

Emerging Ideas

The Newsletter of The International
Development Studies Program

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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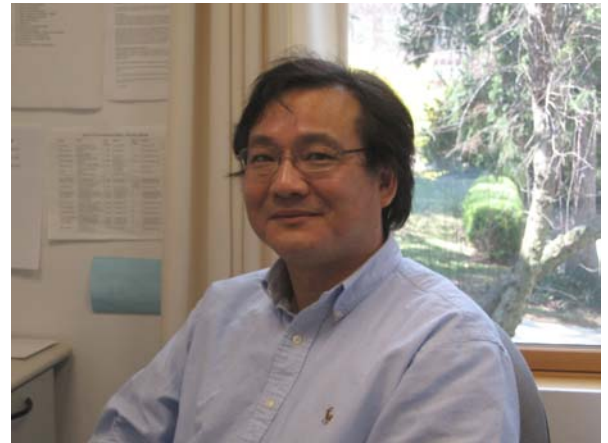
EMERGING IDEAS

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I am very pleased to see the winter issue of the IDS newsletter come out as scheduled. Indeed, it seems to become a challenge for our editorial team to keep the three issues of IDS newsletter reaching our faculty and students at the end of each academic quarter, and this time they made it again. As you will find, this winter issue continues to serve as a platform for the exchange of idea among IDS students. We selected from the colloquium papers some of thoughtful reflections that they had on a wide array of topics presented in the International Studies Forums. All comments collected here showcase the depth and width of IDS students' understanding of development issues both in the developing world as well as the developed world. Also included in this issue you will find some highlights of IDS students' accomplishments over the past quarter, along with some important events coming up in the spring quarter. As always, I would like to take this opportunity to give my thanks to students, staff, and affiliated faculty for their time, effort, and contributions. Please enjoy this issue of IDS newsletter and have a safe and enjoyable spring break.



Jieli Li

Important Spring Dates

Sakura Festival 2008. An event sponsored by the Japanese Student Association is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Tail Gate Park from noon to 4:00 P.M.

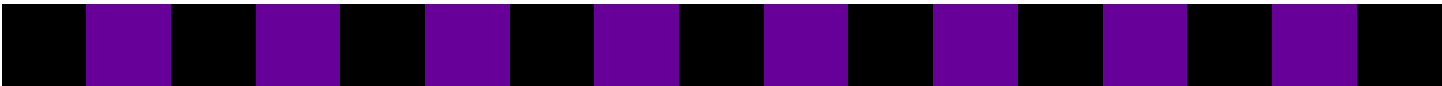
Applications for graduation are due April 22, 2008. Apply online at www.ohio.edu/register.

2008 Student Research and Creative Activity Expo Thursday, May 15, 12:30p.m. to 2:20p.m. at the Convocation Center.

The second full week of May is **International Week** culminating with the **International Street Fair** on Saturday, May 17.

Korean Night May 24, at the Baker Center Ballroom.

Graduate Student Commencement Friday, June 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Convocation Center.



“Potential and Opportunities for Africa to Reach the Health-Related Millennium Development Goals” by Dr. Kole Shettima



This talk was of particular interest to me because this topic is exactly what I am interested in. As the MacArthur Foundation’s African Director of Nigeria, Dr. Shettima has unique insight into not only what has been done to address the MDG’s but also what is not working and why, and what needs to be done in the future. In 2000 the Millennium Declaration was adopted at the UN Millennium Summit, and with it came heightened attention to a number of development goals. This past summer was the midpoint between 2000 and 2015, the year the MDGs should be reached. One feature of the MDGs that separates them from the lofty declarations that the UN is notorious for, is that they are designed to be concrete, measurable goals. As such, monitoring and evaluating their progress has been an important feature of programs designed to meet these goals. Nonetheless, as Dr. Shettima explained, maternal mortality is difficult to measure. This is echoed by a 2000 report on measuring maternal mortality, sponsored by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, which says that “measuring maternal mortality is difficult and complex, reliable estimates of the dimensions of the problem are not generally available, and assessing progress towards the [Millennium Development] goal is difficult”. Acknowledging these difficulties is an important step in devising new methods for monitoring maternal mortality. There also needs to be a sincere commitment on the part of local and international actors to improve human development in Africa.

Allie Hunter

Dr. Shettima believes that many of the crises in Africa can be resolved if health related MDGs are tackled more seriously, which would require a much larger health-related workforce. For example, according to the Joint Learning Initiative on Human Resources for Health and Development, Africa needs to increase its health workers by at least one million doctors, nurses, and midwives (JLI). The World Health Organization however argues that to reach the health related MDGs sub-Saharan Africa requires around 2.5 million healthcare workers, three times more than the current level of 600,000 health care staff (WHO). While these figures may seem daunting, it is important to understand the scale at which the UN operates. Perhaps now, the half-way point between 2000 and 2015, would be a good time to step back and review the eight MDGs in their original form.

Ravshan Grezov

Millennium Development Goals:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Source: MDG URL: www.developmentgoals.org



In his presentation, Dr. Shettima expanded my knowledge of international development by discussing the potential for Africa to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is because he presented the MDGs not merely as eight specific targets agreed to by members of the United Nations, but as aspirations that motivate countries, people, governments and institutions to work together towards greater common goals. Dr. Shettima stated that while North African countries are the most likely to meet these particular MDGs, West and Central African countries “may be the least likely to meet the health related goals”. Nonetheless, progress in achieving the MDGs is possible and can be accelerated with political will and commitment. In order to do so, the speaker supports the domestication of the MDGs, the accountability of grassroots campaigns, the improvement of governance, and a more profound and comprehensive international partnership in terms of aid, trade, and debt forgiveness.



Julietta Barcaglioni

“No Peace Without Justice” by Ohio University Professor of Sociology, Dr. Haley Duschinski

In the forum Dr. Duschinski discussed her experience doing research on peace and conflict resolution in Kashmir. The region in which Dr. Duschinski did her research is controlled by India and has been locked into a cycle of violence for many years. Fortunately, since 2003 there has been a ceasefire to the violence and in 2004 an official peace process began. Dr. Duschinski explained, however, that despite efforts for the peace process, there has been little improvement to the political and social situation. Dr. Duschinski described her genuine concern regarding the way the peace process was being implemented. Moreover there have been documented human rights violations, including people who have been taken by the government and false graves donned with names of Pakistani insurgents. Most disturbing is the fact that the Kashmiri people apparently have no participating role in the peace process. Disillusionment by the Kashmiri people is widespread, and resentment toward the government is growing. In the forum Dr. Duschinski questioned the legality of the government’s actions, pointing out state military control, corruption and human rights violations as illegal. More importantly she addressed the idea of justice, and if indeed justice is being served by the government run peace process. Dr. Duschinski underlined the fact that peace can only come about if justice, including all the stakeholders’ participation, and accountability, including transparency in government actions, are incorporated in such a process. I found Dr. Duschinski’s talk to be excellent and pertinent to the global political situation today. Furthermore, many of the lessons learned in Pakistan can be applied to other conflict areas and aggressive government tactics to quell such conflicts, including the United State’s actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Joshua O’Donnell





The presentation by Dr. Haley Dushinski raised human sensibilities about the intricacy of conflict resolution and peace building. Her talk highlights one of the greatest challenges in conflict resolution and peace efforts around the world, accommodating the views of locals in a peace process. She drove this point home very succinctly when she stated that in the peace efforts in Kashmir, “peace is perceived by the brokers to lie in military might.” As a result, local stakeholders are alienated from the peace process. Yet, locals have concerns very crucial to every peace effort, including issues of justice. As Dr. Duschinski noted in her study of the Kashmiri conflict, there are always local concerns about justice and these concerns are not unfounded. They have far-reaching consequences for the peace process and bear on the degree of reliability or mistrust of the factions. Persistent injustice and the lack of accountability by factions to the locals make peace illusive, a condition not only true in the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir but in other societies transiting from conflict to peace.

Samuel Johnson

**“The Politics of Drink: Resistance, Collaboration, and Monopoly”
by Ohio University Assistant Professor, Dr. Gerard Sasges**

One aspect of Vietnam’s colonial history (Indochina from 1858-1945) involved the attempt by France, the colonizer, to outlaw the thousands of local rice wines and replace them with one variety of French wine. While France tried to outlaw the local varieties, the home production of rice wine flourished during the colonial period. The home brewing ban was to encourage consumption of France’s wine which was five times more expensive and, according to locals, had an undesirable flavor. The monopoly on wine, however, did not result in large gains by the French as the profits were used for further alcohol enforcement activities. Armed revenue agents went into every village and relied on threats and violence to enforce the monopoly. The French failed to end home production because rice wine was a national symbol for the locals and much of their household income was dependent upon the production of rice wine. The historiography on the period depicts the continued production of rice wine as a direct act of defiance against the French.



I found this lecture particularly interesting because of its relevance to my Latin American history class. The Spanish also tried to force the consumption of bread and wine on indigenous groups in Latin America. Indigenous groups in the Andes brewed a beer made from corn, known as *chicha*. The Spanish attempted to regulate its production and sale; however, the Spanish did not try to eliminate *chicha* because some indigenous groups relied on the sale of *chicha* to pay their tribute tax to the Spanish. Eventually, the sale of *chicha* exceeded that of wine. I find it fascinating that similar processes have been produced and reproduced by different European colonizers across the various regions that they sought to control.

Lori Sargent



“Food Security outside the US– A Fulbright Scholar’s Experience”

by Ohio University Associate Professor of Human and Consumer Science, Dr. David Holben

Until attending Dr. Holben’s presentation on his research in Canada, I had rarely considered our nearest neighbor to the North when thinking about food security. Indeed, the “global North” is sometimes left out in discussions of food insecurity in the realm of international development. In his presentation, Dr. Holben solidified the fact that food security is caused by a lack of entitlements as opposed to a lack of food. He accomplished this by showing that certain marginalized sections of every nation face food security at some point. An example of this would be the “urban food deserts” that can be found at the center of many American cities today. Overall, Dr. Holben’s presentation on food security in Canada helped to change my mindset on hunger and malnutrition in North America while providing a useful insight into the Fulbright research process. I appreciated the presenter’s enthusiasm and willingness to speak frankly about his topic, research methods, and findings. It would be interesting to see the results of a similar study conducted here in the States.



Nathan Olah

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food security exists when all people at all time, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. I strongly agree with Dr. Holben that, food insecurity is evident when families lack access to food, depend on food aid, change the amount of meals they eat, or substitute nutritious food with less nutritious types of food. Also, one needs to be free from conflict, epidemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, have fair trade policy and empowerment of women in order to be food secure. In many African countries for instance, women lack access to credit, which in effect, impacts their access to and utilization of food. Other reasons for food insecurity are soil infertility, drought, inadequate infrastructure (such as weak marketing infrastructure), limited agricultural technology, population growth and ineffective policies. Drought may cause a decline in market prices, triggering migration of rural youths— shortage in farm labor— thus, decline in farming production. Inevitably, high population growth rate affects agricultural resources and productivity. Moreover, certain agricultural practices affects a nation’s food security. For instance, in the Gambia, agriculture is still dependent on rainfall and hence decline in rainfall affects crop yields, which have an effect on food availability. Other agricultural practices, such as slash and burn, fires, overgrazing and uncontrolled tree cutting cause environmental degradation and soil erosion, creating food insecurity. Finally, extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides increases pest infestation, loss of soil nutrients and pollution, affecting food availability especially from aquatic ecosystem.

Dr. Li and the International Development Studies Program would like to congratulate Linh Dang and Tam Mai on the birth of their baby boy, **Hoang Dang** (nick name: **Pumpkin**). Best wishes on the beginning of your new family!



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Rhodaine Baidoo

Global Leadership Center Project

In the winter quarter, IDS Student Samuel Wai Johnson led students of Ohio University's highly competitive Global Leadership Center (GLC) in conducting research on poverty reduction in Africa. In collaboration with the University of Liberia's Microfinance Training Programme (UL-MTP), the GLC students evaluated the poverty reduction programs of 12 African countries in an effort to identify strategies that could be replicated in Liberia.

Liberia, a West African nation, is rebuilding after 14 years of devastating civil war. The 36 GLC students were divided into 12 teams and each team was assigned a country. Countries researched by the students were Angola, Burundi, Ghana, Guinea, Eritrea, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Uganda. The goal, according to Sam, was to equip the Microfinance Training Program at the University of Liberia with resources that would enable it to make policy recommendations on poverty reduction in Liberia, as well as to conduct further research.

Apart from the research, the students are also raising funds to help furnish the offices of the UL-MTP with basic office equipment, especially computers. The University of Liberia, like other public institutions in Liberia, was vandalized during the civil war which took place from 1989 -2003. Excited about the project, Sam says, "If there is one thing that I can be proud of during my stay at OU, it was starting this project."

Samuel Johnson

Bella "LEARNS"

During winter break I had the opportunity to intern with a literacy coalition in Washington DC known as DC LEARNS (Literacy, Education, Advocacy, and Resource Network). I found the internship posting on the Idealist website (www.idealists.org). DC LEARNS works with literacy programs in the DC area to raise awareness around policies concerning adult, child, and family literacy programs in the District. I was particularly excited about working with DC LEARNS because I believe that education plays a very crucial role in development.



As a Policy Analyst intern, one of the projects I worked on was the funding factsheet. Because DC LEARNS was in the process of putting together a factsheet to show that government support of literacy programs is rather insufficient, I contacted the various member programs to collect data necessary for the completion of the factsheet. In addition to that, in the one month that I interned with them, I was able to complete a Family Literacy factsheet as well as a GED factsheet.

It was really a great experience working with DC LEARNS because I got the chance to work in a field that I was particularly interested in and I also got to experience some of the challenges that nonprofits face on a daily basis. It was a wonderful learning experience and one I hope to take back with me to Nigeria as I embark on similar projects there. I would like to thank the IDS program and Dr. Li for his support and guidance.

Bella Anne Chinwendu Gabriel Ndubuisi

