



JUNE 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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GENDER EQUALITY COMMITTEE (GEC)

The GEC was established in fall 2007 to contribute to providing a forum for knowledge sharing on development, globalization, and human security that is responsive to the challenge of gender equality. Its objective is also to create an environment that promotes gender equality within SID-OG's organizational practices, policies and programming activities.

Dear Members,

Welcome to the fourth issue of ConSIDerations, your chapter's Newsletter.

Since my last update, I am pleased to report 2008 continued to be a period of Board productivity and growth for the chapter. Since taking the helm, I have emphasized principles of transparency, individual accountability, and decentralized Board leadership and consensus decision-making. This new way of working has been time-consuming but has translated into real results for our members.

In 2008, for example, we had a very exciting programming lineup under the leadership of the VP Programming, as well as individual Board members. Our events attracted first-class presenters, local and internationally based. The high quality of our events, increased frequency (1-2 monthly), and good turnouts (80-100+ at times), demonstrates the topicality, and timeliness of our programming (See page 3).

Governance issues remained high on the Board's agenda this year, with the creation of a permanent nominations committee for the on-going recruitment of Board members, an update to the chapter's by-laws, payment of nearly all outstanding financial encumbrances, and meeting our annual reporting requirements.

This year, we retained our membership at a healthy level, and have seen the creation of new membership categories. For example, in 2008 to Norma Walmsley, Doug Daniels

and J Brian Scott were awarded lifetime "emeritus memberships" in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the chapter and its evolution. (See p. 3) This effort to bring former members back to the chapter while attracting new members has been an important focus this year.

In February 2008 we held a volunteer orientation session for the *Gender Equality Committee* (GEC) one of the newly created SID-OG Committees of the Board, as part of the implementation of the chapter's new volunteer strategy. The GEC has been quite active. We have also seen improvements in our Communications and Outreach activities with the continuation of the chapter newsletter, and the recruitment of Dave Rogers, our volunteer webmaster.



Soraya (left), SID-OG President, with Khorshied Samad

It is with sadness that we must bid farewell to Christopher Braeuel, immediate Past President who leaves the Board after 5 years of dedicated service (see p. 2), and to Board members Rashid Nikzad (p. 2) and Asma Kabbara. On behalf of the Board, I thank-you for your dedication and service, and wish you well in your future endeavours.

It has been my honour to serve this year as President of SID-OG, and to work with such a tremendous team. I look forward to seeing our Members on June 11th at the AGM, and offer my thanks to the IDRC and CMC Canada for their continued support this year.

Sincerely,
Soraya Hassanali
SID-OG President, 2007-2008

STUDENT'S CORNER

This space is used for student members to share news and experiences about field placements, research projects, etc.

My name is Rashid Nikzad. I am a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Ottawa, and while my main field of research is technology policy in a small open economy, I am also interested in international development. I hold a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering and a M.Sc. in Socio-economic Systems Engineering from Iran, where I worked as a computer programmer, systems analyst, manager, and economic expert. After moving to Canada five years ago, I had a chance to work as an economist on a number of research projects at organizations such as the National Research Council of Canada and Industry Canada during my

studies. I recently became a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa. I have been a board member of the Economics Graduate Student Association (EGSA) at the University of Ottawa, the Canadian Society of Iranian Engineers and Architects - Ottawa (CSIEA), as well as SID-OG where I have served on the Board since 2006. Working and studying in both developing and developed countries as well as travelling around the world allowed me to understand some of the values that make a nation more prosperous, both economically and socially. One of the things I noticed is the fact that all elements of society work in harmony in developed countries; whether they are education and health systems, political and judiciary systems, or even people's beliefs. This is one of the things you rarely see in developing countries.

CHRIS BRAEUEL BIDS FAREWELL TO THE SID-OG BOARD

After five years of dedicated service with the SID-OG Board, Chris will be concluding his term as Immediate Past-President this June. Chris joined the Board in 2003 as VP of Programming, followed by a season as Member-at-Large, and then two seasons as President from 2005-2007. He was then elected to represent Canada on the SID International Governing Council for 2007-2010. In reflecting on his time with the Board, Chris notes that "the experience was more rewarding than I could have ever anticipated. I had the privilege of working with some very dedicated, bright, selfless and principled individuals focussed on making the Chapter the best it could be". He adds that "the Chapter is continuing to grow and mature at every step and I'm glad to see that the fruits of our labour

are paying off. I leave the Board with fond memories and knowing the Chapter is in capable hands." We thank Chris for his commitment over the years and wish him well for the future. Chris will of course continue as a member and will provide periodic updates to the Board and Chapter on Governing Council news and activities. The Council is currently busy with developing its Program of Work for the next three years, identifying opportunities to enhance programming, increase membership and mobilize resources for SID internationally. Chris will be working primarily with the Membership and Elections Committee, in partnership with the VPs of Membership of global SID chapters, to develop effective membership recruitment and retention strategies.



Rashid (left) will retire from the Board at the end of 2008, but plans to continue volunteering with the chapter

"The Chapter is continuing to grow and mature at every step and I'm glad to see that the fruits of our labour are paying off. I leave the Board with fond memories and knowing the Chapter is in capable hands."



Ghengis Chris in Kyrgyzstan

PROGRAMMING RECAP FOR THE YEAR

The programming year for SID-OG combined high profile speakers with professional development events and 'hot topics' discussions. We began our successful year with a presentation by the Hon. Bob Rae, the Foreign Affairs critic of the Liberal Party of Canada. This was in keeping with a pattern of beginning the programming year with a well-known politician or political advisor speaking to development and foreign policy issues of the day.

On the professional development front, our major theme was 'the privatization of foreign and development policy'. Our speakers addressed current issues, such as civil society engagement (Real Laverne of CIDA); the private sector (Allison Stanger of Middelborough College) and philanthropy (Carol Adelman of the Hudson Institute). SID-OG was honoured to have the 2008 version of the Index of

Philanthropy launched in Ottawa at Dr. Adelman's presentation.

On 'hot topic' issues, SIG-OG's Gender Equality Committee sponsored two successful events on Gender and Trade and on Women in Afghanistan. Other 'hot topic' panel discussions included an event on the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (April) and on the World Food Issue (June).

It was evident from the discussion that emerged from these sessions that the world of development is changing dramatically. We are only at the beginning of what promises to be many interesting years ahead as the global economy changes and developing countries move to new stages of development and as they redefine their needs and role. As SID-OG looks forward we hope to address some of these challenges in our programming.



Gender Equality Committee co-chairs: Saskia (left) and Sujin (right)

EMERITUS MEMBER—NORMA E. WALMSLEY, O.C.

For 2007-2008, we have conferred the Emeritus Member title on three members - Norma Walmsley, Doug Daniels and J. Brian Scott, who over the years have played key roles in the chapter. Each of the emeritus members will be featured in upcoming issues of ConSIDerations.

In this issue, we want to express our honour in Norma's long association with our chapter SID-OG by naming her the first of our Honorary Members/Emeritus Members. At the international level, Norma was one of the first Canadians on the SID International Council. She was elected for eight years. During most of those years, she served as a member of SID's International Executive and was also very active in the Ottawa Valley Chapter.

Norma was also the author of what are described as 'groundbreaking studies' on the internationalization of higher education in Canada, in the 70s. She continues

her support for students' studies and research through the Norma E. Walmsley award offered via Match International.

A tireless promoter of women's involvement in the development process, Norma is an honorary life member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and of UNIFEM Canada. In 1986 she founded MATCH International Centre, to match needs and resources of women in Canada with those of women in developing countries. She is a recipient of honorary doctorates from Brandon and Carleton Universities, and such honours as the Lewis Perinbam Award and the Persons Award. After it was destroyed by fire in 1984, Norma spearheaded the effort to re-build the historic Wakefield Covered Bridge, once again highlighting her ability to get things done. In 1993 Norma was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

"We are only at the beginning of what promises to be many interesting years ahead as the global economy changes and developing countries move to new stages of development [...]"



Norma E. Walmsley, SIG-OG Emeritus Member, with Board members

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**SOCIETY FOR
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DEVELOPMENT (SID)
OTTAWA-GATINEAU
CHAPTER**

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Created in 1957, the Society for International Development (SID) is a unique global network of individuals and institutions concerned with development that is participatory, pluralistic and sustainable.

SID Ottawa-Gatineau, the second largest chapter in North America, is engaged in programming of seminars, newsmaker breakfasts and special conferences on timely and topical themes within the subject area of international development.

Mission Statement

The mission of SID Ottawa-Gatineau is to provide a forum for knowledge sharing on issues of development, globalization and human security. We achieve our mission by providing a network for individuals working in international development, globalization and human security; providing leading researchers and practitioners the opportunity to address and present pioneering analysis and policy initiatives on SID related themes; providing a forum for student development and profile; and working in collaboration with other interested partners.

SID-OG BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

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SID-OG would like to
thank its partners:



Special thanks also to
SID-OG Gender Equality Committee

Co-Chairs:

Saskia Ivens, Sujin Kim

Members:

Natasha Hradil, Margaret Capelazo, Sabra Ripley, Elizabeth Clifflen, Xuxu Yang & Betsy Estevez