

Human Development in the 1980s

**A Document Written by Participants in
The Global Symposium
Institute of Cultural Affairs
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
July 4-6, 1980**

PREFACE

On July 4--6, 1980, some six hundred persons from thirty-one nations gathered in Chicago to hold a symposium on Human Development in the 1980s. During their time together participants dialogued with guest speakers from around the world, researched current books and articles and participated in a series of discussions, workshops and plenary meetings. Information and insights generated in the numerous discussions were recorded and pulled together. The results were then refined by a representative editorial group prior to publication.

Throughout the symposium, participants focused on one primary question: What is required for effective human development to be implemented in the coming decade? In order to answer this question, participants examined the times, the issues, the mandates and the implications facing those concerned with human development. The results of their deliberations are recorded in the following document.

WORKING DRAFT--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

"Some people think the coming of independence means they can sit back and wait for the government to bring everything.... Beyond the government is still a need to assist the people to utilize the natural resources available and to realize the importance of improving their own way of life and their future. They need to realize that only local people themselves are the right people to know what they need and to do something about their situation.... Only when people know how to deal with their own situation and have confidence in themselves, can they lead a fuller life; and I think many countries have continued to struggle for independence because they are trying to lead a fuller life. Even with the fuller situation of independence, people still need assistance."

Margaret Mutambu
July 6, 1980

THE TIMES

This century has seen the rapid acceleration of forces of humanization and dehumanization, each having influenced the furthest reaches of civilization and each having run a course beyond what the lessons of history prepared mankind to predict or to control. Anticipations of the future project with equal plausibility massive destruction and universalized utopia. In such times as these, it is encumbant on those who care in every place to discern the mandates of history for extending to every person on earth the potential for a fully human life. No greater task has ever been required; no lesser task merits one's life.

The genesis of global development came in the early years of the century with inventions which brought the peoples of the world into close contact. The restless progress of the initial decades, while extending benefits to millions, nevertheless multiplied human suffering when the marvels of new technology were applied to the ancient arts of war. The age of political innocence was over, but the stage was set for global human development.

New social responses were made towards rebuilding in the altered environment: national and minority liberation movements emerged as local men and women around the globe demanded a fair share of benefits. The economic sector was overwhelmed, and the world fell into a great depression which was felt by people everywhere. The old order collapsed and the foundations were shaken, but the global theater of operations was open. Interdependence of the earth's peoples was inescapable.

The middle decades saw the clashing of ideologies as the struggle for intellectual foundations for building the earth were sought. Nazism, Socialism, Capitalism and Communism, to name a few, made their points and proved inadequate to account for or give guidance to the complex world at hand. Once again the world went to war, and the age of ideological naivete was past. Neither fanaticism, skepticism nor neutrality could protect the most remote villager from the forces of history. The holocaust and the bomb brought home the urgency of coexistence.

These latter years have shown mankind the earth from the moon. That vision dramatized an age of social experimentation to give form to the experience of being one globe. Neither science nor ideology, neither class nor culture, neither education nor geography, neither youth nor age was sufficient to exempt one from participation in the gifts and responsibilities of passage on spaceship earth. Once-disenfranchised peoples shook the powerful into acknowledged dependence and exposed them to dissatisfaction with a life based on acquisition. The poor acted out their frustration with risen expectations long unfulfilled. But both shared a vision and a hope.

Bound in geography, in economics, in hope and in vulnerability, the peoples of the planet stand in responsibility at a pivotal time. If the potential for universal destruction is at hand, so also is a vision, manifest throughout society, of a human globe--rich in diversity, local in responsibility, global in cooperation, universal in participation and profound in spirituality. Out of every race and culture is a cry for visionaries who yet have the practical wisdom to usher in safely the new world of profoundly human life in community.

THE ISSUES

The Symposium on Human Development in the 80s discerned the following issues to be the primary ones to be dealt with in the decade ahead.

DECISION-MAKING PARTICIPATION

Perhaps the greatest issue confronting those concerned with human development in the 1980s is directly related to equipping local persons with the context and the structures to participate actively in making the decisions which affect themselves, their families, their communities and the world. The lack of involvement now present is widespread and is apparent both in frustrated creativity among local citizens and in structured unresponsiveness to human need within care agencies.

SELF-RELIANCE METHODS

Distrust of governmental forms and uncertainty about the effectiveness of political and social systems have occasioned concern in local communities across the globe for self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The complexity of the globe creates a need for practical social, economic and human development methods applicable at the local level. Continued reliance on outside expertise for meeting local needs of sustenance and welfare fosters cynicism and perpetuates the very malaise development efforts are out to combat.

RESOURCE USE PRIORITIES

The natural and technological resources of the world are limited. Fossil fuels, clean air and water, arable agricultural lands and metallic ores are some of the resources which are becoming judiciously guarded, globally valued and highly priced. The issue facing nations, local communities and individuals concerned with human development in the last twenty years of this century is creating a mechanism for setting priorities both for the use and for the distribution of global resources. Local input which transcends political and geographic boundaries is needed if the available resources are to be used in the best interest of all peoples.

DYNAMIC EDUCATION DELIVERY

Those who are concerned about human development in the 1980s must address the issue of delivering methods for enriched learning for audiences of all kinds. Methods are required which will capture the elements of wisdom, practicality and interaction and so redirect the current trend of isolation of education from the direct needs of the community.

ILLUMINATING LOCAL MYTHOLOGIES

In an age abundant with cultural diversity representing a myriad of socio-ethnic traditions, a major issue facing those concerned with human development in the present decade is illuminating local mythologies and other art forms so that they reveal the universal human condition. Development depends on cooperative efforts of people from diverse backgrounds, and their efforts are hampered when the myths by which they live and find meaning are divisive. Yet within the myths are pointers to the profound levels of human life experienced by all; they have only to be illuminated for new levels of cooperation and collegiality to emerge among those active in development.

THE ISSUES (2)

ENGAGING HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources around the world are wasted daily through poor health, sanitation, nutrition, mental and physical illness and personal and family isolation. The issue facing those who care about human development in the next decade is enabling individuals and families in every part of the globe to engage in effective planning for practical action directed to local and global human concerns. The continued isolation of peoples from creative participation in the historical process not only deprives them of developing their potential, it also denies their community the benefits of that same potential which could radically and positively effect the future.

THE MANDATES

Participants in the Symposium discerned the following twenty-five (25) mandates as critical direction for appropriate developmental efforts.

In the last decade of this century, the mandates upon those committed to human development are:

1. Enhancing Local Participatory Engagement in decision making to help local people shape their own destiny.
 - The current level of disengagement calls for massive awakening of local people to methods for effectively planning and implementing programs which will help them realize their local vision.
2. Delivering Basic Operational Skills to all local communities.
 - The current absence of basic operational skills, particularly in developing countries, calls for a skills delivery mechanism to places where they are needed.
3. Empowering Local Structures to involve all residents in the care and decision-making for their community.
 - The current disengagement from local action calls for using self-help, motivational and planning skills in existing local structures as a demonstration of corporate effectivity.
4. Developing Leadership Skills that will assure training in practical methods.
 - The current unavailability of training on a wide-spread basis calls for comprehensive skills curricula to be administered through local agencies and through the media.
5. Promoting a Grassroots Education System which will make knowledge and expertise available to all people.
 - The current wealth of knowledge and expertise available only to a limited number of people calls for educational methods which will make such resources accessible by all.
6. Empowering Local Consensus which affects global decision making.
 - The current gap between local consensus and global policy calls for demonstrating the value of grassroots input and enabling communities to make their decisions within the context of the whole world.
7. Demonstrating Comprehensive Delivery Systems to assure access to skills, technology and capital.
 - The current breakdown of local economic self-sufficiency calls for demonstrating community-based transportation, exchange and communication.
8. Accessing Global Resources for local use.
 - The current imbalance of resource distribution to remote communities calls for delivery systems that reach local people everywhere.

THE MANDATES (2)

9. Catalyzing Global Image Projection which enhances local awareness of global interdependence.
 - The current parochialism of inspiring images calls for new global stories and celebration which stimulate consciousness of the richness and relatedness of all peoples.
10. Creating a Profound Global Mythology to illuminate human accomplishments in our time.
 - The current lack of common images and stories calls for documentation of human accomplishments as a partial basis for creating new human myths.
11. Empowering a Service Ethic which is global in scope.
 - The current vacuum in commonly recognized values calls for articulating an indicative value system, demonstrating the ethic in corporate structures and using imaginal education devices.
12. Recreating Vital Family units as a foundational form of social support.
 - The current diversity and flux in family patterns calls for redefining the term and for providing new images of the meaning of the family as a social unit.
13. Planning and Implementing Local Self-sufficiency by all nations.
 - The current imbalance in energy and food availability calls for developing practical and motivational methods to bring about local self-sufficiency.
14. Demonstrating Community Role Models to involve families, elders and youth in their communities.
 - The current breakdown in community care calls for mobilizing human resources to meet human needs through appropriate structures and roles in education, family and community.
15. Ensuring Relevant Vocational Training to intensify decision.
 - The current irrelevance of most training in personal values and social ethics calls for training which elicits the decision to responsibly engage in creating the needed societal forms.
16. Revitalizing Community Identity to sustain people in community engagement.
 - The current dissipation of community energies into a myriad of activities calls for a reassessment of structures and forms that celebrate the significance of human life and that revitalize and sustain local community identity.
17. Formulating an Inclusive Process which engages people in decision making.
 - The current exclusion of many from decision making calls for a restructuring of the deliberative processes in a way that ensures total representation of people's wisdom and insights.

THE MANDATES (3)

18. Developing Human Resources for maximum utilization in building the future.
 - The current incapacity of many local people to enter the mainstream of society calls for equipping local people with multiple skills, especially in management, and for using global networks to fully employ the local work force.
19. Structuring Cross-community Interchange to enable consensus and transmission of human values and basic skills.
 - The current isolation of local communities calls for programs, such as symposia, forums, assemblies and workshops, that build cross-community networks.
20. Enhancing Regional Planning for managing long-range designs in coordinated development across geographic regions.
 - The current isolation of local development efforts calls for linkages of cooperation and structures for dialogue and action among local communities.
21. Promoting a Comprehensive Energy Plan which assures third world countries the opportunities to expand.
 - The current energy malaise calls for equitable resource distribution to the third world.
22. Creating Effective Bureaucratic Methods which are catalytic and supportive to local initiative.
 - The current gap between local recipients of development efforts and service agencies calls for methods which permit joint planning and actuation.
23. Supporting an International Judicial System which effectively implements the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.
 - The current impotence of local citizens in the face of condoned practices of human rights violations calls for an international court of justice with power to enforce its findings.
24. Structuring Natural Resource Allocation in a rational way to benefit all people.
 - The current imbalance of resource distribution to all parts of the globe calls for resource delivery systems and global education on alternatives to non-renewable natural resources.
25. Promoting Community-owned Resources to encourage economic self-sufficiency.
 - The current ownership patterns in many local communities call for development of alternate methods for local community ownership and control to enhance the economic survival base for local people.

THE IMPLICATIONS

The Symposium on Human Development in the 80's articulated the following implications of the mandates for the private sector, the public sector, the voluntary sector, and the local sector.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The implications call for the private sector to:

- make plans using a screen of the next twenty years.
- consider the effect of decisions on local communities and neighborhoods.
- develop and maintain networks of concerned people.
- expand training programs to encompass all the needs of employees.
- project needed global images of public service.
- consider alternate images for use of capital resources and management skills.
- establish auxiliaries to assist small businesses.
- research uses for satellite technology in industry.
- share expertise.
- reinvest a percentage of their Gross National Product into innovative projects on behalf of Third World development.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The implications call for the public sector to:

- work in cooperation with the local and voluntary sectors rather than in a directive capacity.
- turn its attention toward small business and local community and away from the massive problems of the city.
- shift to a village emphasis.
- create mechanisms to receive input from local people.
- relate to voluntary networks for implementation.
- build structural relationships with local communities.
- recreate forms of accountability for public office.
- study a new role in relation to marketing.
- develop training programs for new dimensions of management and service delivery.
- develop infrastructures on regional and national levels which release the local.
- determine content for communication by satellite.
- create integrated planning processes at all levels.

THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The implications call for the voluntary sector to:

- reimagine the voluntary role as a means of significant employment.
- extend its influence to areas of the globe where there is no operating voluntary sector.
- form a network that bridges the private and public sectors in order to be more effective.
- research the common thrusts of networks in all four sectors.
- create a funding coordination committee.
- emphasize annual themes for service.
- shift from a do-good stance to one of an innovative leadership role.
- create new symbols and myths.
- sponsor seminars on the family.
- sponsor local village exchange visits.
- encourage women's groups to take a more active role in decision-making.
- create a comprehensive approach to community life.

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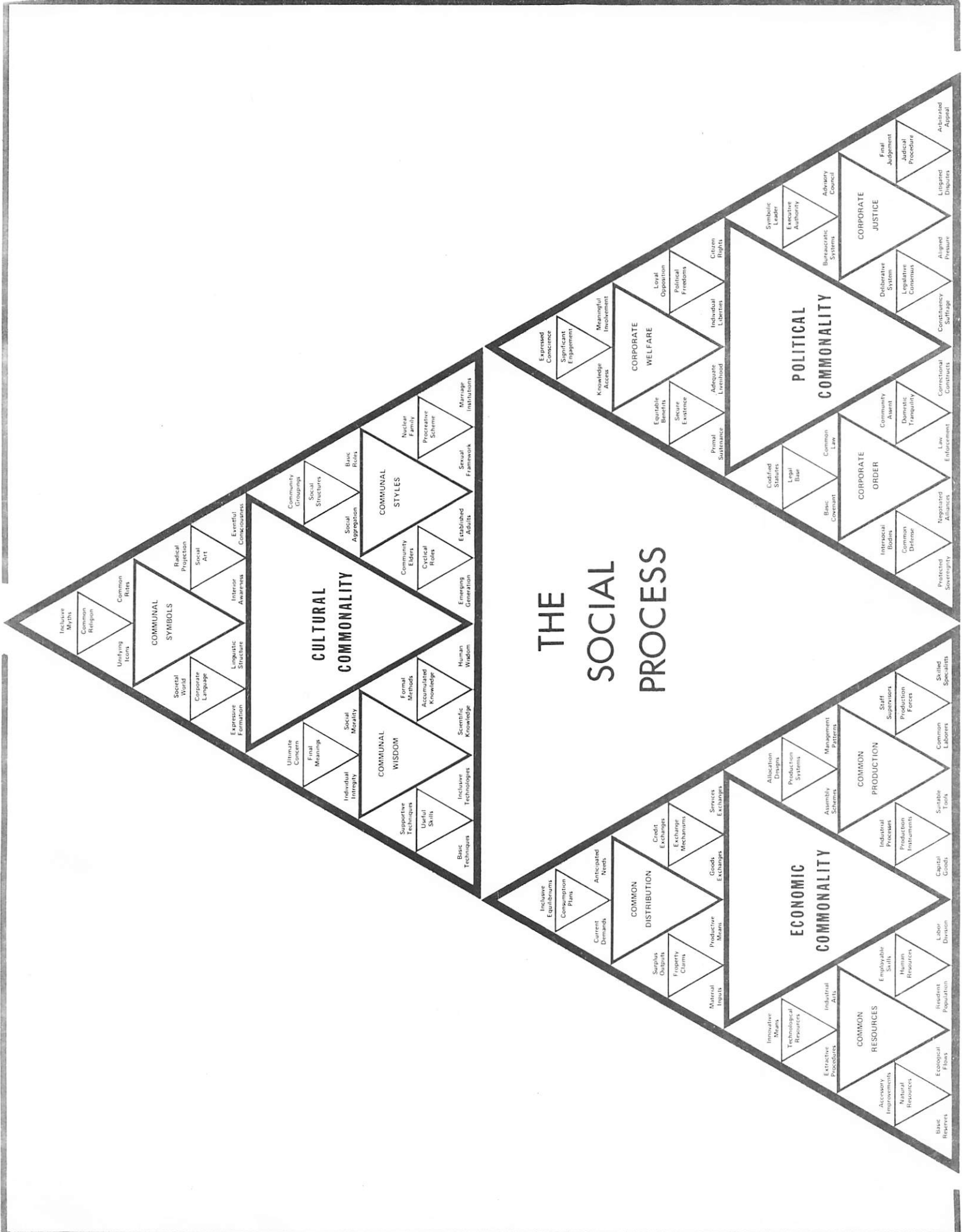
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THE LOCAL SECTOR

The implications call for the local sector to:

- form a network for training and support.
- recapture old traditions and create myths for the future.
- document their needs so that the other sectors would be better able to respond.
- develop and share local leadership methods.
- redesign currently debilitating welfare systems.
- demonstrate local and regional self-sufficiency.
- create a Declaration of Local Community Rights and Responsibilities.
- encourage regional demonstration communities.



THOSE WHO CARE

The task of those who care is to articulate the vision of needed change and to demonstrate courage in the face of obstacles. Those who care formulate or influence official policy. They focus attention on essential concerns rather than following the issues of the moment. They take humanity as their ultimate constituency. Those who care represent the poor and forgotten with tenacity and steadfastness. They talk with kings and they walk with paupers. They provide a bridge between conflicting groups. They are sensitive to the just demands of both tradition and innovation. They preserve and protect the environment. They back up their beliefs by investing all of their resources and they solicit others to do the same. By pointing to pressing needs they call forth the consciousness of others. They lead, organize and help to channel energies in the most productive directions. They think globally and act locally.

THE PARTICIPANTS

The Symposium on Human Development in the 80s included participants from the following nations:

AUSTRALIA
BELGIUM
BRAZIL
CANADA
CHILE
DENMARK
ETHIOPIA
FRANCE
GHANA
BRITAIN
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
HONG KONG
INDIA
INDONESIA
ITALY
IVORY COAST
JAMAICA
JAPAN
KENYA
KOREA
MALAYSIA
MARSHALL ISLANDS
MEXICO
MOZAMBIQUE
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NIGERIA
PERU
PHILIPPINES
SINGAPORE
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
TAIWAN
UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
OF EGYPT
UNITED STATES
VENEZUELA
WESTERN SAMOA
WEST GERMANY
ZAMBIA

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. Private and voluntary in nature, the ICA has offices in 32 nations and operates as a not-for-profit, intraglobal organization.

For the past 25 years, the Institute has worked to design and demonstrate practical methods for comprehensive community renewal. The ICA provides methods and planning processes which enable people to implement creative socioeconomic change in their own communities and institutions. Its programs support the growth of local self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-confidence.



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN FACTOR IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT

