

# Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International  
Development Studies Program

## MOVING AHEAD: STAYING OUR COURSE AFTER A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Moving Ahead & Congratulations	Pg. 1
Tsunami Letters	Pgs.2-3
Nodira's Story & Dr. Singelmann	Pg. 4
Winter Break Research	Pg. 5
Just Business	Pg. 6

With the world facing political, environmental, and social dilemmas from all angles— the treatment of development is critical. Especially in this past year many have been influenced by one catastrophe or another. Our responses to tragedy as well as the daily struggle of people in our extended community is important. We, as practitioners in this field, have a responsibility to continually strive for best practices while responding to the challenges facing the underprivileged. There are no pat one solution answers or models. Figuring effective ways to enhance capability within appropriate systems is part of the journey.

This winter's issue is dedicated to all who have been affected by the events of the Asian Tsunami. We have included interviews and letters of individuals to provide a face to this international tragedy. A story of overcoming the barriers in getting ones family to this country follows. You will then find brief summaries of work and research completed over winter break by a few of the IDS cohort. Con-

**EMERGING IDEAS**

EDITORS:  
Scott Kreps  
Ezki Widiarti

Please send your contributions, comments, and/or suggestions to:  
develpr@www.ohiou.edu

Or, by mail to:  
International Development Studies Program  
Center for International Studies  
Yamada House  
Ohio University  
Athens, OH 45701

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

Special recognition is in order for Bryan Morris on his being passed through to the next stage of the Fulbright Scholarship award process. This means that if the board chooses Bryan's proposal — he is on his way to Indonesia for a year! Wish Bryan the best.

Lisa Smith, recent IDS graduate, should be given kudos for receiving funding to attend the XXX Conference in Mexico. Lisa is our bright and shining star who took it upon herself to complete the program requirements in four quick quarters. She is now back in California with her cute dog and boyfriend.



*The following are a sample of letters from Indonesian children living in Athens, Ohio. These notes were gathered by Ezki Widianti at a Tsunami benefit dinner and sent to children in Aceh. Below are photos of the children and benefit volunteers.*

Athens, January 16, 2005

Dear friends in Aceh,

My name is AMELIA, but my family and my friends call me MIA. I am a kindergartener at West Elementary school, Athens, Ohio.

I heard a very sad story about what tsunami did to you and your family 3 weeks ago. I wish I could be there with you to cheer you up.

I want to help you as much as I can. My heart and prayer will always be with you.

Your friend,  
AMELIA RADHIYA

Tears ran down my cheeks when I saw on TV the tidal wave of tsunami wiping out your place and your loved ones. My hands were reaching out to the TV when you cried for help. Unfortunately, I was a half the world away from you. All I could do was closed my eyes and prayed for your safety.

[ZULFA—4th grade at West Elementary]

When the news finally reached the United States, we were overwhelmed by how many people lost their lives. It was highly unbelievable for everyone to imagine. It wasn't anything you would expect to find in a newspaper. This impact has caused us to take definite action. Everyone from the overly rich to even people with spare change has contributed all they can to give relief to the survivors.

[FAIKAR—5th grade at East Elementary]

With us living on the other side of the world while all this happened, we had no idea this was going on. We will never really understand the impact and emotions that struck everyone during this disaster. It must be hard to have your life changed in a span of just a few hours and then not knowing what to do afterwards, when it's even hard to think in the first place.

[ABDUL—5th grade at East Elementary]

To the children in Aceh,

It is on this day that our whole community is helping you and your loved ones cope with the horrible disaster that happened three weeks ago. We give our respects to the possible loved ones you've lost and hope, in some way, there will be a light of hope in the near future.

[ADHITYA—4th grade at East Elementary]



## International Students React to News of Tsunami

When the Tsunami hit Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India and Maldives almost 180,000 people lost their lives; there are many people unaware that the Tsunami also impacted Africa as well. Although the victims were less than in Asian countries the tragedy was still a shock to this country. Following are stories among some International students at Ohio University in which their country was hit by the Tsunami. They share reflections, their feelings and their experience while being far away from home and hearing what happened in their country.

Luisa Kitakaya, a student in the Communication Development program, from Kenya, says, he knew that the Tsunami affected Kenya from Kenyan news paper by website. Taking three victims there exhibits the severity and force of the tidal wave. Although no family or friends of Luisa were lost, the news was a shock to Luisa. He worried the international community's reaction would be less than positive for victims, especially in Asia. According to Luisa, the Kenyan government had no problem providing medical care for those requiring services. Luisa did mention the need for a government controlled early warning system to alleviate disaster in the future and to make tourists feel safe. Luisa said Tsunami is a natural disaster, but technology can track the symptoms.

Chalisa Magpanthong, Communication Development, from Thailand, tells that she was really in shock because almost 7,000 citizens of Thailand died. Moreover, she was far away from Thailand when she got news from her hometown friends and from websites. "Why did nobody warn us?", asked Chalisa. The saddest she said was her professor losing five family members and only three of his loved ones bodies were recovered. Chalisa mentioned here appreciation to the Thailand government which will buy a detection instrument which she believes will be useful in the future.



*Above: Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Before (left) and Post-Tsunami (right). Below: Stairs to nothing (left), woman with photos of missing family (center), Grief stricken woman (right).*



## “Getting my family to Ohio”

Nodira Karimzoda

This story has ended successfully. However, at the beginning I did not feel that it would be like this. According to our program terms and condition, we, as students can invite our family members to joint us in the US. But we have to do it after three months of our study and after proving that we are in good academic standing. So the first three months of study were important to me because the family issue was dependent on it too. I was waiting for November and was collecting all necessary documents for the invitation.

In addition to the pressure of study, homesickness set in and I also had a feeling of guiltiness. My kids were far away from me and how I, a mother, could be so irresponsible to leave them without attention bothered me. But my husband and my mother-in-law were very good in taking care of my kids. Although it is very unusual for Tajik, Asian man to take care of children. Usually, the woman stays at home and the man provides living sources. But my husband took care of our kids and no matter what happened he was always with our children.

When November came, I got a bad news, something happened in the database (Sevis) of the State Homeland Security Department and my file was invalid. That meant that until my file was valid, the program could not issue the invitation and I could not invite my family to the US. We were told that it could take up to 6 months to fix the problem with the database. I was killed by this news. I was waiting for it so long I could not believe that this happened to me and to my kids. I did not know what to do. I could not stay longer without my family. So I decided to go home and wait for the news from Sevis. My academic advisor, my Muskie coordinators, both at the university and at Washington and all my friends were very supportive and helpful. They said that I should hope for better and finally this issue will be solved. But I was hopeless. If such a problem had occurred in my country that would mean that either it would be solved soon or never. In the US such problem would not be solved soon. There were 40 other students from the same program who intended to invite their families but failed.

So I went home. This trip was very short for me I was very much looking forward to see my family. I was so happy to see them all. They all were ok. And I was home with them. What could be more important for me than to be together with my family? I was happy. Still I was waiting for the news regarding the invitations. Finally, on December 20 we received our invitations. We went together with the whole family to Kazakhstan to get visas. We got visas and returned home on 31 December at 21:00, three hours before the New Year celebration. There is a saying that how you meet the New Year, so will be your year. We were tired from the trip but happy because we were together and finally we got visas. There was a long way ahead and many preparations but we could overcome them because now we were together!

Now my daughter goes to the school in Athens and my son plays in the yard. My husband stays at home and enjoys quietness because he did not have vacation for 2 years! As for me I try to get back to the busy schedule of my classes but now I enjoy it!

## Distinguished Professor Spends Time With Development Students

Dr. Joachim Singelmann, recipient of the David M. Kriskovich Distinguished Professorship at Louisiana State University, graced the International Development cohort among other lucky guests with his presence January twenty-one of this year. Dr. Singelmann teaches courses on social problems, industrial sociology, race relations, population and society, and poverty. Dr. Singelmann visited the pro-seminar class for a couple hours of talking shop and enjoying lunch before presenting “Welfare, Work, and #####” at the International Studies Forum. He spoke about his research as well as commenting frankly on lessons gleaned from working with institutions like the World Bank. “Be willing to compromise”, Dr. Singelmann stressed. He said one of the things he learned was to let go of some of his idealistic visions in order to get more accomplished. It is clear, however, that Dr. Singelmann has obviously not lost sight of enabling marginalized, disenfranchised, and peripheral groups of people in society. His research and work reflect a more socially responsible construct through which development can be examined.

## Winter Break Research:

### *Masha Alexeiko, Research in Russia*

For her Master thesis Masha is studying the attitudes of fifth-year university students in the Russian Far East concerning the issues of gender equality in contemporary Russian society. The study entitled *Russian Students and Gender Mainstreaming: Who is More Prepared and Why* is expected to examine how these attitudes vary with regard to the sex, family background, and academic background of the students and what students think about their university and academic curriculum in terms of promoting the issues of gender equality. Upon completion of this research, the findings will be accessible to the public of Primorski region and can produce positive influence on the further development of the academic institutions in the region.

The greater part of the work for Masha's research was done during the fall quarter here in Ohio University. With joint efforts research advisors and her self the questionnaire and the methods of data collection and coding were elaborated and the approval from Institutional Research Board was obtained. To receive the permission to conduct the survey, the Deans of the departments were contacted with a sample of the questionnaire and the written request providing all necessary information about the study. Upon obtaining permission the schedule was settled for meetings with students. Masha was pleasantly surprised with the level of cooperation received from students and their interest in the subject of the research. Some people even expressed the desire to exchange contact information for possible future communication.

Overall, it was a very valuable and exciting experience which helped underline the strengths and weaknesses of my research. In addition, Masha said that it is always nice to come back home -even in winter time- and spend some quality time with her parents and friends.

### *Scott Kreps, Internship in Belize*

Over winter break Scott worked with the Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology (B.E.S.T), based in Belmopan, Belize. He arranged to work with the agronomist there. Scott's project, "Increasing Market Capabilities of Maya Center and Sittee River Growers" directed efforts towards organizing garden cooperatives in two villages. Completing a feasibility survey with information from the resorts located from Dangriga South to Placencia, Scott provided B.E.S.T as well as interested villagers with useful information. The goal of the survey was to determine viable market insertions of produce grown by gardeners in Sittee River and Maya Centre villages. The survey's intent was to determine to what degree and with what expectations products might be purchased from the growers. Essentially, would the resort management be interested in buying locally grown produce and under what conditions. The results varied, but a consistent theme appeared. If the produce was at a high quality (especially high-end herbs, broccoli, leaf lettuce, and tomatoes) and within the normal market price-range – the resorts were keen to do business. The telephone survey was compiled into a qualitative data record.

Scott met with groups in Maya Center and Sittee River to train them in the areas of communication etiquette when dealing with resorts, benefits of cooperative gardening (biotic and economic), and future support regarding seedlings, education, and information. A report was compiled for B.E.S.T with recommendations for training, project objectives and direction. This included evaluations of current efforts including where resources might best be focused with the two villages.

Scott would like to officially thank Jose Trejo for assisting in acquiring the initial contacts. Jose's family also acted as warm hosts during Scott's time in Belize. They provided a second home, transportation, and kindness to a trip already bound to be eventful.

### *Mohira Kurbanova, Research in Uzbekistan*

Over the winter break, Mohira traveled back to Ferghana, Uzbekistan and conducted qualitative research for her thesis. The tentative topic was chosen and questions were composed to learn about the impact of gender ideologies on economic participation of women in the post Soviet period. Using convenient sampling method, interviews were conducted with women representing different background, age, class and social status. Press materials, laws and regulations, and conference materials were collected with the help of local non profit women's organizations. A number of group discussions were organized with the help of a local international organization working on women's issues in Uzbekistan. During the study there were several interesting findings that emerged as salient points to inform the next step of Mohira's research.

## *This Quarter's Intranational Recipe...*

### *Shitake Lemon Ginger Soup*

*from John McCray*

#### Ingredients:

3-4 cups Shitake mushrooms (2-3 handfuls before dicing)

2 Knorr vegetable broth cubes

1 hunk of fresh ginger root

1 lemon

Tamari or Soy Sauce

Hot sauce (to taste)

2-3 tbsp. peanut or olive oil

Prepare mushrooms by cutting off and discarding tougher ends of stems. Slice stems lengthwise, cut caps thicker. Fill sauté pan with 1 cup water. Boil diced shitake's to soften (10-15 min.). Add heavy dose of tamari and Szechwan or hot sauce to taste. Drip in peanut or olive oil. Water will boil off leaving the ingredients to sauté and fry. Add handful of diced ginger root. Save smaller pieces for throwing into soup. Can include fresh cloves of garlic at this point. Boil about six cups of water in soup pot on stove. Add vegetable broth cubes. Toss ingredients of pan into pot. Add 1/2 cup finely grated lemon peel and all of lemon's juice. Add smaller diced ginger root. Simmer and add spices to taste.

Add more lemon to recipe if you enjoy the bitter aspects. This soup can also be sweetened with honey to balance the hot sauce. Using a monoflavoured hot sauce works best in order to prohibit encumbering the soup with too many tastes. One can take out all spices for a simple starter soup which is lovely with a lemon grass garnish. Best with a light lager or a Shiraz if enjoyed as a cold soup.

### *Can You Guess Which IDS Student...*

- Was voted best dancer in the peace corps? (Laura Mack)
- Was theater director in college? (Fransisco Perez)
- Has a private pilot's license? (Matt Korn)
- Loves driving cars? (Kosuke Tamura)
- Once started a forest fire in Canada? (Scott Kreps' Scout Troop)
- Goes to the zoo to talk with monkeys, elephants, or lions when angry or upset? (Ezki Widianti)
- Likes Serge Gainsbourg? (Troy Johnson)
- Speaks German? (Ysabel Bombardiere)
- Is addicted to hand lotion? (Janelle Lewis)
- Owns a cat named Jerry Garcia? (Paige Miller)
- Is in love with Maria Alexeiko? (Bryan Morris)
- Is in love with Bryan Morris, and claims NOT to be a spokesperson for the IMF? (Masha Alexeiko)
- Has a brand new baby? ...now a few months older. (Collins Annin)
- Dances flamenco? (Lisa Smith)
- Once jumped into the ocean from a three-story high cliff? (Tae Ito)
- Used to compete barrel racing horses? (June Ginther)
- Once threw \$100,000 at a girl he liked while working at a bank? (Dan Rooney)
- Has nothing interesting whatsoever about himself? (Joon Lim)
- Loves to watch baseball and football ? (Kana Tamano)
- Takes an hour each morning to shower? (Winnie)
- Spent years training for modern pentathlon? (Nodira Karimzoda)