

EDITORIAL

Gérard Brémond and Vincent Denby-Wylkes



At the annual lunch of the Foundation's College of Experts. These informal meetings attribute particular importance to friendly exchanges.

Dear Friend(s),

On 18 July, the Fondation Ensemble, assembled its **College of Experts** who were invited to exchange views with each other on subjects as important as the sustainability of the support given to biodiversity projects, new partnerships and good governance.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our particular thanks to Mrs Jacqueline Aloïsi de Larderel, a member of the Board of Directors and of the Fondation Ensemble's Project Committee, who honoured us with her presence and, once again, provided us with proof of her real commitment to our work.

We would also like to extend our thanks to three contributors - Mr René Guin, Mr Maurice Bernard (AFD), Mr Philippe Lévêque (Care France) - and also Mrs Béatrice de Durfort (Centre Français des Fondations).

These informal meetings are very precious because they offer a cross-functional perspective of the problems presented. Above all, they permit the creation of bonds between contributors, the development of sustainable and enriching relationships of trust, the establishment of debate and the definition of a common vision.

By creating a College of Experts to work by its side and organising these regular meetings between the various contributors, the Fondation Ensemble hopes to contribute to the emergence of a genuine resource base, a catalyst for innovative approaches.

By publishing the highlights of these exchanges in this Newsletter, we hope to be able to extend the scope of these events to all those who follow our work.

Enjoy your reading.

Jacqueline Délia-Brémond
Vice-chairman Fondation Ensemble

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Annual lunch of the College of Experts

Thursday 18 July 2007

The highlights



This year, the annual lunch of the College of Experts attracted 21 people.

Mr Gerard Bremond and Mrs Jacqueline Delia-Bremond opened the meeting by extending their warmest thanks to each person present and recalling the important role of the College of Experts for the Foundation, particularly in view of the exchange of experiences which it encourages.

Mr G. Bremond invited each of the participants to present themselves briefly. After this, three contributions provided food for thought for the exchanges which followed.

“How to sustainably support biodiversity programmes?”

Rémi Gouin, former program manager FFEM/AFD, recalled the importance of visiting the field in order to understand the project's full dimension where it is actually happening. All the participants agreed that biodiversity programmes were complex. Unlike water and sanitation projects, they do not correspond directly to a need expressed by local populations or to their priorities. Also, results often take a long time to obtain.

That is why it is important to consider ways in which to accompany the project through to its completion and even beyond the period defined.



«“The water/sanitation and biodiversity dichotomy may pose a problem.”

◀ François Münger.
(Social Development Division-Suisse)

Jacqueline Délia-Brémond

A debate commenced on the interest of combining water and sanitation on one side with biodiversity on the other side. Some hoped to promote an integrated

approach because a water and sanitation project may also provide an opportunity to deal with biodiversity issues. “Everything is linked”.

“Is the term ‘biodiversity’ sufficiently clear for people?” asked Jean-Marie Pelt who introduced the idea of ‘nature protection’.

Evaluation and tools for perpetuating results? The idea was evoked of evaluation being experienced as “a sanction” which is “toxic”. It permitted the underlining of the fundamental human factor which must accompany all evaluations in order to help the associations to progress.

The exchanges also highlighted the importance of ex post evaluations.

At this point, the foundation recalled its approach (missions, intermediary and final evaluations, etc.) and shared its observation that the evaluation of a project may participate in the construction of an atmosphere of mutual trust between the different players.

Evaluation may also be an opportunity to respond to a project, to reveal perspectives which may be even wider.

▶ “Biodiversity? The meaning of this word is still widely unknown”.
Jean-Marie Pelt (IEE)

Here, a distinction was made between expertise and evaluation, with both points of view complementing one another, since the first sometimes permits the identification of problems with the latter. Therefore, it is necessary to separate them.

« AFD/Foundations which partnerships? »

Maurice Bernard, manager of Water and Sanitation Division at AFD, recalled its long-term mandate and highlighted this public institution's recent wish to create links between funding bodies in order to assist and streamline its functioning.

Priority must be given to consultation. In this manner, AFD hopes to encourage up-selling and an increase in effective actions.

“Biodiversity: Populations’ right of use must continue to be a priority”.

Rémi Gouin ▼



It is important to remain innovative and in tune with small projects ».
Vessela Monta (IRHA)



« It is necessary for project managers to meet in the field. We must encourage reciprocal learning ».
Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere.

“Revolutionary”
Philippe Lévêque has carried out a study which combines...



all the components of development... including the most unlikely.

Continued from page 2...

The first links woven between AFD and Fondation Ensemble were recalled (Herve Conan, on assignment in Cambodia, is part of the Committee of Experts and is present on the projects conducted on-site), as well as the wish to develop these links more widely on a country by country basis.

The difficulty of finding funding for smaller projects was raised. It is necessary to remain flexible, to be in touch with the field, to ensure that traditional projects are not over-emphasised. Therefore, it is necessary to be alert, “intelligent”, innovative, accept the taking of risks and to be aware of needs...

Here, capitalisation takes on its full meaning whereby the bringing together of all the project managers helps to encourage an exchange of experiences and allows them to learn from each other.

“How to participate in better governance?”

Philippe Lévêque, General Manager, of Care France suggested considering all the components of development. Here, he recalled that the action must not be limited to the symptoms... It is also necessary to consider the structural causes.

This implies accepting social changes which are sometimes very destabilising. Here, examples were given of the status of women in the community.

Philippe Lévêque also highlighted the importance of the research phase prior to programmes. This is a phase which, often, is not promoted to donors, but which, nevertheless, is vital, allowing difficulties to be classified and the level of participation and motivation of the populations to be measured... To go where projects have the best opportunities of developing. The experience of Care in Peru is significant for this. Only “motivated” villages were retained, despite the geographic dispersal which this entailed.

The importance of cooperating with local financiers was also highlighted because it permits the taking into account of financial participation...

Invited to share in the exchanges, Beatrice de Durfort, Delegate General of the Centre Francais des Fondations (French Centre for Foundations) wanted to provide further information about the latest legal measures on foundations, ISF (solidarity tax on wealth), as well as initial initiatives with the pooling of funds...

Lunch ended at 3pm.

Michel Affholder : an expert in the field...

Interview by Brigitte Galliot

As a former director of SIAAP*, the Fondation Ensemble asked you to become a member of the College of Experts. What was your reaction?

Michel Affholder: I accepted without hesitation. Putting my skills at the service of this College of Experts allows me – in the same way as my commitment to the association ASTEE – to make my own contribution to achieving the Millennium Goals.

For you, what is the best illustration of your mission as expert?

The exchanges between experts which are focused on the new projects submitted to the commission. The confrontation of different viewpoints during the forums organised by the foundation’s team is a genuinely fruitful source of dialogue...

The diversity of skills within this College of Experts offers projects very complementary perspectives. It contributes to increasing the chances of success.

* SIAAP Sanitation of the Urban Area of Paris



Project :
Environmental sanitation.
Total budget :
780 118 euros.
Grant awarded :
185 000 euros.

Recently, you conducted an evaluation of the project “Migrations and Development in Morocco”. Since then, a genuine dialogue has been established between you...

On-site I was able to meet the project sponsor face to face. We worked together on minor changes to be made. My previous experience in Morocco certainly helped me to do this. I won the trust of the Association Villageoise which saw the solutions proposed and since then I am consulted on a regular basis.

If everything goes well, the project will be extended soon to the village of Assghar. A site meeting has been arranged for the end of the year.

PROFIL

Albina Ruiz,
an inspiration for social
entrepreneurship



300 tons of waste emptied every day on to the streets and wastelands of Lima's Elcono Norte district. Unavoidable? Not for Albina Ruiz.

Even better! By "allowing local populations who are victims of problems to be the main players in their resolution"... her association – Ciudad Saludable – has succeeded in developing new employment opportunities. In concrete terms: the association helps the inhabitants of the districts to create micro-enterprises for waste collection and processing.

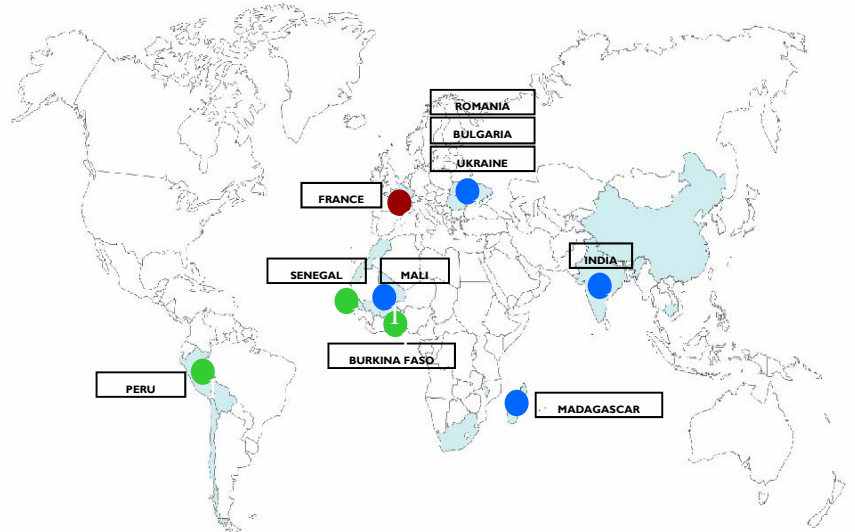
Today, 150 people are employed in 20 towns in Peru providing a service for 3 million people.

Door-to-door canvassing, information campaigns, incentive initiatives among families. The results are there to be seen: There is almost no more waste left at the sites. And 98% of families participate financially in its removal.

"We hope that this experience will prove that it is possible to privatise".

June 2007 Commission

The Foundation's spring commission selected 14 new projects, which brings to 58 the total number of projects supported, and to 16 the number of countries in which the Foundation intervenes. Discover all the latest news about forthcoming commissions on our Web site www.fondationensemble.org.



● Water and Sanitation



● Other sustainable development actions



● Solidarity and environmental education in France.



CONTACT US

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