

EDITORIAL

The UN Social Summit in Copenhagen was a mixed experience, personally as well as professionally. It took a while to find the way through the maze of events and non-events, and to sort out those performances aimed at poverty alleviation and social development, and those put on for entirely different purposes.

The final resolutions were a disappointment for those who had hoped for action on a world wide scale. Disappointed were also the more realistic people who had seen as a minimum of success that proposals such as the 20/20 model, had been accepted. The more patient ones view the Summit as only the first step in a long, unavoidable and unpleasant process where poverty will stay on the agenda of the world's leaders until a fairer and more equitable distribution of material and non-material resources have been obtained.

There are many reasons why the Summit did not get very far in its achievements. One is of course, that poverty is a controversial topic which calls for more than a meeting of the world's leaders, to be settled once and for all. Another reason, which it is rather illegitimate to discuss, is the fact that poverty is also a convenient and financially lucrative phenomenon in many countries. Still another reason, which may be of the most interest for CROP, is the intellectual void in which the Summit was prepared and carried out. The UN Conference on the Environment, held in Rio in 1992, was thoroughly prepared, and through the Brundtland Report a comprehensive foundation was laid for the entire meeting. In Copenhagen, there was no similar background report which people and decision-makers could relate to. As a result, no common meeting ground was available for the discussions on poverty and social development.

The need for an intellectual arena and to get beyond the rhetorics of the Summit, might have been one of the reasons for the overwhelming participation in the Round Table on Poverty and Participation in Civil Society which CROP arranged together with UNESCO during the Summit. More than three hundred people made their way across town where they jammed into the room, and sat and stood through the three hour session. A volume is now

being prepared jointly with UNESCO, based on the presentations and discussions at the Round Table. The volume will be an important input for the follow-up of the Summit and for the budding CROP research project on poverty and participation.

Else Øyen, Chair of CROP

⌘ **CROP-IISL Seminar on "Law, Power and Poverty" held in Oñati, Basque Province, Spain, 11th - 13th of May, 1995.**

In cooperation with the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law-IISL, CROP arranged a seminar for social scientists and legal scientists on the topic of "Law, Power and Poverty". The seminar will be followed by a publication edited by Asbjørn Kjønstad and John Veit-Wilson, who were the organisers of the workshop. The papers presented at the seminar were titled:

Human rights and the struggle against (extreme) poverty: a set of complex relations

By Willem van Genugten, Tilburg/Nijmegen Universities, The Netherlands

Perpetuating poverty: legal images of women

By Susan M. Nott, University of Liverpool, UK

The communicative concept of law and the problem of poverty

By Fernando Galindo, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Access to civil justice in Argentina: class differences

By Maria Inés Bergoglio, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba Argentina

Poverty, victims and fear of crime

By Christina Pantazis & David Gordon, University of Bristol, UK.

Access to justice in Brazil

By Patricia Helena Massa, Brazil

The law for the poor movement - the Scottish experience

By Peter Robson, University of Strathclyde, UK

The ideological implications of law and poverty: A social history of legal aid

By Antonella Mameli, Milano, Italy

The juridification of welfare: strategies of discipline and resistance

By Hartley Dean, University of Luton, UK

The British administrative tribunal as a system of law for the poor - strengths and weaknesses in the era of consumerism

By Michael Hill, University of Newcastle, UK

Making it work for yourself: Self-employment and family credit

By Anne Corden, University of York & Rebecca Boden University of Manchester, UK

Multi-level influences on non-take-up. Clarifying the responsibility of policy-makers and administrators for the non-take-up of means-tested benefits

By Wim van Oorschot, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

The prospect for European laws on poverty

By Paul Spicker, University of Dundee, Scotland

Economic, social and cultural rights as human rights

By Asbjørn Eide, Norwegian Institute for Human Rights, Norway

Please note: There has been a change in CROP policy of distribution. We can no longer answer the demand for copies of single papers, presented at our seminars. However, most papers become available through the publications that follow the seminars and will be duly announced. We still supply the authors addresses, phone & fax numbers.

PUBLICATIONS

⌘ **England:** *Environment and Urbanization Vol. 7 No. 1 April 1995*. This volume of the IED journal is dedicated to the issue of "Urban Poverty". Most of the papers were presented at a CROP Workshop by the same name. The papers include micro-case studies, and studies of urban poverty at a national or global level. This issue of the journal is also available from the CROP secretariat. It is prized at USD 15, including postage.

⌘ **The Netherlands:** *"Poverty: Research projects, Institutes, Persons"*, by Tinka Ewoldt-Leicher & Arnaud

Marks Eds.. IDIN, CROP, ICSSD, Tilburg, Bergen, Amsterdam 1995. This is a book with data on poverty research projects and poverty researchers, collected by the three publishers. The book is priced at USD 50 and available from the CROP secretariat. *NB: There is a limited number of copies.*

The two above mentioned publications can be purchased by mailing the CROP secretariat a cheque drawn on a **US bank**. (It must be a US bank)

☞ **Germany:** *"Poverty Risks in Germany, Lifecourses in the Welfare State"*, by Stephan Leibfried & Lutz Leisering. Suhrkamp Publishers, Frankfurt a.M. 1995. This book sets out a theoretical, empirical and historical analysis of poverty from the perspective of life course research.

"Dynamics of Poverty, Duration and Bibliographical Meaning of Welfare Receipt", by Petra Buhr. Westdeutscher Verlag 1995. The focus is on quantitative analysis of "social assistance careers" in Germany through the use of event history data. In addition, the perception and evaluation of welfare by the recipients are analysed on the basis of qualitative data.

SEMINARS

☞ **Feminisation of Poverty:** The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO will together with CROP arrange a seminar on "The feminisation of poverty" in Oslo, the 9th of June, 1995. The seminar is part of the preparations for the Womens Conference in Beijing. The seminar is open to all interested parties. The entrance fee is NOK100. For further information and registration, please contact: The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO at Tel.: +47 22 83 30 56 or Fax +47 22 83 16 89.

☞ **Poverty and the Environment:** Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and the Pacific, ADIPA, will together with CROP organise a seminar on "Poverty and the Environment" in Sabah, Malaysia, October 28th and 29th, 1995. For further information, see separate call for papers or contact CROP secretariat.

☞ Professor Eric de Grolier, c/o ISSC Secretariat, 1 rue Miollis, F- 75015 Paris, France, is preparing a GLOSSARY

on the poverty concept for CORP. Please contact him if you want to include basic documents in this project.

CROP in brief

CROP is a world-wide network of researchers and experts on poverty. The aim of **CROP** is to establish an arena for interdisciplinary and comparative research on poverty in developed and developing countries. **CROP** organises regional workshops, symposia and international conferences, promotes joint research projects, links poverty researchers and disseminates information about poverty research. **CROP** is developing an international database on poverty researchers, and documentation of ongoing research and of available data sources.

If you wish to have your name listed in **CROPNET**, you are welcome to write the **CROP** Secretariat and request a copy of the **CROP Database Questionnaire**

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