposed a tailor-made project for him. So he worked on a proposal for a bamboo exhibition pavilion in a public park, as a sustainable development demonstration centre. Vaibhav also participated in the renovation of building to become an environmental information centre, by proposing the use of solar energy, rainwater harvesting and an interior design.

“this four-month experience showed me how two societies perceive the same concept, that of green design, with very different approaches ... I return from this intense trip having grown richer ».

Back in India, Vaibhav took part in a research project on post-conflict urban planning and then works with an ecological construction firm. Recently he's joined A&D India in Tamil Nadu as is now working on educational material concerning rainwater harvesting and house extensions for a network of Village Knowledge Centres for a post-tsunami reconstruction programme.

vii. A European youth mobility programme against urban exclusion

A&D organised this programme, which involved sending young professionals in urban issues to partner organisations in Great Britain, Italy, Portugal and Spain, with the aim of providing training for the youth, as well as of creating a European network on the theme of urban development.

Since 2004, 26 young people, often jobseekers who have just finished their studies, did internships as volunteers for four months on themes such as right to decent lodging, urban development and habitat improvement with popular participation. This programme was funded by an EU professional training for youth programme.

After a preparation period, each young person does a four-month internship. They undertake activities such as giving technical assistance to, setting up and coordinating habitat and

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community facilities pilot projects and running awareness-raising schemes. Some interns have also taken part in research and development activities.

During their time in the field, the youth diffuse the ideas and information on the different working practices to their peers via a website. Once back in France, they take part in a capitalisation session, at the end of which they organise a public event.

This programme offers youth going through the transition period between university and professional life an apprenticeship period of civic action, as well as giving them a professional experience to enhance their C.V.. It also provides them with the opportunity to get involved in A&D. For our organisation, this programme has permitted us to develop our exchange programme methodology and to deal with the themes of housing and slums in Europe.